



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 842

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H.P. 531

House of Representatives, February 21, 2023

**An Act to Strengthen the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority by Inviting Participation on the Board of Directors by and Negotiating for Funding from the State of New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick.  
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and  
Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LEE of Auburn,  
LOOKNER of Portland, SUPICA of Bangor.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §8112, sub-§1**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2005, c. 312, §8,  
3 is amended to read:

4 **1. Board of directors.** The authority consists of a board of 7 directors. The 7 directors  
5 are the Commissioner of Transportation, who is a director ex officio, the Commissioner of  
6 Economic and Community Development, who also is a director ex officio, and 5 directors  
7 who are members of the public, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the  
8 Legislature for 5-year staggered terms, who shall serve until their respective successors are  
9 appointed and qualified. A vacancy in a position held by a director who is a member of the  
10 public occurring other than by the expiration of a term must be filled by the Governor and  
11 confirmed by the Legislature for the unexpired term. The authority may invite the State of  
12 New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to appoint a person each to serve  
13 as directors on the board.

14 **Sec. 2. Out-of-state funding.** The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority  
15 shall negotiate with the appropriate entities in the State of New Hampshire and the  
16 Commonwealth of Massachusetts to obtain funding from that state and commonwealth for  
17 the operation of the Amtrak Downeaster passenger rail service.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill allows the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to invite  
20 participation on the authority's board from the states of New Hampshire and Massachusetts  
21 and requires the authority to negotiate with those states to obtain funding for the operation  
22 of the Amtrak Downeaster passenger rail service.