



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1120

S.P. 454

In Senate, March 9, 2023

**Resolve, to Install a Suicide Barrier on the Penobscot Narrows
Bridge**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CURRY of Waldo.
Cosponsored by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick and
Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, GROHOSKI of Hancock, LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec,
LYFORD of Penobscot, Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, PAUL of Winterport,
RUSSELL of Verona Island, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** a common method of suicide is jumping from high structures, including
4 bridges, buildings and parking structures; and

5 **Whereas,** the Penobscot Narrows Bridge, with its substantial height of well over 100
6 feet combined with its lack of safety barriers, presents a dangerous risk for people with
7 suicidal ideations; and

8 **Whereas,** there have been numerous suicide attempts from the Penobscot Narrows
9 Bridge since its construction in 2006, many of them resulting in death; and

10 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
11 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
12 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 **Sec. 1. Pedestrian barrier fences. Resolved:** That the Department of
15 Transportation shall construct and maintain pedestrian barrier fences on the Penobscot
16 Narrows Bridge crossing the Penobscot River on Route 3 between the Town of Prospect
17 and the Town of Verona Island for the purpose of suicide prevention.

18 **Sec. 2. Report.** Beginning 6 months after the effective date of this resolve and every
19 subsequent 6 months until the fences are installed as required in section 1, the Department
20 of Transportation shall report on the progress of the installation to the joint standing
21 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters.

22 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
23 takes effect when approved.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to construct and maintain
26 pedestrian barrier fences on the Penobscot Narrows Bridge for the purpose of suicide
27 prevention and requires the department to report on its progress every 6 months until the
28 installation of the fences is complete.