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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**TRANSPORTATION**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
132ND LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 849, L.D. 2062, “An Act to Enhance the Safety of Public Transit Bus Operators Through the Installation of Vehicle Security Barriers”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4209-B** is enacted to read:

**§4209-B. Public transit bus operators; vehicle security barriers**

**1. Short title.** This section may be known and cited as "the Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Act."

**2. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Fund" means the Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund established in subsection 6.

B. "Large heavy-duty bus" means a bus, as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 11, that has a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds or greater and has a length of 30 feet or greater.

C. "Public transit bus operator" means an individual employed by an urban fixed-route transit provider to operate a large heavy-duty bus.

D. "Urban fixed-route transit provider" means a transit district or a regional transportation corporation, as defined in Title 30-A, section 3501, that provides public transportation within one or more municipalities, at least one of which has a population greater than 20,000, on prescribed routes at prescribed times.

E. "Vehicle security barrier" means a transparent, protective partition made of hard, durable, glare-minimizing materials that:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1           (1) Is capable of fully enclosing a public transit bus operator's workstation and of  
2           preventing the unwanted entry of individuals, fluids and objects into the  
3           workstation;

4           (2) Does not impede the public transit bus operator's lines of sight from the  
5           workstation to the exterior of the large heavy-duty bus, including all exterior  
6           mirrors; and

7           (3) Allows the public transit bus operator to maintain communications with  
8           passengers.

9           **3. Urban fixed-route transit providers; installation of vehicle security barriers.**  
10          Beginning August 1, 2029, an urban fixed-route transit provider shall ensure that any large  
11          heavy-duty buses that are in service are equipped with a vehicle security barrier.

12          **4. Procurements requirements; vehicle security barriers.** When procuring vehicle  
13          security barriers and any other materials funded by the fund, an urban fixed-route transit  
14          provider shall solicit and incorporate input from a labor organization representing the urban  
15          fixed-route transit provider's public transit bus operators. Such solicitation must occur via  
16          a joint labor-management safety committee, if the urban fixed-route transit provider is party  
17          to such a committee.

18          **5. Prohibition; large heavy-duty buses in service without vehicle security barrier.**  
19          On or after August 1, 2029, an urban fixed-route transit provider may not operate a large  
20          heavy-duty bus that is not equipped with a vehicle security barrier.

21          **6. Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund.** The Public Transit Bus Operator  
22          Safety Fund is established as an Other Special Revenue Funds account within the  
23          department to provide grants to urban fixed-route transit providers for the purchase and  
24          installation of vehicle security barriers that comply with the requirements of this section.  
25          The fund consists of money received as transfers, appropriations, allocations and  
26          contributions from public and private sources. Any funds remaining in the fund after  
27          August 1, 2029 must lapse or be transferred to the General Fund. The fund may not be used  
28          for the maintenance or repair of vehicle security barriers or to equip a large heavy-duty bus  
29          that is not in service.

30          **Sec. 2. Reporting requirements.** By August 1st in 2027, 2028 and 2029, an urban  
31          fixed-route transit provider shall submit an annual report to the Department of  
32          Transportation regarding the progress of the urban fixed-route transit provider in meeting  
33          the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 4209-B. The report must  
34          set forth the steps that the urban fixed-route transit provider has taken to comply with the  
35          requirements to install vehicle security barriers, the tasks remaining for the urban fixed-  
36          route transit provider to complete in order to achieve full compliance and an estimated  
37          completion date for each of these tasks. The department shall make a report received under  
38          this section available to the public within 30 days of receipt of the report.

39          **Sec. 3. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus to**  
40          **Department of Transportation, Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund,**  
41          **Other Special Revenue Funds account.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the  
42          contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$1,000,000 from  
43          the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Transportation, Public  
44          Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account for one-time

1 funding for grants for the purchase and installation of vehicle security barriers in large  
2 heavy-duty buses used by urban fixed-route transit providers.

3 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
4 allocations are made.

5 **TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

6 **Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund N559**

7 Initiative: Provides one-time funding to the Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund within  
8 the Department of Transportation to provide grants to urban fixed-route transit providers  
9 that operate within municipalities with a population greater than 20,000 for the purchase  
10 and installation of vehicle security barriers.

11 <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
12 All Other	\$0	\$1,000,000
13		
14 <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

15 '  
16 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
17 number to read consecutively.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment does the following.

20 1. It requires, by August 1, 2029, an urban fixed-route transit provider that operates  
21 within a municipality with a population greater than 20,000 to install vehicle security  
22 barriers in any large heavy-duty buses that are in service.

23 2. It maintains the bill's establishment of the Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund  
24 while clarifying that the fund may be used only for the purchase and installation of vehicle  
25 security barriers for large heavy-duty buses that are in service. Any maintenance of a  
26 vehicle security barrier is the responsibility of the urban fixed-route transit provider.

27 3. It requires any remaining funds in the fund to lapse or be transferred to the General  
28 Fund after August 1, 2029.

29 4. It reduces the appropriations and allocations from \$2,000,000 to \$1,000,000.

30 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

31 **(See attached)**