

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

—
S.P. 454 - L.D. 1120

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF
Highway and Bridge Capital 0406**

Initiative: Provides one-time allocations to construct and maintain pedestrian barrier fences on the Penobscot Narrows Bridge.

HIGHWAY FUND	2023-24	2024-25
Capital Expenditures	\$1,200,000	\$0
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,200,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2023-24	2024-25
Capital Expenditures	\$800,000	\$0
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$800,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

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