

## 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

**Legislative Document** 

No. 1367

H.P. 989

House of Representatives, March 21, 2019

An Act To Preserve and Protect the State's Rail Corridors

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT

Presented by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland and
Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, CEBRA of Naples, MARTIN of Greene, PERKINS
of Oakland, SHEATS of Auburn, TERRY of Gorham, WHITE of Waterville, Senator:
CHIPMAN of Cumberland.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §7109 is enacted to read:
3	§7109. Preservation and protection of rail corridors
4 5 6	Notwithstanding any other law, the Department of Transportation shall preserve and protect the State's rail corridors for future railroad use and shall maintain all rail corridors in a condition that allows for their resuming railroad service.
7 8 9	A rail corridor may not be converted into or operated as a trail, used as a pathway or space for walking or biking, used for any other form of nonmotorized travel or recreation or used as a bus line without first being evaluated for passenger railroad service.
10	SUMMARY
11 12 13	This bill directs the Department of Transportation to preserve and protect the rail corridors of the State for future railroad use and maintain all rail corridors in a condition that allows for their resuming railroad service.
14 15 16 17	The bill prohibits a rail corridor from being converted into or operated as a trail, used as a pathway or space for walking or biking, used for any other form of nonmotorized travel or recreation or used as a bus line without first being evaluated for passenger railroad service.