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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**TRANSPORTATION**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 187, L.D. 406, “An Act to Expand Passenger Rail Service”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Develop and Adopt a Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan for State-owned Railroad Lines and to Seek Proposals for an Operator to Provide Passenger Rail Transit'**

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

**'Sec. 1. Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan. Resolved:** That the Department of Transportation shall adopt the Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan, referred to in this resolve as "the vision plan," for the following state-owned railroad lines, referred to in this resolve as "the covered corridors":

- 1. The Berlin Subdivision, referred to as the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad, rail corridor from Portland to Auburn;
- 2. The Lower Road rail corridor from Brunswick to Augusta;
- 3. The Mountain Division rail corridor from Westbrook to Fryeburg; and
- 4. The Rockland Branch rail corridor from Brunswick to Rockland.

The vision plan must be consistent with the Department of Transportation's comprehensive long-range transportation plans and must be based on the advice of the advisory committee under section 2. The Department of Transportation shall use the vision plan to evaluate reasonable potential uses of the covered corridors including light rail operations and use the vision plan as a prioritization framework for the development of compatible multimodal uses, including passenger train service, freight train service and nonrail multimodal uses. When evaluating reasonable potential uses, the department shall evaluate the likelihood, benefits and costs of restoration of the covered corridors for rail use consistent with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, chapter 615.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1           **Sec. 2. Advisory committee. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Transportation  
2 shall establish by October 1, 2023 an advisory committee to advise the Commissioner of  
3 Transportation in adopting the vision plan under section 1. The advisory committee must  
4 consist of at least 11 members and not more than 15 members. The Commissioner of  
5 Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee shall serve on the  
6 advisory committee. The Commissioner of Transportation shall invite the participation of  
7 the following individuals to serve on the advisory committee:

- 8           1. A person representing another state agency, as determined appropriate by the  
9 Commissioner of Transportation;
- 10           2. The Chief Executive Officer of the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce or the  
11 chief executive officer's designee;
- 12           3. The President of the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce or the president's  
13 designee;
- 14           4. A representative of the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments;
- 15           5. A representative of the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments;
- 16           6. A representative of the Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center; and
- 17           7. A person representing an organization advocating for rail use.

18           The Commissioner of Transportation may invite other persons with expertise in rail  
19 logistics or infrastructure. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the chair  
20 of the advisory committee. The advisory committee shall meet at the call of the chair and  
21 shall hold a minimum of 6 public hearings, 2 of which must be in communities along the  
22 covered corridors.

23           **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That, by January 15, 2025, the Department of  
24 Transportation shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature  
25 having jurisdiction over transportation matters that includes the vision plan adopted under  
26 section 1 together with any suggested legislation. After reviewing the report, the joint  
27 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters may  
28 report out a bill to the 132nd Legislature in 2025 related to the subject matter of the report.

29           **Sec. 4. Operator. Resolved:** That the Department of Transportation shall seek  
30 proposals for an operator to provide passenger rail transit service on one or more of the  
31 covered corridors. The scope of services must address legal and federal railroad  
32 administration requirements for any shared use or crossings of the CSX Transportation  
33 mainline corridor and the Genesee & Wyoming railroad.

34           **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following  
35 appropriations and allocations are made.

36           **TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

37           **Multimodal - Passenger Rail Z139**

38           Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to adopt a rail corridor use vision plan for certain  
39 state-owned covered rail corridors.

40 <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
41           All Other	\$250,000	\$0

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OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
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Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve. It directs the Department of Transportation to adopt the Rail Corridor Use Vision Plan. The vision plan must cover the following state-owned railroad lines: the Berlin Subdivision, referred to as the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad, rail corridor from Portland to Auburn; the Lower Road rail corridor from Brunswick to Augusta; the Mountain Division rail corridor from Westbrook to Fryeburg; and the Rockland Branch rail corridor from Brunswick to Rockland. The vision plan must be consistent with the department's comprehensive long-range transportation plans and must be based on the advice of an advisory group established by the Commissioner of Transportation. The department must use the vision plan to evaluate reasonable potential uses of the covered corridors including light rail operations and use the vision plan as a prioritization framework for the development of compatible multimodal uses, including passenger train service, freight train service and nonrail multimodal uses. The department is required to submit a report by January 15, 2025 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters that includes the vision plan together with any suggested legislation. The department is directed to seek proposals for an operator to provide passenger rail transit service on one or more of the covered corridors.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

**(See attached)**