



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 2124

H.P. 1514

House of Representatives, February 27, 2020

An Act To Create the Rail Corridor Use Advisory Council Process

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McLEAN of Gorham. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §75** is enacted to read:

3 **§75. Rail corridor use advisory councils**

4 **1. Purpose.** Upon petition by one or more governmental entities that represent
5 communities along a state-owned rail corridor requesting the Department of
6 Transportation to review a nonrail use of that rail corridor, the Commissioner of
7 Transportation for each petition received may establish a rail corridor use advisory
8 council, referred to in this section as "a council," to facilitate discussion, gather
9 information and provide advice to the commissioner regarding future use of the rail
10 corridor identified in the petition. The council shall review and make recommendations
11 on the likelihood, benefits and costs of potential uses of the rail corridor, including, but
12 not limited to, rail use, trail use or bikeways, as long as any nonrail use is considered by
13 the council to be interim in nature and all such rail corridors are preserved for future rail
14 use as provided in chapter 615.

15 **2. Membership.** The Commissioner of Transportation shall invite at least 9 and no
16 more than 15 persons to serve on a council. Membership may include:

17 A. The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee;

18 B. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the
19 commissioner's designee;

20 C. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the
21 commissioner's designee;

22 D. One or more members representing other state agencies;

23 E. One member representing a statewide or regional tourism organization;

24 F. One member representing a chamber of commerce or other regional or local
25 economic development entity of the geographic area containing the rail corridor;

26 G. One member representing an organization advocating for rail use or preservation;

27 H. One member representing an organization advocating for recreational trail use;

28 I. One or more municipal officials or staff from municipalities located on the rail
29 corridor; and

30 J. One member representing an organization advocating for bicyclist or pedestrian
31 needs.

32 **3. Meetings; chair.** The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate a chair of
33 a council. The Department of Transportation shall provide staff support to the council.
34 The council may adopt bylaws and other policies to effectively govern its proceedings.
35 The council shall meet at the call of the chair and shall hold a minimum of one public
36 hearing located in the geographic area along the rail corridor for which the council was
37 formed.

