

## **128th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

**Legislative Document** 

No. 315

S.P. 103

In Senate, January 31, 2017

## **Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Apply for Funds for Rail Improvements**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Heath & Print

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin. Cosponsored by Representative SHEATS of Auburn and Senator: ROSEN of Hancock, Representatives: BROOKS of Lewiston, BRYANT of Windham, FULLER of Lewiston, GOLDEN of Lewiston, GRANT of Gardiner, HANDY of Lewiston, PARRY of Arundel.

1 2 3 4	<b>Sec. 1. Department of Transportation to seek federal funds. Resolved:</b> That the Department of Transportation, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall pursue all federal funding that may be available to develop, improve and expand passenger rail service in the State, including:
5 6	1. Seeking grants provided by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration, including:
7 8 9	A. Consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements grants under the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, Section 11301 (2015);
10 11 12	B. Federal-state partnership for state of good repair grants under the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, Section 11302 (2015); and
13 14	C. Restoration and enhancement grants under the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, Section 11303 (2015);
15 16 17 18	2. Identifying the eligibility of possible passenger rail projects to receive grants provided by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration under the fixed guideway capital investment grant program under 49 United States Code, Section 5309 (2015); and
19 20 21	3. If the Federal Government amends or creates new grant programs for passenger rail, considering the eligibility of possible passenger rail projects under those amended or new grant programs; and be it further
22 23 24 25 26	Sec. 2. Report on passenger rail development. Resolved: That the department shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no later than December 1, 2017, describing the status of grants requested to that date pursuant to this resolve. The report required by this section must include but is not limited to:
27	1. Details of applications submitted for each grant program;
28 29	2. The amount of state funding required as a match for federal funds received or under consideration; and
30 31	3. Recommendations for how the State could be a more competitive applicant for any relevant grant programs.
32	SUMMARY
33 34 35 36 37	This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to pursue various federal passenger rail grants and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no later than December 1, 2017 on the details of the grant applications, the amount of state matching funds required and recommendations for how the State can be a more competitive applicant for federal passenger rail grants.