

STATE OF MAINE

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

—
S.P. 258 - L.D. 672

Resolve, To Direct the Department of Transportation To Use a Rail Corridor Use Advisory Council in Reviewing the Mountain Division Line for Potential Nonrail Uses

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

Whereas, Maine's rail corridors that are not currently in use have been the subject of much discussion and review by the Legislature and communities that live along the corridors; and

Whereas, there is a strong and urgent interest in evaluating the potential economic benefits and costs of alternative uses of the Mountain Division Line rail corridor, including, but not limited to, rail use, trail use or bikeways; 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. Rail corridor use advisory council. Resolved: That, upon petition by one or more governmental entities that represent communities along the approximately 28 miles of state-owned railroad track on the Mountain Division Line connecting the Town of Standish and the Town of Fryeburg, the Commissioner of Transportation shall establish a rail corridor use advisory council, referred to in this resolve as "the council," to facilitate discussion, gather information and provide advice to the commissioner regarding future use of that approximately 28-mile portion of the rail corridor. The council shall review and make recommendations on the likelihood, economic benefits and costs of potential uses of the rail corridor, including, but not limited to, rail use, trail use or bikeways. Any nonrail use of a rail corridor must be considered by a council to be interim in nature, and all such rail corridors must be preserved for future rail use as provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, chapter 615.

Sec. 2. Meetings; chair. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the chair of the council. The Department of Transportation shall provide staff

support to the council. The council may adopt bylaws and other policies to effectively govern its proceedings. The council shall meet at the call of the chair and shall hold a minimum of one public hearing located in the geographic area along the Mountain Division Line.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, within 9 months of convening its first meeting, the council shall submit a report to the Commissioner of Transportation on its findings and recommendations regarding the use of the Mountain Division Line, including majority and minority reports if necessary.

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