



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1150

H.P. 813

House of Representatives, March 23, 2017

Resolve, To Establish the Road Usage Charge Task Force

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.
Cosponsored by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, BRYANT of Windham, GILLWAY of Searsport,
GRANT of Gardiner, PARRY of Arundel, SCHNECK of Bangor.

1 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Road Usage Charge Task
2 Force, referred to in this section as "the task force," is established to guide the
3 development of a pilot program to assess the potential for mileage-based revenue
4 collection for the State's highways and bridges as an alternative to the gas tax system.

5 **1. Membership.** The task force consists of 10 members as follows:

6 A. Three members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

7 (1) One member who represents a statewide civil engineering group;

8 (2) One member who represents a statewide transportation consumer
9 organization or other public interest organization; and

10 (3) One member of a statewide business association;

11 B. Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

12 (1) One member who represents a privacy rights advocacy organization;

13 (2) One member who represents a regional planning agency; and

14 (3) One member who represents the telecommunications industry;

15 C. The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee, who serves
16 as chair;

17 D. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee;

18 E. The Executive Director of the Maine Turnpike Authority or the executive
19 director's designee; and

20 F. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee.

21 **2. Duties.** The task force shall study road usage charge alternatives to the gas tax,
22 make recommendations on the design of a pilot program to test alternative road usage
23 charge approaches, gather public comment on issues and concerns related to the proposed
24 pilot program and provide recommendations on the criteria to be used to evaluate the
25 pilot program. In studying alternatives to the current gas tax system and developing
26 recommendations on the design of a pilot program to test alternative road usage charge
27 approaches, the task force shall take into consideration the following:

28 A. The availability, adaptability, reliability and security of methods that might be
29 used in recording and reporting highway use;

30 B. The necessity of protecting all personally identifiable information used in
31 reporting highway use;

32 C. The ease and cost of recording and reporting highway use;

33 D. The ease and cost of administering the collection of taxes and fees as an
34 alternative to the current system of taxing highway use through motor vehicle fuel
35 taxes;

36 E. Effective methods of maintaining compliance with the proposed usage charge
37 alternatives;

1 F. The ease of tracking location data, even when personally identifiable information
2 has been removed from the data;

3 G. Increased privacy concerns when location data is used in conjunction with other
4 technologies; and

5 H. Public and private agency access, including law enforcement, to data collected
6 and stored for purposes of the road usage charge to ensure privacy rights are
7 protected.

8 The task force shall consult with highway users and transportation stakeholders, including
9 representatives of vehicle users, vehicle manufacturers and fuel distributors, as part of its
10 duties.

11 **3. Meetings.** The task force shall meet as necessary to complete the assigned duties.

12 **4. Staffing.** The Department of Transportation shall provide staff support to the task
13 force within existing resources.

14 **5. Compensation.** Members of the task force do not receive compensation for their
15 time, travel or other expenses.

16 **6. Report.** The task force shall complete its work no later than January 8, 2018 and
17 shall submit its report and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on
18 Transportation no later than February 5, 2018. The report must include, but is not limited
19 to, a discussion of the following issues: cost; feasibility; implementation; jurisdiction; use
20 of revenues; security and compliance, including a discussion of processes and security
21 measures necessary to minimize fraud and tax evasion rates; privacy, including
22 recommendations regarding public and private access, including law enforcement, to data
23 collected and stored for purposes of the road usage charge; and data collection
24 technology, including the advantages and disadvantages of various types of data
25 collection equipment.

26 **7. Authority to submit legislation.** Following receipt and review of the report, the
27 Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may submit legislation relating to the
28 subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This resolve establishes a task force to guide the development of a pilot program to
31 assess the potential for mileage-based revenue collection for the State's highways and
32 bridges as an alternative to the gas tax system. The task force is required to submit a
33 report and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no later
34 than February 5, 2018. Following receipt and review of the report, the Joint Standing
35 Committee on Transportation has authority to submit legislation relating to the subject
36 matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.