



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1312

H.P. 909

House of Representatives, April 4, 2017

**Resolve, To Investigate Extending Passenger Rail Service to Central
Maine**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FREY of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, HILLIARD of Belgrade,
LONGSTAFF of Waterville, PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, POULIOT of Augusta, SCHNECK of
Bangor, TIPPING of Orono, Senator: KATZ of Kennebec.

1 **Sec. 1. Study. Resolved:** That the Department of Transportation, in consultation
2 with the cities of Lewiston, Auburn, Augusta, Waterville, Rockland and Bangor, other
3 interested municipalities and planning organizations and the Northern New England
4 Passenger Rail Authority, shall conduct a study and complete a plan for the
5 implementation of passenger rail service, including the Amtrak Downeaster service,
6 northward and westward from current passenger rail service routes and along existing
7 railroad corridors in the central and western parts of the State. The plan must include a
8 process for public review and comment and must incorporate information from
9 completed studies and new information, including, but not limited to:

10 1. An analysis of market demand and the potential economic benefits associated with the
11 implementation of passenger rail service to municipalities in the State beyond the range
12 of current passenger rail service and potential future expansion to Montreal including
13 forecasted ridership, estimated annual operating costs and the economic feasibility of
14 expanding passenger rail service to various areas;

15 2. The development of a detailed service plan to meet travel demand and identified
16 economic opportunities, including frequency and schedule of service, station locations,
17 equipment types and seating capacity, marketing, management and operator goals;

18 3. An investigation identifying routes, locations served, coordination with existing
19 passenger rail service and connecting modes for seamless public transportation,
20 recommended administrative and operating entities, relationships with existing railroad
21 owners and operators and synergies between proposed routes and existing passenger rail
22 operations;

23 4. An inventory of infrastructure needed to support operations, including mechanical
24 facilities, with an estimate of the necessary capital investments;

25 5. An evaluation of potential financing mechanisms for capital and operating expenses
26 and an implementation approach and schedule, proposed sources of funds and
27 recommended priorities for implementation as justified by expected benefits; and

28 6. A review of potential alternatives and environmental impacts associated with the
29 proposed service, including station locations and necessary investments; and be it further

30 **Sec. 2. Additional funding. Resolved:** That the Department of Transportation
31 shall seek other sources of funding, including grants and contributions from interested
32 municipalities, to complete the study; and be it further

33 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Transportation shall develop a
34 report of the results of the study and plan with the goal of incorporating the report into the
35 department's Maine State Rail Plan and the Northern New England Passenger Rail
36 Authority's long range development plans. By November 7, 2018, the department shall
37 submit the report and any recommended legislation to the joint standing committee of the
38 Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters. The joint standing committee
39 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters may report out a bill
40 based upon the report to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature; and be it
41 further

1 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
 2 appropriations and allocations are made.

3 **TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

4 **Multimodal - Passenger Rail Z139**

5 Initiative: Provides one-time funding to study and plan for the implementation of
 6 passenger rail service northward and westward from existing passenger rail routes.

7	HIGHWAY FUND	2017-18	2018-19
8			
9	All Other	\$300,000	\$0
10			
11	HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$300,000	\$0

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the
 14 Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority and interested municipalities and
 15 planning organizations, to conduct a study and complete a plan for the implementation of
 16 passenger rail service in the State northward and westward from existing passenger rail
 17 routes. The resolve provides funding to complete the study from a one-time Highway
 18 Fund allocation of \$300,000 in the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.