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H.P. 931

House of Representatives, April 2, 2013

**Resolve, Establishing the East-west Highway Study Commission To
Oversee Further Study or Planning for an East-west Highway**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCABE of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representative: CAREY of Lewiston.

1 **Sec. 1. East-west Highway Study Commission established. Resolved:**
2 That the East-west Highway Study Commission, referred to in this resolve as "the
3 commission," is established to oversee all state participation in plans for and development
4 of an east-west highway; and be it further

5 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
6 11 members as follows:

7 1. Four members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

8 A. Two members of the Senate from the party holding the largest number of seats in
9 the Senate;

10 B. One member of the Senate from the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats
11 in the Senate; and

12 C. One member of the public who resides in the vicinity of the proposed east-west
13 highway;

14 2. Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

15 A. Two members of the House of Representatives from the party holding the largest
16 number of seats in the House;

17 B. One member of the House of Representatives from the party holding the 2nd
18 largest number of seats in the House;

19 C. Two members of the public who reside in the vicinity of the proposed east-west
20 highway; and

21 D. One member of the public who has expertise in rail transportation; and

22 3. The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee; and be it
23 further

24 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate
25 chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the
26 commission; and be it further

27 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
28 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
29 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
30 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
31 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more
32 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
33 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority
34 for the commission to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

35 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall consider the costs and
36 benefits of a wide range of options and not limit its analysis to the financial feasibility of
37 a new highway or highway upgrade project, and that alternative methods of achieving any
38 benefits of a new highway, including rail services, must also be presented to the public

1 for comment and analyzed in the work of the commission. The commission shall hold at
2 least 3 regional public hearings along the route of the proposed east-west transit corridor.
3 All documents, including emails, attachments, letters, contracts, reports, records, notes,
4 summaries, working papers, plans, interoffice and intraoffice memoranda, drafts or any
5 other materials created, received or transmitted by the commission are subject to public
6 review and are not confidential under any provision of Maine law; and be it further

7 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
8 necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further

9 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than January 15, 2014, the commission
10 shall submit a preliminary report that includes its findings and recommendations and, no
11 later than October 15, 2014, a final report to the Joint Standing Committee on
12 Transportation.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This resolve establishes the East-west Highway Study Commission to oversee further
15 study of an east-west highway.