

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: March 4, 2021
To: Transportation Committee
From: Sam Praver, Legislative Analyst

LD 252 – An Act To Expand Training Opportunities for Department of Transportation Workers

SUMMARY: This bill includes a Highway Fund allocation of \$599,870 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$1,235,732 in fiscal year 2022-23 to the Department of Transportation for 5 Driver Trainer positions in fiscal year 2021-22 and 5 additional Driver Trainer positions in fiscal year 2022-23.

TESTIMONY:

<p>Proponents: <i>Rep. Bryant, Jeff McCabe, McKendra Clements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you want to become certified to operate certain DOT equipment, you first have to receive proper training and become certified on that machine. The folks responsible for doing that training are called driver trainers.• Having an adequate staff of Driver Trainers is central to safe and effective operations at MDOT. There currently are not enough Driver Trainers to provide the training necessary for the department's workforce.• The current driver trainers are spread over a large area with not enough time to spend with trainees and with a lot of older workers retiring, there is increased need for trainers to spend more time with new employees.	<p>Opponents: <i>MaineDOT</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opposition to LD 252 stems from the fact that it would earmark department funds within the Highway Fund Budget.• Currently, MaineDOT has seven Driver Trainer positions. Four of the five Maintenance and Operations regions each has one Driver Trainer. There are two Driver Trainer positions in Region 4 because of the number of employees there. Fleet Services also has one Driver Trainer.• While the duties associated with the Driver Trainer positions have experienced backlogs in recent years, some of this due to COVID, this backlog has improved recently.• The addition of ten Driver Trainer positions within MaineDOT would leave the department overstaffed at this position.
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FISCAL IMPACT:

As shown in bill language and preliminary fiscal impact statement (attached).