An Act To Address Training Requirements for Harbor Masters

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Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell. Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, MATLACK of St. George, O'NEIL of Saco, PIERCE of Falmouth.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1-A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 54, §1, is further amended to read:

§1-A. Training
The following provisions govern the training of harbor masters and deputy harbor masters appointed pursuant to section 1 or 2.

1. Basic training course. A person appointed or reappointed a harbor master or a deputy harbor master after August 31, 2006 must complete a basic harbor master training course offered by a statewide harbor masters association that represents Maine harbor masters within one year after being appointed or reappointed unless that person has previously completed such a course. If a person has not held the position of harbor master or deputy harbor master within the last 5 years prior to being appointed or reappointed, that person must complete the basic harbor master training course. A person appointed or reappointed a harbor master or deputy harbor master shall pay the cost of the training required under this subsection, except that the cost of the training may be paid by the municipality at its sole discretion.

1-A. Advanced training course. A person appointed or reappointed a harbor master or deputy harbor master after January 1, 2022 who has completed the basic training course under subsection 1 shall complete an advanced harbor master training course offered by a statewide harbor masters association that represents Maine harbor masters within 2 years after completing the basic training course under subsection 1.

1-B. Continuing education. A person appointed or reappointed a harbor master or deputy harbor master who has completed the basic training course under subsection 1 and the advanced training course under subsection 1-A shall attend, at a minimum, training every other year to maintain certification as a harbor master or deputy harbor master. The training requirement of this subsection may be met by completing continuing education training offered by a statewide harbor masters association that represents Maine harbor masters.

2. Reimbursement. Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a municipality, at its sole discretion, from reimbursing a harbor master or deputy harbor master for the cost of training under this section.

3. Additional training. Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a municipality from requiring a harbor master or deputy harbor master to obtain training beyond that required by this section.

SUMMARY
This bill amends the basic training requirements for harbor masters and deputy harbor masters. The bill also adds new requirements for advanced training and continuing education.