



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 947

H.P. 612

House of Representatives, March 11, 2025

An Act to Clarify Overnight Docking at Mainland Ports for Certain Island Ferry Vessels

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 5, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MATLACK of St. George.
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and
Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, GEIGER of Rockland, RAY of Lincolnville.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4401, sub-§1 is enacted to read:

1. Overnight docking on islands of ferry vessels. The Department of Transportation shall allow a ferry vessel operating under this section to dock overnight at its island port or to dock overnight at a mainland port when that docking is common practice.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §4401, sub-§2 is enacted to read:

2. Exception. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the Department of Transportation may require a ferry vessel to dock at a mainland port or at an alternative island port for an emergency situation, including, but not limited to, an extreme weather event.

Sec. 3. 23 MRSA §4401, as amended by PL 1999, c. 20, §1, is further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to allow a ferry operated by the Maine State Ferry Service to dock overnight at its island port or to dock at a mainland port when that docking is common practice, with the exception that the department may require a ferry vessel to dock at a mainland port or at an alternative island port for an emergency situation, including, but not limited to, an extreme weather event.