



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 380

H.P. 289

House of Representatives, January 24, 2019

**An Act To Revise the Calculation of Tolls Established for the Maine
State Ferry Service**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.
Cosponsored by Senator HERBIG of Waldo and
Representatives: BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, PERKINS of
Oakland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4210-C, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 664, Pt. C, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **2. Purpose of account.** The purpose of the account is to allow the Highway Fund to
5 provide support to the Maine State Ferry Service that was previously provided by the
6 General Fund because ferries are an integral part of the highway system and carry motor
7 vehicles and are the only method of vehicular transportation available to and from the
8 islands. The state support to the Marine Highway account ~~may not exceed 50% of the~~
9 budgeted revenues that support must fund 100% of the capital costs and no more than
10 75% of the operating cost of the Maine State Ferry Service.

11 **Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §4404**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 456, Pt. A, §88, is amended to
12 read:

13 **§4404. Tolls**

14 The Department of Transportation shall, ~~in a manner consistent with the Maine~~
15 ~~Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, establish~~ adopt rules establishing tolls
16 for the use of ~~such~~ the ferry line route or lines routes under this subchapter by vehicles,
17 freight and passengers. Tolls must be calculated based upon the cost of service for
18 vehicles, freight and passengers on each route of travel. In order to ensure affordability
19 for island residents and the viability of the island community, the department may
20 provide discounted tolls to island residents and other frequent users of the service based
21 upon their daily travel needs. Tolls collected from the operation of the Maine State Ferry
22 Service ~~shall~~ must at all times be kept in a separate fund distinct from all other ~~moneys~~
23 money of the State and ~~shall~~ must be used for the operation and debt retirement of the
24 ferry service.

25 Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
26 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill requires the Department of Transportation, by rule, to establish ferry tolls for
29 each route of travel that are based upon the cost of service for vehicles, freight and
30 passengers, and allows the department to provide discounted tolls for frequent usage of
31 the Maine State Ferry Service. This bill also requires that the Marine Highway account
32 must fund 100% of the capital costs and no more than 75% of the operating costs of the
33 Maine State Ferry Service.