

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

—  
H.P. 806 - L.D. 1231

**An Act to Require Legislative Approval of Proposed Permanent Changes to  
the Overnight Docking of State Ferries on Islands**

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

**Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4408** is enacted to read:

**§4408. Overnight docking of ferries; legislative approval**

**1. Change to existing overnight docking practice.** The Department of Transportation may not without legislative approval change the existing overnight docking practices of a state-owned ferry vessel that docks overnight on an island served by the Maine State Ferry Service. The department shall seek legislative approval to change the existing overnight docking practice of a ferry vessel that docks on an island served by the Maine State Ferry Service by submitting legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters prior to the change. The joint standing committee may report out a bill based on the suggested legislation.

**2. Exceptions.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, the Department of Transportation may require a ferry vessel to temporarily dock at a mainland port or an alternative island port for an emergency situation or another significant operational need. The department does not need to seek legislative approval pursuant to subsection 1 for a temporary change to docking practices pursuant to this subsection. For the purposes of this subsection, "temporary change" means a change in the overnight docking of a state-owned ferry vessel that docks on an island served by the Maine State Ferry Service that does not change the common docking practice of that ferry vessel.