



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 1887

H.P. 1353

House of Representatives, December 24, 2019

Resolve, To Reduce the Operational Costs of Ferries in the State

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 20, 2019. 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 McDONALD of Stonington.
Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, DOUDERA of Camden, HEPLER of Woolwich,
HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, NADEAU of Winslow, RYKERSON of Kittery, Senators:
CARSON of Cumberland, CHENETTE of York.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this legislation requires the Department of Transportation, Maine State
4 Ferry Service to develop an evaluation process to compare the cost of fuel over the
5 anticipated service life of a vessel as part of the new ferry vessel procurement process;
6 and

7 **Whereas,** this legislation also requires the Department of Transportation to perform
8 a feasibility assessment to determine the costs and barriers associated with the use of
9 ferry vessels powered by electricity instead of fossil fuel; and

10 **Whereas,** it is imperative that the evaluation process be developed and the
11 feasibility assessment be performed as soon as possible in order to be available for new
12 ferry vessel procurements using existing funds; and

13 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
14 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
15 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 **Sec. 1. Ferry vessels powered by alternative fuel sources. Resolved:** That
18 the Department of Transportation, Maine State Ferry Service shall seek alternative fuel
19 sources for its ferry vessels, including electricity from renewable sources, in order to help
20 reduce or control ongoing operational costs as well as to help the State meet its climate
21 goals established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 576-A.

22 **Sec. 2. Feasibility assessment. Resolved:** That the Department of
23 Transportation shall perform a feasibility assessment to determine the costs and barriers
24 associated with the use by the Maine State Ferry Service of ferry vessels powered by
25 electricity instead of fossil fuel. The feasibility assessment must examine, at a minimum,
26 the following issues:

27 1. The age of the current Maine State Ferry Service fleet and the expected service
28 life of each vessel;

29 2. The anticipated timing of any repowering or significant overhauls of existing
30 vessels;

31 3. The anticipated timing of the planning and construction of new vessels and the
32 expected or planned service life of the new vessels;

33 4. For each vessel, the current annual fuel usage, the current annual cost of fuel, the
34 number of hours operated each year, the average gallons per hour, the size of the fuel
35 tanks and the refueling frequency;

36 5. Any foreseeable operational changes that may have a bearing on the amount of
37 fuel used by each vessel;

