

**Maine State Legislature
Transportation Committee
Testimony in Support of LD 1231
An Act Requiring Ferries to Dock Overnight on Certain Islands for Emergency Purposes
Submitted by: Crystal Love
April 29, 2025**

Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Crystal Love and I am writing this testimony to strongly support An Act Requiring Ferries to Dock Overnight on Certain Islands for Emergency Purposes.

I grew up on Islesboro, one of Maine's year-round island communities, and I know firsthand how critical ferry access is during emergencies. As a teenager, I experienced respiratory distress that required emergency transportation off the island in the middle of the night. Thanks to the availability of the emergency ferry, I was able to reach the medical care I urgently needed. I have also had relatives and loved ones who needed ambulance services at night, where ferry transportation to the mainland was absolutely necessary for their treatment. Without access, timely medical intervention would not have been possible.

Beyond my personal experience, I ask you to consider broader community needs. During home sports games, for example, what happens if an athlete — local or visiting — sustains a serious injury after the final ferry has departed? Without a ferry available, we are putting not only island residents at risk, but also visitors and students — leaving them without a vital waterway they trust will be there when help is needed.

Having a ferry docked overnight is not a matter of luxury or convenience — it is an essential part of a safe, functioning, and compassionate community. Anyone who finds themselves in crisis, should have a reliable way to get the emergency care they need. Emergencies don't keep to a schedule, they don't wait for the morning ferry, and access to emergency medical care should not depend on whether the last ferry has left.

I respectfully urge you to support this bill to protect the safety and wellbeing of island residents and visitors alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Crystal Love

Loveinmvmnt Living LLC.
1300HR RYT, Kripalu Yoga Teacher, KYIS Certified
Trauma Educator, Behavior Integration Specialist
State of Maine Recovery Coach

Crystal Love
Islesboro
LD 1231

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