

Opposed

LD 1477: An Act to Provide an Exemption from Pilotage Requirements for Passenger Ferry Service Between Bar Harbor, Maine and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Prentice Strong. I am a resident of Southwest Harbor, Maine and have been a State licensed Ship Pilot since 1991. I am opposed to LD 1477, An Act to Provide an Exemption from Pilotage Requirements for Passenger Ferry Service Between Bar Harbor, Maine and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

If the bill is passed as written, the State will have no oversight of ALAKAI other than requiring them to take a pilot once a week. If there is an incident in the future (and no State licensed pilot is aboard), the State will have no ability to change that requirement unless the law is changed by the legislature. At a minimum, the Maine Pilotage Commission should have been brought into the mix to provide oversight for the State. I'm sure Bay Ferries does not want oversight from the State beyond what the law proposes.

As you head into your work session on this bill, I would request that you consider at least the following two points.

- How does this proposed law make the operation safer than how it is done now?
- What happens if there is an incident without a State licensed pilot aboard?

Respectfully,



Captain Prentice Strong III

Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association

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