

In Favor

LD 1874

An Act to Enable the Maine Pilotage Commission to Oversee Pilots Operating in Portland Harbor

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 on the waters from Penobscot Bay to Frenchman Bay. I am in favor of LD 1874, An Act to Enable the Maine Pilotage Commission to Oversee Pilots Operating in Portland Harbor.

The Maine Pilotage Commission has jurisdiction over the rates and licensure of Sea Pilots operating in all other Maine ports other than Portland. This bill would bring all Sea Pilots in Maine under the same regulatory umbrella for rates and licensure. The Maine Pilotage Commission has established itself to have substantial expertise over the operations and activities of Sea Pilots, including a deep understanding of how to ensure the short and long-term operational stability and safety of the sea pilotage system. The Maine Pilotage Commission has a dedicated administrator focused on the operation of Sea Pilots, and the Commission can draw upon the expertise of Maine Attorney General for legal support. The Maine Pilotage Commission board itself is structured to ensure expertise in sea pilotage operations, which is valuable when setting rates or licensure requirements.

Our Pilot group, Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association, is in favor of LD 1874 and urges you to consider passing this bill.

Respectfully,

Captain Prentice Strong III

Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association