



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 29, 2025

Testimony of Rep Ann Matlack, introducing

**LD 1186, Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study
the Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island**

Before the Transportation Committee

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and respected colleagues on the Transportation Committee. My name is Ann Matlack and I represent House District 43, which includes the communities of Cushing, Thomaston, South Thomaston, St George and part of Owls Head. I am here today to testify Neither For Nor Against LD 1186, a Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island.

I'm a bit perplexed as to why there would need to be a study on whether or not to add a state ferry service for Monhegan Island. As many of the bills here in Transportation today indicate, there are already concerns with employee recruitment and retention of existing crew members, with overnight docking at mainland ports and emergency services, establishing a permanent oversight committee to ensure sustainable and equitable ferry operations, and increasing the influence of the ferry advisory board on funding and operations within the Maine State Ferry Service. I believe there are sufficient issues with current operations that should be dealt with before adding to the Ferry Service workload.

In addition, there are already two ferry services making runs to Monhegan Island: one seasonal service, Hardy Boat Cruises out of Bristol and New Harbor; and one year-round service, Monhegan Boat Line out of Port Clyde, which is part of St George, though the folks who live there are reluctant to say this in mixed company.

If this bill is to proceed, I would suggest including a representative from at least one of the existing Monhegan ferry lines. They would be able to provide insight into the current operations of service to Monhegan and the logistics of sailing into Monhegan, which is not an easy port to navigate.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.