
April 29, 2025

Re: Testimony on LD 1231 - An Act Requiring Ferries to Dock Overnight on Certain Islands for Emergency Purposes

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee of Transportation,

Thank you Representative Faulkingham, Senator Beebe-Center, Representatives Ankeles, Bishop, Mason, Parry, Ray and Senator Grohoski. Thank you for listening to the Maine residents who reside on these Maine Islands.

My name is Teri Blackadar and I am a part-time resident of Swan's Island. I submit this testimony in support of LD 1231.

As a 33 year career Registered Nurse, I worked in Waldo County Hospital and Emergency Department for 16 years. Frequently on off hours and night shifts we would receive EMS calls that a patient was being sent over by ferry from Islesboro to meet the ambulance at the mainland ferry dock in Lincolnville. This is the most expedient way to transport urgent/emergent patients that did not require or could not obtain LifeFlight. From Lincolnville these patients were transferred to Waldo or PenBay Medical Center. Typical scenarios included pneumonia, sepsis, falls, fractures, chest pain, electrical abnormalities of the heart (atrial fibrillation), diabetic emergencies, abdominal pain, and motor vehicle accidents. The majority of these patients were admitted to the hospital or treated and kept in the emergency room until morning. Further delay in treatment could have had untoward outcomes.

Currently there are almost 400 full time residents on Swans Island, 30 on Frenchboro, over 400 on North Haven, 1200 on Vinalhaven, and almost 600 on Islesboro. With the influx of summer residents and vacationers, the population doubles and even triples on these islands.

Residents on the mainland do not require access to the ferry during off hours. Allowing the ferry vessels to dock in their island ports is an essential safety-net to protect these residents and I appreciate that this committee recognizes the necessity of having the vessel and crew available without delay. I support your efforts to pass LD 1231. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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