



PENOBSCOT BAY & RIVER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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Bill LD 1477

An Act to provide Exemption from Pilotage Requirements for Passenger Ferry Service
Between Bar Harbor Maine and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

Chair Nangle, Chair Crafts and Members of the Transportation Committee

Good Afternoon,

My name is Adam Philbrook I live in Owls Head. I am currently acting as President of the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association. I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak here today on BILL LD 1477. We believe that this bill would go against and degrade the policy of Maine State Statues. MRS Title 38 Chapter 1 Section 85. I will get more into that shortly.

The Penobscot Bay and River Pilots want to be transparent here. If this bill passes we would stand to make less money than in the past, if this bill does not pass we should make money. This is why I want to be upfront about this as the benefactor of this bill. However, this is why I want you to listen to the testimony of the others that are also here in opposition of the bill. They are carrying a great weight as well in this. They have no financial benefit in this bill. Their words may speak louder than mine. It is hard for me to not say a lot. But I don't want your ears closed as soon as one finds out that we would benefit from it if I did not tell you up front.

Why do I bring up the Statue above? Its about the system of pilotage. If we start breaking parts of the wheel or undermining the system then safety will be affected. Safety, why do I bring that up. Our mission, our task as a Pilot Licensed in the State of Maine is to protect our coast. Having vessels that are required to have pilots be given an exemption is opening a can of worms that I am not sure we want to open. Who will be next, will Irving be submitting a bill next week, what about Carnival Cruise lines or Royal Caribbean. I am sure they could find a unique way of crafting the right words to say that sound great. However, State pilotage around the United State does not give an exemption to anyone on foreign voyages, Except for one place and that was a treaty between the US and Canada. Having someone on the ship that answers to the State of Maine is so important. I answer to you for sure, you carry all the enforcement measures already in State Law for me. I answer to a lot of people. Most without any

legal ramifications but still with real genuine ramifications. At the end of the day I go home to a town in Maine, raise and care for my family here as well. I park my truck with the fishermen at the wharf. I know who is who. Most of my family are lobstermen. I am not because my father who is a lobstermen thought best that I go to college and not go lobstering because lobstering was a "dead end job." WOW, was he wrong I may say.

When a small cruise ship that doesn't require a pilot or a yacht comes into the bay and either accidentally or purposefully ventures out of the traffic lane, it most likely will end up cutting off lobstering gear. Lobsterman and Fisherman think these vessels are big, and I get a frustrated phone call from them. Yes, I told them about the situation and that they are too small and are not required to take a state pilot due to federal and state laws. We can't help them. With the big ships that are required by law to carry a pilot, I know they will still hold me accountable. They make it very clear on the radio sometimes. If this bill passes any incidents or near misses you would have no jurisdiction to and would not be able to hold anyone aboard accountable. I had a complaints last year about gear loss in the shipping lane. I received a call from the Marine Patrol. How did I handle that, I invited him out on a trip with me. It opened his eyes to what we do, what we see. I was glad he could call me. I answer to the people of State of Maine. They have tasked me to keep everything safe. This is not just about Bay Ferries. It's that they are here today. Who is tomorrow? We ask you to vote this bill down.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam H Philbrook', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Adam H Philbrook

Penobscot Bay and River Pilot Association