

Testimony of Captain David Gelinas in Support of LD 1874

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

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and distinguished members of the Committee, my name is David Gelinas. For the past 32 years I have been a harbor pilot on Penobscot Bay and Frenchman Bay. I am also one of seven individuals serving on the Maine Pilotage Commission, fulfilling the seat of a state-licensed pilot representing Maine's Mid-coast Pilotage Zone, and I am representing that Commission before you today.

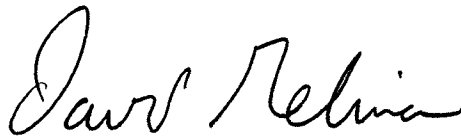
This proposed legislation is long overdue. For decades, Maine has been an anomaly amongst the Coastal States in the fact that it has two separate commissions which issue state harbor pilot licenses. This fact is a quirk of history, as the Portland Harbor Commission began regulating pilotage long before the State of Maine adopted compulsory pilotage for the rest of the State in 1969, the last coastal state in the nation to do so.

LD 1874 would consolidate the regulation of State Pilotage under one authority, the Maine Pilotage Commission. The Maine Pilotage Commission is well equipped and experienced to administer oversight of ALL State Pilots through vetting, establishing training standards, administering pilotage examinations, establishing rates through a public process, issuing appropriate licenses, investigating accidents, addressing complaints, establishing remedial actions in the event of rules violations or marine casualties, and issuing annual reports to the legislature on the status of the System of Pilotage mandated under State Statute.

The language of the proposed legislation went through an extensive review in consultation with the Maine Pilotage Commission, with any concerns addressed and remedied. This is why LD 1874 has received the unanimous support of the Maine Pilotage Commission. We urge you to vote in favor of LD 1874.

Thank you for your time; I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,



David Gelinas

Penobscot Bay & River Pilots Association.