

Public Hearing  
April 22, 2021 – 10 AM

Joint Legislative Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
Cross Building, Room 208  
Augusta, Maine  
[EDU@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:EDU@legislature.maine.gov)

**Re: LD1389: An Act To Improve Maritime Education in Maine  
“Ought to Pass”**

To: Senator Joseph Rafferty, co-chair ,  
Representative Michael Brennan, co-chair,  
Members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

To whom it may concern,

I had a career as a Marine Engine Engineer with the Marine Engineer’s Beneficial Association after graduating Maritime school in Baltimore, Md in 1970 with an unlimited steam and diesel license.

I worked aboard numerous ships in the US Merchant Marine for companies such as US Lines, Maritime Overseas Lines, Moore McCormick Lines, Sealand, Keystone, Matson lines and many others.

Career lasted through the Vietnam war with supply and ammunition ships to Vietnam and Thailand, and the rest of the world afterwards.

After 20 odd years in the maritime industry I worked as an engineering inspector for various insurance companies around the US in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico.

I moved back to New England after my father died and my family needed my assistance, and I was hired by Chubb Insurance in Boston and took over the Engineering inspections in Boston and Cambridge.

When Chubb increased their appetite to write more policies in Maine, I was offered and accepted the additional territory of the state of Maine. I moved my family here 20 years ago.

I retired from Chubb Insurance in 2016 and moved full time from Cambridge, MA to the MidCoast in order to be with my wife who worked as a crises counselor for Mid Coast Mental Health and to be near the water and a maritime environment.

I have multiple boats, moorings, floats, etc that we use to explore the many harbors in Maine with our friends from Pemaquid, to NE Harbor and Sutton Island. We love the Marine Environment here in Maine.

We know that Maine needs an educated workforce grown from within. The Maine Ocean School can help do that if it has long-term future. I fully endorse the Maine Ocean School and the opportunity it offers to the future generations of graduates

and to the maritime industry which so sorely needs and will continue to need in our growing Maritime Future.

LD1389 benefits Maine Ocean School by ending the sunset clause, so that the School can continue to grow and show its success. *Its unique combination of practical training towards certification for able seaman opportunities upon graduation, and college preparatory academics is a valuable addition to Maine's public education landscape.*

I urge the Committee to vote "ought to pass" on this bill.

Very truly yours,

Paul W. Fiske & Liberty W. Fiske  
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