

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 447

H.P. 301

House of Representatives, February 4, 2025

An Act to Expand Ferry Service to Matinicus Isle

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GEIGER of Rockland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, MATLACK of St. George, Senator:
GROHOSKI of Hancock.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4401**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 20, §1, is further amended to
3 read:

4 **§4401. Ferry service for North Haven, Vinalhaven, Islesboro, Matinicus Isle, Swan's**
5 **Island and Frenchboro**

6 It is the duty of the Department of Transportation to operate a ferry route or routes
7 between the mainland and the towns of North Haven, Vinalhaven, Islesboro, Matinicus Isle
8 and Swan's Island for the purpose of transporting vehicles, freight and passengers to and
9 from these towns, and the department may operate the ferry route or routes to and from
10 Frenchboro. Ferry service to Matinicus Isle must be at least ~~12~~ 36 times per year ~~and may~~
11 ~~be up to 36 times per year, with additional service authorized as agreed upon by the~~
12 ~~residents of Matinicus Isle and the department,~~ and may be provided by state-owned or
13 privately contracted vessels. These ferry routes are designated as the "Maine State Ferry
14 Service." During periods of facility repair or maintenance or during periods of
15 extraordinary demand, the department may carry out its responsibilities by utilizing
16 privately contracted vessels to provide additional or substitute service to islands served by
17 the Maine State Ferry Service as long as the use of privately contracted vessels is in
18 accordance with an agreement between the department and the State's collective bargaining
19 agent as defined in Title 26, section 979-A, subsection 1.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill amends the law regulating state ferry service to Matinicus Isle to require at
22 least 36 trips per year, with additional service authorized as agreed upon by the residents
23 of Matinicus Isle and the Department of Transportation.