

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 947

H.P. 612

House of Representatives, March 11, 2025

**An Act to Clarify Overnight Docking at Mainland Ports for Certain
Island Ferry Vessels**

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 5, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MATLACK of St. George.
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and
Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, GEIGER of Rockland, RAY of Lincolnville.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4401, sub-§1** is enacted to read:

3 **1. Overnight docking on islands of ferry vessels.** The Department of Transportation
4 shall allow a ferry vessel operating under this section to dock overnight at its island port or
5 to dock overnight at a mainland port when that docking is common practice.

6 **Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §4401, sub-§2** is enacted to read:

7 **2. Exception.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, the Department of Transportation may
8 require a ferry vessel to dock at a mainland port or at an alternative island port for an
9 emergency situation, including, but not limited to, an extreme weather event.

10 **Sec. 3. 23 MRSA §4401**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 20, §1, is further amended by
11 enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

12 The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this section. Rules adopted
13 pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
14 subchapter 2-A.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill requires the Department of Transportation to allow a ferry operated by the
17 Maine State Ferry Service to dock overnight at its island port or to dock at a mainland port
18 when that docking is common practice, with the exception that the department may require
19 a ferry vessel to dock at a mainland port or at an alternative island port for an emergency
20 situation, including, but not limited to, an extreme weather event.