

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1731

S.P. 677

In Senate, April 22, 2025

**An Act to Increase the Influence of the Maine State Ferry Advisory
Board on the Funding and Operations of the Maine State Ferry
Service**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor and

Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, CURRY of Waldo, MOORE of Washington,

Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, GEIGER of Rockland, MATLACK of St. George, RAY of Lincolnville.

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

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4301, as amended by PL 1989, c. 503, Pt. B, §102, is further amended to read:

§4301. Board established

The Maine State Ferry Advisory Board, established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 82, and in this ~~section~~ chapter called "the board," ~~shall be~~ is a board within the Department of Transportation.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §4306 is enacted to read:

§4306. Consultation with Maine State Ferry Service

The Maine State Ferry Service shall consult the board on the development of the Maine State Ferry Service budget and strategic planning and major operational decisions regarding the Maine State Ferry Service. Recommendations made by the board regarding rider experience, fare structures, schedules, route planning, vessel maintenance and other operational aspects of the Maine State Ferry Service must be considered by the Maine State Ferry Service.

Sec. 3. 23 MRSA §4307 is enacted to read:

§4307. Maine State Ferry Service reporting

1. Annual report. The Maine State Ferry Service shall provide an annual report to the board that includes the following:

- A. Financial performance and budget utilization;
B. Rider feedback and satisfaction surveys; and
C. Operational challenges and improvements.

2. Feedback. The board shall review the report provided pursuant to subsection 1 and provide feedback and recommendations to the Maine State Ferry Service for consideration.

Sec. 4. 23 MRSA §4308 is enacted to read:

§4308. Annual review; report and recommendations

The board shall conduct an annual review of the Maine State Ferry Service's performance and operations and provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters by January 15th of each year. The report must include recommendations for improvements to Maine State Ferry Service operations and suggested funding. The recommendations in the report must be considered by the Maine State Ferry Service during its decision-making processes for the following fiscal year.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Maine State Ferry Service to consult with the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board on matters regarding budgets, strategic planning and major operational decisions. Recommendations made by the board regarding certain matters must be considered by the Maine State Ferry Service during its decision-making processes for the following fiscal year. The bill requires the Maine State Ferry Service to provide regular

1 reports to the board and requires the board to review and provide feedback and
2 recommendations. The bill also requires the board to conduct an annual review of the
3 Maine State Ferry Service's performance and operations and provide a report to the joint
4 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters by
5 January 15th of each year.