

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1651

H. P. 1308

House of Representatives, April 3, 1975

On motion of Mrs. Post of Owls Head, Reference Reconsidered, and on further motion of same gentlewoman, referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Post of Owls Head.

Cosponsors: Mr. Greenlaw of Stonington, Mrs. Hutchings of Lincolnville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Establish the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board.

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

Sec. 1. PL 1971, c. 593, § 34 is amended to read:

Sec. 34. Authorization. The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to retain members of the Economic Advisory Board, ~~the Advisory Committee of Ferry Service~~ the Scenic Highway Board and the Highway Safety Committee to serve in an advisory capacity in the Department of Transportation at the pleasure of the commissioner for a period not to exceed 2 years and they shall receive the same compensation and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses as they heretofore received.

Sec. 2. PL 1971, c. 593, § 38, first sentence, is amended to read:

The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to retain members of the Economic Advisory Board, ~~the Advisory Committee of Ferry Service~~ the Scenic Highway Board and the Highway Safety Committee to serve in an advisory capacity for a period not to exceed 2 years.

Sec. 3. 23 MRSA § 4205, sub-§ 5, as enacted by PL 1971, c. 593, § 16, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 23 MRSA c. 411 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 411

MAINE STATE FERRY ADVISORY BOARD

§ 4301. Board established

There is established the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board, in this section called "the board," which shall be a board within the Department of Transportation.

§ 4302. Membership

The membership of the board shall consist of one person from each of the island municipalities and plantations serviced by the Maine State Ferry System. Each member shall be appointed by the officers or selectmen of the member's municipality or by the assessors of the member's plantation, and shall serve a term of office of 2 years. Vacancies in membership shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

§ 4303. Meetings

1. **Chairman; meetings.** The board shall annually elect a chairman from among its members, and the chairman shall serve a term of one year. The board shall meet at the call of the chairman, or at the call of at least 3 members of the board, and there shall be at least 6 meetings held a year.

2. **Transportation for meetings.** The Department of Transportation shall provide both automobile and driver transportation and ferry service at no cost to any member of the board requesting transportation from his residence to to the place of a meeting of the board and back on days on which the board meets. Otherwise, no transportation expenses or per diem shall be paid to any member of the board.

§ 4304. Duties

1. **Review and recommendations.** The board shall advise the Department of Transportation on matters relating to the Maine State Ferry Service. It shall review and comment in writing on all changes in fares, scheduling of service, future proposals and plans of the Maine State Ferry Service. All comments of the board shall be available to the public.

2. **Report.** The board shall submit to the Commissioner of Transportation an annual report which shall include recommendations for change to the Maine State Ferry Service and comments upon the present and future needs of that service.

§ 4305. Staff support

The Department of Transportation shall supply reasonable staff support requested by the board.

Sec. 5. Transition. Of the initial members appointed to the board, $\frac{1}{2}$ shall serve for a term of one year and $\frac{1}{2}$ shall serve for a term of 2 years. The Commissioner of Transportation shall, within 2 weeks of the effective date of this Act, select by lot which municipalities or plantations shall appoint a

member for one year and which municipalities or plantations shall appoint a member for 2 years. After expiration of the initial term of any member of the board, any appointment to the membership shall be for a term of 2 years.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill creates the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board, whose purpose is to give detailed advice to the Department of Transportation on the operation and future of the Maine State Ferry Service. While at present an advisory board on ferries exists within the department, this board has not functioned since the Maine Port Authority became part of the Department of Transportation, and there is an urgent need for communication between island residents served by the Maine State Ferry Service and the Department of Transportation, and this board provides a means for that communication.

The board as envisioned under this bill will require no legislative appropriation, as it will function within the existing resources and staffing of the Department of Transportation, and as there will be no travel expenses or per diem paid to any of its members.