

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
(Governor's Bill)  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1526**

H. P. 1278

House of Representatives, April 2, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Beaulieu of Portland.

Cosponsors: Mr. Howe of South Portland, Mr. Vose of Eastport and Mr. Fowlie of Rockland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**RESOLVE, to Further Study Feasibility of Cargo Port Facilities.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Committee on Coastal Development and Conservation has determined that Maine's cargo port facilities have gradually lost out in competition with other east coast United States and Canadian ports; and

Whereas, only 20% of the products produced in Maine and transported through a port, are being shipped through Maine ports; and

Whereas, the Committee on Coastal Development and Conservation has determined that there is some potential for overcoming some of this competition by providing modern marine terminal facilities; and

Whereas, it is believed that modern marine terminal facilities would provide a valuable stimulation to the development of the state's economy; and

Whereas, the Committee on Coastal Development and Conservation has determined that there is generally public support for improved facilities; and

Whereas, the Committee on Coastal Development and Conservation has determined that further study is needed to develop and appropriate cargo port development strategy; and

Whereas, the committee report calls for completion of further study by October 1979; and

Whereas, the study is to be funded in part by coastal zone management funds, the contract for which requires that the study be completed by the end of September 1979; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

**Study feasibility of cargo port facilities. Resolved:** That the Department of Transportation is hereby authorized and directed to further study the feasibility of general cargo port facilities in the State. The study shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, determining the interest of potential user industries in the development of a Maine port and their willingness to make commitments to use or otherwise provide support for the facility; a cost benefit analysis to determine the overall economic benefits to the State; traffic analysis to determine the potential traffic which would use the port facility beyond 1980; socioeconomic impact of port facility development on the communities; and a general scope and scale of the appropriate facility or facilities, including a determination whether single or multiple port facility development is feasible and the location of the facility development or improvements with emphasis on the previously identified primary ports of Searsport and Portland and the anticipated construction, operating and financing costs of the facility or facilities; and be it further

**Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Transportation appoint an advisory committee, composed of such members as he shall determine, to assist in and to help guide the study authorized by this resolve; and be it further

**Resolved:** That the Department of Transportation shall report its findings to the Second Regular Session of the 109th Legislature convening in January 1980; and be it further

**Resolved:** That there is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Transportation the sum of \$50,000 to carry out the purpose of this resolve.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this resolve is to provide for further study of the feasibility of cargo port facilities and to provide additional funds to conduct the study. The total cost of the study is estimated to be \$70,000 of which \$20,000 is presently available. The study will be administered by the Department of Transportation and conducted primarily by consultants under contract with the department. It is also intended that an advisory committee be appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation to guide the study effort. The bill carries an appropriation of \$50,000.