



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

Legislative Document

No. 2115

S.P. 788

In Senate, January 20, 1998

An Act to Allow the Department of Transportation to Provide Privately Contracted Ferry Services.

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 204. Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock. Cosponsored by Representative JONES of Bar Harbor. **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, extensive repairs to facilities that support the Maine State Ferry Service are scheduled for April and May of 1998; and

Whereas, the Department of Transportation needs to ensure that ferry routes of the Maine State Ferry Service are maintained while these repairs are made; 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 enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4401, as amended by PL 1989, c. 544, §1, is further amended to read:

24 §4401. Ferry service for North Haven, Vinalhaven, Islesboro, Matinicus Isle, Swan's Island and Frenchboro

It is the duty of the Department of Transportation to operate a ferry route or routes between the mainland and the 28 towns of North Haven, Vinalhaven, Islesboro, Matinicus Isle and Swan's Island for the purpose of transporting vehicles, freight 30 and passengers to and from these towns, and the department may operate the ferry route or routes to and from Frenchboro. Ferry 32 service to Matinicus Isle shall must be at least 12 times per year and may be up to 24 times per year and may be provided by 34 state-owned or privately-contracted privately contracted vessels. These ferry routes shall-be are designated as the "Maine State 36 Ferry Service." The department may carry out its responsibilities by providing additional or substitute service to 38 all islands served by the Maine State Ferry Service with 40 privately contracted vessels.

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Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

48 This bill authorizes the Department of Transportation to carry out its responsibilities with respect to the Maine State 50 Ferry Service by providing additional or substitute service with privately contracted vessels.

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