

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 194

S.P. 91

In Senate, January 11, 1999

An Act to Increase Nonregular Island Ferry Service from 24 to 36 Trips.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PINGREE of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative VOLENIK of Brooklin and
Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln, Representatives: DUNLAP of Old Town, PIEH of Bremen.

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

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6 Whereas, this legislation amends the number of ferry trips
provided by state-owned or privately contracted vessels for the
Maine State Ferry Service from 24 to 36 in time to schedule these
trips for future business; and

10 Whereas, the scheduling timeliness is important for the
economic benefit of the island communities; and

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14 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,

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

22 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4401**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 612, §1, is
further amended to read:

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

28 It is the duty of the Department of Transportation to
operate a ferry route or routes between the mainland and the
towns of North Haven, Vinalhaven, Islesboro, Matinicus Isle and
Swan's Island for the purpose of transporting vehicles, freight
and passengers to and from these towns, and the department may
operate the ferry route or routes to and from Frenchboro. Ferry
service to Matinicus Isle must be at least 12 times per year and
may be up to 24 36 times per year and may be provided by
state-owned or privately contracted vessels. These ferry routes
are designated as the "Maine State Ferry Service." During
periods of facility repair or maintenance or during periods of
extraordinary demand, the department may carry out its
responsibilities by utilizing privately contracted vessels to
provide additional or substitute service to islands served by the
Maine State Ferry Service as long as the use of privately
contracted vessels is in accordance with an agreement between the
department and the State's collective bargaining agent as defined
in Title 26, section 979-A, subsection 1.

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

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SUMMARY

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This bill increases the nonregular island ferry service, the
Maine State Ferry Service, from 24 trips a year to 36 trips a
year.