

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

Legislative Document

No. 1738

S.P. 655

In Senate, December 30, 2005

**An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Ferry Service Travel for
Individuals with Catastrophic Illness**

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 28, 2005. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SAVAGE of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative MAZUREK of Rockland.

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

4 Whereas, people living on islands who suffer from a
6 catastrophic illness must travel to and from the mainland for
treatment; and

8 Whereas, the Maine State Ferry Service is the only public
10 transportation available to many of these people; and

12 Whereas, this legislation provides free transportation to
those people to allow them to get to their medical appointments,
14 alleviating some of their burden; and

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

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

24 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4407** is enacted to read:

26 **§4407. Free nonemergency transportation services for**
28 **catastrophic medical reasons**

30 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the
context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
32 following meanings.

34 A. "Catastrophic illness" means an unforeseen, prolonged
and extended illness or medical condition, the medical and
associated travel expenses of which are not covered by any
36 other state or federal program or any insurance contract.

38 B. "Free transportation services" means round-trip
transportation without charge from an island served by the
Maine State Ferry Service to the mainland and back on
scheduled trips of vessels of the Maine State Ferry Service
for one eligible resident and one personal vehicle to
transport the eligible resident to a scheduled medical
44 appointment. "Free transportation services" includes
transportation for one adult attendant to accompany an
46 eligible resident to a scheduled medical appointment.

48 C. "Medically necessary" means prescribed by a physician
and reasonably necessary to treat a catastrophic illness.

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