

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

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Legislative Document

No. 1795

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H.P. 1321

House of Representatives, January 24, 2012

### **An Act Regarding the Oversight and Safety of Certain Commercial Vessels Operating in Maine Waters**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Clerk

Presented by Representative FITTS of Pittsfield.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §87-A, sub-§1, ¶D,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 14, §1, is  
3 repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. P&SL 1981, c. 98, §5, sub-§2, 2nd ¶** is amended to read:

5 This section ~~shall~~ does not apply to vessels under enrollment, fishing vessels or  
6 vessels powered by sail. ~~This section shall not apply to vessels primarily engaged in the~~  
7 ~~carriage of passengers for hire which operate on a published annual schedule and which~~  
8 ~~are not in excess of 500 feet overall length and have a draft not in excess of 20 feet, so~~  
9 ~~long as the master of any such vessel has navigated that specific vessel on the above~~  
10 ~~described waters with the assistance of a pilot for a minimum of 15 round trips of ingress~~  
11 ~~and egress to the above described waters. Provided, that a pilot shall pilot such vessel as~~  
12 ~~described in this paragraph upon the above described waters at least one round trip during~~  
13 ~~each calendar month that the vessel operates upon the above described waters and at such~~  
14 ~~other times as may be required by the Department of Transportation to ensure port safety~~  
15 ~~after hearing and notice.~~

16 **SUMMARY**

17 Current law allows foreign flag ferry vessels to enter Maine waters without a state  
18 pilot on board. All other foreign flag commercial vessels are required to take a pilot if  
19 their draft is 9 feet or more. This bill removes the current exemption from state pilotage  
20 requirements for foreign flag ferry vessels.