MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

Legislative Document

No. 1804

H.P. 1295

House of Representatives, March 5, 2014

Resolve, To Require the Installation of a Fence on the Penobscot **Narrows Bridge**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

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.

Millient M. Mac failand MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative BROOKS of Winterport. Cosponsored by Senator THIBODEAU of Waldo and

Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, DION of Portland, FARNSWORTH of Portland, LUCHINI of Ellsworth, SHORT of Pittsfield, STANLEY of Medway, Senators: JACKSON of Aroostook, YOUNGBLOOD of Penobscot.

| 1 2 | Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and |
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| | , , , , |
| 3 4 5 | Whereas , since the Penobscot Narrows Bridge between the Town of Prospect and the Town of Verona Island was opened in 2007, at least 6 people have ended their lives by leaping off the bridge; and |
| 6 7 | Whereas, very recently a woman took her life by jumping off the Penobscot Narrows Bridge and it is imperative to erect a means to prevent future loss of life; and |
| 8 9 | Whereas, studies have shown pedestrian barrier fences installed on bridges can be effective in preventing loss of life; and |
| 10 11 12 13 | 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 |
| 14 15 16 17 | Sec. 1. Pedestrian barrier fences. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall construct and maintain pedestrian barrier fences on the Penobscot Narrows Bridge crossing the Penobscot River on Route 3 between the Town of Prospect and the Town of Verona Island for the purpose of suicide prevention. Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this |
| 19 | legislation takes effect when approved. |
| 20 | SUMMARY |
| 21 22 23 | This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to construct and maintain pedestrian barrier fences on the Penobscot Narrows Bridge for the purpose of suicide prevention. |