MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1319

S.P. 538

In Senate, March 23, 2023

An Act to Exempt Certain Boat Operators from Having to Become Maine Guides

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford. Cosponsored by Senator: LIBBY of Cumberland.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and 3 Whereas, the economy of the State is reliant on many seasonal businesses that are 4 open only a limited number of months during the calendar year; and Whereas, if the business of a seasonal business is disrupted, even for a brief period 5 of time, it can be financially disastrous for the business due to the condensed period of time 6 for the business to garner revenue; and 7 8 Whereas, the business season for a summer seasonal business will be over before the 9 expiration of the 90-day period; and 10 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 11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 12 13 therefore, 14 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 15 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12853, sub-§7, ¶D** is enacted to read: D. A person who has satisfactorily completed a boater safety education course under 16 section 13063 and is certified in first aid under subsection 4, paragraph C may, without 17 18 a guide license, operate a watercraft in the course of employment with a seasonal 19 business engaged in instruction in recreational activities. 20 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved. 21 22 SUMMARY 23 This bill allows a person who has completed an approved boater safety education course and is certified in first aid to operate a watercraft without a guide license as an 24 25 employee of a seasonal business engaged in instruction in recreational activities.