

SENATE BILL NO. 247

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 1/16/98

Referred: Transportation, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

**1 "An Act making appropriations for continued maintenance and operation of the
2 Motor Vessel Malaspina; and providing for an effective date."**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 * Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that

5 (1) a strong, diversified economy demands an effective transportation system;

6 (2) Alaska's unique and complex geography requires a unique and efficient
7 transportation network;

8 (3) the Alaska marine highway system is an integral part of the state
9 transportation system and the state economy;

10 (4) all Alaskans receive benefits from the services of the Alaska marine
11 highway system, including basic transportation, economic development, delivery of Alaska
12 products to market, access to critical health care, and regional interaction;

13 (5) prudent management of the Alaska marine highway system requires access
14 to replacement vessels to maintain reliable service during any service disruptions caused by

1 accidents, mechanical failures, or other events;

2 (6) the Motor Vessel Malaspina can continue to serve Alaska communities and
3 enhance the tourism industry, especially regarding Alaska businesses that serve independent
4 travelers;

5 (7) the benefit to the state of the anticipated arrival of the Motor Vessel
6 Kennicott should not be offset by a loss of the Motor Vessel Malaspina;

7 (8) the highest and best use of the Motor Vessel Malaspina is not to be tied
8 up, idly awaiting an emergency, but active service carrying passengers, vehicles, and cargo;

9 (9) the greatest need for improved ferry services exists in North Lynn Canal
10 between the ports of Skagway, Haines, and Juneau; and

11 (10) deployment of the Motor Vessel Malaspina in North Lynn Canal would
12 enhance system capacity to the benefit of communities, businesses, and individual Alaskans.

13 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to preserve the beneficial use of the Motor Vessel
14 Malaspina for Alaska residents, businesses, and visitors.

15 * **Sec. 2.** (a) The sum of \$174,400 is appropriated from the general fund to the Alaska
16 marine highway system fund (AS 19.65.060).

17 (b) The sum of \$816,500 is appropriated from the Alaska marine highway system fund
18 (AS 19.65.060) to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Southeast vessel
19 operations component, for continued maintenance and operation of the Motor Vessel
20 Malaspina for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998.

21 * **Sec. 3.** (a) The sum of \$1,764,400 is appropriated from the general fund to the Alaska
22 marine highway system fund (AS 19.65.060).

23 (b) The sum of \$3,979,600 is appropriated from the Alaska marine highway system
24 fund (AS 19.65.060) to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Southeast
25 vessel operations component, for continued maintenance and operation of the Motor Vessel
26 Malaspina for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999.

27 * **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act take effect immediately.

28 * **Sec. 5.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect July 1, 1998.