

Sponsor Statement

SB 111

Bond to Fund Ports and Harbors

“An Act relating to financing facilities for municipal ports and harbors; and providing for an effective date.”

Last year, we passed legislation that provided for upgrading ports and harbors. Many municipalities were given the fund to upgrade their harbors. The municipalities listed in this bill were not. Before that legislation passed, it had been amended to make these municipalities responsible for issuing the bonding that would provide the funds necessary to make these improvements.

This legislation corrects that provision. These harbors have been neglected by the state and were rated high on the state’s deferred maintenance list.

It is time to make these municipalities whole. For the last year, they have pondered their plight as a result of the old bill, and their ports and harbors have continued to deteriorate. This is not responsible management of our ports and harbors. We need to fund the work on DOT’s deferred maintenance list and turn these ports and harbors over to the municipalities. We should not be in the ports and harbors maintenance business.