

Cruise Ship Fee Policy

Town of Bar Harbor

The United States Constitution and federal law prohibit assessing taxes or fees upon vessels operating in the navigable waters of the United States except for (a) fees charged under 33 U.S.C. § 2236; (b) property taxes on vessels or watercraft; or (c) reasonable fees charged on a fair and equitable basis that (i) are used solely to pay the cost of service to the vessel; (ii) enhance the safety and efficiency of interstate and foreign commerce; and (iii) do not impose more than a small burden on interstate or foreign Commerce.

It is the policy of the Town of Bar Harbor to assess fees that fairly represent the costs of services that are provided to visiting vessels. The funds derived from the assessment of these fees will be used to reimburse the Town for services provided or projects that enhance the safety, efficiency of service, or experience of the passengers from visiting vessels. These include, but are not restricted to, pier improvements, safety equipment or personnel, planning for and accommodating visitors, directing and educating visitors, and preserving the natural beauty of the Bar Harbor waterfront for visitors into the future.

Transfers of Cruise Funds outside the budget recommended by the Cruise Ship Committee should be reviewed for recommendation by the committee whenever possible.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

8-17-10 New policy proposed by Cruise Ship Committee
9-21-10 Formal policy adopted by Council