An Act Regarding Absence from Work for Emergency Response

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 19, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Presented by Representative GROHOSKI of Ellsworth.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §809, sub-§7, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 218, §1, is amended to read:

B. The employee presents a copy of the policy described in paragraph A to the employer within 30 days of notifying the employer of the employee's status as a firefighter or emergency medical services person within 30 days of employment or within 180 days of the effective date of this subsection.

SUMMARY

Current law requires that, in order to avoid being subject to discharge or discipline for failure to report for work or being absent when responding to an emergency, an employee who is also a firefighter or emergency medical services person must have presented to the employer within 30 days of employment a copy of a fire department or emergency medical services provider policy that specifies the circumstances under which the employee is needed to respond to an emergency and that affirms that the employee will be released as soon as practicable.

This bill removes the requirement that the employee present the copy within 30 days of employment and instead requires that the employee present the copy within 30 days of notifying the employer of the employee's status as a firefighter or emergency medical services person.