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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1245

H.P. 911

House of Representatives, March 25, 2021

**An Act To Ensure the Provision of Adequate Personal Protective
Equipment to Firefighters Who Are Women**

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 25, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GROHOSKI of Ellsworth.
Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and
Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MADIGAN of Waterville, McDONALD
of Stonington, MEYER of Eliot, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill,
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, Senator: CARNEY 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,** firefighters must remain ever vigilant as fires and other emergencies happen
4 every day; and

5 **Whereas,** firefighters are exposed to toxic fumes and substances regularly in the
6 course of their firefighting duties; and

7 **Whereas,** immediate enactment of this Act is necessary to help prevent the negative
8 effects of such exposure for the many female firefighters who have only ill-fitting gear to
9 protect them in their firefighting duties; and

10 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
11 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
12 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
13 therefore,

14 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

15 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3154, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

16 **4. Female firefighter protective gear.** A municipal fire department, volunteer fire
17 association or fire district shall provide and equip a female firefighter with personal
18 protective equipment and turnout gear, including boots, that are properly fitting either due
19 to being sized correctly or being tailored for the female firefighter and meet the
20 requirements of the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health
21 Administration or the National Fire Protection Association, whichever are more stringent.

22 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
23 takes effect when approved.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill requires a municipal fire department, volunteer fire association or fire district
26 to provide and equip a female firefighter with personal protective equipment and turnout
27 gear, including boots, that are properly fitting either due to being sized correctly or being
28 tailored for the female firefighter and meet the requirements of the United States
29 Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration or the National Fire
30 Protection Association, whichever are more stringent.