



60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486  
1-800-452-8786 (in state) | (t) 207-623-8428  
(f) 207-624-0129

## Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

### Neither For Nor Against LD 1832, *An Act to Require Reimbursement of Fees for Treatment Rendered by Public and Private Ambulance Services*

May 15, 2023

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Sen. Bailey, Rep. Perry and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee. My name is Kate Dufour, and I am offering testimony neither for nor against LD 1832 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association.

I am submitting written testimony “neither for nor against” LD 1832 because our policy committee has not yet established the Association’s official position on the bill. However, considering the overwhelming need for emergency medical services in all areas of the state, as well the pressure currently placed on property taxpayers to fund the increasing costs of this life saving service, municipal officials are likely to support the concept behind the bill when they meet on May 25.

Unlike law enforcement where county sheriffs and the state police are available to provide backup services, there is not a state or county response unit available to assist when a community does not have the staffing, funds, or call volume necessary to support an ambulance service. As a result, private companies are often the only alternative, which incidentally are also facing similar funding and staffing challenges. LD 1832 presents a step in the right direction by requiring a private or public ambulance service to be reimbursed for the cost of treatment provided at the scene during an emergency call, even if the individual being assisted is not transported to a hospital. Under current practice, there is no required reimbursement, leaving the entity providing the service to shoulder the costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.