



# Maine County Commissioners Association

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## *LD 245, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State*

February 10, 2025

Chair Beebe-Center, Chair Hasenfus, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Stephen Gorden and in addition to serving as a member of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as chair of the legislative policy committee of the Maine County Commissioners Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee in support of LD 245.

**About MCCA.** Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta, represents all 16 of Maine's counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

**What does LD 245 do?** LD 245 would implement certain recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Services in the State. The 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature established the Blue Ribbon Commission in 2022 and the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature reestablished the Commission in 2023 to examine and make recommendations on the structure, support, and delivery of emergency medical services in the State. In accordance with recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Commission, LD 245 would establish a permanent Emergency Medical Services Commission to continuously monitor emergency medical services and provide recommendations as necessary to the appropriate state agencies and to the Legislature. Among other provisions, LD 245 would also enable the State to explore regional collaboration and possible adoption of a regional model in the delivery of emergency services and promotes a reorganization of the Emergency Services' Board in accordance with recommendations made by Maine Emergency Services in 2023.

**Discussion.** Emergency medical services organizations and EMS personnel provide critical services to communities and work to ensure the health and safety of all people across our state. As this Committee is aware, EMS organizations lack necessary funding and face significant staffing shortages, especially in rural counties and communities. In response to these challenges, the Legislature wisely established the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Services in the State. The Commission included a representative of county government, and our Association remained engaged in the process and supported the final recommendations. LD 245 represents the logical next step in the process of understanding the challenges facing emergency services in the state and working to improve these critical services for Mainers.

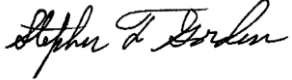
**Comments of MCCA re LD 245**

**February 5, 2025**

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**Conclusion.** We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill, and if you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen F. Gorden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen Gorden

Chair, Legislative Policy Committee, MCCA

cc: Commissioner Richard Dutremble, President, MCCA  
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel