

Robert Genest
Central Maine Highlands Fires and EMS District #1
LD 210

Central Maine Highlands Fire and EMS District #1 Opposes Proposed Ambulance Tax

Central Maine Highlands Fire and EMS District #1 has officially announced its staunch opposition to the proposed 6% tax on ambulance revenue in Maine. The district has outlined several key concerns regarding the implementation of this tax:

Increased Costs: The tax would directly impact the cost of ambulance services, leading to higher expenses for both patients and taxpayers. This additional financial burden is particularly concerning given the current economic climate.

Strain on an Already Fragile System: The proposed tax would place additional pressure on an emergency medical service system that is already facing numerous challenges. This could compromise the quality and availability of emergency care across the region.

Difficult Choices for Districts: Faced with this new tax, Central Maine Highlands Fire and EMS District #1 would be forced to make tough decisions. The options include reducing staff numbers, which would affect service delivery, or increasing fees to member towns, thereby indirectly raising taxes for local residents.

Uncertainty with Exemptions: While the current proposal includes an exemption for services like ours, there is no assurance that municipalities will continue to be exempt in future budget cycles. This lack of long-term security adds to the unpredictability and concern over the sustainability of our services.

District #1 strongly believes that this tax would not only hinder the operational capabilities of local EMS services but also undermine the health and safety of the communities we serve. The district urges state legislators to reconsider the impact of this tax and explore alternative solutions that do not compromise the vital services provided by emergency medical services.

About Central Maine Highlands Fire and EMS District #1:

Central Maine Highlands Fire and EMS District #1 is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable emergency medical services to the residents of the 8 towns and unorganized territories in both Penobscot and Hancock Counties. Committed to public safety, the district works tirelessly to ensure the health and well-being of the community.

Bob Genest President Central Maine Highlands Fire and EMS District#1