



*Ellsworth Fire Department*  
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[www.ellsworthmaine.gov](http://www.ellsworthmaine.gov)

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**To:** Maine State Legislature

**From:** City of Ellsworth Fire Department

**Date:** February 28, 2025

**Subject:** Support for LD 679, "An Act to Increase the Funding to the Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund"

The City of Ellsworth Fire Department strongly supports LD 679, "An Act to Increase the Funding to the Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund." This legislation is vital for ensuring the continued availability and quality of live fire training facilities across the state, including our own regional training center.

The Ellsworth Fire Department Training Facility serves as a critical resource for firefighters throughout the Downeast region. We host:

- At least one Firefighter I and II academy annually.
- Maine Fire Service Institute testing for Firefighter I and II certifications.
- Numerous advanced level training sessions each year.

These programs are essential for equipping firefighters with the skills and knowledge necessary to protect our communities.

Currently, the City of Ellsworth receives no dedicated funding to offset the significant wear and tears incurred on our training facility. The intensive nature of live fire training and associated fire training evolutions, coupled with the high volume of usage, results in substantial maintenance and repair costs. Ellsworth currently needs to replace a roof on the training center for over a decade of training.

Increased funding through LD 679 would provide crucial assistance in:

- Maintaining the structural integrity and safety of the training facility.
- Upgrading and replacing essential training props and equipment.
- Ensuring the facility remains compliant with evolving safety standards.

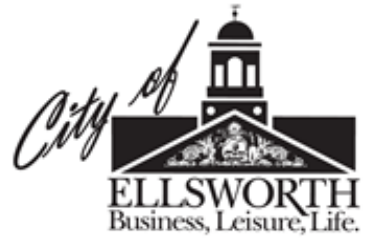
Without adequate funding, we risk the deterioration of this vital training resource, which would have a detrimental impact on the readiness and effectiveness of firefighters across the region.

The City of Ellsworth is committed to providing high-quality training opportunities for our firefighters and those of surrounding communities. We urge the Legislature to recognize the



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critical importance of LD 679 and to provide the necessary funding to support the continued operation of live fire training facilities throughout Maine.

By investing in firefighter training, we are investing in the safety and well-being of all Maine citizens.

Respectfully,

**Scott Guillerault**  
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