



Maine County Commissioners Association

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March 3, 2025

Sen. Beebe-Center, Chair
Rep. Hasenfus, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: *Comments of MCCA in support of LD 583, An Act to Support Informed Community Self-determination in Emergency Services Planning*

Chair Beebe-Center, Chair Hasenfus, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, on behalf of the Maine County Commissioners Association, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to this Committee in support of LD 583.

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 583 do? LD 583 would appropriate \$200,000 per year to the Maine Emergency Medical Services Community Grant Program for FY 26 and FY 27.

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. The Maine Emergency Medical Services Grant Program is an important vehicle that provides financial support to communities in the process of examining current EMS capacity and identifying effective and efficient alternatives to current systems. LD 583 would provide further funding for the grant program so that more communities can study and improve their EMS systems and consider collaboration.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Co-Chair, Legislative Policy Committee, MCCA

Jean-Marie Caterina
Co-Chair, Legislative Policy Committee, MCCA

cc: Commissioner Andre Cushing, President, MCCA
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel