



March 5, 2025

To the Honorable Legislators of the State of Maine,

The National Fire Sprinkler Association has been an advocate for sprinklers since its inception in 1905. Our mission is “to protect lives and property from fire by promoting the use of fire sprinklers.” Our mission includes efforts in education and code development to save lives from the effects of unfriendly fire.

The proposed legislation, LD659 H.P.427 An Act to Reduce Housing Costs by Not Requiring Fire Sprinkler Systems for Single-family Homes and Duplexes, would be devastating to the residents of Maine. You currently have twenty-three communities that have locally adopted versions of regulations to require sprinklers in one- and two-family homes. This would negate that bylaw or ordinance that was voted by the people of those communities. There are other communities that are considering adoption of similar bylaws/ordinances. Though it would be great if the whole state adopted sprinklers this at least give each community the opportunity to decide on its level of protection.

You have already received a lot of information from our Fire Service friends at the NFPA, the State Fire Marshals Office, the State Fire Chief’s Association and others. They have presented you facts and data on costs of sprinklers, new building materials and furnishings, the rapid spread of fire, etc. Everything you have received from them is fact based and in the interest of life safety. The information you will hear from proponents of this Bill will typically distort any facts or use very dated information. They key in on anomalies when looking at costs and they will never answer what is the cost of a human life.

We urge you to think long term about public safety and do not support this Bill. There is always someone proposing short term fixes to save money. Residential sprinklers should not be one of those proposals. Remember: Sprinklers Buy Time, Time Buys Life!

Thank you for your time and consideration and I am more than happy to meet at any time to discuss this issue in more depth.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Zbikowski', is written over a horizontal line.

Paul J. Zbikowski
NFSA State Coordinator
New England & New York
978-424-8793