

Benjamin Wallace Jr
Cundy's Harbor Fire Department and Orr's/Bailey Islands Fire Department
LD 969

Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich, and distinguished committee members. I speak neither in favor or against LD 969 - An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunities. This bill title speaks for itself, and I appreciate the sponsor and cosponsors intent.

First, I represent two of the many volunteer EMS agencies that are not municipal; both serving the Town of Harpswell. I'd like to suggest that if this bill were to be of any use to us that municipal would be replaced with Ambulance Service and Nontransporting Emergency Medical Service, which are defined in the statute.

Secondly, I'd like to point out that the difficulty we've been experiencing is availability of seats for EMT students. SMCC has cancelled their EMT class at the Brunswick campus often in the last few years. It is difficult to recruit and train new volunteers when we cannot find a seat in an EMT class for them. It is our understanding that the challenges they face are instructor availability and funding. Thank you for your time.