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Eastern Fire  
LD 1005

HP 652, LD 1005 April 7, 2025 09:30 am Criminal Justice & Public Safety Joint  
Committee

An Act to Allow Municipal Fire Departments with Trained Personnel to Conduct  
Sprinkler Plan Reviews

Good Morning, my name is Paul Tardif, I have been in the fire sprinkler industry since 1973, and have worked on sprinkler projects in 15 states, as well in Maine for 36 years; I can speak with experience regarding how the state of Maine is ahead of most states in efficiency, quality and consistency.

The only complaints regarding review and permitting at the state level (that I am aware of) was during a recent transition when the state sprinkler reviewer for the last ten years retired; that slowed things down for a few months. At this time plan review & permitting is normally completed in less than two weeks, never more than three and often in 2 to 3 days.

The main point offered in getting this bill sponsored was the impact that permitting delays created for the construction industry. I do know that many subcontractors including sprinkler subcontractors tell builders and owners that they can't start a project because they are waiting on state permits, when in fact they are too backlogged and simply aren't able to meet the schedule. This also speaks to the shortage of personnel in Maine's fire sprinkler industry.

The fact that any Maine licensed, qualified fire sprinkler contractor can obtain a temporary permit immediately for any project alleviates all the concerns that the LD 1005 intends to rectify.

The Maine Fire Sprinkler Association got together in the late 1980s to help create and fund positions in the State Fire Marshal's Office to regulate the industry, provide consistent code interpretations and thorough plan review. That system has served Maine well for 37 years; the model is significantly more efficient than in most other states.

We urge the committee to not move LD 1005 forward, doing so would not be an improvement but would result in increased costs, delays and inconsistencies.

Thank you for your consideration ~ Paul Tardif VP/ Pre-Construction Manager /  
Eastern Fire