



PO Box 202  
Waterville, ME 04903  
(207) 209-3944  
info@maineambulance.org

## Testimony of the Maine Ambulance Association Before the Maine Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee in Support of LD 1981

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Emergency Medical Services' Board and the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State

May 19, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and other Members of the Committee,

My name is Butch Russell, and I'm the Executive Director of the Maine Ambulance Association (MAA). On behalf of ambulance services across the state, I write in strong support of L.D. 1981, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Emergency Medical Services' Board and the Blue-Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State."

### Why L.D. 1981 Matters

- **Creates a focused Licensing Board.** The bill sets up a 7-member *Emergency Medical Services Licensing Board* (EMSLB) dedicated to licensing, investigations, and discipline, with seats for frontline clinicians, dispatch, educators, administrators, and a physician.
- **Streamlines decisions and protects the public.** By moving day-to-day licensing and complaint work to the EMSLB, the main EMS Board gains time to concentrate on strategy and system improvement, while providers and the public get quicker, clearer outcomes.
- **Builds on recent reforms.** Just last week this committee voted to create an EMS Commission (L.D. 245). Pairing that broader commission with the targeted governance changes in L.D. 1981 puts our system on a stronger path forward.

### What Passage Will Deliver

- **Faster on-boarding of new EMTs and paramedics**—critical amid workforce shortages.
- **Consistent, transparent disciplinary processes** that maintain public trust.
- **A nimbler EMS Board** able to tackle funding, innovation, and rural service challenges.

## Closing

For years, state leaders, two Blue Ribbon Commissions, and countless EMS stakeholders have searched for practical ways to make Maine EMS more efficient and accountable. **L.D. 1981 is that practical next step.** The Maine Ambulance Association respectfully urges an **“Ought to Pass”** report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Butch Russell**

Executive Director, Maine Ambulance Association