



In Service Since 1948

Testimony In Support of portions of L.D. 258
An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

February 14, 2023

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Beebe-Center and Representative Suzanne Salisbury, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, I am Jim Graves, the Director Fire Training at the Maine Fire Service Institute located at Southern Maine Community College.

It is with great pride that I write to make you aware of the Regional Fire Training Programs that have been made available with the funding that was provided initially through LD731 and is now included in the Governor's proposed budget (A-138). In early January, the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission made seven (7) full and/or partial awards to regional fire fighter I & II programs across the state.

This is above and beyond our normal operations at the Maine Fire Service Institute. With this funding we are able to grow our Pro-Board Certified Fire Instructor offerings in hopes to create a trickle-down effect to help make fire departments somewhat able to be self-sufficient with regards to training their personnel at the local level.

Moreover, we have been able to expand our Pro-Board Certified Fire Officer I Program to raise the level of training and education of Maine's Fire Service. Sadly, the demand is still at a point that even with these additional funds we cannot completely meet the demand from all regions of our state. We have heard from the towns of Fryeburg, Denmark, Limerick, Stocking Springs, Searsport and Northern York County that are desperately seeking fire training programs. Unfortunately, we have had to ask them to apply for the next round of grants (should we continue to be funded). With that said, we hope you will continue to support this much needed funding to our States Fire Service Training programs, as we will continue to work hard to see our State's firefighters receive the best training possible.

Below is a list of regional firefighter I & II program awards for your review. We were not able to grant all that requested training support.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have, and my apologies for not being in attendance today.

Respectfully,

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Franklin County Fire Academy: 30+ Candidates

January 2023 start date:

- ✓ 200 +/- Hours of instructional support
- ✓ Materials, i.e. roofing and building materials
- ✓ PFAS free training foam

Washington County Fire Academy: 24 Candidates

January 2023 start date:

- ✓ Textbooks – On-line Support
- ✓ 200 +/- Hours of instructional support

Northern Aroostook County Fire Academy: 30 Candidates

February 2023 start date:

- ✓ Textbooks – On-line Support
- ✓ 720 +/- Hours of instructional support
- ✓ Materials, i.e. roofing and building materials
- ✓ PFAS free training foam

Lincoln County Fire Academy: 30 Candidates

February 2023 start date:

- ✓ Textbooks
- ✓ 200 +/- Hours of instructional support
- ✓ Materials, i.e. roofing and building materials
- ✓ PFAS free training foam

Penobscot County Fire Academy: Number of candidates to be determined

August 2023 start date:

- ✓ Textbooks – On-line Support
- ✓ 200 +/- Hours of instructional support
- ✓ Materials, i.e. roofing and building materials
- ✓ PFAS free training foam

Oxford County Fire Academy: Number of candidates to be determined

September 2023 start date:

- ✓ Textbooks
- ✓ 720 +/- Hours of instructional support
- ✓ Materials, i.e. roofing and building materials
- ✓ PFAS free training foam

Somerset/Kennebec County Fire Academy: Number of candidates to be determined

August 2023 start date:

- ✓ Textbooks – On-line Support
- ✓ 200 +/- Hours of instructional support
- ✓ Materials, i.e. roofing and building materials
- ✓ PFAS free training foam

Cumberland County (Presumpscot Valley Fire Academy)

- ✓ No award at this time