

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Sean Paulhus in support of
LD 783, An Act to Protect Certain Private Emergency Services Personnel From Liability Under the
Maine Tort Claims Act
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary. My name is Representative Sean Paulhus, and I represent District 50, which consists of the City of Bath. I come before you today to testify in support of LD 783, An Act to Protect Certain Private Emergency Services Personnel From Liability Under the Maine Tort Claims Act.

I was born and raised in Bath and served on the City Council for over a decade. Bath's largest employer is Bath Iron Works. I appreciate the close relationship that the City has with BIW, especially the close working relationship of our City Fire Department and BIW's own Fire Department and other emergency services personnel.

LD 783 seeks to amend the Maine Tort Claims Act specifically under the limited circumstances when BIW's Security or Fire Department responds to a request for assistance from a state or local agency, or in a life-threatening emergency.

This bill encourages BIW to work closely with the City of Bath and to coordinate mutual aid responses for the benefit of all parties. That is good policy.

BIW has facilities in Bath and Brunswick and may be called upon to provide assistance in critical situations. This bill will provide similar protection as is in place for other first responders.

I urge your support for Maine's largest manufacturing employer and a major piece of Maine's economic landscape that will also serve my constituents in the City of Ships, Bath, Maine.

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.