



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

Kevin O'Connell

7 Sites Lane

Brewer, ME 04412

Home: (207) 735-6978

Kevin.OConnell@legislature.maine.gov

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Testimony of Rep. Kevin O'Connell introducing
**LD 1302, An Act to Create a Rebuttable Presumption Under the Workers'
Compensation Law for Line Workers Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress
Disorder**
Before the Labor and Housing Committee

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Kevin O'Connell and I am here today to introduce **LD 1302, An Act to Create a Rebuttable Presumption Under the Workers' Compensation Law for Line Workers Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.**

This bill seeks to add line workers to the list of employees for whom there is a rebuttable presumption under the laws governing workers' compensation. When a lineman is diagnosed by a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist as having post-traumatic stress disorder from work stress that was extraordinary or unusual, the PTSD is presumed to have come on during the course of employment.

For those of you who do not know, I'm a lineman. When I'm not here in Augusta, you can usually find me in my bucket truck somewhere in Penobscot County. While the work is serious and can be stressful, most of the time the work I do is not considered "extraordinary or unusual."

However, there are instances that fall into that category and leave a lasting impact on a lineman.

Thank you all for your time this afternoon. I am happy to answer any questions you have of me.