



Glenn "Chip" Curry
Senator, District 13

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Chip Curry introducing
LD 1280, "An Act to Invest in Maine's Fire Service Training Facilities"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
April 27, 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, I am Senator Chip Curry, and I represent the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County. Today I present to you LD 1280, "An Act to Invest in Maine's Fire Service Training Facilities."

This bill seeks to address the urgent need for safe, accessible, and up-to-date fire services training facilities across the state. Since 1999, the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission has been working to build the needed training facilities that adequately cover the state. Our dedicated firefighters need proper training in order to protect our communities effectively and safely. By funding our fire service training facilities, we will increase state access to high-quality training for all of our firefighters, which will in turn contribute to the overall safety and well-being of our citizens.

Currently, there are three live fire certification training evaluation locations in Maine, primarily in the southern part of the state. There are other existing facilities, many of them built and maintained by local communities and fire service organizations, but they do not meet the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. As a result, they have become liabilities to the towns and those who train with them, with some being decades old and in dire need of repair and maintenance. The goal is to reach eleven facilities across the state that do meet the NFPA standards and are strategically located so that nobody will need to travel more than an hour to receive training.

Certifying firefighter training to NFPA standards not only mitigates insurance liability for communities supporting our firefighters but also reduces workers' compensation injuries and enhances safety for firefighters and citizens alike.



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In conclusion, LD 1280 is a crucial investment in the safety and preparedness of Maine's firefighters and the communities they serve. By providing ongoing funds for fire service training facilities, we will enhance the quality and accessibility of training, ultimately resulting in a safer and better-equipped fire service for our state.

Thank you for your time and while I'm happy to answer any questions, there are experts here from the commission who can speak more about how LD 1280 would help them implement their plan for modern fire training facilities across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Chip Curry'.

Chip Curry
State Senator, District 11
Representing the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County