



Matthew A. Harrington
Senator, District 33

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Matthew Harrington before the Joint Standing Committee on
Criminal Justice and Public Safety
**LD 2071, Resolve, to Fill All Vacant and Expired Seats on the Emergency Medical Services'
Board**
January 22, 2024

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Matt Harrington. I am the State Senator from Sanford representing the people of Senate District 33. I am here to present LD 2071 "Resolve, to Fill All Vacant and Expired Seats on the Emergency Medical Services' Board."

Of the 18 voting members on the Maine Board of Emergency Medical Services, there are currently six vacancies and twelve expired appointments. Of the twelve expired appointments, only one has been expired for less than a full year.

These vacancies include representatives from different specialties, including professional nurses and pediatrics, and representatives from huge areas across our state. For over 18-months, Region 1 (Southern Maine – York, Cumberland and Sagadahoc Counties) has not had a representative on this Board. Similarly, Region 4 (Northeast Maine – Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Washington Counties) has no representative. The appointments for regions that still have Board Members have all been expired for more than two years

This Board continues to exercise its rule making process with reduced representation from the EMS community, and no representation from large areas in our state. It is shocking that more than half of Maine residents have no voice on a Board which is making decisions that affect their lives. This has gone on for far too long and must end now.

Thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions.