

Testimony of William O'Neal

Director, Maine Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (Maine EMS)

Department of Public Safety

IN SUPPORT of LD 123

"An Act Regarding Licensure of Emergency Medical Services Persons"

Presented by Senator Cyrway of Kennebec

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Work Session: Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and honorable members of the joint standing committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

My name is Wil O'Neal, and I am the Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services (Maine EMS)

I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Department of Public Safety and Maine EMS in support of "An Act Regarding Licensure of Emergency Medical Services Persons"

In Maine, we **previously used a practical evaluation** (a checklist) to gauge student competency at the end of an EMS training program. Our national certifying body, The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) saw through national education standard changes, data, and feedback that **this checklist approach no longer met the needs of our students** or the demands of the 21st-century workforce. NREMT responded by establishing the new psychomotor competency **portfolio (Portfolio)** assessment standard for EMS Education. "Competency of psychomotor skills is not possessed after one successful demonstration of a particular skill. Competency requires repeated student skill demonstrations (*practice*) until the demonstration of that skill can be automatically delivered during stressful times, in unfamiliar places and to patients who are severely ill or injured." (2015, NREMT *Paramedic Psychomotor Competency Portfolio*)

In 2023, the Maine EMS Board allowed the *option* of the new **portfolio assessment** at the EMT and EMR level, and **ALL Maine EMS training centers have since transitioned away from the practical evaluation to the new portfolio assessment standard.**

Since the change from the practical evaluation to the new portfolio standard, Maine EMS Training Centers report an increase in National Registry pass rates, a decrease in cost per student, and the removal of scheduling separate evaluations, an administrative burden which could take months after course completion.

By adopting the change in language from the practical evaluation to the Portfolio Assessment standard in our statute, this bill works to establish a more effective and future-ready EMS education system for the next generation of EMS professionals in Maine.

Thank you, I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Maine State Report NREMT Cognitive Pass Rates- EMT
25 Aug 2023**

NREMT State Program Pass/Fail Report EMT Jan – Dec (1st - 4th Quarters)							
Year	Attempted Exam	1st Attempt	Cumulative 3rd Attempt	Cumulative 6th Attempt	Failed All	Eligible for Retest	Incomplete
2017	451	59% (266)	74% (333)	75% (337)	0% (2)	0% (0)	25% (112)
2018	521	65% (337)	80% (416)	81% (420)	1% (3)	0% (0)	19% (98)
2019	455	61% (277)	78% (355)	79% (360)	0% (1)	0% (0)	21% (94)
2020	413	62% (257)	77% (316)	78% (322)	0% (0)	0% (0)	22% (91)
2021	378	60% (227)	78% (296)	81% (305)	0% (0)	5% (20)	14% (53)
2022	530	64% (341)	77% (409)	78% (414)	0% (1)	22% (119)	0% (0)

NREMT State Program Pass/Fail Report EMT Jan – Sep (1st - 3rd Quarters 2023)							
Year	Attempted Exam	1st Attempt	Cumulative 3rd Attempt	Cumulative 6th Attempt	Failed All	Eligible for Retest	Incomplete
Jan - Sep 2023	260	72% (186)	76% (197)	76% (197)	0% (0)	24% (63)	0% (0)

NREMT State Program Pass/Fail Report EMT Apr 2022 – Sep 2023 (2nd Quarter 2022 – 3rd Quarter 2023)							
Year	Attempted Exam	1st Attempt	Cumulative 3rd Attempt	Cumulative 6th Attempt	Failed All	Eligible for Retest	Incomplete
Apr 2022 – Sep 2023	717	65% (469)	76% (542)	76% (547)	0% (1)	24% (169)	0% (0)

NREMT State Program Pass/Fail Report EMT July 2022 – Aug 2023 (3rd Quarter 2022 – 3rd Quarter 2023)							
Year	Attempted Exam	1st Attempt	Cumulative 3rd Attempt	Cumulative 6th Attempt	Failed All	Eligible for Retest	Incomplete
July 2022 – Aug 2023	443	74% (326)	79% (350)	79% (352)	0% (0)	21% (91)	0% (0)