



# *City of Sanford*

## *Fire Department*

Scott D. Susi, Fire Chief

Brian G. Watkins, Assistant Chief  
Richard S. Smith, Assistant Chief

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Senator Nicole Grohoski- Chair  
Representative Kristen Cloutier- Chair  
Members of the Committee of Taxation

### **Testimony in Support of LD 185**

An Act to expand opportunities to invest Municipal Tax increment financing revenues.

I would first like to thank the members of the taxation committee for your attention to LD 185, an act to expand opportunities to invest municipal tax increment financing revenues. I am Chief Scott Susi of the Sanford Fire Department, and I offer this testimony in support of LD 185.

Sanford Fire is a career department serving 22,000 plus citizens of York County out of two stations, one of them being a century old. Through the years, as in most communities in Maine, the department has seen growth and change to accommodate the growing needs of the community and those that visit our state.

It becomes increasingly harder each year with the rising costs of staff, equipment and mandates for the ability to provide a safe and effective service. The reimbursement rate for ambulance service has not seen an increase since 2011 from Medicare and private insurance was capped in Maine in 2023 by LD 1602. It is becoming harder to keep services going, let alone grow with the times, without having to place more on the community taxpayers just to maintain services.

Today, 18% of the population of our community is 65 years or older and the like other communities in Maine, we see more people aging in place, requiring more services and we as a community continually look for ways to bridge this gap.



In 2024, OSHA published an overhaul to the Emergency Response Standard, 29 CFR part 1910, page 7883, section 7, Facility Preparedness states: “provide facilities for the decontamination, disinfection, cleaning and storage of PPE and equipment; ensure that the fire detection, suppression and alarm systems and occupant notification systems are installed, tested and maintained.”

Our stations, along with many other within our state, do not possess some or any of these capabilities. In recognition of just a few of the issues, the importance of this bill to move forward at this time, is critical. LD 185 would allow communities to have another tool allowing services to be maintained by providing options to support the burden of the cost. The approval of this bill has no fiscal note to the state government, and allows any city or town the ability to use a dedicated revenue stream to aid its infrastructure and attract new growth and support new projects. As we continue to talk of regionalization of services, we as a community already do this with auto aid and mutual aid, but lack the facilities’ to do more.

In closing, I would like to thank you again and ask for you to acknowledge public safety as a necessary part of economic development without limitations.

If TIF dollars can already be used to support 100% of water, sewer, trails and other economic growth projects, why can only 15% be used for needed infrastructure that support it all?

If you were to move a business or development to our city or state, wouldn’t you want to ensure it would have access to a public safety infrastructure?

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted,

*Scott D. Susi*

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Fire Chief, City of Sanford