



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1440  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

## **Kenneth Wade Fredette**

50 Grandview Drive  
Newport, ME 04953  
Phone: (207) 368-5562  
Kenneth.Fredette@legislature.maine.gov

*Testimony of Rep. Kenneth Fredette on*  
**L.D. 176, “An Act to Establish a Regional Ambulance Service in  
Southern Penobscot County”**  
*Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

February 10, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Representative Kenneth Fredette and I am here to testify in support of LD 176, a bill entitled “An Act to Establish a Regional Ambulance Service in Southern Penobscot County”.

In my home District 33, including the towns of Newport, Corinna, Plymouth, Etna and Dixmont, there is great concern on Emergency Ambulance Services.

It is my understanding that Northern Light Health is reducing the number of towns it will service, and other previously existing EMS services are, or may not be, able to respond to an emergency call in a time that prevents a tragic result.

The towns in Southern Penobscot County, and now some towns in adjacent Somerset County, have expressed a desire to possibly work together to “regionalize” this critical service.

Due to low, or non-existent, reimbursement rates for calls, staffing shortages, and the high costs of capital, regionalization appears like the only means to stave off this crisis. LD 176, is the means for us to begin the work locally on what “regionalization” might look like and how it will work.

I understand that legislation may exist to address, to some extent, the issue of structure, however, this bill currently serves as a means to further those conversations and sense of urgency to bring our towns together for the betterment of our communities.

I look forward to working with you during the work session and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Kenneth Wade Fredette  
State Representative

District 33 Dixmont, Etna, Newport, Plymouth, Corinna