



Glenn "Chip" Curry
Senator, District 11

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Chip Curry introducing
**LD 679, "An Act to Increase the Funding to the Live Fire Service Training
Facilities Fund,"**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
March 3, 2025*

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Senator Chip Curry. I represent the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County. Today, I am presenting LD 679, which builds on the progress this committee made in strengthening Maine's fire service training infrastructure during the last session.

In the 131st Legislature, this committee heard and unanimously passed LD 1280, which sought to provide ongoing funding for Maine's fire service training facilities. However, the bill's original structure was modified through the budget process, and instead of ongoing support, a one-time allocation was eventually passed into law.

That funding was crucial, but the urgent need for continued investment remains. Firefighters across Maine rely on live-fire training to develop and maintain the skills they need to respond effectively in emergencies. This includes everything from interior search and rescue operations and hazardous materials handling to structural fire suppression.

LD 679 provides a one-time \$1 million General Fund allocation for the 2026-27 biennium. These funds will go directly to the Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund to support the construction, repair, and modernization of Maine's fire training sites. This investment ensures that facilities remain safe, functional, and accessible for firefighters across the state.

In a state that relies heavily on volunteer firefighters, we need a network of fire training facilities across the state. We cannot expect our volunteers to drive halfway across the state for the training they need to serve their communities. By investing in these facilities, we are strengthening the ability of our fire chiefs to recruit, train, and sustain strong, effective departments. Well-trained firefighters lead to more effective responses, fewer injuries, and better outcomes in emergencies — all of which contribute to public safety.



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This bill represents a continued commitment to ensuring that Maine's firefighters have the resources to do their jobs effectively and return home safely. I urge the committee to support LD 679, and I appreciate your time and consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

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

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