



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Rachel Henderson

87 Holyoke Avenue
Rumford, ME 04276
Office: (207) 287-1440
Cell: (207) 381-4237

Rachel.Henderson@legislature.maine.gov

LD848 An Act Regarding the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program

*Testimony of Rep. Henderson - Rumford
March 18th, 2025*

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. I am Rachel Henderson, and I have the distinct honor of representing the people of District-78 in the Maine House. My district is comprised of the beautiful towns of Bethel, Byron, Hanover, Milton TWP, Roxbury, and my home town of Rumford.

I stand before you today to introduce my bill LD848 An Act Regarding the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program.

I was approached by my town Manager, George O'keefe and Cheif of Police, Tony Milligan last year and asked to put in this bill at their request.

They shared their concerns, and sentiments of colleagues state wide, with the Retirement Insurance Program's low enrollment rate. They were concerned that a large contributor to that low enrollment rate was an overall unfamiliarity with the program, coupled with a concern for future legislatures ability or interest to fund the program. This has lead to some of those responsible for onboarding new Fire Fighters and Law Enforcement Officers across the State, to either misrepresent the Retirement Program, or discourage it all together.

This bill addresses two things.

1. It directs MainePers to be the entity briefing new eligible hires on the Retirement Program.
2. It provides an open enrollment period for those who did not opt-in, but want to.

Early yesterday afternoon, I spoke with Mike Scott, the President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine. President Scott shared with me a few concerns with the bill as written, and I believe there is someone that will be testifying in a few in Opposition to this bill as written. Some of the concerns brought to me in yesterdays conversation, I believe are worth considering, and I'm willing to work with interested parties on an amendment.

District 78 Bethel, Byron, Hanover, Rumford, Roxbury and Milton TWP