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*Testimony of Representative Amy Roeder introducing*

## **LD 1236, An Act to Address Employee Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters at Bangor International Airport**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor*

Good afternoon, Senator Tipping and fellow distinguished members of the Labor Committee. My name is Amy Roeder, and I represent House District 23, which includes a portion of the great City of Bangor.

I am here today to introduce **LD 1236, An Act to Address Employee Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters at Bangor International Airport**.

This bill establishes a new special retirement plan for firefighters employed by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International Airport that allows those employees to retire after 25 years of service, regardless of age.

Currently, Maine firefighters are eligible for a special retirement plan offering a benefit of half their average final compensation if they have at least 25 years of service and retire at or after age 55. Firefighting is an intense, high-stress job that can leave workers with both mental and physical life-long ailments. Having the ability to retire under the age of 55, once those 25 years of service has been met, will provide our firefighters with more flexibility to leave their department on their own time, not when we force them to.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.