



Testimony of
Kyle C. Moser, 5th District Vice President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maine

LD 1105 An Act Concerning Displaced Civilian Federal Firefighters in Maine

Chairman Tipping, Chairwoman Roeder and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to appear before this committee today in support of LD 1105, **"An Act Concerning Displaced Civilian Federal Firefighters in Maine"**.

My name is Kyle Moser, and I am the 5th District Vice President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine. I am here today representing the views of our Executive Board and over 1,300 Professional Firefighters, Paramedics, EMTs & Dispatchers. The PFFMaine's 5th District is comprised of all federal and private sector firefighters in the state. I am also a Federal Firefighter at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard where I have worked for 9 years.

LD 1105 will have a direct effect on the over seventy (70) federal firefighters across Maine. These firefighters are employed by the United States Government they are on first line of emergency response on the ground at locations such as the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Naval Computers and Telecommunications Area in Cutler, and even the Veteran Affairs Hospital in Togas; having the primary responsibility of engaging in the prevention, control, or extinguishment of fires and response to emergency situations in which life, property, or the environment is at risk, including the prevention, control, suppression, or management of wildland fires on military installations and other federal properties.

The intent and purpose behind this bill is to allow federal firefighters, in the event of a reduction in force or an installation closure, an easier opportunity to gain employment as municipal firefighters in the State. First and foremost, if this bill is enacted into law, I sincerely hope it never has to be used. If this is being used, that means fire protection has been reduced or an installation has been completely closed, and thus many federal employees including firefighters have lost jobs. Many of these firefighters who were born and raised in Maine and others who have moved to the area and have built families and homes here because of their employment will need a job to continue to take care of their families.

Federal firefighters are some of the most highly trained in the country. Our basic certifications to hold any position, such as firefighter, fire captain, or chief fire officer far exceed what most public sector fire departments require. Our certifications are nationally recognized, we are EMTs and Paramedics and hold high level security clearances and go through extensive criminal background checks.

This bill if enacted and ever needed to be utilized would not only put peace of mind for federal firefighters here in Maine, it is also a great opportunity for Public Sector Fire Chiefs and Municipalities. Maine Fire Chiefs would have the ability to hire highly trained and qualified individuals, thus saving the taxpayers money when compared to having to hire someone with no training or certifications. This bill does not look to undermine any municipalities hiring practices; rather, it serves as a safety net for federal firefighters in Maine, ensuring support if they lose their jobs in the federal sector due to circumstances beyond their control.

Measures such as this one proposed have been successfully accomplished in other States, most notably in New Jersey, and other actions to protect federal firefighters have also been successful in Massachusetts and California. The Professional Fire Fighters of Maine are in full support of this piece of legislation. We ask you for your support in passing LD 1105 to ensure Federal Firefighters in the State of Maine have a safeguard for employment as firefighters. Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted on this day, Thursday, April 16th, 2025.

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Additional information on Federal Firefighters use this link:

https://www.pffmaine.org/?zone=/unionactive/view_article.cfm&HomeID=937787&page=LD20110520Federal20Firefighters20Legislation