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**Testimony of Dillon Murray,
Legislative Liaison, Maine Department of Labor
In Opposition to
LD 1105, An Act Concerning Displaced Civilian Federal Firefighters in Maine
To the Joint Standing Committee on Labor
Hearing, April 16, 2025**

Good afternoon Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. My name is Dillon Murray, Legislative Liaison for the Maine Department of Labor (Department). I am here today to speak on behalf of the Department in respectful opposition to LD 1105, "An Act Concerning Displaced Civilian Federal Firefighters in Maine."

We greatly appreciate the sponsor's intent to support civilian federal firefighters affected by reductions in force or closures at federal facilities. Ensuring smooth transitions for displaced workers is a goal we share. That said, we believe this bill may be unnecessary given existing resources, and it raises several implementation concerns we'd like to highlight.

1. Unclear Implementation Mechanism:

The bill directs the Department to create and maintain a database of displaced civilian federal firefighters but does not identify how the Department is to collect that information. If the intent is to use unemployment insurance (UI) claims, that raises potential conflicts with confidentiality laws governing UI data. Additionally, not all displaced workers file for UI benefits—some may quickly find other jobs, retire, or exit the workforce altogether—meaning the resulting database could be incomplete or inconsistent.

2. Existing Tools Already Serve This Function:

The Department already administers *Maine JobLink*, a free, publicly available online system where employers—including municipal fire departments—can post job openings, and jobseekers can create profiles and apply directly. Displaced federal civilian firefighters are fully eligible to use this platform, and it is already integrated with workforce services we provide through our Bureau of Employment Services. We believe this existing tool meets the goals outlined in the bill without requiring new legislation.

3. Resource and Administrative Considerations:

LD 1105 would establish a new database that the Department would be charged with maintaining for a minimum of four years. While the intent is commendable, setting up

and maintaining a secure, accurate, and functional system over that time span could require dedicated staffing and funding that are not currently available. We are always open to strengthening our support for displaced workers, but we believe any such effort should complement, rather than duplicate, the tools already in place.

4. **Union Bargaining Contracts**

How will LD 1105 interact with Firefighters in a municipality whom are covered by a collective bargaining agreement?

For these reasons, the Department respectfully opposes LD 1105. However, we remain fully committed to supporting displaced federal workers through existing reemployment services, and we welcome any future conversations about how to enhance those systems in collaboration with stakeholders.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this context, and for the committee's consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have now or at a future work session.

The Maine Department of Labor is committed to serving Maine workers and businesses by helping employers recruit and train a talented workforce, providing workers with skills needed to compete in our economy, assisting individuals when jobs are lost, aiding people with disabilities reach career goals, ensuring safe and fair workplaces for people on the job and providing research and analysis of employment data to support job growth.



**Work
Source
MAINE**

CareerCenter

Resources for laid off workers

Translation services available upon request.



Unemployment Compensation

A weekly benefit may be available to workers who have lost a job through no fault of their own. Unemployment insurance claims can be filed 24/7 online. There is no physical unemployment office to visit. Instructions on how to file an initial claim or weekly certification and the log-in to ReEmployME can be found at www.maine.gov/unemployment. For questions regarding your unemployment claim, please call 1-800-593-7660. For general unemployment questions you may also contact your local CareerCenter.

Job Search Assistance

Receive assistance with your job search on the Maine JobLink (matching your skills and experience to available job openings). To be eligible for unemployment compensation, you must be registered on Maine JobLink which can be accessed at joblink.maine.gov. For questions regarding Maine JobLink please call 207-623-7967. TTY users call Maine Relay 711.

CareerCenter Services

Includes workshops on the fundamentals of a successful job search, and job training assistance. There are 12 CareerCenters located throughout Maine with information and resources on-line at www.mainecareercenter.gov. Additional services may be available for military Veterans and those with a disability.

Health Care and Health Insurance

Consumers for Affordable Health Care serves as Maine's Consumer Assistance Program. They can provide you with confidential information on possible options for low-cost health insurance including MaineCare through their tollfree "Helpline" at 1-800-965-7476 or visit www.coverme.gov.

Training Assistance

CareerCenter training partners offer financial assistance to qualified individuals.

County of Residence	Resource
Androscoggin Franklin Hancock Kennebec Oxford Penobscot Piscataquis Somerset Washington	Eastern Maine Development Corporation www.emdc.org/workforce/education-training 207-991-0147
Aroostook	Aroostook County Action Program www.acap-me.org 207-764-3721
Cumberland Knox Lincoln Sagadahoc Waldo York	Workforce Solutions www.workforcesolutionsme.org 207-930-7047
Adult Training	
Maine Education Opportunity Center meoc.maine.edu 1-800-281-3703	
Maine Spark mainespark.me/adult-promise/adult-promise-hub	

For additional resource information in your local area, Dial "211."

For a complete resource guide:

https://www.mainecareercenter.gov/docs/2025/publications/transitions_guide.pdf

<https://www.mainecareercenter.gov/docs/2021/JobSeekerGuide.pdf>

zoom

Join us virtually every Wednesday at 10 a.m. at: <https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/81041212167>

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If you have any questions about available services, please email us at RapidResponse.DOL@maine.gov.

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

