

Testimony of William O'Neal

Director, Maine Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (Maine EMS)

Department of Public Safety

Neither for Nor Against LD 1387

"Resolve, to Increase the Emergency Medical Workforce by Allowing Military Medical Personnel to Become Eligible for Licensure as Emergency Medical Services Persons

Presented by Representative O'HALLORAN

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Public Hearing: Thursday April 22ND

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and honorable members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

My name is Wil O'Neal, and I am the Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services (Maine EMS)

I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Department of Public Safety and Maine EMS, Neither for Nor Against LD 1387, A Resolve to Increase the Emergency Medical Workforce by Allowing Military Medical Personnel to Become Eligible for Licensure as Emergency Medical Services Persons.

It is the position of the bureau that a process **already exists** to allow our Department of Defense (DoD) and Military Service veterans with emergency medical training to apply for and receive Maine EMS licensure.

Our department is working to continue to improve the workforce development pipeline for our industry here in Maine. This includes maximizing our ability to leverage members of the Defense (DoD) and Military Service who have previously received specific pre-hospital emergency medical training.

Currently, there are components of the Department of Defense (DoD), and the U.S. Military follow the established National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards (NEMSE). This is the same standard that Maine utilizes for licensure testing eligibility. These individuals currently follow the same online application process as regular applicants.

For those components that don't already train to NEMSE content, we see a variation in the specific medical education of DoD military medical personnel. As an example, in one branch of the military, Medical Corpsman make up approximately 25,000 personnel. They fill roles as broad as dental hygiene and public sanitation, radiology or even labor and delivery work. I want to make sure and mention the communications and dispatch workforce as well. As we see multiple roles that could potentially lead to career paths in EMS or Public Safety Communications.

If they have already received the content and have successfully passed the National Registry of EMTs Computer Adaptive Test (CAT), and have a current NREMT certification, then they are approved to apply for Maine Licensure.

For those that do not have a current NREMT certification, and to provide a successful transition we offer one on one support for these applicants through our local EMS Training Centers. Many of these providers have already met the national education standard, but it is important that we provide them one on one support to match curriculum and content. If they do not have a current NREMT certification then they may contact an approved Maine EMS Training Center so that they may speak with them to assess their DoD, military education transcripts for academic equivalency and to identify potential gaps that would need to be met to satisfy the NEMSE requirements so they may qualify to complete the NREMT exam.

Thank you, I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

Wil O'Neal

Director, Maine EMS