



Glenn "Chip" Curry  
Senator, District 11

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Testimony of Senator Chip Curry introducing*  
**LD 768, "An Act to Promote Public Safety and Retain Essential First Responders  
by Funding the Maine Length of Service Award Program"**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety*  
*April 23, 2025*

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Chip Curry. I represent Senate District 11, which includes all of the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County. Today, I am introducing LD 768, "An Act to Promote Public Safety and Retain Essential First Responders by Funding the Maine Length of Service Award Program."

The Maine Length of Service Award Program, or LOSAP, is a retirement benefit program designed to recognize and retain the volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel who serve as the foundation of Maine's emergency response system, especially in rural communities like mine. These volunteers respond to house fires, traffic accidents, medical emergencies, and a wide range of disasters. LOSAP is a way to say, "We see your service and we value it."

The concept is simple: Each year, a volunteer meets service and training benchmarks, and the state contributes to a retirement account on their behalf. It's a modest yet meaningful benefit designed to encourage retention, boost morale, and recognize the vital role volunteers play in keeping their neighbors safe.

This idea is not new. The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission first began developing LOSAP in 2003. The Legislature formally established the program in 2015 with the passage of LD 164 in the 127th Legislature, and the program's board began organizing and developing bylaws in 2017. Since then, multiple Legislatures have tried to fund it.

In the 129th Legislature, LD 1014 died on the appropriations table due to the early adjournment brought on by the pandemic. In the 130th, LD 1316 passed with funding for the third-party administrator, but the portion covering retirement contributions was removed. Then, in the 131st Legislature, I introduced LD 588, which proposed ongoing funding of \$2.5 million per biennium. That bill passed this committee with unanimous bipartisan support and was eventually amended to include a one-time \$500,000 appropriation in the 2024–25 fiscal year. That allocation was signed into law last session.

While the initial funding was a breakthrough, one-time support simply does not allow the program to operate at the scale or reliability that our volunteers deserve. LD 768 would provide the consistent, ongoing investment needed to fully activate LOSAP statewide — \$2.5 million in each fiscal year of the biennium.



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Now, LD 768 picks up where LD 588 left off. It proposes \$2.5 million in ongoing General Fund appropriations in each year of the biennium to support this essential program. With LOSAP, we are offering a modest but meaningful retirement benefit to the Mainers who serve their communities as volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel.

These are not symbolic roles. They are frontline responders who put their lives on the line. In rural Maine, especially, our emergency services often depend entirely on volunteers. Without adequate support, we risk losing these community pillars to burnout, financial hardship, or other obligations.

As we face growing challenges in recruiting and retaining first responders, LOSAP offers a powerful tool to help towns sustain vital services. It also sends a clear message: that we recognize and value the service of those who protect our neighbors, our homes, and our communities.

I respectfully urge the committee to support LD 768 and help us fulfill the promise of LOSAP once and for all. Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

**Chip Curry**

State Senator, District 11

*Representing the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County*