



Rachel Talbot Ross
 Senator, District 28

THE MAINE SENATE
 132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
 Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Sen. Rachel Talbot Ross
In Support of LD 2132 "An Act to Amend the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982 to Require Compliance with the Statewide Trauma-incidence Registry and Make Certain Technical and Other Changes"

Good morning, Senator Beebee-Center, Representative Hasenfus and esteemed members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Rachel Talbot Ross and I represent Senate District 28 which is part of Portland, part of the Casco Bay Islands and includes the University of Southern Maine Campus. I am here today to present LD 2132, "An Act to Amend the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982 to Require Compliance with the Statewide Trauma-incidence Registry and Make Certain Technical and Other Changes," on behalf of the Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

I would like to begin by thanking the Director of Maine EMS, Will O'Neal, for providing me with an opportunity to continue to work with him and his team as we try to advance the recommendations of the EMS Blue Ribbon Commission and start to realize the 2035 Vision Plan of the EMS Board.

I am also grateful to Dr. Bryan Morse, chair of the EMS State Trauma Prevention and Control Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) which, dating back to 1992, has been responsible for developing an organized system of trauma care to reduce morbidity and mortality from the most serious injuries, and assure equally appropriate care for all other injuries.

And, lastly, to Sarah Calder, Julie Ontengco, Katie Fullum-Harris and the team at MaineHealth for their contributions to this proposed legislation on behalf of our state's only level-I trauma center. As this committee knows, after the closing of the CMMC trauma center located in Lewiston last December, our state now has just two trauma centers - one in Portland and the other in Bangor. A critical problem for discussion at another time.

Based on my discussions with these stakeholders, for our purpose today, I ask that you direct your attention to the amendment I have offered this morning for further consideration.



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This bill amendment seeks to address several small but important changes to verbiage in the EMS Act of 1982 and directs the Advisory Committee to evaluate the development of a collaborative.

Specifically, it does the following:

1. Requires emergency medical services educators and emergency medical services training centers to be licensed by the Maine Emergency Medical Services' Board.
2. Provides options for injunctive or civil relief for unlicensed practice violations.
3. Amends the definition of "regional council" to specify that a council is an entity rather than a business entity.
4. Authorizes EMS to convene the State Trauma Prevention and Control Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) to evaluate opportunities to enhance Maine's Trauma System and opportunities to share uniform quality related data as it relates to injury-related incidents.
5. Requires a report from EMS and the Advisory Committee, which is to include any further recommendation(s) on potential necessary rule making, proposed legislation and funding considerations. This report is due on or before July 31, 2027, to the appropriate committee of jurisdiction.

We believe that these changes are vital to the future of delivering high quality EMS in our state. By doing so, we align standards for agencies, trainers, and training centers to continue to ensure that patient safety is a priority; we move Maine into compliance with this standard that has been on the books for decades; complete the transition to the state supported EMS regional model and allow individual regional councils to dictate management of their own finances.

Additionally, we provide options for injunctive or civil relief for unlicensed practice violations, currently, only a criminal penalty.

I believe you will hear more about each of these aspects, in more detail, directly from the EMS leadership following this presentation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge the Committee to support LD 2132 and I would be happy to answer any questions.