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# Western Maine Firefighters Association

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February 19, 2021

Ref: LD242

Dear Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,:

I am writing on behalf of our Chiefs' Association and on behalf of all Maine Firefighters to asked for your support in the passing of LD242 an act to remove the sunset provision and fund the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission Live Fire Training Facility Grant Program.

Having trained Firefighters in the State of Maine is critical to the fire service and the safety of our firefighters and the citizens of our state. Maine is one of the few states in our great nation that has no centralized training facility. In addition, no live fire training facilities are owned and operated by the state.

Live fire training is a necessary qualification of firefighter certification and proficiency. Live fire training is one of the most dangerous evolutions firefighters perform and must be performed in a controlled facility, not just in some old acquired structure that is condemned. Training must be in accordance with NFPA 1403 the Standard for Live Fire Training Evolutions.

Please support LD242, thank you.

Sincerely,

Tommie C. McKenzie

Past President

Assistant Fire Chief, Sweden Fire Department, Sweden, Maine

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