



Waldo County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
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Written Testimony of Dale D. Rowley, Director, Waldo County EMA

To the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety on April 7, 2021
An Act To Promote Traffic Safety in Emergency Situations

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety;

My name is Dale Rowley and I have been the Director of the Waldo County EMA for fifteen years. I would like to provide written testimony for LD 1078, "An Act to Promote Traffic Safety in Emergency Situations", with a recommended change.

The law as proposed reads:

Definition. For the purposes of this section, "public safety traffic flagger" means a municipal firefighter, a volunteer firefighter or a member of an emergency medical service licensed by the Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services who is trained in accordance with subsection 2 and authorized by the chief official of the fire department or emergency medical service to control vehicular traffic or a nonsworn member of a law enforcement agency who is trained in accordance with subsection 2 and authorized by the chief official of the law enforcement agency.

I would ask that the CJPS Joint Standing Committee add the following: " , an emergency management employee or volunteer" and "emergency management agency" to the proposed law:

Definition. For the purposes of this section, "public safety traffic flagger" means a municipal firefighter, a volunteer firefighter, an emergency management employee or volunteer or a member of an emergency medical service licensed by the Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services who is trained in accordance with subsection 2 and authorized by the chief official of the fire department, emergency management agency or emergency medical service to control vehicular traffic or a nonsworn member of a law enforcement agency who is trained in accordance with subsection 2 and authorized by the chief official of the law enforcement agency.

Many of the county emergency management agencies and municipal emergency management offices provide training to their staff and volunteers in public safety traffic control, in order to support their local fire departments or law enforcement agencies. During many local emergencies, such as a structure fire, there are not enough volunteer firefighters and law enforcement officers to provide traffic control. My emergency management agency has been asked on several occasions to provide non-firefighters to perform public safety traffic control in order to free up firefighters for firefighting activities. I believe that this addition would be very beneficial to the entire public safety community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dale D. Rowley".

DALE D. ROWLEY, CEM, PE
Director, Waldo County EMA