



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Stanley Paige Zeigler Jr.

60 Freedom Pond Road

Montville, ME 04941

Cell Phone: (207) 322-1414

StanleyPaige.Zeigler@legislature.maine.gov

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Testimony of Rep. Paige Zeigler introducing
LD, 1316, An Act to Provide Funding for the Maine Length of Service Award Program

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and fellow members of Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, I am Representative Stanley Paige Zeigler and I represent House District 96, which includes Belmont, Liberty, Lincolnville, Montville, Morrill, Palermo and Searsmont. I'm here today to introduce **LD, 1316 An Act To Provide Funding for the Maine Length of Service Award Program.**

I assume everyone on the committee is aware of the value of our many volunteer fire and emergency medical departments spread throughout the state. They serve their communities in a myriad of capacities from fighting fires, managing traffic scenes, medical emergencies and environmental disasters. In doing so, besides saving lives they also save their municipalities and the state money. The amount of volunteer hours that go into this important work is done out of a sense of giving to their community. As the state continues to grow predominantly gray, the pool of younger volunteers grows smaller. We need to be able to recognize and respect the volunteers of today, who have to train more hours and face more complex issues when the need arises. One way is to give these men and women an incentive, and that is what the Length of Service Award Program does.

I was a paid Ambulance Attendant in the 1970s, and as a Merchant Mariner I was a trained paid fire fighter and medical officer in charge. I know what being called out for an emergency means, and that is why I support the effort to give back to the people who give so much and ask for so little.

The people coming after me will explain more fully the workings of the program. Thank you for your consideration and here is the LOSAP program in statue:

www.legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/5/title5sec3372.html