

**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
BILL ANALYSIS**

TO: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

FROM: Jane Orbeton, Legislative Analyst

DATE: January 24, 2022

LD: 1797, An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Length of Service Award Program

Summary

LD 1797 was sponsored by Rep Theriault and was heard on January 19.

- This bill provides 2 additional members who are licensed emergency medical services persons to the Maine Length of Service Award Program Board of Trustees.
- This bill provides statutory guidelines for calculating service credit within the program for firefighters and emergency medical services persons.

Testimony

Senator Cyrway presented the bill for Rep Theriault. Testifying in favor of the bill were Fire Chief Bill Gillespie, Fred Brewer, Stephan Bunker and Fire Chief Dana Brooks. Jeffrey Brackett submitted testimony in support of the bill.

Sam Hurley, Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. Director Hurley suggested amending the bill to:

- (1) clarify that nominations of the 2 new licensed emergency medical services persons are made by the Maine Emergency Medical Services' Board and
- (2) remove section 2 from the bill so that the mechanism for earning service credits remains as is specified in Title 5, section 3772, subsection 8 as provided in rules adopted by the Maine Length of Service Award Program Board of Trustees, which has rulemaking authority under Title 5, section 3772, subsection 21.

Jay Bradshaw, Executive Director of the Maine Ambulance Association, submitted testimony and discussed with the committee amending the bill to add to eligible EMS personnel in those who work for ambulance and non-transporting emergency medical services licensed by Maine EMS.

Fiscal Impact

Preliminary fiscal impact statement indicates minor costs to the General Fund associated with reimbursing additional expenses of the Maine Length of Service Award Program Board that can be absorbed within existing resources.