



Town of Enfield

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RE: [LD 526](#)

An Act to Provide Funding to Emergency Medical Services Organizations
Speaker. Rachel Talbot Ross of Portland

Dear Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

The Howland Maine Fire/EMS Department is a municipal first responder service within central Penobscot County and is the contracted provider for essential lifesaving protections to the Town of Enfield, Maine. Howland is championing a new endeavor designed to ultimately provide a more effective, affordable and sustainable Fire/EMS model for not only its current partner and client base, but also for a larger area of rural Maine. This visionary initiative to collaborate on a regional level is driven by many factors, not the least of which is the overwhelming financial burden faced by small Towns to house and operate a department. Many of the municipalities involved in the Howland model have previously sponsored independent Fire/EMS Departments, but each of these efforts have failed due to limited resources. The situation that the Town of Enfield and others in our region are currently facing shows the dire need for additional funding for emergency medical service organizations. The options on the northern portion of the State are extremely limited and expenses are overwhelming. For such a basic, necessary service to be so dramatically underfunded, leaving volunteer departments in desperate situations to serve the communities that they are a part of, is a true crisis.

The Town of Enfield's elected officials hereby express their support of this emergency bill to provide funding to emergency medical service organizations. We must work together to solve the current fire/EMS crisis in Maine to create acceptable levels of service and reliable responses at reasonable rates, particularly in rural Maine.

Sincerely,

Charles Frazier

Charles Frazier
Town Manager
Enfield, Maine