



# Maine County Commissioners Association

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## *LD 516, An Act to Reduce Cancer Among Firefighters by Providing Grants for Safety Equipment*

March 27, 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Stephen Gorden and in addition to serving as a member of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as chair of the legislative policy committee of the Maine County Commissioners Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee in support of LD 516.

**About MCCA.** Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta, represents all of Maine's 16 counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

**Discussion.** LD 516 would establish a Firefighter Safety Equipment Fund. The Fund would direct the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to provide grants to fire departments for the purchase and installation of diesel vehicle exhaust systems and heavy-duty extractor washing machines in an effort to protect Maine firefighters.

Our Association writes in support of LD 516. Maine fire departments serve citizens in each county across the State, including fire departments within the unorganized territories governed by Maine's counties. To the extent this bill is aimed at enhancing the protection of Maine's fire fighters, we write in support of this bill.

**Conclusion.** We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill, and if you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Gorden  
Chair, Legislative Policy Committee

cc: James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel