



# Maine County Commissioners Association

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## *LD 1742, An Act to Enhance the Use of Critical Incident Stress Management Teams and to Require Peer Team Support*

May 2, 2023

Chair Beebe-Center, Chair 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 ***qualified support*** of LD 1742.

**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 16 of Maine's counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

**What does LD 1742 do?** LD 1742 directs the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency to provide critical incident stress management team services and peer team support services to all firefighters and employees or members of a public safety agency, fire department, or organization involved in emergency care or response in the State by establishing critical incident stress management teams and providing critical incident stress management team services. Additionally, this bill directs the Director of MEMA to establish a program for critical incident stress management training, provide educational, training, and promotional programs and materials, provide access to behavioral health care services after a critical incident, and provide peer team support for issues not necessarily related to a critical incident.

Further, LD 1742 requires the MEMA to designate a full-time employee to oversee implementation of these services, and requires public safety agencies, fire departments, and organizations involved in emergency care or response to have at least one person who has received critical incident stress management training and to provide education and access to behavioral health care services related to post-traumatic stress resulting from a critical incident.

**Discussion.** Emergency care personnel, firefighters, and public safety employees provide a necessary and great service to our communities, including counties, and deserve appropriate support services to manage the stress and potential mental health impact that results from their work. To the extent that LD 1742 works to provide such critical services through the Maine Emergency Management Agency and does not negatively affect county funding, our Association writes in support.

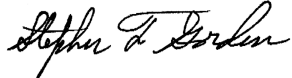
**Comments of MCCA re LD 1742**

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**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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen F. Gorden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen Gorden  
Chair, Legislative Policy Committee

cc: Commissioner Richard Dutremble, President, MCCA  
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel