



Maine County Commissioners Association

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LD 2071, Resolve, to Fill All Vacant and Expired Seats on the Emergency Medical Services' Board

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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 support of LD 2071.

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.

Discussion. The Emergency Medical Services' Board is comprised of eighteen members that are appointed by the Governor and serve three-year terms. Currently, the Board has six vacancies, and five members whose terms have expired. The Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State unanimously supports filling these vacant positions, and that Commission includes a representative of county government.

Emergency medical services are vital to all Maine communities to ensure the health and safety of the people across our State, and the continued vacancies greatly impair the work of the EMS Board. There is significant work to be done, and these vacant board positions must be filled. To the extent that this bill works to fill these vacant positions, our Association supports this proposal.

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