



Legislative Liaison Chief Bill Gillespie

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and esteemed members of the Energy Utilities and technology Committee.

Please allow me a moment to introduce myself. My name is William Gillespie, Legislative Liaison for the Maine Fire Chiefs Association and Chief of the Liberty Fire Department. I am testifying on behalf of the more than 400 Fire Chiefs in Maine. Please allow this written submission of testimony in Support of LD 1291 as presented. Thank you to Senator Woodsome for sponsoring this bill.

"An Act to Reduce Fire Response Time by Eliminating Standardized Dispatch Protocols for Fire 9-1-1 Calls"

During a recent meeting of the Board of Directors, the Maine Chiefs voted in support of LD 1291. Many members spoke up regarding significant delays in dispatching of calls due to the added requirements of the dispatching protocols. This adds additional danger to the person(s) that is calling 911 for help. When this bill was first presented in the 127th legislature LD 774, the Maine Fire Chiefs took a similar position of not supporting the use of Standardized Dispatching Protocols.

We ask you to consider your local departments that are mostly made up of volunteer firefighters that are already delayed while responding to their stations. We cannot afford any additional delays based on a series of questions being asked. We need to be alerted as soon as the nature of the call and location are determined.

Respectfully,

Chief Gillespie