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Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

LD 1291, "An Act To Reduce Fire Response Time by Eliminating Standardized Dispatch Protocols for Fire 9-1-1 Calls"
Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
April 15, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Senator David Woodsome and I am here today to introduce LD 1291, "An Act To Reduce Fire Response Time by Eliminating Standardized Dispatch Protocols for Fire 9-1-1 Calls."

I sponsored this legislation after hearing from members of the Cornish Fire Department concerned with the lengthy dispatch protocol currently mandated. The current process requires dispatch to ask a number of questions, some of which are repetitive. In fact, out of frustration, some people are hanging up on 911.

The current system has been in place for a couple years now, and the Cornish Fire Department has seen an increase in their response time. In an emergency, every second counts, and the current system is costing first responders valuable time.

Folks who will testify after me have firsthand experience they can share regarding this system. I hope you will listen to what they have to share and help to provide a solution.

Thank you for your consideration, I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.