



**Senator David R. Miramant**  
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### **Testimony Supporting LD 358**

#### ***An Act To Protect Workers from Unsafe Working Conditions with Regard to Indoor Temperatures***

February 22, 2021

Good morning Senator Rafferty, Representative Sylvester and distinguished members of the Labor and Housing Committee. My name is Dave Miramant, and I proudly represent all of the people of Appleton, Camden, Criehaven, Cushing, Friendship, Hope, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, Muscle Ridge Islands, North Haven, Owl's Head, Rockland, Rockport, South Thomaston, St. George, Thomaston, Union, Vinalhaven and Warren in the Maine Senate.

This bill requires that the Department of Labor establish temperatures that can be expected during the performance of a worker's duties. This bill requires appropriate temperature ranges to be set for those duties based on the situation. A school or office would have a range that is normal and reasonable, as well as an appropriate range if the job involves working in a freezer or on a paper machine at a mill.

We are attempting to give employers and employees a guide to expectations. It will establish the inappropriateness of a business owner trying to save money on fuel by lowering or raising the temperature of a workspace by a certain number of degrees when the employees would have no recourse except to leave their job.

It would seem to be common sense and that a bill such as this is unnecessary, but I have seen time and time again that common sense is not always at the forefront of our society.

Thanks for your consideration and I will try to answer any questions.