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**Testimony of Michael Roland, Bureau of Labor Standards, Maine Department of Labor
Neither for nor Against LD 358, An Act To Protect Workers from Unsafe Working Conditions with Regard to
Indoor Temperatures**

To the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing
Public Hearing, Monday, February 22, 2021

Greetings, Senator Rafferty, Representative Sylvester and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. I am Mike Roland, Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards at the Maine Department of Labor (Department).

The Bureau of Labor Standards works with businesses to continually improve workplace safety, health and workplace rights. Our programs include Division of Workplace Safety and Health, SafetyWorks!, the Wage and Hour Division and the Technical Services Division.

I am here today to speak on behalf of the Department neither for nor against LD 358, "An Act To Protect Workers from Unsafe Working Conditions with Regard to Indoor Temperatures." If passed, the Board of Occupational Safety and Health would be asked to write rules laying out the minimum and maximum temperatures for indoor places of employment. We want to offer this testimony in order to provide additional information that may be helpful.

The Board of Occupational Safety and Health oversees the regulation of safety and health issues in the public sector—state and local employers only—since we operate as a "state plan" state. The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) maintains enforcement of private sector employers and the federal government. The Department's Workplace Safety and Health Division receives occasional inquires and offers consultation services to all, but we do not have enforcement authority in the private sector.

It is also important to note that neither OSHA nor BOSH currently has a standard for temperatures at a place of indoor employment. Currently, any such workplace standards would be determined either by employer policy or by collective bargaining agreement.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have now or at a future work session.

The Maine Department of Labor is committed to serving Maine workers and businesses by helping employers recruit and train a talented workforce, providing workers with skills needed to compete in our economy, assisting individuals when jobs are lost, aiding people with disabilities reach career goals, ensuring safe and fair workplaces for people on the job and providing research and analysis of employment data to support job growth.