

# M.C.C.A.

Stephen Gorden, President  
Cumberland County

Brian Hobart, Vice President  
Sagadahoc County

Norm Fournier, Secretary-Treasurer  
Aroostook County

Lauren Haven  
Administrator



4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2  
Augusta, ME 04330  
207-623-4697  
[www.mainecounties.org](http://www.mainecounties.org)

---

## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

### *LD 467, An Act To Support E-9-1-1 Dispatchers and Corrections Officers Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder*

**March 1, 2021**

Chair Rafferty, Chair Sylvester, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, and my name is Stephen Gorden and in addition to serving as chair of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as board president of the Maine County Commissioners Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee in support of LD 467.

**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 and currently represents 15 of Maine's 16 counties and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

**Discussion.** This bill seeks to assist corrections officers and E-911 dispatchers who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Under the Maine Workers Compensation system, there is a rebuttable presumption for certain front-line public safety workers who are suffering from PTSD due to work-related stress that, when diagnosed by a designated health professional, presumes the PTSD arose out of the course of the person's employment. This presumption helps protect these individuals under our workers compensation system in the event they are experiencing PTSD. Corrections officers and E-911 dispatchers, like other public safety employees, occupy important front-line positions where they can experience PTSD symptoms, and therefore it is appropriate to include these two professions within the list of public safety workers who are protected by this rebuttable presumption.

**Conclusion.** Thank you again, and please let us know if you have questions or need additional information,

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Gorden".

Stephen Gorden  
President

cc: Commissioner Brian Hobart, Chair, MCCA Legislative Committee  
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel