

Richard Hewes
Workers' Compensation Board

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HOUSING
130TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE MAINE LEGISLATURE
PUBLIC HEARING FOR L.D. 467
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021 AT 10:00 A. M.
VIA ZOOM

TESTIMONY BY WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

L.D. 467 (HP 343) Presented by Representative DILLINGHAM, K. of Oxford:
"An Act To Support E-9-1-1 Dispatchers and Corrections Officers Diagnosed with
Post-traumatic Stress Disorder"

Good morning Senator Rafferty, Representative Sylvester and members of the Labor and Housing Committee. My name is Richard Hewes. I am the General Counsel to the Maine Workers' Compensation Board.

I am here to testify neither for nor against LD 467, which would, under certain circumstances, create a presumption that post-traumatic stress disorder ("PTSD") arose out of and in the course of employment of E-9-1-1 Dispatchers and Corrections Officers. This presumption may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.

It is worth noting that by January 1, 2022, the Workers' Compensation Board will, as required by 39-A MRSA § 201 (3-A) (B), submit to this committee a report that analyzes the number of PTSD claims brought under this section, the portion of those claims that resulted in settlement or a benefit award and the effect of the PTSD presumption on costs to the State and its subdivisions.

Also, §201(3-A)(B) mandates that this presumption will be repealed October 1, 2022.

If, during the coming weeks, you should have questions or need information about LD 467 please forward your inquiry to the Workers' Compensation Board. We will try to locate the information you seek and transmit it to you as quickly as we can.

Thank you.