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# Summary Information of Key Legislative Issues Maine Fire Chiefs' Association 2016

**The Maine Fire Chiefs' Association continues to be committed to providing Legislators with accurate and concise information about its legislative priorities. With that information and understanding of the issues, we hope that our Legislators will support the following initiatives:**

### **LD-655 A Resolve to Create a Maine Firefighter Training Facility:**

Requesting a funding appropriation in the amount of \$200,000.00 to engage with a third party consultant to provide a plan for a statewide centrally located facility and several regional facilities in the State of Maine. The regional facilities shall be within a 1 hour reach 90% of Maine's firefighter's. The plan shall include at a minimum identifying the best location of each training facility based on demographics and environmental issues. Identifying other potential users. Identifying the type of training that should be provided at each of the facilities. Describe how each facility would operate on a daily basis. Determine what it would cost to annually operate each facility. Identify what other revenue generation opportunities exist that may offset annual operational costs. Describe the benefits of the training facilities and identify what funding and grant opportunities are available for construction and continued maintenance of each facility. Maine is currently the only state in New England without a central and modern fire training facilities.

### **LD-1465 An Act To Require the State To Adequately Pay For Emergency Medical Services:**

This bill changes the law to ensure that MaineCare reimbursement for ambulance services is not less than the average Medicare allowable rate.

### **Title 5, Part 10A, Chapter 319, Sub section 3372, An Act to Establish the Maine Length of Service Award Program:**

This Public Law establishes the framework for a statewide pension-type program under which "bona fide volunteers" as defined in the United States Internal Revenue Code are paid length of service awards for performing qualified services. This Public Law authorizes the State, political subdivisions and emergency services providers within the State as well as emergency services volunteers to participate in the funding of this program. Participation in the program is optional and the amount contributed may vary from year to year. We strongly support establishing the board of trustees ("Board") to oversee and administer the program.

### **The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC):**

The Maine Fire Chiefs' Association strongly supports building codes. Building codes establish predictable, consistent minimum standards that are applied to the quality and durability of construction materials. According to the International Codes Council, "minimum requirements" means that the construction meets the criteria of being both "practical and adequate for protecting life, safety and welfare of the public." MUBEC has begun reviewing the 2015 code and will be making appropriate updates to ensure the latest minimum standards of building are met.

**Thank you for your support on these important public safety issues!**