

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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September 2, 1953

To Spaulding Bisbee, Director, Civil Defense
Re: Protection of Volunteer Firemen

In interpreting the Civil Defense Act as found in Chapter 267 of the Laws of 1953, it is well to note that it applies to "all members of the civil defense and safety forces" and that they are "deemed to be employees of the state" "when engaged in training for or on civil defense and public safety duty."

It appears that the forces spoken of in your first paragraph may well be among those protected by this law, the requirement being that they be members of the civil defense and safety forces. If they are members, they will be protected by the Act, not at all times, but when they are in training for or on duty in civil defense and public safety.

The Act is not to supersede protection that was had under their regular occupation on their regular duties, but applies only to such duty as they do have while engaged in civil defense or while training for it.

Those who have taken the civil defense loyalty oath may be deemed to have qualified for this protection while engaged in the occupation cited in the statute as protected.

Neal A. Donahue
Assistant Attorney General

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