

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 624, L.D. 847, "Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Preservation of Volunteer Ambulance Crews and Volunteer Fire Departments"

Amend the resolve by striking out the first four paragraphs (page 1, lines 1 to 33 in L.D.) and inserting in their place the following:

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** a substantial proportion of Maine's municipalities are dependent upon volunteer ambulance crews and volunteer fire departments for fire protection and ambulance services; and

**Whereas,** it is essential that volunteer ambulance and fire crews receive proper training to undertake their duties; and

**Whereas,** the amount of training and methods of providing training are nebulous; and

**Whereas,** many municipalities are experiencing serious shortages of volunteers in their ambulance and fire crews; and

**Whereas,** the public health, safety and welfare of many municipalities are threatened by these shortages; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

**Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study the Preservation of Volunteer Ambulance Crews and Volunteer Fire Departments is established; and be it further

1           **Membership. Resolved:** That the commission shall consist of  
3 the following 12 members to be appointed within 30 days of the  
effective date of this resolve:

5           1. Two Senators appointed by the President of the Senate to  
7 include one Democrat and one Republican;

9           2. Two Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
House of Representatives to include one Democrat and one  
11 Republican;

13           3. Two representatives of volunteer fire departments  
appointed by the Governor;

15           4. Two representatives of volunteer ambulance crews  
17 appointed by the Governor;

19           5. One representative of a nonvolunteer fire department  
appointed by the Governor;

21           6. One representative of a nonvolunteer ambulance crew  
23 appointed by the Governor;

25           7. The State Fire Marshall or a designee who shall be from  
the Fire Training Service; and

27           8. The chair of the Emergency Medical Services Board or the  
29 chair's designee; and be it further

31           **Study. Resolved:** That the commission, in consultation with  
the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards, Division of  
33 Safety, study the problems confronting volunteer ambulance crews  
and volunteer fire departments. The study shall include but not  
35 be limited to:

37           1. The impact of state-mandated training requirements on  
the ability of volunteer fire departments and ambulance crews to  
39 recruit and retain volunteers;

41           2. The amount and type of training and the methods of  
providing training that best meet the needs of municipalities and  
43 volunteers;

45           3. Providing adequate protective gear for volunteers and  
the means of financing the acquisition of protective gear;

47           4. The alternatives which volunteer ambulance services and  
49 volunteer fire departments may adopt to provide satisfactory  
levels of services. These alternatives shall include the costs,  
benefits and safety impact associated with each alternative;

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2 5. The liability of chief officers associated with these  
3 services;

4 6. The capital investments required in providing these  
5 services and feasible financing alternatives for these  
6 investments; and

7  
8 7. Any other issues that are relevant to volunteer  
9 ambulance services and volunteer fire departments; and be it  
10 further

11  
12 **Convening of commission. Resolved:** That the chair of the  
13 Legislative Council shall call the first meeting within 30 days  
14 following the appointment of all members to the commission. At  
15 the first meeting, the members shall elect a chair and other  
16 officers; and be it further'

17  
18 Further amend the resolve in the 6th paragraph, by striking  
19 out the last sentence (page 1, lines 45 to 48 in L.D.) and  
20 inserting in its place the following:

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22 'All members of the commission, except the employees of  
23 State Government, shall receive reimbursement for expenses in  
24 accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 379,  
25 upon application to the Executive Director of the Legislative  
26 Council; and be it further'

27  
28 Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the  
29 statement of fact the following:

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31 '**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
32 preamble, this resolve shall take effect on adjournment of the  
33 First Regular Session of the 114th Legislature.'

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38 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

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40 This amendment adds an emergency preamble and an emergency  
41 clause in order for the commission to report its findings and any  
42 necessary implementing legislation to the Legislature by December  
43 1, 1989. In addition, this amendment provides more criteria to  
44 guide the commission in its study. This amendment also requires  
45 the commission to consult with the Department of Labor, Bureau of  
46 Labor Standards, Division of Safety, in conducting the study.  
47 This amendment makes some technical changes including the calling  
48 of the first meeting by the chair of the Legislative Council.