

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1878

S.P. 656

In Senate, March 16, 1999

An Act to Make More Uniform the Training of Firefighters.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator RUHLIN of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative BERRY of Livermore and
Senators: MICHAUD of Penobscot, O'GARA of Cumberland, PARADIS of Aroostook,
Representatives: BULL of Freeport, PERKINS of Penobscot, USHER of Westbrook.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §9001**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1987,
4 c. 124, §3 and amended by PL 1989, c. 878, Pt. I, §12, is further
amended to read:

6 **§9001. Maine Fire Training and Education Program**

8 The president may ~~shall~~ conduct programs to provide fire
10 training and education for members of municipal fire departments,
incorporated volunteer fire departments, industrial fire
12 brigades, institutional fire brigades and the general public, to
be known as the Maine Fire Training and Education Program.

14 **1. Voluntary participation.** The president may not require
16 participation in these programs by a member of a municipal fire
department, incorporated volunteer fire department, industrial
18 fire brigades ~~brigade~~, institutional fire brigades ~~brigade~~ or the
general public nor use participation in Maine fire training and
20 education programs as a condition of eligibility to receive funds
for training and education programs.

22 **2. Fees.** The president may charge a fee for the training
24 and education of private industrial fire brigades. The amount of
the fee ~~shall~~ **must** reflect, but not be limited to, instructional,
26 material and administrative costs.

28 **3. Program duties.** The Maine Fire Training and Education
Program shall provide a centralized training resource center for
30 firefighters of the State and shall strengthen firefighter
training and education by:

32 A. Increasing by 50% the number of firefighters trained in
34 1998 in local communities statewide. Training must be
offered annually and must be free of charge;

36 B. Increasing grant funds available to local communities to
38 support construction of specialized training facilities
where the State's firefighters can practice life-saving
40 skills;

42 C. Providing all firefighters with the opportunity for fire
44 science education and leadership education through available
distance learning technologies, including interactive
46 television and the Internet;

48 D. Ensuring that local fire departments have current
50 training and education materials and equipment to prepare
members for fires and other community emergencies;

2 E. Providing a one-stop resource center for firefighters
3 and citizens; and

4 F. Supporting the development of fire and emergency leaders
5 throughout the State.

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10 **SUMMARY**

11 The bill specifies that the Maine Fire Training and
12 Education Program of the Maine Technical College System shall
13 provide a centralized training resource center for firefighters
14 of the State. Specifically, the Maine Fire Training and
15 Education Program shall ensure that more firefighters are trained
16 in local communities statewide. Training must be offered
17 annually and must be free of charge. The program must increase
18 grant funds available to local communities to support
19 construction of specialized training facilities where the State's
20 firefighters can practice life-saving skills; provide
21 firefighters with the opportunity for fire science education and
22 leadership education through available distance learning
23 technologies, including interactive television and the Internet;
24 ensure that local fire departments have current training and
25 education materials and equipment to prepare members for fires
26 and other community emergencies; provide a one-stop resource
27 center for firefighters and citizens; and support the development
28 of fire and emergency leaders throughout the State.