MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1245

H.P. 911

House of Representatives, March 25, 2021

An Act To Ensure the Provision of Adequate Personal Protective Equipment to Firefighters Who Are Women

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 23, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative GROHOSKI of Ellsworth.

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

Whereas, firefighters must remain ever vigilant as fires and other emergencies happen every day; and

Whereas, firefighters are exposed to toxic fumes and substances regularly in the course of their firefighting duties; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this Act is necessary to help prevent the negative effects of such exposure for the many female firefighters who have only ill-fitting gear to protect them in their firefighting duties; 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 enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3154, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Female firefighter protective gear. A municipal fire department, volunteer fire association or fire district shall provide and equip a female firefighter with personal protective equipment and turnout gear, including boots, that are properly fitting either due to being sized correctly or being tailored for the female firefighter and meet the requirements of the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration or the National Fire Protection Association, whichever are more stringent.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

24 SUMMARY

This bill requires a municipal fire department, volunteer fire association or fire district to provide and equip a female firefighter with personal protective equipment and turnout gear, including boots, that are properly fitting either due to being sized correctly or being tailored for the female firefighter and meet the requirements of the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration or the National Fire Protection Association, whichever are more stringent.