

**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
BILL ANALYSIS**

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**TO: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

**FROM: Jane Orbeton, Legislative Analyst**

**DATE: February 23, 2021**

**LD: 242 An Act To Support the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission**

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**Summary**

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to support the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission through the funding of live fire training centers.

**Testimony**

1. Senator Cyrway testified in favor of the bill, setting out the need for live fire training facilities, the recent funding of fire training facility construction, repair and renovations in Auburn, Fairfield, Farmington and Yarmouth. Senator Cyrway proposed \$500,000 per year in ongoing funding to the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission and justified the expense as beneficial to firefighters and to the Maine taxpayer who relies on municipal firefighters to protect their property and safety.
2. Testimony in support was provided by Chief William St. Michel, Chief Vicki Schmidt, Chief Thomas Higgins, Chief Michael Robitaille, Chief Dan Brooks, Chief William Gillespie, Chief Gerry Gay.
3. There was no testimony against the bill.
4. Rebecca Graham, representing Maine Municipal Association, testified neither for nor against, expressing a need to see the amending language. Ms. Graham also expressed the support of municipal officials for ongoing training for firefighters and for safe training facilities.

**Possible Amendments**

1. LD 242 will require amendment as it is a concept draft. Senator Cyrway suggests that the bill be amended to provide \$500,000 per year on an ongoing basis for live fire training facilities, the distribution of the funding to be determined by the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission pursuant to Title 20-A, section 9004 and Title 5, section 3371.