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Legislative Document

No. 1188

H.P. 862

House of Representatives, March 12, 2019

**An Act To Provide Preventive Counseling to Firefighters and
Emergency Medical Services' Persons as Part of Their Training**

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRIFFIN of Levant.
Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and
Representatives: DOLLOFF of Rumford, FECTEAU of Augusta, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth,
JAVNER of Chester, TUELL of East Machias, Senator: MOORE of Washington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3154, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and
3 Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is
4 further amended to read:

5 **2. Training; mandatory preventive and post-trauma counseling.** All municipal
6 firefighters and volunteer firefighters shall attend training sessions as scheduled by the
7 fire chief and shall participate in mandatory preventive and post-trauma counseling, at
8 which a counseling professional licensed under Title 32, chapter 119 or the fire
9 department chaplain, if the fire department has a chaplain, must be available to work with
10 the firefighters, as required by the fire chief.

11 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §85, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

12 **7. Preventive and post-trauma counseling.** With advice from and in consultation
13 with each regional council and its medical control committee and with the statewide
14 emergency medical services' medical director, the board may provide by rule
15 requirements for preventive and post-trauma counseling for basic and advanced training
16 for emergency medical services' persons for initial licensing and relicensing. The
17 requirements may include the services of a counseling professional licensed under Title
18 32, chapter 119 or a chaplain, as determined by the ambulance service or nontransporting
19 emergency medical service, to be provided by ambulance services and nontransporting
20 emergency medical services. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine
21 technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill requires that firefighter training include preventive and post-trauma
24 counseling, at which a counseling professional licensed under the Maine Revised
25 Statutes, Title 32, chapter 119 or the fire department chaplain must be available to work
26 with the firefighters, as required by the fire chief. The bill provides that, with advice
27 from and in consultation with each regional council and its medical control committee
28 and with the statewide emergency medical services' medical director, the Emergency
29 Medical Services' Board may adopt routine technical rules setting mandatory
30 requirements for preventive and post-trauma counseling for basic and advanced training
31 for emergency medical services' persons for initial licensing and relicensing. The
32 requirements may include the services of a counseling professional licensed under Title
33 32, chapter 119 or a chaplain to be provided by ambulance services and nontransporting
34 emergency medical services.