



State of Maine  
131st Legislature, First Regular and First Special Sessions

**Blue Ribbon Commission to  
Study Emergency Medical Services  
in the State**

**January 2024**

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis



**STATE OF MAINE  
131<sup>st</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Blue Ribbon Commission to Study  
Emergency Medical Services  
in the State**

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**Members:**

**Sen. Chip Curry, Chair  
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Chair  
Sen. Brad Farrin  
Rep. Mark Blier  
Rep. Scott Cyrway  
Rep. Suzanne Salisbury  
Robert Chase  
Beth-Anne Damon  
Scott Dow  
Mike Hildreth  
Kevin Howell  
Joe Kellner  
Carrie Kipfer  
Bill Montejo  
Rick Petrie  
Anthony Roberts  
Mike Senecal**

**Recommendation C-4: Maine EMS should collaborate with Volunteer Maine to evaluate opportunities for funding or otherwise facilitating volunteer management and leadership training for volunteer EMS providers and to support recruitment of volunteer EMS providers in Maine.<sup>52</sup>**

As recognized by commission members, volunteer EMS providers and volunteer EMS entities provide a critical means of accessing EMS in many different communities throughout the State, particularly in many rural and hard-to-access areas. The barriers to entry, however, into the volunteer EMS field are in some ways more significant than for paid EMS and the recruitment, retention and training of volunteer EMS providers, especially those in leadership or management positions, present additional, substantial challenges.

To better address these issues and needs, commission members recommend that Maine EMS collaborate with Volunteer Maine to evaluate opportunities for funding or otherwise facilitating volunteer management and leadership training for volunteer EMS providers and to support recruitment of volunteer EMS providers in Maine.

Volunteer Maine, established in statute as the Maine Commission for Community Service,<sup>53</sup> describes its mission as building capacity and sustainability in Maine's volunteer and service communities by funding programs, developing managers of volunteers, raising awareness of sector issues and promoting service as a strategy.<sup>54</sup> Commission members believe Volunteer Maine is uniquely positioned to help identify and acquire available funding and resources and to assist in the implementation of strategies for leadership and management training and recruitment of volunteer EMS providers in Maine.

**Recommendation C-5: The Legislature should support community collaboration in the development and implementation of tiered-response systems utilizing paramedic intercept programs.<sup>55</sup>**

As identified by commission members in discussion, one particular issue faced by EMS entities is the costs and challenges associated with staffing and maintaining a paramedic level EMS. Although there exists a very real demand across the EMS system for paramedical services, many EMS calls require a lower response level. Committee members discussed opportunities for community collaboration in addressing this issue, specifically the development of tiered-response systems utilizing paramedic intercept programs within a group of municipalities or

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<sup>52</sup> Fifteen commission members voted in support of Recommendation C-4 (Senator Curry, Speaker Talbot Ross, Senator Farrin, Representative Blier, Representative Cyrway, Representative Salisbury and commission members Chase, Damon, Dow, Howell, Kellner, Kipfer, Montejo, Petrie and Senecal), one commission member abstained (Roberts) and one commission member was absent (Hildreth).

<sup>53</sup> See Title 5, Chapter 373.

<sup>54</sup> See <https://volunteermaine.gov/commission>.

<sup>55</sup> Fourteen commission members voted in support of Recommendation C-5 (Senator Curry, Speaker Talbot Ross, Senator Farrin, Representative Blier, Representative Cyrway, Representative Salisbury and commission members Chase, Damon, Dow, Howell, Kellner, Kipfer, Petrie and Senecal), two commission members abstained (Montejo, Roberts) and one commission member was absent (Hildreth).