



Sponsor Testimony

State Representative Brian Baldrige

House Bill 328

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Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to stand before you today to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 328. This bill is designed to revise current statute to increase safety for our firefighters who are going through training.

Many on this committee may have heard the term PFAS, the harmful substance that has been the subject of some intense scrutiny over the past few weeks. PFAS is a combination of certain chemical compounds that can greatly assist in the extinguishing of certain fires. However the continued use of and exposure to such a firefighting foam that contains the chemical PFAS has been linked to multiple adverse effect on a person's health, including but not limited to cancer.

When a firefighter is undergoing training, a number of different materials are used to showcase which foam is the most effective when combating certain fires, including the harmful chemical PFAS. Since training is the setting in which a firefighter will be most exposed to PFAS, this legislation will prohibit the use of foam that contains PFAS for training purposes.

This legislation does contain certain exemptions for the use of a foam that contains PFAS. The first exemption is the use of the chemical in emergency situations. The second is the use of the chemical in testing facilities when the appropriate containment, treatment, and disposal measures are in place. The third would be the indication that this legislation does not restrict the manufacture, sale, or distribution of a foam that contains PFAS.

This legislation is a responsive and responsible approach to increase the safety of our brave men and women who risk their safety to protect our own. By banning the use of PFAS foam in a training setting, we are choosing to prioritize the health of our citizens and that of our environment as well.

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to stand before you today.