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 This allows two firefighters to go to the State Fire Academy or to any Academy courses such as the Fire Officer 1 to be held in Belfast. Each year the qualifying schools will be listed at the top of the application form. The cash value of this scholarship is \$250.00 each. That is ½ of the tuition cost. You must be a member of the Federation to receive any of these awards.

You can go to Maine Fire Training & Education web site at www.mfte.org to get a list of available courses and the applications for these courses. Each year the applications will change. You must make sure that you are using the correct form. As the system grows we will need to change some of the guidelines. Remember that you can get the Scholarship application from the Federation web site.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

There have been a number of new laws enacted that affect the fire service in Maine. LD 243 The new Red Light Bill was signed 6/2. This bill allows municipal and volunteer firefighters and

EMS personnel to use either one flashing red light or any combination 2 red or white lights on personal vehicles while enroute to or at the scene of fire or other emergencies. It also requires that a person may use emergency lights on a personal vehicle **only upon completion of a state certified emergency vehicle operator's or emergency ambulance operator's course.**

LD1337 the Emergency Stopping bill was signed by the governor on 5/26. This law allows Emergency Services personal to direct or reroute traffic around a fire or accident scenes. Failure to comply with the directions of a public safety official is an infraction for which the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for unless proven otherwise. We must have the proper equipment to do this job. You also need to be trained in how to handle each situation. The Bureau of Labor Standards is currently creating a training course designed specifically for fire and EMS. Maine DOT will be working with them to get this course started. It will be based on the flaggers

training course now put on by DOT.

This course should be available sometime after September. Each fire department will be notified when this is ready.

LD 1652, the Governor signed the Bill to Protect Volunteer Firefighters from Being Discharged on 6/2. This bill makes it illegal for an employer to discipline or discharge an employee that may be late due to an emergency situation. The volunteer firefighter must, at the request of the employer, provide a statement from the fire chief documenting the time of their release from the emergency scene. Some employer exceptions are if there are less than five employees working for the company. Another exception if the employer designates the worker an essential employee. Meaning the business could not operate without the employee being on the job.

INSURANCE OFFER

Liberty Mutual has a good offer for all Federation members. Here is how it works. If you have either an (Continued on page 3)