



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 7, 2019

Testimony of Rep. Richard A. Pickett before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry.

Senator Dill, Representative Hickman, distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry. I am State Representative Dick Pickett. I represent House District 116 in Oxford County. I am here today to speak in support of LD 527:

**“Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Establish a Law Enforcement Training Program for Park Managers and Certain Bureau Staff”**

I retired from the law enforcement community in January of 2015 after serving for a total of forty years, twenty-two

as a Maine State Trooper and eighteen in the town of Dixfield, seventeen of those years as their Chief of Police.

My police department in Dixfield consisted of fifteen officers. Four academy trained fulltime officers and ten reserve officers were under my command. These officers received forty hours of in-service training each year in order to keep their certification as sworn law enforcement officers. They also received annual training on the Department S.O.P. (Standard Operating Procedures) by reviewing departmental policies and procedures required by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and annual Firearms qualifications. The point being, that my officers were not put out on the street to perform their duties as law enforcement officers without first being properly trained to do so.

Training is essential to ensure that law enforcement officers can be successful in their day to day operational duties. It should be no different for Bureau of Parks and Lands employees and agents who manage lands or waters within the Bureau's jurisdiction and who exercise law enforcement powers of the Bureau in enforcing Bureau rules and state law within the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

A training program within the Bureau consisting of but not limited to self-defense, proper use of nonlethal self-defense equipment, proper use of motor vehicle

emergency lights, proper procedure for requesting identification from persons, proper issuance of summonses and the proper procedure for arresting and detaining a person when there is probable cause to believe the person has committed or is committing a crime will assure that Bureau employees and agents are equipped to be successful in the performance of their duties.

I urge the committee to move this resolve as OTP.

Thank you and I would be glad to entertain any questions that you may have regarding my testimony.