

CHAPTER 191**ORGANIZATION; POWERS AND DUTIES; UNIFORMS; COMPENSATION; RESERVE CORPS****§1501. Chief; deputy; members of force; rules and regulations**

The Commissioner of Public Safety, with the advice and consent of the Governor and subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters and to confirmation by the Legislature, shall appoint a Chief of the State Police, as heretofore appointed, to serve for a term of 4 years unless removed for cause. The appointment must be made from the commissioned officer ranks of the State Police. The Chief of the State Police may be removed by impeachment or by the Governor on the address of both branches of the Legislature. [PL 1997, c. 657, §1 (AMD).]

The Chief of the State Police is the executive head of the Bureau of State Police, as heretofore established, and shall execute the duties of the office under the direction and subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Public Safety. In the absence of the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Chief of the State Police shall assume the duties and has the authority of the commissioner, except that the Chief of the State Police has no authority to change any general rules and regulations unless the Chief of the State Police is serving in the capacity of acting commissioner as a result of the death, removal, extended leave of absence or resignation of the commissioner. [PL 2003, c. 360, §1 (AMD).]

Subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Public Safety, the chief may appoint one commissioned officer of the State Police to act as the chief's deputy and 3 commissioned officers of the State Police to act as the chief's majors, all of whom serve at the pleasure of the chief. Subject to the Civil Service Law, the Chief of the State Police may enlist suitable persons as members of the State Police to enforce the law and employ such other employees as may be necessary. The Chief of the State Police shall make rules, subject to the approval of the State Civil Service Appeals Board, for the discipline and control of the State Police. If a deputy chief or major is removed or fails to be reappointed for any reason other than malfeasance of office and, at that time, does not have at least the number of years of creditable service necessary for a service retirement benefit pursuant to Title 5, section 17851, subsection 4, the deputy chief or major must be reinstated at the commissioned rank held at the time of the appointment with all the rights and privileges as provided by law and personnel rules. [PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. UUU, §1 (AMD).]

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Governor may in the Governor's discretion appoint the same person to serve as Commissioner of Public Safety and Chief of the Maine State Police. In this event, the Governor shall appoint the Chief of the State Police, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters and to confirmation by the Legislature, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Such appointment may be made from the commissioned officer membership of the State Police. In the event that the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Chief of the State Police are the same person, the commissioner may receive only the salary designated for the Commissioner of Public Safety. [PL 2003, c. 360, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 592, §§6,37,39 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 579, §3 (RPR). PL 1975, c. 771, §§261,262 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 489, §12 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 785, §B108 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 560, §C3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 560, §C4 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 657, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 360, §1 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. UUU, §1 (AMD).

§1502. Powers and duties; cooperation of others

The specific powers and duties of the State Police shall be to patrol the state highways and other important ways, especially outside the compact portion of cities and towns, for the purpose of enforcing the law, and all laws relating to motor-driven and horse-drawn vehicles and all rules and regulations in regard thereto, and of arresting all violators and prosecuting all offenders against the same. The State Police shall aid the Department of Transportation in the enforcement of its rules and orders and permit regulations. In addition to these duties and powers, the Chief and members of the State Police are vested with the same powers and duties throughout the several counties of the State as sheriffs have in their respective counties to serve criminal processes, to investigate and prosecute violators of any law of this State and to arrest the offenders thereof, and the same power and duty as sheriffs have to arrest without warrant and detain persons found violating or attempting to violate any other penal law of the State until a legal warrant can be obtained. As arresting officers, or aids, or witnesses in any criminal case, they shall be limited to the same fees as complainants under Title 15, section 1363. Fees shall be taxed on a bill of costs and shall be paid promptly each month to the Treasurer of State and credited to the General Highway Fund. They shall have the same rights as sheriffs to require aid in executing the duties of their office. They may serve any subpoenas, notices and processes issued by the Secretary of State or the Department of Transportation under authority of law. They shall at all times be subject to the call of the Governor for emergency purposes at the Governor's discretion. [PL 1989, c. 757 (AMD).]

The State Police, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, constables, city marshals, deputy marshals and police officers of cities and towns shall, so far as possible, cooperate in the detection of crime, the arrest and prosecution of criminals and the preservation of law and order throughout the State.

The State Police may provide patrol services to the Maine Turnpike. The Chief of the State Police may charge the Maine Turnpike Authority for these services. Revenues received are allocated for the purpose of funding the cost of patrolling the Maine Turnpike. [PL 1985, c. 403, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

Upon the request of a federal agency or other person, the State Police may provide assistance for public safety purposes only to the federal agency or other person. The Chief of the State Police may charge the various federal agencies or other persons for these services. Revenues received from these agencies and other persons must be allocated for the purpose of funding the cost of providing the services. The State Police shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters no later than January 15th of each year concerning the assistance provided to federal agencies and other persons during the previous calendar year. The report must contain information about the types of services provided, the number of services and the fees charged by the Chief of the State Police. [PL 2001, c. 483, §1 (AMD).]

The Chief of the State Police may assign one or more state police officers to provide full-time or part-time police services to a municipality, or to no more than 3 adjoining municipalities, lacking an organized police department, if the municipality or municipalities pay the costs of training, compensation, including wages and fringe benefits, equipment and other expenses of the assigned state police officer or officers. The Chief of the State Police shall continue to exercise supervision and direction over a state police officer who is assigned to provide police services to a municipality or municipalities. The Chief of the State Police and the municipality or municipalities are authorized to enter into agreements and contracts for police services for a period not exceeding 3 years per agreement or contract. Revenues received from a municipality must be allocated for the purpose of funding the cost of providing the police services. [PL 2005, c. 53, §1 (AMD).]

Municipal and county jails shall at all times be available for detention of persons arrested by state or any other law enforcement officers. In those municipalities where full-time supervision of the jail is not provided by the municipality, full responsibility for the safekeeping and welfare of any person detained shall rest solely with the arresting officer. Expense of any municipality or any damage to the

jail resulting from the use of its jail by any arresting officer shall be reimbursed to the municipality by the law enforcement agency for which the arresting officer is acting. [PL 1989, c. 757 (AMD).]

County commissioners of all the several counties are authorized to provide and pay for liability insurance protection for the keeper of the county jail.

The Bureau of State Police is authorized to establish 2 State Police Sergeant project positions to be temporarily assigned to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for each training class at the academy. [PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. Q, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 423, §3 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 593, §22 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 51, §1 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 403, §A1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 757 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 123, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 119, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 653, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 483, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 53, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 519, §Q1 (AMD).

§1502-A. Cooperation of federal officers

1. Definition. For purposes of this section, "federal officers" means the following persons who are authorized to carry firearms in the performance of their duties as federal law enforcement employees or officers:

A. [PL 2007, c. 209, §1 (RP).]

A-1. [PL 2001, c. 602, §1 (NEW); MRSA T. 25 §1502-A, sub-§1, ¶ A-1 (RP).]

B. [PL 2007, c. 209, §1 (RP).]

C. [PL 2007, c. 209, §1 (RP).]

D. [PL 2007, c. 209, §1 (RP).]

E. Any of the officers listed in this subsection who are assigned to or are acting in concert with a task force, but only if that task force meets the following requirements:

(1) The task force is a task force of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency authorized under this Title; or

(2) The task force is a joint federal-state task force operating primarily within the territorial boundaries of this State and:

(a) An arrest is part of or related to an investigation of that federal-state task force; or

(b) An arrest occurs in a prosecutorial district and either:

(i) The district attorney of that district or the district attorney's written designee actively participates in and oversees the activities of the task force; or

(ii) The arrest occurs anywhere within the State and the Attorney General or the Attorney General's written designee actively participates in and oversees the activities of the task force; [PL 2007, c. 209, §1 (AMD).]

F. Special Agents of the United States Secret Service of the Department of Homeland Security; and [PL 2007, c. 209, §1 (NEW).]

G. An officer of an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security that has administrative and enforcement jurisdiction over immigration, customs or border security matters. [PL 2007, c. 209, §1 (NEW).]

Federal officers are law enforcement officers for the purposes of Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 17. [PL 2007, c. 209, §1 (AMD).]

2. Powers. Subject to suspension or revocation, without hearing, by the Attorney General or the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, a federal officer has the power to enforce state law when one or more of the following situations exist.

A. The federal officer has an articulable and reasonable suspicion to believe that the person to be stopped has committed, is committing or is about to commit a state crime or has probable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or is committing a state crime. [PL 1995, c. 423, §1 (NEW).]

B. The federal officer is providing assistance to a state, county or municipal law enforcement officer in an emergency or at the request of the state, county or municipal law enforcement officer. [PL 1995, c. 423, §1 (NEW).]

C. The federal officer has received information from an authoritative source that a state, county or municipal law enforcement officer holds a warrant for the person's arrest. [PL 1995, c. 423, §1 (NEW).]

This section is not intended to limit the authority to enforce state law of any other federally employed, federal law enforcement officer or law enforcement officer of another state who, with the written consent of the Attorney General, has been sworn or otherwise cross-designated or cross-deputized as a state law enforcement officer.

[PL 1995, c. 423, §1 (NEW).]

3. Discretion to act. Federal officers may, but are not required to, enforce state law. This section is not intended to limit the existing authority of federal officers under federal law or to interfere with the performance of federal duties by federal officers.

[PL 1995, c. 423, §1 (NEW).]

4. Liability. A federal officer who is acting pursuant to this section has the same immunity from and limitation on tort liability as the State Police.

[PL 1995, c. 423, §1 (NEW).]

5. Training and policies. Before a federal officer may exercise the powers conferred by this section:

A. The federal officer must receive training in Maine criminal law and Maine law on the use of force; and [PL 1995, c. 423, §1 (NEW).]

B. [PL 2001, c. 602, §2 (AMD); MRSA T. 25 §1502-A, sub-§5, ¶ B (RP).]

B-1. The federal agencies of the Department of Homeland Security shall develop policies governing their employees, including training policies. [PL 2007, c. 209, §2 (AMD).]

The policies and training must be approved by, and the policies filed with, the Board of Trustees of the Criminal Justice Academy.

[PL 2007, c. 209, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 423, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 602, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 602, §4 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 209, §§1, 2 (AMD).

§1503. Uniform and equipment

Members of the State Police must be provided at the expense of the State with a distinctive uniform and badge, and with suitable equipment, all of which remains the property of the State. When on duty to enforce the laws of the road, and at such other times as the Chief of the State Police may require, members of the State Police shall be in uniform. It is unlawful for any person to wear the prescribed uniform or badge of the State Police or any distinctive part of that uniform, except on order of the Chief of the State Police. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §43 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 56, §1 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §43 (COR).

§1504. Salaries and compensations; oath; not to receive fees

The Governor shall determine the salary of the chief and deputy chief. The compensation of the other members of the State Police shall be determined under the Civil Service Law. [PL 1985, c. 785, Pt. B, §109 (AMD).]

Before entering upon the duties of their office they shall be sworn.

No inspector or member of the State Police shall receive any fee as a complainant or witness, in any civil violation or criminal proceeding, or for making an arrest, except that whenever members of the State Police are required by any court or prosecuting official to be in attendance in any proceeding as a complainant or a witness at times other than regular working hours, such members shall receive compensation on an hourly basis equal to their current hourly wage. Such compensation shall be made to the members from the salary account of the State Police with reimbursement to the State Police from the General Fund for appearances before the District Court and from the respective county treasurer for appearances before the Superior Court. Whenever any fines or penalties are imposed by any court other than the District Court in any proceeding in which a member of the State Police is a complainant or a witness, said court may tax costs for such complainant or witness in the usual manner. [PL 1975, c. 770, §109 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 369, §4 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 731, §17 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 770, §109 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 771, §263 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 785, §B109 (AMD).

§1505. Reserve corps

The chief may establish and maintain a State Police Reserve Corps. To be eligible for membership in such reserve corps, applicants shall meet such standards as may be determined by the chief; shall enlist therein for a period of not less than 3 years, and shall take the oath prescribed in Title 37-B, section 833. Upon the issuance by the Governor of the proclamation provided for in Title 37-B, section 742, the chief may order any or all of the members of the reserve corps to active duty as State Police for the duration of the proclaimed emergency or any part thereof. When ordered to active duty, members of the reserve corps shall have the same status as regular members of the State Police. [PL 1983, c. 594, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 537, §29 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 625, §164 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 594, §1 (AMD).

§1505-A. Cold case homicide squad

1. Squad established. The Department of Public Safety shall establish a cold case homicide squad, referred to in this section as the "squad." The purpose of the squad is to work exclusively on unsolved murders in the State.

[PL 2001, c. 439, Pt. XXXX, §1 (NEW).]

2. Report and sunset. The Department of Public Safety shall dissolve the squad by October 30, 2004 unless directed by the Legislature to continue the squad. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters by January 1, 2004 evaluating the success of the squad and making recommendations on continuation of the squad.

[PL 2001, c. 439, Pt. XXXX, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 439, Pt. XXXX, §1 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 585, §2 (RP). PL 2013, c. 585, §4 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. D, §1 (AFF).

§1506. Injury or incapacity

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 25 (NEW). PL 1973, c. 788, §108 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 594, §7 (RP).

§1507. --Certain state employees

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 193 (NEW). PL 1971, c. 622, §82 (RP).

§1508. Criminal justice telecommunications and radio communications systems

1. Telecommunications system. The Bureau of the State Police shall provide for the installation, operation and maintenance of a criminal justice telecommunications system for the purpose of promptly collecting, exchanging and distributing information relating to criminal justice problems of the State, counties and municipalities. The system may be connected, directly or indirectly, with similar systems operated and maintained by other states or the Federal Government.

[PL 1999, c. 111, §1 (NEW).]

2. Telecommunications expenses; revenue. The Chief of the State Police shall provide for the location and maintenance of the central processing system and telecommunications lines. Federal agencies, state departments and agencies, counties and municipalities shall provide, at their own expense, the terminals, personnel and supplies for their proper operation. The Bureau of the State Police may charge the various federal agencies, state departments and agencies, counties and municipalities for the installation and maintenance of the end-user routers and modems necessary to connect to the criminal justice telecommunications system. Revenue received from federal agencies, state departments and agencies, counties and municipalities must be allocated for the purpose of funding the cost of providing the services.

[PL 1999, c. 111, §1 (NEW).]

3. Guidelines. The criminal justice telecommunications system must be installed, operated and maintained in accordance with the rules adopted by the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, the National Crime Information Center and the Chief of the State Police or the chief's designee. The character of the communications sent, the time, place and manner of sending messages and all matters connected with the system are under the control and management of the Chief of the State Police or the chief's designee.

[PL 1999, c. 111, §1 (NEW).]

4. Radio communications and dispatch. The Bureau of the State Police may provide, at the request of a municipality or county, radio communications and dispatch services to the municipality or county.

[PL 1999, c. 111, §1 (NEW).]

5. Radio communications and dispatch revenue. The Chief of the State Police may charge the various federal agencies, state departments and agencies, counties and municipalities for the radio communications and dispatch services. Revenue received from federal agencies, state departments and agencies, counties and municipalities must be allocated for the purpose of funding the cost of providing the services.

[PL 1999, c. 111, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 275, §1 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 111, §1 (RPR).

§1509. Funding

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 664, §R1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 537, §2 (RP).

§1509-A. Funding

Beginning in fiscal year 2013-14, state funding for the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police must be provided as follows: [PL 2013, c. 354, Pt. F, §1 (AMD); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. EEE, §1 (AMD).]

1. Highway Fund. Thirty-five percent must be allocated from the Highway Fund pursuant to Title 23, section 1653; and
[PL 2013, c. 354, Pt. F, §1 (AMD); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. EEE, §1 (AMD).]

2. General Fund. Sixty-five percent must be appropriated from the General Fund.
[PL 2013, c. 354, Pt. F, §1 (AMD); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. EEE, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 682, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 682, §8 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 354, Pt. F, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. EEE, §1 (AMD).

§1510. Collection of information regarding lawful firearm purchases

Except as necessary for the purposes of investigating suspected criminal activity or terrorism, administering civil, criminal or juvenile justice pursuant to Title 16, chapter 9 or protecting a person's health and welfare under Title 34-B, chapter 3, subchapter 4, article 3, the State Police may not collect in its records any surveillance video, information or data concerning lawful firearm purchases obtained by the Maine Information and Analysis Center created by executive order of the Governor issued December 8, 2006. [PL 2021, c. 384, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 384, §1 (NEW).

§1511. Annual report regarding resource coordination agreements and other services

Beginning January 1, 2024 and annually thereafter, the Bureau of State Police shall report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters, transportation matters and appropriations and financial affairs regarding resource coordination agreements between the Bureau of State Police and county sheriffs' departments, including where those agreements are in place, a summary of the agreements and any changes to those agreements in the prior calendar year. The Bureau of State Police shall also provide to those joint standing committees a summary of the services provided by the State Police throughout the State. A joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Legislature based on the reports submitted to the committee pursuant to this section. As used in this section, "resource coordination agreement" means the coordination of services by the Bureau of State Police and a county sheriff to provide law enforcement services in response to requests by the public in a manner that maximizes efficiency and reduces duplication of effort. [PL 2023, c. 443, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 443, §1 (NEW).

§1512. Missing persons list

In cooperation with appropriate law enforcement agencies, the Bureau of State Police shall establish by December 31, 2026 and maintain a publicly accessible website that lists all open missing persons cases in the State. The website must contain details regarding each missing person in the State that include, but are not limited to, the missing person's demographics, photograph, circumstances of disappearance and last known location and any additional information that may help in locating or identifying the missing person. The website must be updated, at a minimum, once every month to include any new missing person's information as required by this section. [PL 2025, c. 447, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2025, c. 447, §1 (NEW).

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