



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

Legislative Document

No. 1534

S.P. 596

In Senate, January 6, 2016

An Act To Reduce the Trafficking of Illegal Drugs in the State

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BURNS of Washington.
Cosponsored by Senators: ALFOND of Cumberland, DIAMOND of Cumberland,
GERZOFSKY of Cumberland, HILL of York, WHITTEMORE of Somerset, Representatives:
SIROCKI of Scarborough, TIMBERLAKE of Turner.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA c. 201** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 201**

4 **MAINE STATE POLICE DRUG INTERDICTION UNIT**

5 **§1751. Maine State Police Drug Interdiction Unit**

6 **1. Maine State Police Drug Interdiction Unit.** The Maine State Police Drug
7 Interdiction Unit, referred to in this chapter as "the drug interdiction unit," is established
8 within the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police. The purpose of the drug
9 interdiction unit is to conduct drug trafficking patrols on state roads and ways and at
10 access points to the State to prevent the trafficking of illegal drugs in the State.

11 **2. Members of drug interdiction unit.** The drug interdiction unit must consist of at
12 least 3 state police officers and a supervising state police officer, who must have attained
13 at least the rank of sergeant in the State Police, all with training and experience in illegal
14 drug interdiction techniques. The members of the drug interdiction unit must be
15 appointed by the Chief of the State Police in consultation with the Commissioner of
16 Public Safety.

17 **3. Report.** Beginning July 1, 2017, the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of
18 State Police shall annually report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
19 having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters regarding the implementation and
20 effectiveness of programs and initiatives undertaken by the drug interdiction unit.

21 **Sec. 2. Implementation of Maine State Police Drug Interdiction Unit;**
22 **report.** The Maine State Police Drug Interdiction Unit, established pursuant to the
23 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 1751, must be implemented by the
24 Commissioner of Public Safety no later than August 1, 2016. The Chief of the State
25 Police shall report to the Governor and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice
26 and Public Safety when the appointments to the drug interdiction unit have been
27 completed.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill establishes the Maine State Police Drug Interdiction Unit in the Department
30 of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police to conduct drug trafficking patrols on state roads
31 and ways and at access points to the State to prevent the trafficking of illegal drugs in the
32 State. The drug interdiction unit consists of at least 3 state police officers and a
33 supervising state police officer, all of whom must have training and experience in illegal
34 drug interdiction techniques.