

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

—
S.P. 887 - L.D. 2094

Resolve, to Require the Establishment of a Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers

Sec. 1. Formation of stakeholder group; study. Resolved: That the Department of Public Safety shall convene a stakeholder group composed of members as required by section 2 to study long-term solutions to improve the recruitment, retention and wellness of law enforcement officers in the State. The study must include, but is not limited to:

1. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage the recruitment of law enforcement officers and how funding could be provided to address vacant law enforcement positions;
2. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage the retention of law enforcement officers and how funding could be provided to support this goal; and
3. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage mental and physical wellness programs for law enforcement officers and how funding could be provided to support this goal.

Sec. 2. Stakeholder group membership. Resolved: That the stakeholder group under section 1 consists of the following 12 members:

1. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee;
2. An individual representing the Maine Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police;
3. An individual representing the Maine Association of Police;
4. An individual representing a statewide association advocating for state troopers in the State;
5. An individual representing the Maine State Law Enforcement Association;
6. An individual representing the Maine Criminal Justice Academy;
7. An individual representing a coalition of mental health providers in the State who specialize in treating first responders as their sole practice;

8. An individual representing a postsecondary educational institution in the State with programs focused on law enforcement or mental health;
9. An individual representing the Maine Chiefs of Police Association;
10. An individual representing the Maine Sheriffs' Association;
11. A student representing a secondary school program focused on law enforcement education in the State; and
12. An individual representing retired law enforcement officers in the State.

Sec. 3. Meetings; report. Resolved: That the Department of Public Safety shall convene the first meeting of the stakeholder group under section 1. At the first meeting, the members of the stakeholder group shall elect a chair and vice-chair to oversee and administer the stakeholder group. The chair shall oversee the meetings of the stakeholder group, and the vice-chair shall assume the role of the chair in the chair's absence. The chair and vice-chair may not be representatives or employees of the department.

The stakeholder group shall develop a report with its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, that address the initiatives of the study in section 1. The Department of Public Safety shall submit the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters no later than January 2, 2025. The joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.