

TESTIMONY
OF
MICHAEL J. SAUSCHUCK
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Hearing Date: January 24th, 2023, 1 P.M.

“An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023”

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. My name is Michael Sauschuck and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. I am here today to testify in support of the supplemental budget, LD 206.

Department Overview

The Department of Public Safety was established to serve the people by providing, coordinating, and leading a responsive and comprehensive public safety system to protect their lives, rights, and properties. This broad mission is accomplished with 643 positions spread across 10 bureaus. The Bureaus are Administration, Capitol Police, Consolidated Emergency Communications, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Marshal's Office, Gambling Control, Highway Safety, Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Maine State Police. My testimony today will focus on the Fire Marshal's Office.

The primary mission of the office is to protect the lives and property of those who live, work, or visit the state. The Inspection Division is primarily responsible for the safety of people at public events; in buildings used by the public; in places of assembly; and in healthcare and

childcare facilities. The Investigation Division is primarily responsible for the investigation of fires and explosions. They also regulate the storage of explosives, the storage and use of fireworks, and investigate accidents involving mechanical rides.

There are four (4) Fire Marshal's Office-related initiatives which are all located on page A-37. Three are for approved position reclassifications with retroactive payments of \$257,577, \$316,586 and \$16,199 totaling \$590,362 and these are located on page A-37. There is a long-standing process in place to evaluate proper classification of positions and determine, through a functional job analysis, whether a position meets the requirements for reclassification, including pay adjustment. The State's collective bargaining unit agreements include negotiated language related to this process. Reclasses may be employee or management initiated. Approved employee-initiated actions include a retroactive pay component back to the date the request was signed. Only approved reclasses are included in our supplemental. These three initiatives are to request funding for the approved action, which is required before the reclassification can be processed and paid.

The final initiative provides allocation in the Other Special Revenue Funds account to purchase two (2) hybrid vehicles for the Fire Marshal's Office. During an earlier curtailment effort this capital was not requested in Fiscal Year 22 and 23 when the intent was to not purchase vehicles in Fiscal Year 22 only. This request is necessary to stay on pace with the Fire Marshal Office's established vehicle replacement schedule of two (2) vehicles a year. This increases the Other Special Revenue Funds All Other by \$71,952.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.