

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, 2 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 Gambling Control Unit.

The Gambling Control Unit (the Unit) supports a five-member Board that licenses and regulates companies and employees associated with two casinos, the distribution of casino-related equipment, and advance deposit wagering allowing bets on horse races throughout the country.

The Unit also regulates fantasy sports contests and charitable non-profit Games of Chance, Beano, and Bingo.

There is one (1) Gambling Control Unit-related initiative which is on page A-37. This initiative adjusts funding to align with revenues as recommended in the December 1, 2022 forecast of the Revenue Forecasting Committee. This increases the Other Special Revenue Funds All Other by \$1,596,922.

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