

TESTIMONY
OF
MICHAEL J. SAUSCHUCK
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Hearing Date: January 25th, 2023, 4:30 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 Maine State Police Turnpike Enforcement Unit.

The Maine State Police provides full law enforcement services to areas that do not have police departments. Troopers respond to all manners of calls for service much like any other police

department would. Troopers also patrol the rural roads, interstate system, and Maine Turnpike enforcing motor vehicle laws and responding to accidents. Turnpike Enforcement (Troop G) patrols the Maine Turnpike 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure safety and enforce the laws of the State.

There is one (1) Turnpike Enforcement Unit-related initiative which is on page A-38. This provides allocation in the Other Special Revenue Funds account to purchase eight (8) hybrid vehicles for the Turnpike Enforcement Unit. 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 Turnpike Enforcement Units established vehicle replacement schedule. This increases the Other Special Revenue Funds All Other by \$351,500.

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