



MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

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Statement of Support to L.D. 1119, An Act to Clarify the Criminal Statutes with Regard to Assaults on Emergency Medical Services Persons April 24, 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the distinguished Committee on Judiciary. My name is Charles Rumsey. I am the Chief of the Cumberland Police Department, and President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in support to LD 1119.

The Mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

According to the bill summary,

Under current law, a person is guilty of a Class C crime if that person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to an emergency medical care provider, as that term is defined in the law, while the provider is providing emergency care. This bill amends the law by specifying that it is a Class C crime if the bodily injury is to:

1. A person licensed pursuant to the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982, regardless of the location where the emergency medical care is provided; or
2. A person employed or contracted by a hospital and the injury occurs in the hospital's designated emergency room.

The bill also amends the law governing elevating the class of a crime to include assaults on emergency medical services providers.

The bill also makes a technical change to the definition of "emergency medical care provider" in the law governing emergency blood-borne

pathogen testing. Currently, that term is defined by providing a cross-reference to a term the bill repeals.

The Maine Chiefs support LD 1119 because we want our fellow public service employees to feel safe in their jobs. Emergency Medical Services providers respond to calls every day with us and are assaulted while simply trying to provide care to our community. This isn't fair and they do not deserve to be treated this way. LD 1119 would provide necessary protections for them so they can continue to serve our community without fear of being harmed with no recourse.

We want to thank the bill sponsor for bringing forward this important piece of legislation. And we would ask you to support LD 1119 and vote ought to pass on this bill. On behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, we want to thank the committee members for your work on this Committee.