



# Maine County Commissioners Association

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## *LD 1889, An Act to Provide Authorization to Aroostook County to Use the Statewide Radio and Network System*

May 16, 2023

Chair Beebe-Center, Chair Salisbury, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Stephen Gorden and in addition to serving as a member of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as chair of the legislative policy committee of the Maine County Commissioners Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee in support of LD 1889.

**About MCCA.** Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta, represents all 16 of Maine's counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

**What does LD 1889 do?** LD 1889 requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services' Office of Information Technology to authorize Aroostook County to utilize the statewide radio and network system, and amends the provisions of law governing the Statewide Radio and Network System Reserve Fund to include Aroostook County.

**Discussion.** The Statewide Radio and Network System Reserve Fund was established as an internal service fund within the Department's Office of Information Technology to acquire, expand, upgrade and replace a statewide radio and network system for use by state agencies. When the Fund was originally established, it did not include counties or authorize counties to use the statewide radio and network system. Our Association understands potential challenges presented by authorizing Aroostook County to utilize the system and include the county in the Fund, but we believe that further cooperation among state agencies and rural communities is important for public safety and communications. MCCA also looks forward to being part of any future discussions that involve authorizing Aroostook County or other counties to utilize such network system. For these reasons, we write in support.

**Conclusion.** We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill, and if you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Gorden  
Chair, Legislative Policy Committee

cc: Commissioner Richard Dutremble, President, MCCA  
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel