



Maine Chiefs of Police Association

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Statement in opposition to

L.D. 172, An Act to Require the Maine State Police to Create a Statewide List of Missing Persons

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

February 3, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Jason Moen. I am the Chief of the Auburn Police Department and serve as President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in opposition to LD 172.

The Mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association 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.

As proposed, the Bureau of State Police shall establish and maintain a publicly accessible website that lists all open missing person cases in Maine. The website must contain a summary of the details of each individual case, a picture of the missing person and the contact information for the investigating agency of that case.

Our opposition is not based on maintaining a public list of open missing person cases. Quite the contrary. We support the law that is currently on the books that requires all Maine law enforcement officers to report all missing persons to the state's Chief Medical Examiner's Office. As described in the testimony provided by the Maine State Police, that information is entered into a national database that the public can access on the US Department of Justice's website. This system has provided law enforcement agencies a powerful and effective system to help solve cases well beyond our state's borders.

It does not make sense to duplicate a system that is already in place that meets the objective of this legislation, especially when that effort would come at a significant cost to the state. As policymakers and public safety officials, we can collectively do a better job of educating the public of the NamUs website ([Home | NamUs](#)). This free and easy-to-use dashboard provides law enforcement, medical examiners and families of missing persons access to information to help resolve open cases.

On behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, we respectfully ask that the Committee vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 172.