

*Testimony of Nicholas Marquis, Acting Chief Information Officer  
Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology  
providing written testimony in support of*

**LD 120, An Act to Expand the Membership of the Homeland Security Advisory Council**

Sponsored by Senator Scott Cyrway

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Nicholas Marquis and I am the Acting Chief Information Officer for the State of Maine. I am providing the below written testimony in support of LD 120, An Act to Expand the Membership of the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

The Homeland Security Advisory Council (“HSAC”) advises the Governor on all matters related to homeland security, including terrorism and bio-terrorism issues, providing a valuable forum for the top officials in the State to collaborate, share essential information, and develop a unified strategy to address homeland security issues in Maine. LD 120 proposes adding two additional members to the HSAC: The Chief Information Officer (CIO) within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology (OIT), or the CIO’s designee, and the director of the Maine School Safety Center established within the Department of Education.

By broadening HSAC membership, this bill serves to remove silos and strengthen communication among our agencies to protect the State against a broad array of homeland security threats, including cyber threats across our information technology infrastructure. This infrastructure is integral to State operations and if attacked, can have a massive impact on the daily lives of our citizens. As cybersecurity and homeland security now intersect in a variety of ways, strengthening cybersecurity and building resilience against increasingly sophisticated cyber threats is now a key aspect of homeland security. This requires a whole-of-government approach to building stakeholder awareness and strengthening our state’s resilience across critical infrastructure sectors. This bill reflects the convergence of disciplines necessary within the HSAC to build upon these shared lines of effort and active partnerships in this arena.

OIT is responsible for keeping pace with a rapidly evolving cyber threat landscape that poses significant risks to the security of the State's network infrastructure, including the sensitive and confidential data that we are entrusted to protect for our citizens. OIT is working diligently to implement advanced cyber threat detection and response systems, expand our security awareness training, and foster partnerships at all levels of government to defend against today’s emerging cyber threats and mitigate future risks. As the HSAC serves as the coordinating agency within State Government for homeland security operational preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation, the CIO’s membership on the HSAC will further support the HSAC’s work to ensure robust emergency planning to safeguard the State against modern day threats.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to vote LD 120 ought to pass. Thank you for your consideration and if requested, I will make myself available to the Committee during the work session.