



**Maine Chiefs of Police Association**  
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**Statement in support of**

**L.D. 96, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles and Traffic Law Governing Mandatory Driver's License Suspension for Refusing Testing for Drugs or a Combination of Drugs and Alcohol**

**Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

**February 10, 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 support of LD 96.

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.

This bill amends the provision of the motor vehicles and traffic law governing drug impairment assessments. The goal is to ensure that Maine's Office of the Secretary of State has the authority to immediately suspend a person's driver's license when a law enforcement officer has probable cause of operating under the influence of drugs and refuses to take a drug test. Under current law, the license may only be suspended if the test is refused when requested by a drug recognition expert.

One essential role of law enforcement officers is keeping folks safe on Maine's roadways and a key part ensuring the public's safety is making sure that drivers impaired by drugs or alcohol are suspended from their driving privileges. Both substances equally impact one's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely, and we are seeing a greater number of road fatalities in which drug

impaired drivers were behind the wheel. It does not make sense to have a different statutory process and consequence for refusing to take a blood test based on the primary intoxicant. That is why we support this legislative proposal.

We have reviewed the proposed amendment offered by the bill's sponsor. The amendment keeps the same goal of the original bill of allowing the Secretary of State's office to suspend a driver's license if there is probable cause of operating under the influence of drugs and the vehicle operator refuses to take a blood test. For that reason, we continue to be supportive of the proposal.

On behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, we respectfully request that the Committee vote Ought to Pass on the amended version of LD 96.