



## **Maine Chiefs of Police Association**

P.O. Box 264 – Oakland, Maine 04963-0264

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**Chief Jason Moen - President**

Chief Michael D. Tracy (Ret.), Executive Director, Tel: (207) 838-6583

email: [mcopa@maine.rr.com](mailto:mcopa@maine.rr.com)

Web site: [www.mainechiefs.com](http://www.mainechiefs.com)

### **Statement in support of**

### **L.D. 477, An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Rural Counties by Providing State Police Patrol and Policing Services**

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

**February 24, 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 the 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 477.

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 members of the municipal law enforcement community, we are always supportive of efforts to provide greater resources to all law enforcement agencies. We work in partnership with other law enforcement departments to ensure that our communities are safe, and to help detect and prevent criminal activities. Unfortunately, not all towns provide municipal law enforcement services. When that occurs, it places a greater strain on both county departments and State Police to patrol Maine's roadways.

This proposal provides funding for 15 State Trooper positions and nine State Police Corporal positions to enhance public safety in Maine's rural counties and to support county sheriff department efforts. This will allow additional traffic safety enforcement, rural policing services, rural patrol capacity, and coordination of services in some of our more rural counties, including Aroostook, Washington, Somerset, Franklin, and Piscataquis. It would also allow for increased

patrol and policing capacity in the more rural areas of Androscoggin County. With an increase in targeted staffing, Maine's State Police force will be able to provide essential services in areas of the state with the greatest need.

Additionally, the Maine State Police fields specialty teams including the Emergency Services Unit, Major Crimes Unit, crash reconstructionists, dive teams and more. These teams are offered to local and county departments to further their public safety missions. By increasing the staffing levels in the areas listed above allows the State Police, in turn, to properly staff these essential specialty teams to assist their law enforcement partners.

For these reasons, the Maine Chiefs of Police Association supports the passage of LD 477. We respectfully ask members of the Committee to vote in favor of the legislation.