



# Maine Sheriffs' Association

*"One Team, One Mission"*

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Sheriff Troy Morton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Sheriff Scott Kane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Sheriff Barry Curtis, Secretary –  
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February 26, 2025

## **TESTIMONY OF SHERIFF BILL KING MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

### **LD 419 - An Act to Increase the Transparency and Accountability of the Maine Information and Analysis Center**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Sheriff Bill King, and I am here today on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs' Association. I have had the privilege of protecting and serving the citizens of York County since 2012.

The Maine Sheriffs' Association legislative policy committee reviewed this bill. Before taking our position of opposition, we evaluated MIAC and its impact on county law enforcement. MIAC provides vital resources, expertise, and information to all Maine law enforcement agencies. They have tools to detect, prevent, investigate, and respond to criminal activity.

Increasing the Transparency and Accountability would typically be an objective that Maine sheriffs would fully support, however, as written, this bill duplicates work already being conducted. The auditor position created in L.D. 419 would mirror the work that the MIAC privacy officer and advisory board already produces. The privacy officer is an attorney assigned by the Attorney General. The biannual audits required in this bill are another example of work that is being done and done well.

You may recall some of the stories about our work with MIAC in previous sessions, but I would like to illustrate what MIAC does for those of you who may not fully understand the scope of this work. The York County Sheriff's Office contacted the Maine Information and Analysis Center for assistance with two armed robberies in York County in which a male and female were identified as likely suspects. The violence displayed during the armed robbery was alarming and we knew that these suspects needed apprehension.

We developed information that the female suspect had stolen her grandmother's vehicle and may seek refuge in Montana, so we requested the assistance of MIAC with the dissemination of information to locate them. We surmised that they may continue their crime spree to support their cross-country escape.

*MIAC became the central hub for the sharing of information related to the investigation between authorities in Maine and those assisting outside the State of Maine.*

Intelligence sources found that the suspects were likely in the North Dakota area and were continuing to travel west. Approximately six days after the suspects fled Maine; and based on

the analysis of the direction of travel of the fugitives it was determined the suspects were in South Dakota but were likely headed to Montana. The South Dakota Fusion Center and the Montana Analysis & Technical Information Center were contacted and deployed law enforcement resources to the area to capture the two wanted fugitives.

Working late into the evening, MIAC staff coordinated with the Montana Analysis & Technical Information Center and the Montana Highway Patrol for the safe apprehension of the violent suspects. MIAC staff then coordinated the exchange of information roadside with the troopers in Montana and the investigators at the York County Sheriff's Office to ensure the proper handling of evidence.

As members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, we trust you will recognize that MIAC is a remarkable tool that law enforcement around the state depends on. We urge you to unanimously oppose this bill by voting ought not to pass.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.