



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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March 10, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF
SHERIFF SCOTT KANE
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

IN OPPOSITION TO

**LD 639 – An Act to Improve Training Opportunities
for Law Enforcement Officers**

LD 723 - An Act Requiring the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a Nonresidential Basic Law Enforcement Training Program

Good afternoon, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and valued members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety committee. My name is Scott Kane. I am the Sheriff of Hancock County and 2nd Vice-President of the Maine Sheriffs' Association. Maine's Sheriffs are opposed to both **LD 639 An Act to Improve Training Opportunities for Law Enforcement Officers** and **LD 723 An Act Requiring the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a Nonresidential Basic Law Enforcement Training Program.** We combined our opposition for these two bills as they have the same objective – to provide law enforcement training away from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Vassalboro.

Your Maine sheriffs had a robust discussion about the potential for creating an alternative location for law enforcement training. We understand the reasons behind these bills and believe they're all well-intentioned. Ultimately, those participating in our legislative policy committee were unanimous in its opposition.

Maine is geographically a very large state creating obvious challenges for those that are not close to central Maine. We took this into consideration when evaluating these two bills. Our final conclusions are outlined below:

- ✪ You cannot reduce the full immersion training and shoehorn it into a college curriculum or tech school.
- ✪ There is value in physically working through scenarios in the Criminal Justice Academy that would be impossible to recreate off campus.
- ✪ There is no waiting list at the Academy, which was listed in previous attempts to provide satellite locations.
- ✪ We believe this would create two sets of standards, with or without intention. It's critical for all law enforcement agencies to have identical training and standards.

If you wish to learn more about our opposition or have questions, I am happy to provide answers. Thank you for your consideration.