



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

Sheriff Scott Nichols, President

Sheriff Troy Morton, 1st Vice-President, Sheriff Scott Kane, 2nd Vice-President – Sheriff Barry Curtis, Secretary –
Sheriff Todd Brackett, Treasurer – Sheriff Dale P. Lancaster, Immediate Past President –
Sheriff Kevin Joyce, Past President-at-Large - Mary-Anne LaMarre, Executive Director

March 10, 2025

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

IN OPPOSITION TO

**LD 726 - An Act to Protect Municipalities' Investment
in Law Enforcement Officers**

Good afternoon Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and honorable 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 **LD 726 - An Act to Protect Municipalities' Investment in Law Enforcement Officers.**

One of the most difficult parts of our work under the dome is testifying in opposition to a bill that we know was created with the best of intentions. We deeply appreciate the co-sponsors of this bill that are members of this esteemed committee. We know that you're hearing our concerns and working together to pave the way to resolutions that meet the needs of all law enforcement agencies, however, LD 726 is not a solution.

All law enforcement agencies have staffing challenges that include other agencies hiring trained staff from one another. When we discussed this bill in depth, the bottom line was that there are many more components of changing agencies that this bill could not possibly address. A staff member wants to move closer to family, a staff member's spouse has an opportunity in a different part of the state, etc.

Also, we all have budget numbers in place for the current practices, and we're all taking in officers from other agencies for these same reasons. The conditions outlined in this bill would be extremely difficult for counties to include in their budgets.

Co-Sponsors Senator Beebe-Center, Senator Harrington, Representative Hasenfus, and Representative Perkins, thank you for your work on this bill.

And thank you to all members of Criminal Justice for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.