



Maine Chiefs of Police Association

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Statement in support of

L.D. 102, An Act to Notify the Public of Juveniles Who Are Wanted Persons

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

March 26, 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 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 102.

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.

Under this proposal, criminal justice agencies would be authorized to provide certain juvenile history record information to the public for the purpose of apprehending a juvenile who has escaped from custody, or a warrant of arrest has been issued alleging the juvenile has committed murder or a Class A, B, C or D crime. Information that could be shared includes the juvenile's name, date of birth, physical description, photograph, location of alleged escape if applicable, any crime listed on an arrest warrant if applicable, and whether the juvenile may present a risk to public safety.

Public safety is always top of mind for law enforcement officers. If an offender escapes custody or an arrest warrant is issued for an individual, the public deserves to be informed regardless of the individual's age. Not only is this important for the safety of the community, but sharing information about the individual with the public can help locate the person in question.

Individuals who have committed serious crimes may pose a danger to others or continue to engage in criminal activity, resulting in additional victims or danger to the community. Quickly identifying and locating escaped or wanted individuals will help prevent these situations from occurring.

It is also important to remember that juveniles may need resources for their own protection. If a juvenile is on the run for an extended period, they may be more susceptible to exposing themselves to dangerous situations or others who may negatively influence their future actions . We also want to make sure that they get the help and support they need. Early intervention can help ensure that they receive necessary mental health assessments and services before they continue down a path in which there is no return.

For these reasons, the Maine Chiefs of Police Association supports the passage this legislation. We ask the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 102.