



Maine Chiefs of Police Association

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

Chief Jason Moen - President

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

email: mcopa@maine.rr.com

Web site: www.mainechiefs.com

Statement in support of

L.D. 1024, An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

March 31, 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 1024.

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.

This bill amends Maine's so-called Good Samaritan law concerning drug-related medical assistance by adding possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, unlawful trafficking in scheduled drugs, and unlawfully furnishing scheduled drugs to the list of crimes that do not qualify for immunity under that law.

Law enforcement officers throughout Maine understand the importance of getting medical help to drug overdose victims at the earliest possible moment. That is why our organization supported the enactment of Maine's Good Samaritan law introduced in 2019. That law provides for an affirmative defense for both the person experiencing an overdose and the person providing aid or who calls for medical assistance. Within that law, a series of crimes were included that are not subject to immunity, including but not limited to sex crimes, crimes of violence, and crimes against children. However, persons involved in unlawful furnishing and

trafficking of drugs, as well as being in possession of a prohibited firearm, would avoid prosecution under this law.

Those engaging in unlawful drug trafficking or furnishing should not be covered under the immunity provisions of the Good Samaritan law. These illegal activities endanger public health and safety. Allowing individuals involved in these activities to avoid legal ramifications would undercut efforts of law enforcement to combat Maine's criminal drug market. It is these very people who are responsible for the drug overdoses overwhelming our state. We have seen individuals abuse our immunity law, knowing that they will avoid arrest for their drug-related crimes, even if those actions cause an overdose. Maine's Good Samaritan law should not be protecting those who are profiting from someone's drug addiction.

Furthermore, Maine law clearly prohibits certain individuals from possessing a firearm, including felons and individuals subject to certain restraining orders. Many have engaged in criminal activity in which having a firearm in their possession makes them a credible threat to others. Turning a blind eye to those who should not have these weapons undermines the very intent of these prohibitions.

For these reasons, we ask you to support LD 1024 and vote to pass this bill.