



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE STATE POLICE**

**Colonel William Ross
CHIEF**

**LTC Brian Scott
DEPUTY CHIEF**

**TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW RUEL
DIRECTOR, STATE BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION**

Neither for Nor Against LD 1215

Members of the Committee:

My name is Matthew Ruel, and I am the Director of the State Bureau of Identification within the Department of Public Safety. I provide this testimony on behalf of the Administration in Neither for Nor Against LD 1215.

SBI serves as the repository of all criminal history information in the state and currently provides criminal history for law enforcement and public purposes. We are responsible for providing this information to law enforcement across the country, from the officer roadside all the way through the criminal justice process up to judges making sentencing decisions. This information is also used as part of hiring, certification, and licensing requirements on a state and national level. Many organizations rely on this information to vet potential employees or volunteers that have direct contact with vulnerable populations. SBI also administers the state Sex Offender Registry website and administrative functions.

I provide this testimony Neither for Nor Against LD 1215. Our understanding of this LD is that it would open up the residency restrictions statute and potentially create an environment where each jurisdiction can have their own residency requirements which could create a scenario where a registrant could have no ability to reside in a particular town. We also have concerns that opening the sex offender registration statute could open the registry to new lawsuits which would put the whole registry at risk. We would recommend this LD be referred to the Sex Offender Registry Commission for further study. We are aware that the AG's office representative to the commission has been in contact with the bills sponsor and believe a deeper review is needed before any changes are considered.

If there is any further information needed or questions I can answer, please let me know and I will do my best to provide it to the committee for any work session.