



# Maine Sheriffs' Association

*"One Team, One Mission"*

**Sheriff Scott Nichols, President**

Sheriff Troy Morton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Sheriff Scott Kane, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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April 7, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF  
SHERIFF KEVIN JOYCE  
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

**LD 421 – An Act to Eliminate Barriers to Reentry into the Community After Incarceration  
by Repealing Certain Driver's License Suspension Provisions**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Sheriff Kevin Joyce. I am the sheriff of Cumberland County and I am here on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs Association.

Your Maine Sheriffs have taken the unanimous position of **OPPOSITION** for LD 421 - An Act to Eliminate Barriers to Reentry into the Community After Incarceration by Repealing Certain Driver's License Suspension Provisions.

When an individual commits an unlawful act identified in Title 17-A, chapter 45, and specifically listed in the proposed language for this bill, the individual's charges will be heard in a court of law. The judge presiding over the hearing will have the benefit of having all facts pertaining to the case. If the judge hears all the evidence and prohibits the individual from operating a motor vehicle, that decision is based on layers of information about the perpetrator and how suspension could impair the defendant's ability to get a job, attend therapy, or see a doctor. Currently, the court has the authority to suspend the privilege of operating a motor vehicle. There is nothing in the law that mandates the court to impose these sanctions.

The only change that would occur with the passage of LD 421 is that the court system would lose the ability to hear a case, ascertain that public safety could be at risk if the defendant was allowed to drive, and be unable to invoke a suspension for six months, a year, up to five years.

Judges, when they're sworn into their roles, vow to administer justice faithfully and without prejudice. Maine sheriffs put our trust in Maine's honorable court system and we urge you to do so as well, by opposing LD 421.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.