



# 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 4, 2025

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

**LD 1189 – An Act To Prohibit Arrest And Detention For Civil Violations And  
Require An Attorney For The State To Determine Whether To  
Charge A Class E Offense As A Civil Violation**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. 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 1189 – An Act To Prohibit Arrest And Detention For Civil Violations And Require An Attorney For The State To Determine Whether To Charge A Class E Offense As A Civil Violation.

When reviewing this bill, the sheriffs had significant concerns about the wording and/or intent. As written, we believe that pulling over an individual for a traffic infraction could be considered detaining that individual. Implementing this language could nearly eliminate our ability to patrol our communities.

Further, having an attorney for the State ascertain the charges of the unlawful activity is a flawed concept. This is an added step to an already overwhelmed system.

Maine's sheriffs believe there is no nefarious intent with LD 1189, however, the implementation of this bill could have a great negative impact on public safety in Maine. We urge you to vote ought not to pass.

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