



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

Sheriff Scott Nichols, President

Sheriff Troy Morton, 1st Vice-President, Sheriff Scott Kane, 2nd 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

April 7, 2025

TESTIMONY OF SHERIFF KEVIN JOYCE MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

LD 1295 – An Act to Waive Basic Law Enforcement Training Requirements for Full-time Law Enforcement Officers Who Have Successfully Completed Equivalent Courses in Other Jurisdictions

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and distinguished 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 majority position of **OPPOSITION** for LD 1295 - An Act to Waive Basic Law Enforcement Training Requirements for Full-time Law Enforcement Officers Who Have Successfully Completed Equivalent Courses in Other Jurisdictions.

While Maine sheriffs understand the logic behind this bill, we have concerns about consistency. Currently, all Maine law enforcement officers have trained at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Every municipal officer, state trooper, and county sheriff went through the same grueling process, but more importantly, we learned together. We all start our careers with the same knowledge base and the same standards.

We are concerned about how to determine the accuracy of 'equivalent' courses. While we do understand this bill's passage would potentially allow us to fill vacancies that are prevalent in every county in Maine, our steadfast commitment to public safety comes first. One sheriff in our discussion said it best, "We have a set of standards that we live by and passing this bill would eliminate these shared standards and values."

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