



# 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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March 31, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF  
SHERIFF SCOTT NICHOLS  
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

**LD 1034 - An Act to Decriminalize Personal Possession of  
Therapeutic Amounts of Psilocybin for Adults**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Scott Nichols. I am the sheriff of Franklin County. I am President of the Maine Sheriffs Association, and I am here on their behalf.

Your Maine Sheriffs have taken the unanimous position of **OPPOSITION** for LD 1034 An Act to Decriminalize Personal Possession of Therapeutic Amounts of Psilocybin for Adults.

In the last State of Maine session, lawmakers passed a bill that established the Commission to Study Pathways for Creating a Psilocybin Services Program in Maine. That bill, LD 1914, died upon the conclusion of the 131<sup>st</sup> legislature. We bring this up because just one year ago, Maine lawmakers identified the need to study this currently illegal drug. LD 1034 was not developed because of the findings of this commission, but rather, moved forward without the benefit of fact finding.

There is no evidence that Psilocybin users become addicted to the drug, however, that does not negate the risks involved with its consumption. Some of the effects include nausea, vomiting, and lack of coordination. It prevents users from differentiating from reality from fantasy. Panic and psychosis are also documented side effects. As a public servant for over forty years, I can attest to the dangers of those effects and outcomes that create a dangerous outcomes for users and those around them.

Psilocybin is a schedule 1 substance under the Controlled Substance Act. You may be more familiar with other schedule 1 drugs such as heroin, LSD, and opium. This designation was made by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. The USDEA summarizes schedule 1 drugs as, "Drugs with no accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse."

Maine sheriffs have worked closely with this committee to provide services for those citizens who suffer from substance use disorders. Maine does not need more illicit drugs. Maine Sheriffs urge you to vote in opposition of LD 1034.

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