



Maine Chiefs of Police Association
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Statement in opposition to

L.D. 1600, An Act to Provide Regional Support Funding for Municipal Police Departments to Support Special Response Teams

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

April 28, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Jason Moen. I am the Chief of the Auburn Police Department, and President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in opposition to LD 1600.

The mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

As drafted, this bill creates the Special Response Team Fund to reimburse municipalities that maintain and operate special response teams, which are elite tactical law enforcement teams certified by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy that rapidly respond to high-risk law enforcement operations and conduct criminal investigations that exceed the capabilities of standard law enforcement agencies and require specialized training, equipment, and tactics. Each county would be required to contribute annually a pro rata share based upon population of an amount equal to refund 10 percent of the previous year's expenses that each municipality spent to maintain and operate a special response team.

While we fully support the need for highly trained tactical units and acknowledge the important role they serve in protecting public safety, we are concerned that this bill creates an inequitable funding mechanism. Specifically, it would require municipalities that rely on the Maine State

Police Tactical Team—an elite, state-funded unit available at no cost—to subsidize municipal tactical teams through county taxes, even if they do not use or benefit from those local teams.

This approach effectively forces communities to help fund services they already receive from the State Police, and shifts a financial burden onto towns and cities that have made a different, and entirely valid, operational choice. We believe public safety resources should be supported equitably and efficiently, without penalizing municipalities for relying on state services.

For these reasons, we oppose the passage of LD 1600 and ask the committee to vote ought not to pass.