



Maine Chiefs of Police Association
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Statement in support of

L.D. 1773, An Act to Criminalize Certain Offenses Related to Gift Card Thefts

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

April 30, 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 support of LD 1773.

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.

This proposal adds gift cards to the definition of "retail merchandise," ensuring that their theft is fully covered under the state's organized retail theft laws. Though brief in length, this bill has the potential to make a real difference by giving law enforcement a stronger legal basis to investigate and prosecute gift card-related fraud.

Law enforcement agencies have seen a troubling rise in crimes involving retail gift cards. These are not small-time thefts. Organized criminal groups are targeting unactivated gift cards on store shelves. Once stolen, they tamper with the activation information and return the cards to the displays. When an unsuspecting customer buys and activates one of these cards, the funds are immediately redirected to the scammer—leaving the buyer with nothing.

The measures in this bill are straightforward and reasonable. They provide law enforcement with a much-needed tool to crack down on this growing form of retail fraud.

For these reasons, we support the passage of LD 1773 and ask the committee to vote Ought to Pass.