



# 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

---

May 19, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF  
SHERIFF KEN MASON  
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

**In opposition to**

**LD 1971 – Act To Protect Workers In This State By Clarifying The Relationship Of State And  
Local Law Enforcement Agencies With Federal Immigration Authorities**

**&**

**LD 1259 - An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local  
and Federal Law Enforcement**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Sheriff Ken Mason, and I have had the privilege to protect and serve Maine citizens since 1987. I am Chairman of the Maine Sheriffs Association's Legislative Policy Committee, and I am here today on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs' Association.

Your Maine Sheriffs have taken the unanimous position of **OPPOSITION** for both LD 1971 – An Act To Protect Workers In This State By Clarifying The Relationship Of State And Local Law Enforcement Agencies With Federal Immigration Authorities and LD 1259 - An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement.

As elected law enforcement officers, sheriffs are keenly aware of events unfolding across the country that are linked to political agendas. The MSA's unanimous votes on these bills reflect the position that there is both legal and illegal immigration. Current actions related to immigration in our country can be polarizing, however, these bills are not in the best interest of public safety in Maine.

Maine's sheriffs recognize and applaud Representative Rana, Representative Dhalac, and the other sponsors for their concerns about immigration. We believe the unintended consequences of LD 1971 and LD 1259 cannot be ignored. If passed, this legislation could violate federal law. If a sheriff receives a detainer, the sheriff is not obligated to detain. It is required that they have probable cause to hold the individual, and in most cases, ICE is notified of the individual's pending release so ICE can take them into custody.

As sheriffs, we cannot and should not be forced to pick and choose which state and federal laws to enforce. Nor should we be forced to not cooperate with our federal law enforcement partners. State and local police have no business in unilaterally enforcing immigration law, but standing in the way of immigration enforcement without some constitutional right to do so is wrong.

We appreciate the opportunity to present our concerns. I am happy to answer any questions you may have now or during the work session.