



NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES UNION

195 Russell Street, Suite B-13, 2nd Flr, Hadley, MA 01035



01/09/2026

Joint Standing Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
100 State House Station, Rm. 436
Augusta, ME 04333
By email to CJPS@legislature.maine.gov

RE: LD1980 - An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Distinguished Legislative Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee;

My name is William Doyle. Currently I serve in the role of Executive Director for the National Correctional Employees Unions (NCEU). The National Correctional Employees Union (NCEU) represents nine (9) County Correctional Units in the State of Maine comprising of approx. five hundred (500) members from York to Aroostook County. We have been advocating for correctional, communication, and law enforcement officer salaries and benefits since 2010 in the State of Maine.

The NCEU would like to thank the Sponsor Senator Beebe-Center for your efforts and support for the law enforcement community. The NCEU wholeheartedly supports this legislation implementing the recommendations of the stakeholder group, with some recommended amendments.

Sec. 3., 2-H. – Training regarding officer wellness. – ADD the Basic Corrections training program

Chpt. 415, §3891, Sub-Sec. 2 Membership – ADD an individual representing the National Correctional Employees Union

The recommendations being presented are reasonable and support former rebuttable presumption legislation recognizing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a reason for disability. The challenges our LEO's face daily accumulates over time, especially during the course of a career. From car wrecks to hanging attempts, our LEO's see traumatic events at a greater rate than non-first responder careers. A 2012 national study of nearly 3,000 correctional officers and staff conducted by Caterina Spinaris, Ph.D. with Desert Waters Outreach in Colorado found a 27% PTSD rate among all correctional staff and a depression rate of 26%. Among security personnel the rate is 34%, substantially higher than the general population and all other first responders. A wellness program designed to educate and provide healthy coping mechanisms for law enforcement officers will help reduce workplace errors and disciplinary actions.

But with the abundance of employment options paying similarly, the evolving Maine Criminal Justice Academy Standards, and general lack of stable scheduling, it's becoming increasingly more difficult to attract and retain correctional and other first responder personnel. The NCEU, FOP, MAP, and other agencies have recently encountered some issues at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, where these aforementioned standards are challenging employment norms and undermining collective bargaining. While the previous legislature's thought process of allowing the MCJA rulemaking authority was to enhance the law enforcement profession, the result is more alarming and eventually going to exacerbate current staffing shortages.

In closing, the NCEU would like to reiterate our support for LD1980 and urge the committee and full legislature pass this important piece of legislation. Thank you very much for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions.

In Solidarity,

William Doyle
Executive Director

Office: 413-788-6238

Fax: 413-273-1023

www.nceu.org