



## **Maine Chiefs of Police Association**

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### **Statement in support of**

### **L.D. 2137, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers**

### **Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

**January 22, 2026**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and honorable members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Scott Stewart. I am the Chief of the Brunswick Police Department, and the president of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am providing testimony on behalf of the Association in support of LD 2137.

The Maine Chiefs of Police Association's mission is straightforward: to strengthen the working relationships among Maine's police leaders, to promote professionalism and consistent standards across the state, and to support the men and women who serve our communities every day. At the heart of that mission is a shared commitment to protecting life and property and upholding the values of our profession.

Our municipal law enforcement agencies spend far more time on parking issues than many people realize. What seem like simple, quick matters often require real staff time, follow-up, and administrative work. The changes proposed in LD 2137 would make that work clearer, more efficient, and more consistent across Maine communities.

Removing the requirement to post parking-fee signs at every single entrance and exit is a practical adjustment. Municipalities do their best to keep up with the current mandate, but signs are frequently damaged, moved, or buried under snow. Replacing them over and over again strains already tight budgets. And when even one sign goes missing, it can undermine the validity of an otherwise legitimate citation. That creates frustration for

the public and for officers who are simply trying to enforce the rules fairly. Streamlining this requirement benefits everyone involved.

The bill also improves the process for issuing parking fines by requiring that a written notice be placed on the vehicle at the time of the violation. This is already standard practice in most departments, and it's a straightforward, transparent way to let someone know a violation occurred. It reduces confusion, cuts down on complaints, and gives officers a clear, consistent procedure to follow.

Finally, requiring the notice to include the vehicle's license plate number, state, and registration type is just sound recordkeeping. These details help ensure accuracy, prevent clerical errors, and make it easier to resolve disputes quickly when they arise.

The changes outlined in LD 2137 make parking enforcement more efficient, more transparent, and more reliable for the public. For these reasons, the Maine Chiefs of Police Association supports this bill and respectfully asks the Committee to do the same.