



Maine Chiefs of Police Association
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Statement in support of

L.D. 2073, An Act to Add Positions to the Maine State Police Executive Protection Unit

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

February 9, 2026

Senator Beebe Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety 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 2073.

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.

This bill proposes adding two State Police Detective positions to the Executive Protection Unit within the Department of Public Safety. While these positions do not directly increase staffing or funding for municipal police departments, the Maine Chiefs of Police view LD 2073 as a meaningful and necessary investment in the overall safety of our state.

The Executive Protection Unit is charged with protecting the Governor, the Governor's family, and any additional individuals designated by the Governor or the Department. Its members receive advanced training in personal protection, physical security, and threat

assessment. The unit also works in close partnership with state, local, and federal agencies to ensure comprehensive security for the Governor and for visiting dignitaries.

The work of the EPU extends far beyond individual protection. It is essential to maintaining continuity of government, sustaining public confidence, and ensuring that state leaders can perform their duties safely and without interruption. In recent years, the demands placed on this unit have increased significantly in both volume and complexity. Threat assessments, public event security, and rapid response capabilities all require specialized expertise and sufficient staffing.

When the Executive Protection Unit is understaffed, the strain is felt across Maine's entire law enforcement community. Municipal departments are frequently asked to fill gaps, assist with protective details, or respond to threats involving state officials. These responsibilities, while important, pull local officers away from community policing and core public safety functions.

By adding these two detective positions, LD 2073 strengthens the State Police's ability to meet its executive protection responsibilities without shifting additional burdens onto municipal agencies. This investment will enhance coordination, improve threat management, and contribute to a safer environment for both the public and the officers who serve them.

For these reasons, the Maine Chiefs of Police Association respectfully urges the Committee to support LD 2073.