



NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES UNION

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



02/10/2026

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: LD2090-An Act to Establish a One-year Probationary Period for Public Safety Dispatchers

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 Union (NCEU). The National Correctional Employees Union (NCEU) represents nine (9) County Correctional Units including dispatchers 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 Bunker for your efforts and support for the law enforcement community in this bill, as well as others. However, the NCEU rises in **opposition** to this proposed bill requiring a one year probation period.

Under the current state statute 30-M.R.S.A § 2701, employee probation periods are set at six (6) month, *“Except as specifically provided otherwise by charter or ordinance....”*

This proposed law change would extend the current probation period to one year, not to mention undermine collective bargaining. Probation periods, outside of law, are mandatory subjects of bargaining. Many collective bargaining agreements allow for increased probation periods and mutually agreed upon extensions. The proposed change is another example of attempting to fix a problem that doesn't exist.

If changed, the employer would be able to dismiss, suspend, or discipline employees for up to twelve (12) months without Just Cause or Cause at all. The imposed discipline or dismissal would be outside the collective bargaining agreement and not subject to the grievance and arbitration provision of the contract.

Management currently has six (6) months to decide whether an employee is a good fit or not up to the essential functions of the job. There's no good reason to extend the probation period for the hard working men and women who answer the call and are subjected to forced trauma when the phone rings. Let us not forget, Communication officers were added to the Rebuttal Presumption Disability legislation regarding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to their work environment.

In closing, the NCEU would like to reiterate our **OPPOSITION** for LD2090 and urge the committee to vote Ought Not To Pass (ONTP). 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