



Maine Municipal  
Association

60 COMMUNITY DRIVE  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-9486  
(207) 623-8428  
[www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org)

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against LD 1475

*An Act To Eliminate Profiling in Maine*

May 13, 2019

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Senator Carpenter, Representative Bailey, members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Garrett Corbin and I am offering this testimony neither for nor against LD 1475 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association at the direction of its statewide Legislative Policy Committee.

The municipal officials who comprise the Association's Policy Committee gave serious consideration to both the aim of the bill, and the manner in which its language accomplishes that aim. MMA wishes to be clear: the municipal community does not in any way condone practices which may lead to investigation of persons based on their race, gender, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, ancestry or national origin. It is inappropriate for probable cause, or even suspicion, to be linked to these factors. This legislation appropriately ties law enforcement activity, rather, to characteristics associated with criminal incidents or schemes.

That said, there is serious concern within the municipal community that the data collection mechanism proposed in LD 1475 to eliminate profiling will be both overly burdensome on the law enforcement community as well as counterproductive to the goal. The basis of this concern is the requirement in the proposed section 4806(2)(B)(1) and (3) for reporting on the profiling factors and analysis of profiling based on the officers' perception. It will be difficult to reduce the extent to which these factors enter into an investigatory determination if the statutorily required reporting focuses primarily on those factors. There is also a sense of some degree of redundancy in that local law enforcement agencies already receive training and anti-profiling education.

The Association respectfully encourages the Judiciary Committee to balance the importance of accomplishing the overarching policy goal with the practical impacts and outcomes of the methods that may be required by the new tracking policies this legislation proposes to enact into state laws and regulations.