

TESTIMONY  
OF  
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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Criminal  
Justice and Public Safety

Hearing Date: February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State  
Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law  
Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June  
30, 2024 and June 30, 2025”**

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Beebe-Center, Representative  
Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.  
My name is Michael Sauschuck, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.  
I am here today to testify in support of the biennial budget.

**Overall Budget**

This budget advances the Governor’s guiding belief that to build a stronger, more  
prosperous state where opportunity is available to all, we must invest in the infrastructure that  
supports the people of Maine, our greatest asset.

That is why this budget proposal strengthens the very things that Maine people rely on  
every day to succeed, building on the strong success of the currently enacted budget and the last  
legislative session to tackle Maine’s greatest challenges.

We have governed cautiously and in a fiscally prudent way over the past four years,  
making sure that – even in the hardest of times during the pandemic – we lived within our  
means. This budget proposal continues that practice.

We look forward to the discussions over the next several months as we outline each initiative and impact of the proposed investments.

### **Departmental Overview**

The Department of Public Safety was established to serve the people by providing, coordinating, and leading a responsive and comprehensive public safety system to protect their lives, rights, and properties. This broad mission is accomplished with 643 positions spread across 10 bureaus. The Bureaus are Administration, Capitol Police, Consolidated Emergency Communications, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Marshal's Office, Gambling Control, Highway Safety, Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Maine State Police.

### **Administration – Public Safety**

I will begin today on Page A-576 with Administration – Public Safety Program. This Program is the Commissioner's Office, and it oversees the activities and programs of the bureaus and offices, undertakes comprehensive planning, develops and implements procedures and practices to promote economy and coordination within the department and actively seeks cooperation between the department and all other law enforcement entities in the State. The office houses the public information office and coordinates with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for information technology, financial, and human resource services.

The first initiative provides funding for increases to statewide technology services and adjusts the baseline budget in the General Fund by \$4,035 in both FY24 and FY25. With the increase in MaineIT Rates the Department of Public Safety will experience a 13% increase in costs from \$4.6 million to \$5.2 million just to maintain current services.

The next initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the General Fund and Federal Expenditures Fund by \$231 each in FY24 and FY25. The request also increases the Other Special Revenue Fund by \$77. There is also a Highway Fund increase that will be discussed under the Highway Fund budget at a later date. MaineIT rate and insurance premium rate increases will be a common theme as I progress through the remainder of my testimony.

The third initiative provides funding for increases to the Department's share of the cost for the Financial and Human Resources Service Center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. The cost of these services has increased by 25% compared to the \$1 million we are expected to pay in FY23. This request will increase the General Fund by \$89,186 and the Highway Fund by \$163,507 in FY24 and FY25. There is also a Highway Fund impact labeled as "HIGHWAY FUND – Informational" as this will be discussed under the Highway Fund budget on March 2nd. You will see entries labeled as "HIGHWAY FUND – Informational" throughout the budget document.

The final initiative in the Administration account continues and makes permanent one Senior Contract Grant Specialist position previously continued by Financial Order CV0442 F3 and provides funding for related All Other costs. This position is responsible for managing the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program grant, Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program grant, and other potential future federal funding opportunities to ensure they are awarded, expended, and reported upon appropriately. The position will be funded by federal grants provided by the US Department of Justice. The increase to the Federal Expenditures Fund is one headcount and Personal Services of \$102,443 in FY24 and \$107,952 in FY25 and All Other of \$2,600 in FY24 and FY25.

### **Background Checks – Certified Nursing Assistants**

The next program, Background Checks – Certified Nursing Assistants, begins on page A-578. This program within the State Bureau of Identification implements and maintains a system to perform fingerprint-based background checks for individuals who enroll and complete the courses to become a Certified Nursing Assistant for the Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants.

The only two initiatives in this program are related to the MaineIT and Risk Management rate increases explained previously. The first request related to MaineIT includes General Fund increases of \$376 in both years. The second request related to Risk Management Insurance Coverage includes General Fund increases of \$77 in both years.

### **Capitol Police – Bureau of**

The next program, the Bureau of Capitol Police (Capitol Police), begins on page A-579. The Capitol Police is a law enforcement agency responsible for the safety of the people and the security of the buildings that make up Maine's seat of government. The Capitol Police patrol the State owned or controlled property in Augusta, enforces laws, including parking and traffic regulations, and respond to alarms and other calls for help or assistance on two campuses. The Capitol Police night watchpersons check the security of approximately 50 State owned buildings and properties in Augusta and Hallowell at night and on weekends.

The Department of Health and Human Services contracts with Capitol Police to provide law enforcement and security at the Riverview Psychiatric facility. This program is staffed by one Sergeant and 4 officers.

The first initiative provides funding for increases to statewide technology services and adjusts the baseline budget in the General Fund by \$16,746 and in the Other Special Revenue Fund by \$10,282 in both FY24 and FY25.

The next initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$1,672 and the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$660 each in FY24 and FY25.

The third initiative provides additional annual funding for professional development and training for staff. This will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$5,000 in FY24 and FY25.

The fourth initiative establishes one Capitol Police Detective to handle all investigations for the Capitol Police and offset the increase in investigations and calls for service. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by one headcount, Personal Services of \$140,177 in FY24 and \$147,053 in FY25, and All Other of \$21,105 in FY24 and FY25.

The fifth initiative provides funding for the Bureau of Capitol Police to use dispatch services through the Augusta Regional Communication Center. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by \$95,000 in both FY24 and FY25.

The sixth and seventh initiatives provide funding for approved management-initiated position reclassifications. The sixth initiative increases Personal Services in the General Fund by \$10,097 in FY24 and \$10,094 in FY25, while the seventh initiative increases Personal Services in the General Fund by \$2,450 in FY24 and \$2,449 in FY25.

### **Computer Crimes**

The next program, Computer Crimes, begins on page A-581. Since its inception in 2000 as a task force, the unit has investigated thousands of cases of child exploitation and analyzed the

associated computers and data storage devices. Additionally, the Unit has evolved into the State's technology support solution for criminal investigations to include fraud, theft, threatening, robbery, stalking, child abduction and homicide cases.

The first initiative provides funding for the annual cost of ongoing cost of specialized software and increases the All Other line in the General Fund by \$81,000 in both FY24 and FY25.

The next initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$1,298 in FY24 and FY25.

The third initiative provides funding for increased costs for contracted investigators within the unit. These investigators are contracted from Kennebec and Waldo County and the counties are reimbursed for county police officers providing services to the Department of Public Safety. The contract language states DPS will pay the salary and benefits of a detective per the MSTA bargaining contract. This request increases the All Other line in the General Fund by \$23,000 in FY24 and FY25.

The fourth initiative provides funding for ongoing annual license costs for computer programs. This will help the investigator who carry an average workload of 100-250 cases related to Cybertips and digital technologies to leverage technology to become more effective and efficient. This request increases the All Other line in the General Fund by \$25,000 in FY24 and FY25.

The fifth and final initiative establishes two State Police Detective Corporal positions to assist with the supervision and resolution of an increasing case load in the Computer Crime Unit. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by two headcount, Personal Services of \$240,322 in FY24 and \$252,390 in FY25, and All Other of \$10,750 in FY24 and FY25.

### **Consolidated Emergency Communications**

The next program, Consolidated Emergency Communications, begins on page A-583. The Consolidated Emergency Communications Bureau was created in 2004 by legislation for the purpose of providing consolidated emergency communications to state, county and local public safety agencies. This Bureau operates three Regional Communications Centers that provide both Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) emergency call taking and emergency dispatch services for police, fire and emergency medical services. The Bureau provides dispatching services for state entities, including the Maine State Police, Marine Patrol, Environmental Protection, Warden Service, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, the State Fire Marshal's Office, Division of Forestry, and the Maine Turnpike Authority.

The first initiative provides funding for increases to statewide technology services and adjusts the baseline budget in the All Other Consolidated Emergency Communications Fund by \$55,709 in both FY24 and FY25.

The next initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the Consolidated Emergency Communications Fund by \$5,107 in both FY24 and FY25.

The third initiative continues and makes permanent 4 Intermittent Emergency Communication Specialist positions initially established by Financial Order 002274 F3 and provides funding for related All Other. This request increases the Consolidated Emergency Communications Fund by two headcount, Personal Services by \$113,512 in FY24 and \$119,788 in FY25, and All Other of \$2,498 in FY24 and \$2,637 in FY25.

The fourth and final initiative provides funding for the approved increase in the recruitment and retention stipend rate from 15% to 30% for Emergency Communication Specialist Supervisors, Emergency Communication Leads, and Emergency Communication

Specialists. This request increases the Personal Services in the Consolidated Emergency Communications Fund by \$519,140 in both FY24 and FY25.

### **Criminal Justice Academy**

The next program to be discussed, Criminal Justice Academy (the Academy), begins on page A-585. The Academy is the facility for training and certification of all criminal justice personnel which includes the basic training program for law enforcement officers, correctional officers, emergency communications dispatchers, judicial marshals, harbor masters and shellfish wardens. It is the training facility for all in-service classes which include supervision and executive training, tactical and evidence collection training and many specialized instructor development training courses.

In addition to the full-time staff, the Academy relies heavily on volunteer instructors from state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies, county and state corrections agencies and other criminal justice fields. The Academy provides many instructor development classes in order that these students can be the future volunteer instructors. This partnership philosophy has been supported by the Police Chiefs and Sheriffs in Maine to provide very cost-effective training to their respective agencies.

The first initiative provides funding for increases to statewide technology services and increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$17,692 in FY24 and \$17,715 in FY25.

The next initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$847 in both FY24 and FY25.

The third initiative establishes one MCJA Training Coordinator position to assist with the training needs of the State's law enforcement officers and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the Other Special Revenue Funds appropriation by one headcount,



Personal Services of \$97,220 in FY24 and \$102,470 in FY25, and All Other of \$20,684 in FY24 and \$21,468 in FY25.

The fourth initiative establishes one Office Associate II position to assist with administrative functions and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the Other Special Revenue Funds appropriation by one headcount, Personal Services of \$73,763 in FY24 and \$78,152 in FY25, and All Other of \$17,184 in FY24 and \$17,839 in FY25.

The fifth and final initiative establishes one Office Associate II position to support existing programs and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the Other Special Revenue Funds appropriation by one headcount, Personal Services of \$73,763 in FY24 and \$78,152 in FY25, and All Other of \$17,184 in FY24 and \$17,839 in FY25.

### **Division of Building Codes and Standards**

The next program to be discussed is the Division of Building Codes and Standards which begins on page A-587. The Division of Building Codes and Standards was created to adopt, amend, and maintain the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Codes. The Division also resolves conflicts between the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Codes and existing state statutes and to provide training for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers, and third-party inspectors.

The first initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$77 in FY24 and \$77 in FY25.

The next initiative continues and makes permanent one Public Safety Inspector III position previously continued by Public Law 2021, Chapter 29 and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the Other Special Revenue Funds appropriation by one headcount,

Personal Services of \$106,984 in FY24 and \$109,009 in FY25, and All Other of \$5,469 in FY24 and \$5,564 in FY25.

### **Maine Drug Enforcement Agency**

The next program, the Drug Enforcement Agency program, begins on page A-588. The Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA) is a statewide multi-jurisdictional task force, with personnel assigned to the task force by municipal, county, state and tribal law enforcement agencies. MDEA's mission is to disrupt the drug market, which undermines the ability of drug suppliers to meet, expand, and profit from drug demand while supporting prevention efforts and contributing to treatment efforts through a collaborative state-wide drug enforcement effort.

The first initiative provides funding for increases to statewide technology services and increases the All Other in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$182,315 in both FY24 and FY25 and the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$989 in both FY24 and FY25.

The next initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$308 in both FY24 and FY25.

The third initiative provides funding for contracted Task Force Commander services for the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. This request increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$158,700 in both FY24 and FY25.

The fourth and final initiative continues and makes permanent one Office Associate II position previously continued by Public Law 2021, Chapter 29 and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by one headcount, Personal Services of \$82,255 in FY24 and \$86,669 in FY25, and All Other of \$3,128 in FY24 and \$3,142 in FY25.

### **Emergency Medical Services**

The next program, Emergency Medical Services, begins on page A-590. The Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program serves as the primary regulatory body for EMS including, but not limited to, training, emergency medical dispatchers (EMDs), EMD centers, equipment, EMS clinicians, vehicles, services, and clinical care protocols for the EMS system in the State of Maine. In doing so, Maine EMS assists, coordinates and delivers training programs for EMS clinicians, EMS administrative staff, and emergency medical dispatchers. Maine EMS works to convene a diverse group of stakeholders throughout the state to collaborate and solve some of these system's most pressing issues. The budget allocated to Maine EMS allows for continued programming including quality assurance/improvement projects, community paramedicine projects, clinical oversight, management of health data, trauma system management, education oversight, inspections and investigations.

The first initiative continues and makes permanent one Public Service Coordinator II position previously established by Financial Order CV0459 F3 and transfers the position from Federal Expenditures Fund to General Fund within the same program and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by one headcount, Personal Services of \$123,937 in FY24 and \$130,576 in FY25, and All Other of \$5,375 in FY24 and FY25.

The next initiative provides funding for the continuation of two limited-period Comprehensive Health Planner II positions previously established by Financial Order 002349 F3 through June 7, 2025. The request increases the Personal Services in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$199,880 in FY24 and \$211,182 in FY25 and All Other by \$2,316 in FY24 and FY25.

The third initiative provides funding for the continuation of one limited-period Health Program Manager position previously established by Financial Order 002281 F3 through June 7,

2025. The request increases the Personal Services in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$104,530 in FY24 and \$110,196 in FY25.

The fourth initiative provides funding for increases to statewide technology services and adjusts the All Other baseline budget in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$591 and in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$4,202 in both FY24 and FY25.

The fifth initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$539 and the All Other in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$154 each in FY24 and FY25.

The sixth initiative provides funding to support the electronic patient care reporting system and the electronic licensing system for emergency medical services and dispatchers. This request increases the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$61,321 in both FY24 and FY25.

The seventh initiative transfers one Emergency Medical Education Training Coordinator position from Federal Expenditures Fund to General Fund within the same program and transfers funding for related All Other costs. The transfer increases the General Fund appropriation by one headcount, Personal Services in the General Fund by \$107,274 in FY24 and \$108,699 in FY25 and All Other by \$5,375 in FY24 and FY25. The transfer decreases the Federal Expenditures Fund appropriation by one headcount, Personal Services in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$107,274 in FY24 and \$108,699 in FY25 and All Other by \$5,375 in FY24 and FY25.

The eighth initiative provides funding to continue and make permanent one Health Program Manager position previously continued by Financial Order CV0459 F3. This initiative also provides funding for the approved reorganization of the position to a Comprehensive Health Planner II position and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the

General Fund appropriation by one headcount, Personal Services of \$110,694 in FY24 and \$116,091 in FY25, and All Other of \$5,375 in FY24 and FY25.

The next initiative continues and makes permanent one Business System Administrator position previously continued by Public Law 2021, Chapter 29 and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the Personal Services in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$114,069 in FY24 and \$119,556 in FY25 and All Other by \$37,565 in FY24 and \$37,741 in FY25.

### **Fire Marshal – Office of**

The next program is the Office of the Fire Marshal, beginning on page A-593. The primary mission of the office is to protect the lives and property of those who live, work, or visit the state. The Inspection Division is primarily responsible for the safety of people at public events; in buildings used by the public; in places of assembly; and in healthcare and childcare facilities. The Investigation Division is primarily responsible for the investigation of fires and explosions. They also regulate the storage of explosives, the storage and use of fireworks, and investigate accidents involving mechanical rides.

The first initiative provides funding for the approved reclassification of a Fire Investigator position to a Senior Fire Investigator position. This increases Personal Services in the General Fund by \$1,957 in FY24 and FY25.

The second initiative provides funding for increases to statewide technology services and increases the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$50,092 in FY24 and \$50,330 in FY25.

The third initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$572 in both FY24 and FY25 and the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$3,366 in both FY24 and FY25.

The fourth initiative establishes three Senior Fire Investigator positions and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by three headcount, Personal Services of \$516,429 in FY24 and \$590,863 in FY25, and All Other of \$16,125 in FY24 and FY25.

The fifth initiative provides funding to purchase two (2) hybrid vehicles for the Fire Marshal's Office. This request is necessary to stay on pace with the Fire Marshal Office's established vehicle replacement schedule of two (2) vehicles a year. This increases the Other Special Revenue Funds Capital Expenditures by \$71,900.

The sixth initiative provides funding for a one-time statewide Fire Service Study and the ongoing annual cost of specialized computer application to analyze the data calculated. This initiative increases the General Fund All Other by \$515,000 in FY24 and \$15,000 in FY25.

The seventh initiative provides funding for the approved reclassification of 5 Fire Investigator positions from range 20 to range 22. This will increase Personal Services in the General Fund by \$20,172 in FY24 and \$20,328 in FY25. This will also increase Personal Services in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$33,268 in FY24 and \$34,470 in FY25 and in the All Other \$554 in FY24 and \$573 in FY25.

The eighth and final initiative provides funding for the approved reclassification of 8 Senior Fire Investigator positions from range 22 to range 24. This will increase Personal Services in the General Fund by \$10,242 in FY24 and FY25. This will also increase Personal Services in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$97,845 in FY24 and \$98,303 in FY25 and in the All Other \$1092 in FY24 and FY25.

### **Gambling Control Unit**

The Gambling Control Unit (the Unit) supports a five-member Board that licenses and regulates companies and employees associated with two casinos, the distribution of casino-related equipment, and advance deposit wagering allowing bets on horse races throughout the country. The Unit also regulates fantasy sports contests and charitable non-profit Games of Chance, Beano, and Bingo.

The first initiative provides funding for increases to statewide technology services and increases the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$52,208 in FY24 and in FY25.

The second initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$1,518 in both FY24 and FY25 and the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$154 in both FY24 and FY25.

The third initiative adjusts funding to align with revenues as recommended in the December 1, 2022 forecast of the Revenue Forecasting Committee. This increases the Other Special Revenue Funds All Other by \$2,112,738 in FY24 and \$1,839,057 in FY25.

### **Highway Safety DPS**

The next program, Highway Safety, begins on page A-598. The Bureau of Highway Safety promotes behavioral driver safety programs and projects designed to make Maine's roads and highways safe. These programs consist of motor vehicle occupant restraint, child restraint, impaired driving, motorcycle safety, speed enforcement, and the Maine defensive driving program. The bureau also is responsible for the annual planning, development, implementation and evaluation of the Highway Safety Plan for Maine. You will note that this Program also has a section for HIGHWAY FUND – Informational.

The first initiative establishes three Highway Safety Coordinator positions and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the Federal Expenditures Fund appropriation by three headcount, Personal Services of \$274,035 in FY24 and \$289,044 in FY25, and All Other of \$10,978 in FY24 and \$11,070 in FY25.

The second initiative provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Senior Contract/Grant Specialist position to a Contract/Grant Manager position. This increases Personal Services in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$7,311 in FY24 and \$7,307 in FY25 and All Other by \$45 in FY24 and FY25.

The third initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the Highway Fund by \$77 in both FY24 and FY25 and the All Other in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$616 in both FY24 and FY25.

#### **Licensing and Enforcement – Public Safety**

The Licensing and Enforcement Unit begins on page A-600. This unit within the Bureau of the Maine State Police is responsible for the licensing functions associated with private investigators, private security guards and concealed firearm permits.

The first initiative provides funding for increases to statewide technology services and increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$1,969 in FY24 and \$1,973 in FY25.

The next initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$286 in both FY24 and FY25.

The third initiative provides funding for the proposed reclassification of one Office Associate II position to an Office Specialist II position and provides funding for related All Other costs. This reclassification has an effective date of February 8, 2022. This increases Personal Services in the General Fund by \$16,535 in FY24 and \$10,000 in FY25.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.