

TESTIMONY
OF
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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Veterans and
Legal Affairs

Hearing Date: March 1st, 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 morning, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing
Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Hickman, Representative Supica,
and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is
Derek Gorneau, and I am the Assistant to 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.

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.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.