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Testimony of Representative Michel Lajoie introducing
**LD 673, An Act to Direct the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a
Nonresidential Law Enforcement Training Program**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Good morning Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and fellow honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Michel Lajoie, and I represent House District 96, which includes a portion of Lewiston. I am here before you today to introduce **LD 673, An Act to Direct the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a Nonresidential Law Enforcement Training Program.**

The need for this bill was brought to my attention by the Auburn Police Department.

Current statute governing basic law enforcement training specifies that in order for an individual to meet the curriculum requirements, the training must take place in a residential setting. LD 673 would add a non-residential option to the existing statute and would provide additional staffing resources to the Board of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for the purpose of evaluating and developing curriculum for a non-residential basic law enforcement training program as a means of increasing candidate recruitment. Requiring candidates to commit to a residential program is a barrier to some individuals pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Further, a non-residential model would help meet staffing requirements by attracting a broader pool of members of the community who may be excellent officers but who are also primary caregivers for young children or aging parents that simply cannot find the coverage or support they would need to complete an 18-week training away from home.

Allowing the Board of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to evaluate and develop the curriculum will ensure that standards for training outcomes are maintained and in consultation with the communities they serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.