

# York County Sheriff's Office

## *Sheriff William L. King Jr.*

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March 13, 2023

### **L.D. 673 – An Act to Direct the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a Nonresidential Law Enforcement Training Program**

**Jeremy D. Forbes**  
*Chief Deputy*

**Nathan C. Thayer**  
*Jail Administrator*

**Paul G. Mitchell**  
*Major*

**Carl L. Ronco**  
*Captain*

**David B. Lambert**  
*Captain*

**Michael Perry**  
*Lieutenant*

**Lori Marks**  
*Lieutenant*

**Administration,  
Police & Civil Division**  
**Myllinda Badger**  
**Julie Edmonson**  
**Stacy Thistlewood**  
1 Layman Way  
Alfred, Maine 04002  
207-324-1113  
Fax: 324-3496

**Corrections Division**  
**Kelly Burnham**  
207-324-9001  
Fax: 459-2562

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Bill King, and I am the Sheriff of York County.

I am optimistic that there is a bill to establish a nonresidential law enforcement training program. While the Maine Criminal Justice Academy (MCJA) does a great job of training our law enforcement officers, my concern is that the current demand is straining their resources. Additionally, a nonresidential structure to the Academy may assist with diversifying our applicant pool to better reflect the communities we serve.

In my experience, it is always a challenge to get an applicant in the Academy. Because their resources are limited, oftentimes, the agency is not told that a seat is available until shortly before the academy commences.

When preparing this testimony, I reviewed the MCJA website and scrolled through **three pages** of agencies seeking employees. Even with the recruiting challenges experienced across the state, obtaining timely basic training continues to be an issue. Allowing the Academy to develop and implement a nonresidential law enforcement program has the potential to dramatically increase the Academy's output by harnessing proven technology by having a remote site and streaming instruction in the same fashion as many other industries and educational institutions.

Clearly, with law enforcement, some training must be conducted in person, but the Board of Trustees will have the ability to structure and develop the program to select the blocks of instruction that are appropriate for remote instruction.

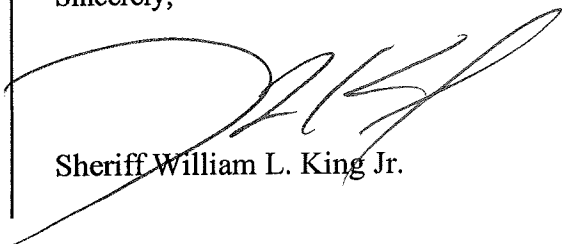
As stated, providing an option of a nonresidential program may also increase and diversify the applicant pool. Cadets that are parents or have extended family obligations or perhaps those with property to maintain, would have a pathway to seek a law enforcement career.

It also bears mentioning that we currently have a waiver program. In this program, the Academy reviews the training that the applicants have received from another state and if it meets the standards, the applicant is granted a training waiver, allowing them to forego the current residential program.

For example, two former NYPD Officers recently obtained waivers to work at the Kennebunk Police Department. As is the case in many police departments throughout the United States, NYPD does not have a residential academy. That said, it is my understanding that the residential component is not necessarily a requirement for the waiver.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my support for LD 673, and I am sorry that my schedule did not allow me to be here in person.

Sincerely,

  
Sheriff William L. King Jr.