



# Maine Sheriffs' Association

*"One Team, One Mission"*

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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**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Jason Trundy. I am the Sheriff of Waldo County and here on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs Association.

Maine sheriffs discussed this bill and those present voted to oppose L.D. 673 – An Act to Direct the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a Nonresidential Law Enforcement Training Program. Maine Sheriffs' legislative policy committee met and discussed this bill in great detail and the majority of our members voted to oppose L.D. 673.

Maine sheriffs voiced many concerns about the impact of this bill should it be enacted. The greatest concern voiced was the need for consistency. Sheriffs who began their careers by attending the Academy share a vast wealth of knowledge from their residential experiences and most feel strongly that this training cannot be replicated in a nonresidential program.

Other concerns that were brought forward include the concern of trainer burnout. With a finite number of trainers, and many law enforcement agencies lending professionals to contribute to the Academy's trainings, how would we protect the integrity of those trainers by developing an off-site program that did not require residency? These trainers are an invaluable resource for a profession that is grappling with critical staffing shortages. We need to protect this resource by not adding an additional expectation for nonresidential training.

U.S. News has again found Maine law enforcement to be rated the best in the nation and we collectively agree that the training provided by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy lays the foundation for that accolade. As proud alumni of this trusted establishment, we urge you to vote Ought Not To Pass on L.D. 673.

I welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Jason Trundy  
O/B/O Maine Sheriffs' Association