



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1440  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

## **Kathy Irene Javner**

131 Pea Ridge Road  
Chester, ME 04457  
Residence: (207) 290-1321  
Kathy.Javner@legislature.maine.gov

March 2023

Good Morning Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. I am Representative Kathy Javner of Chester, and I proudly represent House District 29 which includes several small towns and townships in the northern part of Penobscot County.

In the 130th legislature, it was brought to my attention that the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department was struggling due to an expiring agreement with the Maine State Police. Penobscot County is much more than the better known populated areas surrounding Brewer, Hermon, & Bangor but also reaches some of the most rural parts of our state which are in desperate need of constant coverage from emergency services; especially from our Sheriff Department.

While funding positions would fill many gaps throughout Penobscot County, first and foremost this bill is about public safety. I want to be very clear that living in a rural area does not exclude the need for emergency services in a timely manner.

Should an emergency arise, a resident of rural Penobscot county should have the same expectation for a response that is comparable to more populated areas.

If you haven't been to the Lincoln Lakes or Katahdin Region recently, I invite you to take a ride up 95. You'll experience some of the most beautiful views in our state and you will definitely get a clearer picture of the challenges facing our Sheriff's Department as they work to keep all of our neighborhoods safe. I urge you to join me in supporting LD 756, to ensure safety for Penobscot County, and the entire state of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathy Javner'.

Kathy I. Javner  
State Representative