



MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2431 • South Portland, Maine 04116-2431

Chief Edward J. Tolan (ret.), Executive Director, Tel: (207) 838-6583
email: mcopa@maine.rr.com Web site: www.mainechiefs.com

OFFICERS

President
Chief Charles Rumsey
Cumberland Police Dept.

1st Vice President
Chief Glenn Moshier
Ellsworth Police Dept.

2nd Vice President
Chief Jason Moen
Auburn Police Dept.

Sergeant-at-Arms
Chief Scott Stewart
Brunswick Police Dept.

Treasurer
Chief John Kilbride
Falmouth Police Dept.

Secretary
Chief Michael Tracy
Oakland Police Dept.

Parliamentarian
Director Brian MacMaster
Office of Attorney General

Immediate Past President
Chief Jared Mills
Augusta Police Dept.

Chaplain
Father Gregory Dube
Diocese of Portland

Statement of Neither for Nor Against to L.D. 1492, An Act to Increase the Transparency and Accountability of the Maine Information and Analysis Center May 4, 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the distinguished Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Jason Moen. I am the Chief of the Auburn Police Department, and the Second Vice President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association neither for nor against LD 1492.

The Mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

According to the bill summary,

This bill creates the position of auditor within the Office of the Attorney General for the purpose of conducting systematic, ongoing oversight of the Department of Public Safety, Maine Information and Analysis Center, a cooperative effort between the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency and the State Police, to help bring transparency and accountability to its operations and to ensure that the center operates within the law and in a manner that preserves the privacy and liberty of all people in the State and directs the auditor to include certain reviews in the auditor's first required report. The bill provides that information shared by the center with a private entity is a public record within the meaning of the Freedom of Access Act.

The Maine Chiefs do not believe that changes are necessary to the status of the Maine Information and Analysis Center because we believe in the importance of information sharing and have seen firsthand the value of having the Center as a partner in protecting this State.

However, we respect that the committee members might feel like more oversight is needed and so, if changes are to be made then we would encourage the members to

support LD 1492 as opposed to LD 1290. LD 1290 would terminate the Center and we are deeply concerned about our ability to protect the State without the Center as a valuable partner.

On behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, we want to thank the committee members for your work on this Committee.