



# Maine Sheriffs' Association

*"One Team, One Mission"*

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May 4, 2023

## **L.D. 1492 – An Act to Increase the Transparency and Accountability of the Maine Information and Analysis Center**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Ken Mason. I am the Sheriff of Kennebec County and I'm here today on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs' Association. Maine sheriffs met to discuss this bill and our unanimous position is Neither For Nor Against L.D. 1492 – An Act to Increase the Transparency and Accountability of the Maine Information and Analysis Center.

Transparency and accountability are ideals that all law enforcement professionals in Maine endeavor to achieve. Supporting a bill that proposes to increase transparency and accountability in law enforcement should be an easy bill to support, however, to fully explore the impact of this bill requires a greater understanding of the work conducted at the Maine Information and Analysis Center.

The success of Maine's ranking as the safest state in the country is not by chance. Maine sheriffs collectively collaborate with other law enforcement agencies daily. Services and information provided by our colleagues at MIAC is often not appropriate for wide dissemination. While we embrace and support the concept of transparency and accountability, we urge lawmakers to assess what constitutes transparency. If the movement towards greater transparency risks the integrity of an operation, we must reevaluate what we hope to achieve by implementing L.D. 1492.

Maine's sheriffs stand united in our support for the Maine Information and Analysis Center to remain unchanged as a critical facet of Maine's success. We urge lawmakers to carefully measure how greater transparency and accountability are achieved with this bill, and to consider how best to protect confidential information that could jeopardize ongoing investigations.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Ken Mason  
Maine Sheriffs' Association