

TESTIMONY
OF
MICHAEL J. SAUSCHUCK
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and
Transportation

Hearing Date: February 29th, 2024 1:00 PM

**" An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of
State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of
the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years
Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025"**

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing
Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Chipman, Representative Williams,
and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. My name is Michael
Sauschuck, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. I am here today to
testify in support of the fiscal year 2024-2025 supplemental budget bill, LD 2214.

Overall Budget

The supplemental budget is a balanced, prudent, and responsible proposal that advances
the Governor's long-held belief that we must continue to invest in the people of Maine, our
greatest asset.

That is why the Governor's proposal strikes the balance between making timely
investments to address urgent needs – like public safety, mental health, housing, education, and
health care – and saving money to ensure that our state continues to stand on strong fiscal footing
in the future.

We look forward to working with the Legislature in the coming weeks to arrive at a
budget that protects our fiscal health and that makes prudent and timely investments to support
the health, safety, and welfare of Maine people.

Departmental Overview

The Department of Public Safety was established to serve the people by providing, coordinating, and leading a responsive and comprehensive public safety system to protect their lives, rights, and properties. This broad mission is accomplished with 665 positions spread across 10 bureaus. The Bureaus are Administration, Capitol Police, Consolidated Emergency Communications, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Marshal's Office, Gambling Control, Highway Safety, Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Maine State Police.

State Police

The Maine State Police Program begins on page A-123. The Maine State Police provides full law enforcement services to areas that do not have organized police departments. Troopers respond to all manners of calls for service much like any other police department would. Troopers also patrol the rural roads, interstate system, and Maine Turnpike enforcing motor vehicle laws and responding to accidents. Maine State Police detectives investigate all homicides outside of Portland and Bangor as well as other major crimes. The Maine State Police operates a crime lab, computer crimes lab, and a commercial vehicle unit. They maintain the state's criminal history records and sex offender registry. They also provide many other specialized teams and law enforcement services to the State of Maine.

The first initiative Establishes 16 State Police Trooper positions, 4 State Police Corporal positions, 3 State Police Detective positions, 8 State Police Sergeant positions and one State Police Major position and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by thirty-two headcount, Personal Services by \$3,151,366 and All Other by \$419,330 in FY25. There is also a Highway Fund impact labeled as "HIGHWAY

FUND – Informational” as State Police expenditures have both general fund and highway fund impacts. You will see entries labeled as “HIGHWAY FUND – Informational” throughout the budget document. To be respectful of everyone’s time this will be the only time it is mentioned in my testimony.

The next initiative provides funding to align allocations with available revenue. This request will increase the All Other in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$225,000 and in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$700,000 in FY24 and FY25. This will reduce the administrative burden of having to do an annual Financial Order for these accounts.

The third initiative provides one-time funding for the retroactive payment of an approved reclassification and for related All Other costs. This request will increase the Personal Services in the General Fund by \$7,914 in FY24 only.

The fourth initiative provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Manager II position from range 32 to range 33 retroactive to May 16, 2023 and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request will increase the Personal Services in the General Fund by \$4,398 in FY24 and \$3,680 in FY25.

Traffic Safety – Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

The next program to be discussed is the Traffic Safety – Commercial Vehicle Enforcement program which begins on page A-124. This unit, referred to as CVEU, oversees and enforces the laws regarding vehicle size and weight for the protection of Maine's infrastructure. The unit verifies compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations through both roadside enforcement efforts and terminal safety reviews of Motor Carriers, to reduce commercial vehicle-related crashes statewide. Roadside enforcement includes the verification of valid

commercial driver's licenses, hours-of-service for drivers, vehicle safety inspections, and the weighing of vehicles.

The only initiative in this program provides funding to align allocations with available revenue. This request increases the Federal Expenditures Fund All Other \$325,000 in FY24 and \$325,000 in FY25. This will reduce the administrative burden of having to do an annual Financial Order for these accounts.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Michael J. Sauschuck
Commissioner

STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
MAINE STATE POLICE

45 Commerce Drive - Suite 1
Augusta, Maine 04333



COL. William G. Ross
Chief

LTC. Brian P. Scott
Deputy Chief

M E M O

TO: Commissioner Michael Sauschuck

FR: Major Gosselin and Major Hare

DT: January 11, 2024

RE: Supplemental Budget Request for Sworn Staffing - 2024

The attached spreadsheet represents the sworn staffing request to meet the current resource coordination agreements currently held by the Maine State Police. If granted, this request would also allow the Maine State Police to maintain staffing levels in rural patrols statewide including a renewed resource coordination agreement with the Washington County Sheriff's Department which would include a patrol function. Rural patrol staffing across the State of Maine is at a critical level and is in dire need of additional state resources through legislative support as requested below:

- **4 Troopers, 2 Sergeants for the Southern Field Troop**
This staffing level increase would allow the Maine State Police to maintain the current resource coordination agreement for rural patrol with the York County Sheriff's Department. This includes maintaining current rural patrol functions in York County as well as assisting them with their former contract town of Parsonsfield, the agreement to which was recently terminated due to their staffing issues. This also includes assisting municipal police departments such as Mexico Police when their staffing requirements fall below critical need.
- **4 Troopers, 2 Sergeants for the Central Field Troop**
This staffing level increase would allow the Maine State Police to maintain the current resource coordination agreement for rural patrol with the Kennebec and Waldo County Sheriff Departments. This includes maintaining current rural patrol functions in Kennebec and Waldo Counties as well as fatal crash investigations in Franklin County. This also includes assisting the Franklin County Sheriff's Department when their staffing requirements fall below critical need.
- **4 Troopers, 4 Corporals, 1 Sergeant for the Northern Field Troop**
This staffing level increase would allow the Maine State Police to maintain the current resource coordination agreement for rural patrol with the Penobscot and Hancock County Sheriff Departments. This includes maintaining current rural patrol functions in Penobscot and Hancock Counties as well as fatal crash investigations in Washington



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County. With the additional headcount requested, this would enable the Maine State Police to return to the former resource coordination agreement with the Washington County Sheriff's Department for rural patrol functions. This also includes assisting municipal police departments such as Calais Police Department and Baileyville Police Department when their staffing requirements fall below critical need.

- **4 Troopers, 1 Sergeant for Troop F**

This staffing level increase would allow the Maine State Police to maintain the long-standing cooperative and collaborative agreement for rural patrol with the Aroostook County Sheriff's Department. This includes maintaining current rural patrol functions in Aroostook County. This also includes cooperative police coverage with the Aroostook County Sheriff's Department to take over rural patrol coverage for towns such as Van Buren and Limestone when their police departments dissolved.

- **1 Sergeant for Troop I**

This staffing level increase would allow the Maine State Police to have adequate supervision over the interstate which extends from Scarborough to Sherman.

- **1 Major for Maine State Police Command Staff**

This staffing level increase would allow the Maine State Police Command Staff to apportion its span of control for Majors from 9 department units to 6 department units per Major if spread equally. This span of control reapportionment is necessary to properly manage the accountability of individual unit commanders and their supervisors in order to maintain the current standard of professional responsibility Maine citizens have come to expect from our agency.

- **3 Detectives for the Major Crimes Units**

This staffing level increase would allow the Maine State Police to maintain the current resource coordination agreements in each of the Field Troops as it relates to child abuse investigations and major crimes incidents in each of those respective areas.

- **1 Sergeant for the Office of Professional Standards**

This staffing level increase would allow the Maine State Police to move towards professional accreditation as identified in MLEAP standards.



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Reduced Supplemental Budget Request

Affected Troop	Purpose	To keep us in all current call sharing and add Washington County
Troop I	Interstate Supervision	1 Sergeant
Southern Field Troop	York County Call Sharing	4 Troopers and 2 Sergeants
Central Field Troop	Waldo and Kennebec Call Sharing	4 Troopers and 2 Sergeants
Northern Field Troop	Washington, Hancock and Penobscot Call Sharing	4 Troopers, 4 Corporals and 1 Sergeant
Troop F	Aroostook Call Sharing	4 Troopers and 1 Sergeant
Major Crimes Unit	South, Central and North	3 Detectives
Command Staff	Administration	1 Major
Office of Professional Standards	Audits/Accreditation	1 Sergeant

Total of 32 Sworn
16 Troopers
4 Corporals
3 Detectives
8 Sergeants
1 Major