

TESTIMONY
OF
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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Criminal
Justice and Public Safety
Hearing Date: February 29th, 2024 at 2:00 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 Beebe-Center, Representative
Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. 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.

Capitol Police - Bureau of

I will begin today on Page A-120 with the Bureau of Capitol Police. The Capitol Police is a full-service law enforcement agency responsible for the safety of the people and the security of the buildings that make up Maine's seat of government. The Capitol Police patrol the State owned or controlled property in Augusta, enforces laws, including parking and traffic regulations, and respond to alarms and other calls for help or assistance on two campuses. The Capitol Police night watchpersons check the security of approximately 50 State owned buildings and properties in Augusta and Hallowell at night and on weekends.

The Department of Health and Human Services contracts with Capitol Police to provide law enforcement and security at the Riverview Psychiatric facility. This program is staffed by one Sergeant and 4 officers.

The first initiative provides funding for the approved range change of one Capitol Police Lieutenant position from range 22 to range 24, one Capitol Police Sergeant position from range 19 to range 22, 10 Capitol Police Officer positions from range 17 to range 19, 2 Watchperson

positions from range 8 to range 11 and changes the title to Security Guard, and 4 Capitol Police Screener positions from range 14 to range 15 and changes the title to Capitol Police Security Agent positions and adjusts the baseline budget in the General Fund by \$92,858 and in the Other Special Revenue Fund by \$68,849 in FY25.

The next initiative establishes 2 Capitol Police Security Agent positions effective December 8, 2024 and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by two headcount, Personal Services by \$87,040 and All Other by \$72,272 in FY25.

The third initiative establishes 3 Capitol Police Security Agent positions, one Lead Security Agent position, one Capitol Police Officer position and one Capitol Police Sergeant position, effective March 2, 2025, and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by six headcount, Personal Services by \$175,193 and All Other by \$129,304 in FY25.

The fourth initiative establishes one intermittent Capitol Police Officer position and one intermittent Capitol Police Security Agent position and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by one headcount, Personal Services by \$84,529 and All Other by \$58,672 in FY25.

The fifth and final Capitol Police initiative provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Manager II position from range 32 to range 33 retroactive to May 22, 2023. This request increases the General Fund Personal Services appropriation by \$6,891 in FY24 and \$5,789 in FY25.

Computer Crimes

The next program, Computer Crimes, begins on page A-121. Since its inception in 2000 as a task force, the unit has investigated thousands of cases of child exploitation and analyzed the associated computers and data storage devices. Additionally, the Unit has evolved into the State's technology support solution for criminal investigations to include fraud, theft, threatening, robbery, stalking, child abduction and homicide cases.

The first and only initiative provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Office Specialist I position to a Supervisor Computer Forensic Laboratory position. This request increases the General Fund Personal Services by \$37,219 in FY25.

Emergency Medical Services

The next program, Emergency Medical Services, begins on page A-121. The Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program serves as the primary regulatory body for EMS including, but not limited to, training, emergency medical dispatchers (EMDs), EMD centers, equipment, EMS clinicians, vehicles, services, and clinical care protocols for the EMS system in the State of Maine. In doing so, Maine EMS assists, coordinates and delivers training programs for EMS clinicians, EMS administrative staff, and emergency medical dispatchers. Maine EMS works to convene a diverse group of stakeholders throughout the state to collaborate and solve some of these system's most pressing issues. The budget allocated to Maine EMS allows for continued programming including quality assurance/improvement projects, community paramedicine projects, clinical oversight, management of health data, trauma system management, education oversight, inspections, and investigations.

The first initiative continues and makes permanent one Emergency Medical Education Training

Coordinator position previously continued with Financial Order 002869 F4 and provides funding for All Other related costs. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by one headcount, Personal Services of \$106,760 in FY25, and All Other of \$3,365 in FY25.

The next initiative continues one limited-period Public Service Manager II position, previously continued by Financial Order 002886 F4 through June 8, 2025. The request increases the Personal Services in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$145,203 in FY25.

The third initiative establishes 4 Public Service Manager I positions and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by four headcount, Personal Services by \$494,256 in FY25, and All Other by \$17,460 in FY25.

Fire Marshal - Office of

The next program is the Office of the Fire Marshal, beginning on page A-122. The primary mission of the office is to protect the lives and property of those who live, work, or visit the state. The Inspection Division is primarily responsible for the safety of people at public events; in buildings used by the public; in places of assembly; and in healthcare and childcare facilities. The Investigation Division is primarily responsible for the investigation of fires and explosions. They also regulate the storage of explosives, the storage and use of fireworks, and investigate accidents involving mechanical rides.

The only initiative for this bureau provides funding for the approved range change of 3 Fire Investigation Sergeant positions from range 24 to range 26 retroactive to February 13, 2023. This increases Personal Services in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$86,841 in FY24 and \$71,281 in FY25, and All Other by \$638 in FY24 and \$524 in FY25.

Licensing and Enforcement – Public Safety

The next program is the Licensing and Enforcement Unit and can be found on page A-122. This unit within the Bureau of the Maine State Police is responsible for the licensing functions associated with private investigators, private security guards and concealed firearm permits. The one initiative for this program provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Associate II position to a Management Analyst I position. This request increases the General Fund Personal Services by \$7,449 in FY24 and \$6,089 in FY25.

Safe Homes Program

The final program is the Safe Homes Program and can be found at the bottom of page A-122. The Safe Homes Program was established and is administered by the Department to support the safe storage of prescription drugs, firearms, and dangerous weapons in homes or public spaces. The only initiative for this program provides annual funding to support these efforts and help fund community outreach, education, webinars, advertisements, and public service announcements. This increases all other in the other special revenue funds by \$25,000 in FY25.

Language Part EEE

The next item I will be testifying on today is Language Part EEE which can be found on page 75. This Part requires the transfer of \$200,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, Safe Homes Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide funding to support the safe storage of prescription drugs, firearms, and dangerous weapons in homes or public spaces. This is to fund the initiative that was discussed earlier in my testimony.

Language Part FFF

The final item I will be testifying on today is Language Part FFF which can also be found on page 75. This

Part authorizes employees in a Fire Investigator position to immediately progress to a Senior Fire Investigator position upon successful completion of the Fire Investigator certification by the International Association of Arson Investigators or equivalent certification body.

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