

TESTIMONY  
OF  
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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Hearing Date: March 7th, 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 Chipman, Representative Crafts, 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~~ 2229

**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 1. 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.

I will be testifying on three initiatives this afternoon and the first two are related to reclassifications. As you may recall from the biennial budget, Civil Service Rules require the Director of the Bureau of Human Resources to maintain the classification plan and establish the processes and procedures with which to do so. There is a long-standing process in place to evaluate proper classification of positions and determine through a functional job analysis

whether a position meets the requirements for reclassification, including any pay adjustment. The State's collective bargaining unit agreements include negotiated language related to this process. Reclasses may be employee or management initiated. Approved employee-initiated actions include a retroactive pay component back to the date the request was signed. Only approved actions are included in the supplemental budget as the final component of the process is securing the funding.

The first 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 Highway Fund by \$4,262 and in the All Other by \$82 in FY24 only.

The second 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 Highway Fund by \$2,366 in FY24 and \$1,982 in FY25 and will also increase the All Other by \$7 in FY24 and \$38 in FY25.

The third and final 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. These positions allow Maine State Police to maintain Resource Coordination Agreements with counties and municipalities and continue with rural policing throughout the state. These positions provide for 24/7 operations. This request increases the Highway Fund appropriation by thirty-two headcount, Personal Services by \$1,696,859 and All Other by \$242,741 in FY25.

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