

**Testimony of Joe Legee, Deputy Director,
Maine Emergency Management Agency**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**LD 120, "An Act to Expand the Membership of the Homeland Security Advisory
Council"**

February 3rd, 2025

Good morning, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Joe Legee, and I serve as the Deputy Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of LD 120, "An Act to Expand the Membership of the Homeland Security Advisory Council."

The Maine Homeland Security Advisory Council was established in 2005 and formally adopted by the legislature in 2006 with the primary mission of addressing physical threats to the state of Maine, such as foreign terrorist attacks. However, as technology has advanced, threats to information security have become equally significant. Today, domestic violent extremism and the inevitability of cyber-attacks are among the top concerns facing our state.

In response to this evolving threat landscape, Maine's homeland security community has proactively expanded its collaboration to include key stakeholders like the Maine School Safety Center and the Office of Information Technology. LD 120 seeks to formalize the addition of these stakeholders as permanent members of the Council, as specified in Title 37-B MRSA §708.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to address any questions, either now or during the upcoming work session.