



## OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

### STATE OF MAINE

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January 31, 2025



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Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus  
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
132<sup>nd</sup> Maine Legislature

Re: LD 172 – An Act to Require the Maine State Police to Create a Statewide List of Missing Persons

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and members of the committee,

I am Lindsey Chasteen, the Office Administrator for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). I am speaking neither for nor against LD 172 today. My testimony should be viewed as merely informational. As of 1991, the Office of Chief Medical Examiner has been statutorily tasked with being the State Clearinghouse for Maine's missing people.

Per statute, being the State Clearinghouse means my agency is responsible for maintaining files on missing persons sufficient for the purpose of identification when there is reason to suspect that those persons may not be found alive. As of today, the OCME has 148 missing people on our radar. The oldest disappearance is from 1947. The OCME uses a publicly accessible website, run by the National Institute of Justice as our case management system.

This website is the National Missing and Unidentified Person System (NamUs), and provides basic information such as a photo, circumstances, and the investigative agency information to the public, while keeping the biometric information (fingerprint classification, medical and DNA information) private and only viewable by case contributors. Case contributors are staff at the OCME, and the assigned law enforcement agency.

Over the years, there has been discussion between the OCME and Maine State Police about whether the Maine State Police should list all Maine's missing people on their website. In response to these discussions, and in an attempt to provide the public with more information, several years ago the OCME updated our agency webpage to include a link to NamUs and an explanation that we are the State Clearinghouse. Our webpage is housed within the Office of the Attorney General website.

Even though the OCME is only an agency of 12 people, and we handle over 2,000 death investigations a year, we know our missing people by name and review their case files regularly.

Thank you for your time.

Lindsey Chasteen, MBA  
Office Administrator