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Testimony of Rep. Tavis Hasenfus introducing
**LD 224, An Act to Expand the Definition of “Terrorism” in the Laws
Governing the Maine Emergency Management Agency**
Before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

Good morning, Senator Beebe-Center and fellow members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Tavis Hasenfus, and I represent House District 57 and the communities of Winthrop and Readfield. I am here today to present LD 224, An Act to Expand the Definition of “Terrorism” in the laws Governing the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

This bill comes from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and aims to accomplish a relatively simple changes to our current emergency management and preparedness statutes located in Title 37 by better defining terrorism, and including a cyberattack as terrorism.

First, the bill amends the definition of terrorism as used in title 37 to better encompass what we mean when we say terrorism. The bill adds to the current definition “conduct that is designed to cause serious bodily injury or substantial risk of bodily injury to multiple persons, substantial damage to multiple structures whether occupied or unoccupied of substantial physical damage sufficient to disrupt the normal functioning of a critical infrastructure” by more clearly defining terrorism as “the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government or civilian population in furtherance of political or social objectives.”

This is a more definitive definition that can be used by the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to better identify what is meant by “terrorism.

Second, the bill defines cyberattack as “activity targeting the State's information and telecommunications technology infrastructure, systems or services or critical infrastructure, whether physical or non-physical, for the purpose of disrupting, disabling, destroying or maliciously controlling such infrastructure, systems or services or destroying the integrity of the data or stealing the information residing thereon.”

Given the increasing risk of cyberattacks and the deviating impact they can have on government, industry and the public, it is necessary to have up-to-date terminology in our statute around cyberattacks. This allows MEMA to adequately prepare for and respond to situations that may arise.

I believe MEMA staff are here today, so I would ask that you hold your questions for those who are best equipped to answer them.

Thank you for your time and attention.