

TESTIMONY
OF
MICHAEL J SAUSCHUCK
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Housing
and Economic Development

Hearing Date: February 5th, 2025

**"An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and
Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions
of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years
Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027"**

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Joint
Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Curry, Representative
Gere, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development.
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 biennial budget.

Overall Budget

Maine – like many states, both blue and red – is facing a tight budget environment. The
Mills Administration has spent months carefully developing a balanced budget proposal to
preserve the programs lawmakers and Maine people support, including education, revenue
sharing, public safety, higher education, and school meals, while also protecting the long-term
fiscal health of Maine.

Ultimately, we took a balanced approach: one that makes some investments - including
operational needs such as technology efficiencies, health and safety improvements, collective
bargaining impacts, etc. - that proposes some spending cuts, and that makes some targeted

revenue increases. We know these proposals are difficult and appreciate that you will consider them with an open mind.

We look forward to working with you over the coming months to enact a budget that supports our greatest asset of all: the people of Maine.

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 693 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.

Division of Building Codes and Standards

The Division of Building Codes and Standards which begins on page A-585 is the only program I will be testifying on today. The Division of Building Codes and Standards was created to adopt, amend, and maintain the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Codes. The Division also resolves conflicts between the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Codes and existing state statutes and provides training for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers, and third-party inspectors. There are no initiatives within this program to discuss.

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