



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Michael J. Sauschuck
Commissioner

STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
MAINE STATE POLICE

45 Commerce Drive - Suite 1
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William Ross
Colonel

LTC. Brian P. Scott
Deputy Chief

Testimony of Major Tyler Stevenson
Maine State Police

Neither For Nor Against (419)

An Act to Increase the Transparency and Accountability of the Maine Information and Analysis Center

Sponsored by Representative Lookner
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and other distinguished members of the joint standing committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Major Tyler Stevenson, and I am here to represent the Maine State Police and the Maine Department of Public Safety to testify neither for nor against LD 419, "An Act to Increase the Transparency and Accountability of the Maine Information and Analysis Center."

The Department of Public Safety and Maine State Police are committed to ensuring that the Maine Information Analysis Center (MIAC) operates with the highest possible levels of transparency and accountability, in line with its mission. The MIAC continues to adhere to policies and procedures that prioritize the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties, and reviews these policies annually. The MIAC posts their privacy policy to their website which outlines steps and procedures citizens can take to make complaints to the MIAC regarding issues with information shared or received by the MIAC. The MIAC also has a privacy officer, an attorney assigned from the Office of the Maine Attorney General who assists the center with the work done each day and is part of the MIAC advisory board and audit team.

The MIAC continually seeks additional opportunities to increase transparency regarding its daily operations. In 2024, the MIAC hosted training sessions led by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties to reinforce the MIAC staff's proficiency and adherence to these rights and protections.

LD 419 creates the position of a designated MIAC auditor within the office of the Attorney General to provide oversight of the MIAC. The auditor, as defined in this bill, would mirror the work that is currently done by the MIAC privacy officer and the MIAC advisory board.



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In part, the bill requires the MIAC auditor to maintain a publicly accessible website that includes deidentified activity reports submitted to this committee. Currently, the MIAC independently provides an annual activity report to this committee regarding the center's activities each year in adherence to public law passed during the 130th Legislature. To further transparency, the 2023 annual report submitted to this committee is also posted on the MIAC website, along with all privacy audits conducted by the center since 2019. Once the MIAC's 2024 Annual Report and audit reports have been finalized, those will be posted to the site as well.

The requirements of LD 419 also mirror the requirements already in place for conducting the MIAC's biannual audits. The MIAC audits presently require selected members of the MIAC advisory board from a variety of career backgrounds to participate in auditing the work done by the MIAC. Each member of the MIAC audit team, to include the MIAC's privacy officer, review entries made in the MIAC information technology system and select entries to be audited. In addition to the members' selections, there are additional entries picked randomly by an online number randomizer that must also be audited. This audit process is robust and is done twice per year. The audit's findings are presented to the full MIAC advisory board for approval and therein incorporated into the annual report submitted to this committee. The appointment of an auditor would eliminate or greatly reduce the need of the MIAC advisory board to participate in the audit process and provide additional oversight of the MIAC.

On behalf of the State Police and the Department of Public Safety, we appreciate your careful consideration of these issues. Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

Major Tyler Stevenson