

TESTIMONY
OF
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Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Hearing Date: February 27th, 2025 9:00 AM

" An Act to Make Supplemental Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025"

Good morning, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. 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 supplemental budget bill, LD 275.

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.

I will be testifying on two initiatives this morning and they are both related to reclassifications. As you may recall from the biennial budget, Civil Service Rules require the Director of the Bureau of Human Resources to maintain the classification plan and establish the

processes and procedures with which to do so. There is a long-standing process in place to evaluate proper classification of positions and determine through a functional job analysis whether a position meets the requirements for reclassification, including any pay adjustment. The State's collective bargaining unit agreements include negotiated language related to this process. Reclasses may be employee or management initiated. Approved employee-initiated actions include a retroactive pay component back to the date the request was signed. Only approved actions are included in the supplemental budget as the final component of the process is securing the funding.

State Police Support

The first program, State Police Support, begins on page 1. The funding in this program provides clerical support for the field troops of the State Police and consists of seven Office Associate II positions.

The only initiative in this program provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Associate II position to an Office Specialist 1 position retroactive to February 28, 2024.

Traffic Safety

The next program, Traffic Safety, provides accident reconstruction and training services and maintains the statewide crash reporting system, including the Airwing operations. The Maine State Police Airwing consists of two Cessna 182 fixed wing aircraft, which are strategically stationed for regional response to mission requests. The State Police Airwing is often utilized for traffic enforcement along the interstate from Kittery to Houlton, and aerial photos of traffic crash and crime scenes, as well as for conducting searches for lost or wanted persons.

The only initiative in this program provides funding for the approved reorganization of one State Police Specialist position to a State Police Specialist Corporal position.

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