



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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March 24, 2025

TESTIMONY OF SHERIFF TROY MORTON MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

LD 930 – An Act to Amend the Law Governing Items Identified as Prison Contraband

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Sheriff Troy Morton. I am the Sheriff of Penobscot County and I have the privilege of serving as Vice-President of the Maine Sheriffs Association and I am here today on their behalf.

Your Maine Sheriffs have taken the position of **SUPPORT** for LD 930 – An Act to Amend the Law Governing Items Identified as Prison Contraband

The topic of prison contraband is infrequently addressed, yet it is crucial to recognize the significant harm it can inflict. Understanding the implications of contraband within correctional facilities is essential for fostering a safe environment for both incarcerated individuals and staff.

Prison contraband refers to items that make their way into correctional facilities through various channels, including staff, vendors, and the incarcerated individuals themselves. These contraband items can serve multiple purposes, such as facilitating escape plans, enabling communication with victims or co-defendants, functioning as weapons, or affecting an individual's sobriety. One of the most disconcerting aspects of prison contraband is its potential use for bartering, extortion, or victimization, which poses significant risks to the safety and security of a correctional facility and its residents.

Several changes to technology, training, and procedures have helped combat this serious issue within our correctional facilities, however, during multiple investigations, it was determined several types of electronic items may not fit under the current statute. In two cases, vaping devices were brought into a correctional facility and were used to barter for sexual acts. While a charge of sexual assault could be filed, the trafficking in prison contraband could not. We must hold staff, vendors, and incarcerated individuals accountable for these dangerous actions.

LD 930 makes adjustments to Title 17-A § 757 and §757-A, clarifying unauthorized electronic devices and vaping devices. With assistance from the Maine Prosecutors Association, we are prepared to share a document outlining the amendments requested.

Your Maine Sheriffs urge to support LD 931. I happy to answer any questions you may have now or during your work session.