



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Representative Mike Soboleski and I come before you today to present LD 1656 **“An Act to Facilitate Compliance with Federal Immigration Law by State and Local Government Entities”**

LD 1656 represents an important step in ensuring that Maine’s state and local government entities can cooperate effectively with federal law enforcement in a manner that enhances the safety and security of all Mainers. By facilitating compliance with federal immigration law, this bill promotes transparency, consistency, and accountability across government operations.

Cooperation between state and federal agencies has proven to be essential for addressing public safety concerns in Maine. For example, joint efforts have been instrumental in combating drug trafficking along our borders and within rural communities, where collaboration between local law enforcement and federal agencies like the DEA has disrupted dangerous criminal networks. These partnerships demonstrate the importance of clear communication and coordination in achieving shared goals of protecting Maine residents.

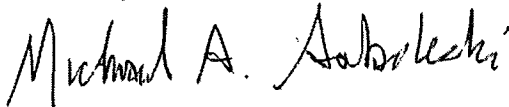
However, inconsistent policies regarding the sharing and use of certain information can undermine these collaborative efforts. LD 1656 establishes a uniform framework that prevents state and local entities from adopting practices that restrict the flow of immigration and citizenship information when needed by federal authorities. This ensures that our law enforcement agencies can work together efficiently without unnecessary roadblocks.

To further promote accountability, the bill introduces a formal complaint process to address any violations of these provisions. For example, should a municipal department fail to comply with federal requirements, the Attorney General will have the authority to investigate and issue findings, with due process in place for appeals. This ensures that state and local entities remain aligned with federal laws while respecting Maine's tradition of fairness and justice.

LD 1656 is not about creating new burdens—it is about ensuring that existing laws are upheld in a way that protects Maine’s communities. By fostering cooperation, this bill strengthens our ability to address critical issues like public safety threats and supports the rule of law. It sends a clear message that Maine values the safety of its citizens and the partnerships that make that safety possible.

For these reasons, I urge the support of LD 1656 as a practical and necessary measure to enhance collaboration and protect Mainers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Soboleski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael A. Soboleski
State Representative