



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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April 28, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF
SHERIFF JOEL MERRY
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

**LD 1600 – An Act to Provide Regional Support Funding for Municipal Police
Departments to Support Special Response Teams**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Joel Merry. I am the sheriff of Sagadahoc County, and I am here on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs Association.

Maine sheriffs met to discuss this bill and we unanimously **oppose LD 1600 - An Act to Provide Regional Support Funding for Municipal Police Departments to Support Special Response Teams.**

The burden we are currently placing on the shoulders of the taxpayers that elect all lawmakers, and all sheriffs is already overwhelming. The weight of additional taxes for special response teams while counties are struggling to fund essential services within our correctional facilities simply does not make good fiscal sense.

Sheriffs have remarkable working relationships with our municipal colleagues. We are always exploring ways to collaborate, especially when a potential solution can realize fiscal efficiencies. While we appreciate the intent of this bill, Maine sheriffs do not see implementation of LD 1600 to be in the best interest of our constituents.

The Maine Sheriffs Association urges you to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 1600.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.