



Janet T. Mills
Governor

I
STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
MAINE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY
15 Oak Grove Road
Vassalboro, Maine 04989



Michael J. Sauschuck
Commissioner

Jack D. Peck, Jr.
Director

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

My name is Jack Peck, and I am the Director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy (MCJA) and I am here today to represent the Maine Department of Public Safety (DPS).

The DPS and MCJA recognize and appreciate the sponsor's efforts for the development of best practices for law enforcement professionals' interactions with victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

While we support the concept of L.D. 1695, An Act to Provide Law Enforcement Agencies with an Anti-Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Protocol, we are currently neither for nor against the bill as written.

The summary of this bill "directs the Department of Public Safety to adopt a model protocol for law enforcement agencies to adopt to treat a person who is experiencing or has experienced human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation".

This bill would require the Department of Public Safety to consult with relevant stakeholders, including anti-trafficking organizations, sexual assault organizations, domestic violence victim advocacy organizations and crisis services, to adopt a model anti-sex-trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation protocol by January 1, 2026.

Further, this bill would require that all law enforcement agencies shall adopt anti-sex-trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation protocols. The protocol of a law enforcement agency may, but is not required to, conform to the protocol adopted by the Department of Public Safety by March 1, 2026.

The MCJA Board of Trustees (the Board) establishes mandatory annual training for all law enforcement and correctional professionals. In 2025, one of those mandatory training topics is "Trauma-Informed Training for Law Enforcement".

Additionally, one of the proposed 2026 mandatory training recommendations the Board will consider at their next scheduled meeting is a training block on Human Trafficking.

These issues are critical and the training is vital to for all of our law enforcement practitioners who may encounter someone who has experienced human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation.



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25 M.R.S. 2803-B (1) directs that "all law enforcement agencies shall adopt written policies regarding procedures to deal with" fifteen different defined circumstances such as death investigations, police pursuits and use of physical force for example.

Under this same statute, the MCJA Board of Trustees is charged with establishing minimum standards for each of these law enforcement policies. Law enforcement agencies must adopt written policies using the minimum standards set forth by the board.

DPS could support this bill with an amendment that clarifies and replaces "protocols" with "minimum policy standards" and should this bill pass with the proposed amendment, the MCJA Board would establish the minimum policy standards for response to a victim of human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation.

I wish to thank this committee for your time and support, and I will try to answer any questions you may have.