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**Testimony of Lt. Bruce Scott
IN SUPPORT OF LD 1568**

**An Act to Allow the Use of a Siren in a Vehicle Used by a Harbor
Master or Deputy Harbor Master**

Senator Nangle, Rep. Crafts, and distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Lt. Bruce Scott, and I am the Commanding Officer of the State Police Traffic Safety Unit. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Police in Support of LD 1568 as amended.

In 2023 the law was amended to allow privately owned vehicles operated by Harbor Masters and Deputy Harbor Masters to display red/white lights when responding to watercraft emergencies, similar to that of volunteer firefighters.

Shawn Hebert, Treasurer of the State of Maine Harbor Master's Association, reached out to me a few months ago and asked if the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Police would support a bill that would allow municipalities to use sirens in addition to their red and white lights in the vehicles owned by the municipalities that were used to respond to watercraft emergencies. The original language of this bill, as drafted, would have allowed all Harbor Masters and Deputy Harbor Masters to use a siren in addition to their currently authorized red and white lights in their personally owned vehicles.

INTEGRITY

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FAIRNESS

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COMPASSION

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I made Shawn Hebert and Rep. Ankeles aware of our concerns with the original drafting of the bill as it would allow sirens in non-emergency vehicles. Rep. Ankeles and Mr. Hebert both indicated that the original language of the bill was not their intent, and they quickly went to work with Melanie, your committee analyst, and drafted an amendment.

This amendment adds language that expands to the definition of an emergency vehicle, a vehicle owned by a municipality operated by a Harbor Master or Deputy Harbor Master used to respond to watercraft emergencies. It further allows a siren to be used in these emergency vehicles when in route to an actual emergency and when operated by a Harbor Master or Deputy Harbor Master who has successfully completed a State of Maine Emergency Operator's Course. With these amendments, we fully support this bill and recognize the importance of timely responses to watercraft emergencies.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote in favor of LD 1568.

On behalf of the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Police, I thank you for your time and would be happy to try and answer any questions that you might have.

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