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Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Michael J. Sauschuck  
Commissioner

STATE OF MAINE  
*Department of Public Safety*  
**MAINE STATE POLICE**

45 Commerce Drive - Suite 1  
Augusta, Maine 04333



William Ross  
Colonel

LTC. Brian P. Scott  
Deputy Chief

Testimony of Major Tyler Stevenson  
Maine State Police

**Neither For Nor Against (As Amended) of (1784)**

An Act to Require Police Departments to Publish and Make Accessible Their Policies and Procedures and Require Training of Officers.

Sponsored by Representative Warren  
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety: My name is Major Tyler Stevenson, and I am providing testimony on behalf of the Maine State Police and the Maine Department of Public Safety neither for nor against LD 1784 as amended, "An Act to Require Police Departments to Publish and Make Accessible Their Policies and Procedures and Require Training of Officers."

As written this bill aims to require all State, County and Local Law Enforcement agencies to publish and make accessible their policies and procedures on a publicly accessible websites, to provide copies in paper form to members of the public as requested and ensure that all law enforcement officers of the agency receive orientation and training on the policies.

The Department of Public Safety believes that the transparency of police organizations is important to fostering the trust and confidence of the people we serve. Maine State Police currently has 161 policies and all but 24 of these policies are posted on our publicly accessible website. The 24 policies that are not posted on our website are authorized to be restricted for public release under Title 16, Chapter 9. Disclosing these policies could provide investigative techniques, security plans or provide information that could endanger law enforcement officers or others. It's essential that law enforcement agencies are able provide clear policy directives to their officers, while protecting specific tactics, investigation techniques or security plans. If these policies became publicly available there would be a risk of endangering officers or the public and disclosing this information could empower criminal behavior. I have communicated these concerns with the sponsor, who has been very receptive, and agreed to submit an amendment to exclude policies and procedures protected under Title 16.

Another concern of the original draft is the mandate for law enforcement to provide a printed copy of policies and procedures free of charge at the request of a member of the public. Depending on the frequency, this could become burdensome and costly for police departments, especially departments with limited staff. The sponsor indicated that language from Maine's current Freedom of Access statute would be added to the amendment which



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would allow a reasonable timeframe to complete the request and avenue for departments to recuperate some of the costs associated with the request, which we support.

On behalf of the State Police and the Department of Public Safety, we appreciate your careful consideration of these issues. Thank you for your time and we would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Respectfully,

Major Tyler Stevenson