



Scott W. Cyrway  
Senator, District 16

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**LD 1259 and LD 1971**

**Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary**

Public Hearing

May 19, 2025

1:00pm

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary:

I am Senator Scott Cyrway; and I represent District 16, comprised of Albion, Fairfield, Oakland, Waterville, and Winslow. I am here in strong opposition to LDs 1259 and 1971.

These bills take policies from some of the most dangerous states, such as New Mexico and California, which rank 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively for most dangerous<sup>1</sup>, and brings them to Maine. Without these policies, Maine is the 2<sup>nd</sup> safest state in the nation.<sup>2</sup> Why would we want to implement the policies of states that are worse than us?

These proposals inhibit the ability of law enforcement officers to carry out their day-to-day duties, make decisions based on local public safety needs and communicate necessary information with other law enforcement agencies. We should be promoting cooperation among those who protect our communities, not putting local law enforcement in its own silo.

Furthermore, these proposals pose a great risk to the safety of the respondent, law enforcement officer and the public. When a detainer is not honored by a local authority, immigration officials will simply pursue the person in the open. Searching to apprehend someone at large in an uncontrolled environment will only lead to escalated tensions during an arrest, thereby putting both the respondent and the officer in danger.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/10-most-dangerous-states-in-america>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/crime-and-corrections/public-safety>

<sup>3</sup>

<https://www.ice.gov/immigrationdetainers#:~:text=When%20a%20state%20or%20local,the%20public%2C%20aliens%20and%20officers.>

When detainees are honored, immigration authorities can apprehend the respondent in a controlled environment and do not have to pursue them in the public. Thus, it makes the arrest safer for all involved and the public.

We should trust local law enforcement to know what is best for their communities; and we should be enacting policies that promote public safety, not put it at risk. Mutual aid is one of the most important resources law enforcement agencies can rely on. In fact, border patrol has one of the most elite tactical teams in Maine. The proposals before you only serve to eliminate this resource for local law enforcement.

As a member of the committee charged with overseeing public safety and law enforcement, I hope you will give these comments strong consideration and vote ought not to pass on both of these dangerous proposals.

Thank you. I am happy to take questions.