



Maine Chiefs of Police Association
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Statement in opposition to

**L.D. 1259, An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship
Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement**

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

May 19, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jason Moen. I am the Chief of the Auburn Police Department, and President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in opposition to LD 1259.

The mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

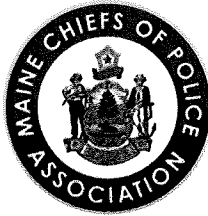
This bill would prohibit local law enforcement agencies and officers from entering into any agreements that delegate immigration enforcement authority from federal agencies. That broad restriction would eliminate an essential tool that, while not commonly used, must remain available to law enforcement agencies when specific circumstances demand it.

There are times when collaboration with federal immigration authorities is critical to protecting public safety. For example, when local law enforcement is dealing with individuals who pose a serious threat to the community, such as those involved in organized crime, human trafficking, or violent offenses, having the ability to coordinate with federal partners is not just useful, it is essential. In these instances, formal agreements or similar arrangements allow trained officers to act swiftly and legally in cooperation with federal law enforcement.

Maine's law enforcement environment varies greatly. Some agencies may never see the need for such agreements. Others, due to location, caseload, or public safety concerns, may find federal cooperation necessary. LD 1259 strips away that discretion and replaces it with a rigid, one-size-fits-all policy that ignores local realities.

This is fundamentally a local decision. Agencies must be able to work with their local leaders and community members to determine when and how such partnerships are appropriate. The authority to make those decisions should rest with the people closest to the issue and not through a blanket ban imposed by the Legislature.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that the Committee vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1259. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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Statement in opposition to

L.D. 1971, An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

May 19, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jason Moen. I am the Chief of the Auburn Police Department, and President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in opposition to LD 1971.

The mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

This proposal would significantly limit the ability of law enforcement officers to cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), even in situations where public safety is at risk. By prohibiting officers from responding to immigration detainers, administrative warrants, or basic requests for information, the bill creates legal and operational barriers that jeopardize community safety and hinder officers' ability to act effectively in the field.

While the bill includes narrow exceptions for criminal activity, its overall approach is overly restrictive. It disrupts long-standing partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies and prevents local law enforcement from exercising discretion in critical situations. Many serious offenders who are undocumented are identified through precisely the types of cooperation that this bill would ban.

Additionally, LD 1971 mandates that jails release individuals held solely on immigration-related grounds after 48 hours, regardless of whether DHS is actively pursuing a case. It also imposes new advisement and disclosure requirements on officers, adding financial and administrative strain on local departments without providing additional support or funding.

The legislation effectively tells local agencies to look the other way, even in the face of credible threats. While we are committed to constitutional policing, due process, and building community trust, we must also retain the ability to address legitimate public safety concerns when they intersect with immigration issues.

In short, this bill introduces legal uncertainty, increases the likelihood of releasing dangerous individuals, and significantly weakens the operational capacity of local law enforcement. For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1971.