



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Michael J. Sausehuck
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

I

Testimony of Major Tyler Stevenson
Maine State Police

Neither For Nor Against

LD 2073, An Act to Add Positions to the Maine State Police Executive Protection Unit

Sponsored by Representative Moonen
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 2073, "An Act to Add Positions to the Maine State Police Executive Protection Unit." Our agency position is reflective of the fact these positions are not currently envisioned in the supplemental budget request.

Previously in my career, I served as the Commanding Officer of the Maine State Police Executive Protection Unit (EPU). Currently, I serve as the State Police Major of Support Services and supervise the current Commander of the EPU. My testimony will be general in nature and not specific, due to the sensitive nature of the EPU's mission.

Maine's Executive Protection Unit was formed on July 9, 1957, after Governor Ed Muskie received a threat to his life. The EPU was tasked then, as it is today, with providing security for the Governor of the State of Maine, the Governor's immediate family and dignitaries visiting Maine.

The threat environment in 2026 is significantly more complex than it was in 1957. At that time, threats to public officials were less frequent, news cycles were slower, technology was limited, and official schedules were less publicly known. Security often relied primarily on a visible physical presence to deter malicious intent. Today, EPU members are tasked with threat mitigation at a level previously never imagined, let alone experienced. Nationally, politically motivated threats and attacks are increasingly common, and Maine is not immune. The EPU operates in a world of constant risk assessment, and those assessments now require a higher level of security than in years past. As a result, members are being tasked to work more, travel more, and assume greater personal risk in order to complete their mission. They are professionals and do so without complaint.

The EPU's primary mission is to protect the Governor and what that office represents to the State of Maine. The unit protects the position, not the individual holding it. Just as with our current Governor, any future Governor will receive the highest level of security the unit can provide, using the resources made available to it.



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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 I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Respectfully,

Major Tyler Stevenson