



Matt Moonen

House Majority Leader

Matt.Moonen@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: State Relay 711

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

Testimony of Rep. Matt Moonen, Portland
February 9, 2026

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, thank you for the opportunity to present **LD 2073: An Act to Add Positions to the Maine State Police Executive Protection Unit**.

Threats to elected officials are on the rise, both in Maine and across the country. Last year, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro was the target of an assassination attempt at his official residence, which was set on fire while the Governor and his family slept inside. Several months later, former Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives Melissa Hortman and her husband were murdered in a horrific attack that also left another lawmaker and his wife seriously injured.

There have also been several high-profile attempts on President Trump's life, including the July 2024 assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania, that left one member of the public dead and two others injured.

Threats of violence are certainly on our minds here in Maine, and we have taken steps to keep elected officials and those around them safe – for example, by taking steps to secure the Cross Office Building, among other measures.

LD 2073 would continue our work to improve security by adding two positions to the Executive Protection Unit, a dedicated group charged with protecting Maine's Governor. These professionals do an incredible job with the resources they have, but at this time, there are just six of them working to cover every hour of the day, every day of the year.

The Executive Protection Unit is already stretched thin, and that is at a time when they are only responsible for the protection of one individual.

The next Governor of Maine, whoever that may be, may have a spouse and perhaps even children living at the Blaine House. This will only stretch the Executive Protection Unit and its limited resources even thinner.

Our democracy depends on the guarantee that our leaders are chosen by the people at the ballot box without the influence of threats and violence. LD 2073 provides a reasonable, meaningful increase in staffing levels to ensure the Executive Protection Unit has the resources they need to keep the next Governor and their family safe and to protect our democratic process.

Thank you for your time and attention. I hope you will join me in supporting this proposal.