



I

February 9, 2026

RE: Testimony in Support of

L.D. 2081 An Act to Provide Health Care Cost Reimbursement for Retired Law Enforcement Canines

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Katie Lisnik and I am the Executive Director for Maine Humane, an organization dedicated to promoting and advancing the humane care of all animals throughout the state of Maine. We offer support, training, resource sharing, advocacy and more to shelters, rescues, animal control, and other animal protection organizations throughout the state.

We provide a state-wide voice on animal welfare and key issues focused on policies, people, and pets, and that is why we are testifying in favor of this bill, LD 2081, which seeks to provide a funding mechanism for necessary veterinary care for retired law enforcement canines.

The veterinary field in Maine is challenging, with a shortage of veterinarians across the state, and access and affordability issues that hit many pet owners. Retired law enforcement canines have served the people of Maine and have been at risk for a large portion of their lives. Upon retirement, handlers/owners who take them on may be faced with medical issues resulting in challenging costs. This bill proposes a mechanism for owners to get cost relief for significant medical needs for these dogs.

These dogs have gone to great lengths for us- the least we can do is ensure that they get the veterinary treatment they need during their retirement. We urge you to vote yes on LD 2081 for the dogs and the people of Maine who love and value them.

Sincerely,

Katie Lisnik,
Executive Director