

TESTIMONY
OF
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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Veterans and
Legal Affairs

Hearing Date: February 24th, 2026

**“An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of
State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the
Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending
June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027”**

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Joint Standing
Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and
members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Michael
Sauschuck, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. I am here today to
testify in support of LD 2212.

Overall Budget

This is the final budget proposal from the Administration. The proposal delivers financial
relief to Maine people, preserves programs lawmakers and Maine people support, and addresses
some emergent issues, including impacts of new federal legislation. Governor Mills’ guiding belief
has always been that our strongest asset is the people of Maine and that’s why this budget, like
those in the past, seeks to invest in and support them. We look forward to working with the
Legislature in the coming weeks to enact a balanced budget that supports Maine people and protects
the fiscal health of our state

Departmental Overview

The Department of Public Safety was established to serve the people by providing, coordinating, and leading a responsive and comprehensive public safety system to protect their lives, rights, and properties. This broad mission is accomplished with 699 positions spread across 10 bureaus. The Bureaus are Administration, Capitol Police, Consolidated Emergency Communications, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Marshal's Office, Gambling Control, Highway Safety, Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Maine State Police.

Gambling Control Unit

I will begin today on page A-108 with Gambling Control. The Gambling Control Unit (the Unit) supports a five-member Board that licenses and regulates companies and employees associated with two casinos, the distribution of casino-related equipment, and advance deposit wagering allowing bets on horse races throughout the country. The Unit also regulates fantasy sports contests, sports wagering, and charitable non-profit Games of Chance, Beano, and Bingo.

The first initiative provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources. There are a number of these adjustments in the department, and they are being requested to either align the funding with federal grant revenue or to adjust funding to align with revenues as recommended in the December 1, 2025 forecast of the Revenue Forecasting Committee.

The second initiative transfers one State Police Detective position and one SBI Specialist position from the Gambling Control Board program, 100% General Fund to the State Police program, 65% General Fund and 35% Highway Fund and provides funding for All Other related costs. The

Gambling Control Unit and Maine State Police agreed that these two positions are needed more urgently in the Maine State Police program and that transferring them is more appropriate to reflect the job duties now assigned to each position. With the vast majority of background checks now being processed through a contract with Gaming Integrity Services, the Detective position will be reassigned to the Major Crimes Unit and the SBI Specialist will be assigned back to the State Bureau of Investigation.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have