

Hello Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil and honorable Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Joint Standing Committee members. My name is Brooke McKay and I'm writing in support of LD 657. My views in this letter, are my personal views, and do not represent the bureau whatsoever.

I am a seasonal park ranger at Sebago Lake State Park (currently on seasonal leave). During the busy summer months, I am on night patrol from 4:30 PM, until 1:00 AM. Often, I am alone when going into campsites at night. I do have radio contact with the booth until they are off duty. I deal with groups of intoxicated people regularly. I enforce quiet hours, intoxication, hostile arguments, public intoxication and more. Not having simple safety items and adequate training to protect myself while going into campsites with several intoxicated visitors, just doesn't seem fair. There is a risk is there. Like law enforcement officers, most interactions are safe, but they get training and safety equipment to protect themselves. I only get pepper spray. I received one day of defensive tactics training in 2011. That has been it. I need more refresher trainings because that is too long of a gap. Even body armor would be a big safety action that would help provide some security

Summonses would help hold the people we talk to every year, accountable for their actions. Right now, if they cause an issue once a year, nothing happens. They know we can not do much, other than try to ask for compliance. But they come back year after year and do the same things because we have little we can do to hold them accountable. People would behave better and not waste staff time every year, if a financial burden like a summons was issued. Like parking tickets can do to the public.

Thank you for your time, and please think of staff safety when making your decision.

Sincerely,

Brooke McKay