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Senate District 15*

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TESTIMONY OF SENATOR MATTHEW POULIOT

Sponsor of LD 369

“An Act to Criminalize Recording an Incident in Progress but Failing To Report the Incident Immediately to the Appropriate Authority”

Public Hearing: February 24, 2021

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. I am Senator Matt Pouliot and I represent Senate District 15, which includes the towns of Augusta, China, Oakland, Sidney and Vassalboro. I am here to present LD 369 “An Act to Criminalize Recording an Incident in Progress but Failing to Report the Incident Immediately to the Appropriate Authority”

I was contacted by a constituent to put this bill in as he was very concerned that individuals are recording incidents that are taking place such as shootings, accidents and not calling 911 and instead recording the crime.

This bill makes recording by electronic device an incident in progress such as a crime or incident involving serious bodily injury or death but failing to immediately report the incident to an appropriate law enforcement or emergency response authority, which may include calling 911, a class E crime.

The first thing that anyone should be doing if there is an accident or a crime taking place is calling 911 and making sure themselves and everyone else is safe and not recording for social media or personal use. For someone who does this and does report an incident there needs to be a serious consequence.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.