



Maine Municipal Association

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Maine Municipal Association

Testimony in Support of

LD 1078- An Act To Promote Traffic Safety in Emergency Situations

April 7, 2021

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Rebecca Graham and I am submitting testimony in support of LD 1078 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association and at the direction of our 70-member Legislative Policy Committee.

Municipal officials support allowing civilian members of a local police department to assist with traffic control in emergency situations when they have received training and guidance of their police leadership and where it makes sense to do so.

Fire departments often have traffic specifically trained volunteers among their ranks and in many cases these volunteers may not be able to carry other duties of emergency response but provide this equally vital service that allows other trained fire personnel to focus on tasks that need specialized skills.

That said, officials appreciate the permissive approach that would add such individuals to liability protection, but also not burden local law enforcement with allowing such activity for their non-sworn employees if they choose not to do so for safety or staffing reasons.

As long as such expansion of allowable activity remains voluntary and at the discretion of the municipal officials in consultation with their police leadership, officials request that you support the passage of LD 1078.