



CUMBERLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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LD 1078, An Act to Promote Traffic Safety in Emergency Situations

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety committee. My Name is Kevin Joyce and I am the Sheriff of Cumberland County. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 1078, An Act to Promote Traffic Safety in Emergency Situations.

After reviewing the bill, this codifies the authority of non-sworn individuals who often assist law enforcement with traffic direction and control. This bill adds language to the existing law that stipulates that only trained public safety flaggers have the authority to direct traffic at an accident, emergency or disaster. Currently, the person must be a municipal firefighter authorized by their chief or a member of a licensed emergency medical service (EMS) authorized by their chief official.

For the past 13 years, the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office has had a Volunteer in Police Services (VIPS) group that assists the Sheriff's Office with various non-law enforcement tasks. Our VIPS often assist our agency with crime prevention events, senior check-in program, property checks, moving our traffic safety sign trailers throughout the county and crisis response teams for assisting victims or family members after a tragic incident. Additionally, our VIPS are very active in assisting us with traffic direction and control so that our deputies can do law enforcement related tasks, such as investigating incidents, reconstructing crashes, or at the scene of stand-offs.

While the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office has operated from the premise that we (law enforcement) often arrive at the scene first and often is responsible for shutting down traffic or re-routing traffic, our authority to do so extends to the VIPS who arrive at the scene to take over that direction or control of traffic.



Our VIPS members are “force multipliers to our agency, which allows us to focus on the law enforcement task at hand. So this bill will definitely benefit the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office VIPS who are always there to assist us while providing a very important service to the citizens of Cumberland County.

Thank you and I hope that you will support LD 1078, An Act to Promote Traffic Safety in Emergency Situations.

Kevin Joyce, Sheriff
Cumberland County

