



MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

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Statement in Support of L.D. 12, An Act To Require Annual Information Reporting by the Maine Information and Analysis Center

April 12, 2021

MCOPA supports L.D. 12 in order that lawmakers and the public have a better understanding of the role of the Maine Information and Analysis Center in solving crimes and ensuring public safety.

MIAC makes our jobs easier and less time-consuming in obtaining information that we could otherwise obtain only through much more arduous efforts. MIAC acts a clearinghouse for information that could otherwise be found only through multiple searches and, in some cases, only through sheer luck.

LD 12 would provide an annual report which we believe may satisfy many of the concerns expressed by lawmakers and the public, some of which are based on inaccurate information about the role of MIAC.

We urge an Ought to Pass report on LD 12.

From Bath Police Dept.:

A recent example worthy of mention is the apprehension of a man charged with violent crimes against a female. Information about the arrest warrant was provided by Bath P.D. in a bulletin to the Sagadahoc County Communications Center and to the MIAC. The MIAC bulletin was seen by Investigator Don White of the Maine Violent Crimes Task Force who contacted Bath P.D. for further information. Investigator White then took on the responsibility for locating the subject of the warrant and who subsequently apprehended him in Woolwich on February 22, 2021, the day after the bulletin came out. The subject is currently in detention at Two Bridges Regional Jail.

From Saco Police Dept.:

MIAC has always been great on reviewing Saco Police Department bulletins, making any necessary alterations, and disseminating them across the state, as well as with other states. MIAC can share this information much quicker than I or anyone in this department could, especially if time is of the essence. Our bulletins describe information on current crime trends in order to get other agencies to communicate with each other regarding similar investigations. This helps combine and piece together evidence for a multi-jurisdictional case. This type of working relationship was helpful for the 2019 to 2020 Felony Lane Gang investigation, the razor-blade-in-pizza-dough case at multiple Hannaford locations, organized check fraud cases, and officer safety bulletins.

Combatting Terrorism:

The federal government initially encouraged states to develop information clearinghouses, aka fusion centers, as a means of gathering information about foreign terrorists efforts to commit terrorist acts within our nation's borders. While some may take the view that that threat has largely subsidized, there has been a definite rise in domestic terrorism as reported by the FBI in recent months. Thus, the role of MIAC in confronting terrorism may have shifted more to activities within our borders, but that makes it no less important and perhaps even more important now than ever.

We urge an Ought Not to Pass report on LD 1278. A better approach and one we believe may satisfy many concerns about the MIAC is LD 12.