



# Maine Sheriffs' Association

*"One Team, One Mission"*

**Sheriff Troy Morton, President**

Sheriff William King, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Sheriff Dale Lancaster, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Sheriff Barry Curtis, Secretary –  
Sheriff Todd Brackett, Treasurer – Sheriff Kevin Joyce, Immediate Past President –  
Sheriff Joel Merry, Past President-at-Large - Mary-Anne LaMarre, Executive Director

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April 12, 2021

## **L.D. 12 – An Act To Require Annual Information Reporting by the Maine Information and Analysis Center**

Senator Dechambault, Representative Warren, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Troy Morton. I am the Sheriff of Penobscot County and President of the Maine Sheriffs' Association. Maine sheriffs met to discuss this bill and our unanimous position is to support *L.D. 12 – An Act To Require Annual Information Reporting by the Maine Information and Analysis Center.*

*"We do not fear the unknown. We fear what we think we know about the unknown."  
~Mary Bosworth*

L.D.12 is an important bill for many reasons. MIAC has a very powerful story to tell and as CJ members, it's critical that each and every one of you understands the depth of the impact this fusion center has here in Maine by having them regularly report out. Fusion centers such as MIAC are connected across the country. Sharing of essential information about topics like newly designed firearms or trends in illicit drugs would be nearly impossible without MIAC. As leaders in law enforcement, we know this information not only protects our staff members, but ultimately ensures that Maine citizens benefit as a safer place to live and work. We believe that fully educating this committee on such information sharing will result in a unified investment in its success. L.D.12 provides the mechanism to get these success stories into this committee.

Maine Sheriffs see L.D.12 as another opportunity to provide accountability. We applaud Senator Deschambault for recognizing the benefit of this bill, and we urge members of this committee to vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your time. I invite members of this committee to present any questions you may have.

Sincerely,  
Sheriff Troy Morton  
President, Maine Sheriffs' Association