

MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

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Statement in Regard to

 LD. 400, An Act To Modify the Composition of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy
L.D. 513, An Act Regarding the Membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and Its Complaint Review Committee , and

L.D. 1092, An Act To Expand the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy To Include 6 Members of the Public Who Are Not Employed as Any Type of Law Enforcement Personnel and To Require a Public Review of the Training Syllabus April 16, 2021

All of these bills expand the already large and somewhat cumbersome Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Agency. We, therefore, oppose increasing the number of trustees. With respect to the separate bills, we offer the following comments:

L.D. 400 – Rather than add a seat for a county commissioner to the board, we recommend that the seat currently occupied by a municipal official rotate between a county commissioner and a municipal official in a manner similar to the current rotation of one seat among Maine's the tribal governments.

L.D. 513 – Sec. 1 of the bill is identical to L.D. 400. With respect to Sec. 2 of the bill, we support an expansion of the Complaint Review Committee as proposed.

L.D. 1092 – This bill also adds to the size of the Board of Trustees. The Board already has a higher proportion of public and non-law enforcement members (5 of 18 members) than almost any of the other 40-plus state licensing boards. Thus, we oppose that portion of the bill.

The bill would make appointment of some Board positions subject to the legislature's presiding officers rather than the governor. We take no position on this matter.

Finally, the bill sets up a rather cumbersome process for the review of the training curriculum which is adopted by rulemaking. Instead, we believe that any rulemaking, including the training curriculum, be subject to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 MRS Subchapter 2) which governs the adoption and amendment of the rules of every other state agency.

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