



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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May 7, 2021

L.D. 1447 – An Act To Require Training in Racial Issues, Racial Justice and Social Issues at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and To Establish Additional Requirements for Law Enforcement Officers and Candidates

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

My name is Tim Carroll. I am the Sheriff of Knox County and here today on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs' Association. Maine sheriffs met to discuss this bill and our position is **Neither For Nor Against** L.D. 1447 – An Act To Require Training in Racial Issues, Racial Justice and Social Issues at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and To Establish Additional Requirements for Law Enforcement Officers and Candidates.

Maine sheriffs met to discuss this proposed legislation as it directly impacts each and every one of us. There isn't a single MSA member that isn't supportive of finding ways to improve law enforcement accountability and professionalism. Those of us who wear the badge with honor and integrity are lined up to work with you to find these solutions.

L.D. 1447 has much potential towards that end and we encourage and support training in social issues and law enforcement response. There were many reasons for the MSA to come to today's public hearing to offer our support of the training areas outlined in this bill. We applaud the sponsors for bringing these ideas forward and look forward to working with stakeholders to further explore.

On the other hand, we have one specific section that we unanimously opposed. Maine law enforcement is struggling from crippling vacancy issues across the state. Frankly, the additional requirement of a minimum of sixty hours of postsecondary education in finite concentrations may seem attainable, however, it would create an obstacle in the already dwindling field of law enforcement candidates.

The MSA deeply appreciates the opportunity to specify our position on this well-intentioned legislation. I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Tim Carroll
o/b/o Maine Sheriffs' Association