

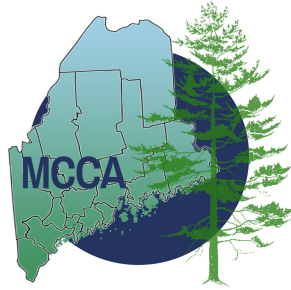
M.C.C.A.

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LD 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

May 7, 2021

Chair Deschambault, Chair Warren, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Stephen Gorden and in addition to serving as chair of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as board president of the Maine County Commissioners Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee neither for nor against LD 1447.

About MCCA. Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was founded in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta and currently represents 15 of Maine's 16 counties and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

Our position on LD 1447. The goal of LD 1447 is important – ensuring that law enforcement officials, including those at the county level, have adequate training on issues such as racial equity, substance use disorder, homelessness, and other key issues confronting law enforcement officials every day in Maine. Our only comment relates to the potential for such training to add costs to the county budget. To the extent the bill requires the expenditure of funds by a local government, including counties, the bill requires a Mandate Preamble.

Conclusion. We appreciate the opportunity to provide information to the Committee, and if we can assist further in this regard, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Gorden".

Stephen Gorden
President

cc: Commissioner Brian Hobart, Chair, MCCA Legislative Committee
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel