



**STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MAINE STATE POLICE**

**COL JOHN E. COTE  
CHIEF**

**LTC WILLIAM S. HARWOOD  
DEPUTY CHIEF**

**TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW RUEL  
DIRECTOR, STATE BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION**

**Neither for nor Against LD 1592**

**An Act To Decriminalize Engaging in Prostitution, Strengthen the Laws against  
Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Allow a Person Convicted of Engaging in Prostitution  
To Petition the Court To Expunge the Record of Conviction**

Members of the Committee:

My name is Matthew Ruel, and I am the Director of the State Bureau of Identification at the Department of Public Safety. I provide this very brief testimony on behalf of the Department as Neither For Nor Against LD 1592.

This bill proposes numerous changes to Title 17-A that are outside of the purview of SBI and I can't offer any testimony on those proposed changes. However, the bill goes on to propose adding an "expunge" process that I can speak directly to. This LD, along with many other LDs this session is looking at clarification on the definitions of "seal or expunge" and the adding of such language to many criminal history reform changes. I have met with the bill's sponsor and discussed numerous issues we have with the term/definition of expungement, as well as its impact on record use. I have offered alternative language replacing "expunge" with "seal" for the sponsors review which would address my limited concerns.

I would be happy to attend a work session, and work with the committee as needed. Thank you.