



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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April 28, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF
SHERIFF SCOTT KANE
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

**LD 1410 – An Act to Provide Due Process in Confiscation and Destruction of
Personal Items of Unhoused Persons**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing on Judiciary. My name is Scott Kane and I'm the Sheriff of Hancock County. I am the 2nd Vice-President of the Maine Sheriffs Association and I'm here on their behalf.

Your Maine Sheriffs have taken the unanimous position of OPPOSE for LD 1410 – An Act to Provide Due Process in Confiscation and Destruction of Personal Items of Unhoused Persons.

Maine law enforcement works closely with unhoused people for a myriad of reasons. This population is most vulnerable, and these communities and people within them need empathy and support. This approach is aligned with our oath to serve and protect all people of Maine. While we understand the intent of this bill, we cannot support.

Maine sheriffs discussed scenarios that our deputies encounter when they're dispatched to aid a person who is unhoused. Current practice is to store possessions for the person if they are incarcerated, as we do all personal belongings.

While this bill tries to accommodate law enforcement, we find section 4.A. to be most disconcerting. Personal belongings can apply to a variety of objects and without finite definition of what falls under this chapter, there would inevitably be scenarios in which storing objects could not be considered an immediate threat to public safety but would not be appropriate to store.

LD 1410 strips corrections facilities of the ability to differentiate between items for storage or which should be discarded. We see this as an unnecessary level of micromanagement. Further, Maine's county and regional jails are chronically underfunded. Imposing a \$2,000 fine for confiscating or destroying items puts counties at risk for costly court fees if an alleged item of personal value is discarded.

Maine sheriffs want to be partners in providing support for persons who are unhoused. We've worked diligently with many committees to find solutions towards this goal. Unfortunately, we cannot support LD 1410, and we urge committee members to vote Ought Not To Pass.

We appreciate the opportunity to present our concerns. I am happy to answer any questions you may have now or during the work session.