

LD 1671 Resolve, To Implement Security Screenings in the State House and Capitol Area Offices

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
From: Lynne Caswell, Esq., Legislative Analyst
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electronic record <http://legislature.maine.gov/slg-meeting-materials-130th-legislature>

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Public Safety to implement certain security screening procedures for individuals entering the Burton M. Cross Building within the capitol area, including:

- limiting the number of public entrances;
- requiring individuals entering the building to undergo a security screening for person and packages;
- refuse entry to anyone who declines screening;
- prioritizing security screenings for Legislators, legislative employee or other person with valid access card (state employees who work in the CSOB); and
- prioritize screening of registered lobbyist

The resolve also directs the Legislative Council to adopt rules to make certain changes to the security screening procedures for individuals entering the State House, including:

- requiring all Legislators and legislative employees to undergo a security screening;
- prioritizing security screenings of Legislators and legislative employees; or other person with valid access card and registered lobbyist

TESTIMONY*

Sponsor: Representative Gramlich read by Rep Meyers

- 9 committees meet in Cross Building
- Currently no safety measures
- Would provide safeguards as in State House

Cosponsor: Representative Meyers

- Experience of stalking and harassment

Proponents: Capitol Police by Steven Trahan on behalf of Lt. Robert Elliot, Interim Leader, DPS

- Weapon screening at Cross is long overdue
- February 2020 report evaluated options
- Prioritize screening members, staff, lobbyist
- Limit entrances to Cross

Opponents: none

NFNA: none

* The section is not intended to reflect all comments and may include unintentionally errors.

INFORMATION

DPS BUREAU OF CAPITAL POLICE REPORT: Security of Legislative Space in the Burton Cross State Office Building, February 14, 2020

Report to State House Facilities Commission – reviewed the following 4 options

1. Screen all persons entering individual Legislative Hearing Rooms in the CSOB;
2. Screen all people entering the Legislative space within the CSOB;
3. Screen all people entering the CSOB; and
4. Screen all people entering the CSOB or the State House at a single point of entry

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLICY ON SECURITY SCREENING PROTOCOLS FOR THE MAINE STATE HOUSE
<https://mainelegislature.org/doc/3437>

This policy exempts the following individuals from screening:

- Legislators;
- Legislative employees;
- Governor and employees;
- State law enforcement;
- Members of Governor’s Cabinet and their appointed deputy commissioners;
- State House Press corps;
- Constitutional Officers and State Auditor;
- State Court Administrator;
- Chari of the State House and Capitol Park Commission; and
- Staff of the OAG, submitted for approval

FISCAL IMPACT - Preliminary (OFPR)

None provided as of this date.