



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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February 3, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF
SHERIFF KEN MASON
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

In opposition to

**LD 118 – An Act to Allow Candidates for Sheriff and District Attorney
to Participate in the Maine Clean Election Act**

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Sheriff Ken Mason, and I have had the privilege to protect and serve Maine citizens since 1987. I am Chairman of the Maine Sheriffs Association's Legislative Policy Committee, and I am here today on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs' Association.

Maine sheriffs convened last month to discuss L.D. 118 – An Act to Allow Candidates for Sheriff and District Attorney to Participate in the Maine Clean Election Act. The MSA's LPC voted unanimously to oppose this bill.

I'd like to begin by saying Maine sheriffs very much appreciate Senator Bennett's efforts to include the Office of Sheriff. Like everyone around this horseshoe, we are elected to office by our constituents.

Maine Sheriffs have two concerns about this bill. The first can be found in Title 25, Part 9, Chapter 403 subchapter 2, §3713, 2., which reads "Coercion of contributions. No law enforcement officer, or any other person representing a law enforcement officer may directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce or command any person to pay, lend or contribute anything of value for the furtherance of a campaign by a law enforcement officer for public office." By this definition, we are clearly prohibited from participating in the Maine Clean Election Act.

Secondly, Maine jails have been flat funded for the last two biennium budgets, except for additional MAT funding of \$4m to be split between fifteen jails. Clean Election funds use tax dollars from our constituents. Maine Sheriffs believe these tax dollars can be put to better use supporting our jails, which are the first point of contact for many individuals struggling with mental health issues or substance use disorders.

I appreciate the time you've provided and I am happy to answer any questions you may have and thank you for your time.

Sheriff Ken Mason
Maine Sheriffs Association
LD 118

This testimony is submitted on behalf of Sheriff Mason, who will testify in person.