



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

Sheriff Dale P. Lancaster, President

Sheriff Scott Nichols, 1st Vice-President, Sheriff William King, 2nd Vice-President – Sheriff Barry Curtis, Secretary – Sheriff Todd Brackett, Treasurer – Sheriff Troy Morton, Immediate Past President – Sheriff Joel Merry, Past President-at-Large - Mary-Anne LaMarre, Executive Director

June 8, 2023

RE: Sponsor's proposed amendment to L.D. 1613 – An Act to Prohibit Profiling and to Strengthen Civil Rights in Maine

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Dale Lancaster. I am the Sheriff of Somerset County and President of the Maine Sheriffs Association. Maine's sixteen sheriffs reviewed the recently released sponsor amendment proposed for L.D. 1613 and all sheriffs voted unanimously to oppose the proposed amendment, as written, for L.D. 1613 – An Act to Prohibit Profiling and to Strengthen Civil Rights in Maine.

There are critical issues that would result if this language is passed into statute.

- ⚙️ The definition of profiling provided in this amendment is very ambiguous, where it uses such terms as "to any degree" or "perceived race."
- ⚙️ If passed, this could significantly hinder law enforcement officers from doing their job – where it puts restrictions on asking questions of stopped motorists or pedestrians. This could lead to suspects of crimes, including serious crimes against persons, being allowed to evade apprehension. This is contrary to U.S. Supreme Court case law.
- ⚙️ The idea that a law enforcement agency would be subject to an action under the Maine Civil Rights Act is a considerable undertaking by the Attorney General's Office. Staffing, oversight, etc., would be significant. This would be similar to the U.S. Department of Justice entering into a Consent Decree with a municipality. That would require an extensive process, which the State does not currently have in place.
- ⚙️ It is increasingly difficult to recruit individuals to become law enforcement officers today. Adding arbitrary and capricious standards as set forth in this amendment will only discourage men and women from entering the profession.

We respectfully ask esteemed members of this committee to vote **Ought Not To Pass.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Dale P. Lancaster, President
Maine Sheriffs' Association