



# Maine Sheriffs' Association

*"One Team, One Mission"*

**Sheriff Kevin Joyce, President**

Sheriff Troy Morton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Sheriff William King, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Sheriff Barry Curtis, Secretary –  
Sheriff Todd Brackett, Treasurer – Sheriff Joel Merry, Immediate Past President –  
Sheriff Timothy Carroll, Executive Board Member-at-Large - Mary-Anne LaMarre, Executive Director

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May 13, 2019

## **LD 1475 – An Act To Eliminate Profiling in Maine**

Good morning Senator Carpenter, Representative Bailey, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Joel Merry. I am the Sheriff of Sagadahoc County and the Immediate Past-President of the Maine Sheriffs Association. I am here on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs to provide testimony in opposition to **LD-1475 – An Act To Eliminate Profiling in Maine.**

While the Maine Sheriffs unanimously oppose this bill, it's critical that members of this committee understand that our position is directly related to the mandates of this bill and not its philosophy. Maine Sheriffs stand united in our position that profiling is unacceptable in any capacity and that using a person's race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin should never be used for suspicion that a crime has occurred or may occur.

As leaders of county law enforcement, Maine Sheriffs strive to create agencies that model integrity. We collectively believe that the management and culture of our agencies are the most important factors that influence the behavior of those officers that represent county government. This unified endeavor is reflected by each of Maine's sixteen counties having enacted high standards to safeguard the federal rights of all individuals.

This bill would incorporate additional training mandates that are costly to county government. The line item in each county's correction budget is already maximized by state mandated trainings. This year alone, counties are faced with a collective shortfall of over \$3,000,000, much of this due to the cost of existing required training for county corrections' staff.

This bill would require additional, costly training and record keeping that is unmatched by any other current record keeping requirements currently in place for county law enforcement. We ask that this committee carefully consider the additional costs that would be borne by county government if this bill were to pass.

Even one instance of profiling based on one's race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin is one too many. We believe this and we expect nothing less of those that represent of office of sheriff. This bill, while genuine in its intent, will cause addition financial strain on an already overburdened system. Maine Sheriffs urge you to recognize the fiscal impact of this bill on our struggling counties and urge you to vote in opposition.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to ask any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Joel Merry  
Maine Sheriffs' Association