



MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2431 • South Portland, Maine 04116-2431

Chief Edward J. Tolan (ret.), Executive Director, Tel: (207) 838-6583
email: mcopa@maine.rr.com Web site: www.mainechiefs.com

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Statement in Opposition to
**L.D. 1862, An Act To Strengthen Maine's Good Samaritan
Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance**
submitted by
Chief Jared Mills, Augusta Police Dept.
February 8, 2022

Maine Chiefs of Police Association understands the importance of getting medical help to drug overdose victims at the earliest possible moment. For this reason, we support the recently-enacted good samaritan law. The then-chief of the Portland Police Department testified in support of the bill in 2019 that led to the current law. That law provides an affirmative defense for both the person experiencing an overdose and the person providing aid who calls for assistance.

Expanding the law to immunize persons who happen to be at the same location as the victim and the caller is unwarranted and could result in protecting persons who may have committed serious, if not violent, offenses, and who played no role in providing aid. To the contrary, such a person might actually have been the supplier of fentanyl-laced heroine that caused the overdose.

In addition to removing impediments to providing aid to those who have overdosed, as was done with the enactment of the current law, Maine must continue to increase support for prevention and treatment.

We do not support amending the law to protect those who did not provide aid and we urge the committee give this bill an Ought Not to Pass report.