



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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April 27, 2023

L.D. 1364 – An Act to Prevent Opioid Overdose Deaths by Establishing Safe Consumption Sites

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice, my name is Jason Trundy. I am the Waldo County Sheriff and I'm here today on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs Association.

Maine Sheriffs reviewed L.D. 1364 – An Act to Prevent Opioid Overdose Deaths by Establishing Safe Consumption Sites. Members present voted unanimously to OPPOSE L.D. 1364.

Maine Sheriffs understands that the intention of L.D. 1364 is to save Maine lives. The bill itself makes that very promise in its title and we believe the sponsor is fully committed to the primary goal of saving lives. Further, we recognize that this L.D. does not direct the state to operate these proposed facilities but gives municipalities the authority to do so. As you are all aware, Maine Sheriffs provides primary law enforcement services to many municipalities across the State, and we strongly urge you to consider our position.

When assessing the impact such sites would have on Maine, it's incumbent upon all of us to research how these sites have impacted other similar communities before making decisions. The challenge becomes, what communities? Where else in the country have sites been opened that are comparable to Maine communities? While Representative Lookner is carefully looking to save the lives of Mainers, what are the unintended consequences? Will drug users from rural communities make their way to the cities for these services?

Under the current language of L.D. 1364, there is no limit to how many communities can open these sites, how many can be set up within one municipality, nor sanctions should violations occur. Maine sheriffs have a vast responsibility to provide law enforcement for rural communities and have concerns surrounding how L.D. 1364 could impact the safety of the communities we serve.

Opioids are destroying our communities and while we understand and respect Representative Lookner's intent, Maine Sheriffs unanimously urge you to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS.

I welcome any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Jason Trundy
Maine Sheriffs Association