



State of Maine
Department of Public Safety
Maine State Police

To: Sen. Beebe-Center, Rep. Hasenfus and distinguished member of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

Fr: Lt. Tom Pickering, Maine State Police (MSP), MCU-Unsolved

Re: LD 172, *An Act to Require the Maine State Police to Create a Statewide List of Missing Persons and Study Improvements for Investigating Missing Persons Cases*, Preliminary Report and Request for Additional Time.

Date: December 11, 2025

Please accept this as a preliminary report of the stakeholders established via LD 172, *An Act to Require the Maine State Police to Create a Statewide List of Missing Persons and Study Improvements for Investigating Missing Persons Cases* which also comes with a request for an extended timeline.

Due to truncated length of time between enactment of LD 172, the workload of the agencies involved and the report back date, the working group will not be prepared to make full recommendations until mid-January.

We have had the opportunity to meet in person and review the process for a statewide missing persons list and review law enforcement agency expectations. We also examined the effectiveness of Maine's Silver Alert program, discussed best practices for missing persons investigations and opened the floor to potential solutions to greater interagency communication and cooperation.

However, we were not able to have participation from the Attorney General's Office or Maine's Tribal Delegations, and both should have the opportunity to weigh in on the group's working recommendations before they are submitted to the committee.

While there was no participation of tribal members from Maine's federally recognized Indian tribes, nations or bands, the working group outreach has led to an invitation for Lt. Pickering to present on the status of the working group to date to members of each tribal nation, at the VAWA conference on

December 16, 2025. We hope this will also provide an opportunity for tribal members to provide feedback on the working group recommendations at that time.

The preliminary meeting has found areas of understanding and cooperation that can be improved without legislative effort and identified areas of need that will require review from agencies and stakeholders that were not able to participate to date. The discussions have highlighted areas of need for improvement that can begin now, and we are grateful for the opportunity provided Rep. Milliken's initiative.

We anticipate that fully vetted recommendations and suggestions will be available to submit to the committee mid-January, and we thank you for your consideration in accepting this extension.

LD 172 Meeting and Participants

DATE: November 19, 2025 @ 10:00

LOCATION: Auburn Police Department located at Auburn Hall 60 Court St., Auburn, ME

Working group participants

Attendance in person:

Jason Moen, Chief Auburn PD and President of Maine Chiefs

Lincoln Ryder, Director, Maine Criminal Justice Academy

Lindsay Chasteen, Office of Chief Medical Examiner

Harley Brann Office of Chief Medical Examiner

Harry Weigman, Sergeant, Maine Warden Service

Josh Smith, Warden, Maine Warden Service

Teri Krause (w/ husband John Krause) Sister to Michael Madore

Lt. Ethel Ross, MSP Major Crimes Unit-South, DPS Amber Alert Administrator

Michael Labbe, DPS Operations Manager Augusta Regional Communications Center

Chris Gay, MSP Access Integrity Unit

Chief Deputy William Gagne, Androscoggin Sheriff's Office

Attendance via TEAMS:

Sgt. Mallory Littman, New Hampshire State Police

Deb Palman, Maine Search and Rescue Dogs (Maine Warden Service; Retired)

Respectfully submitted,

Lt. Tom Pickering