

Legislative Briefing Book



Information prepared for the
130th Maine Legislature

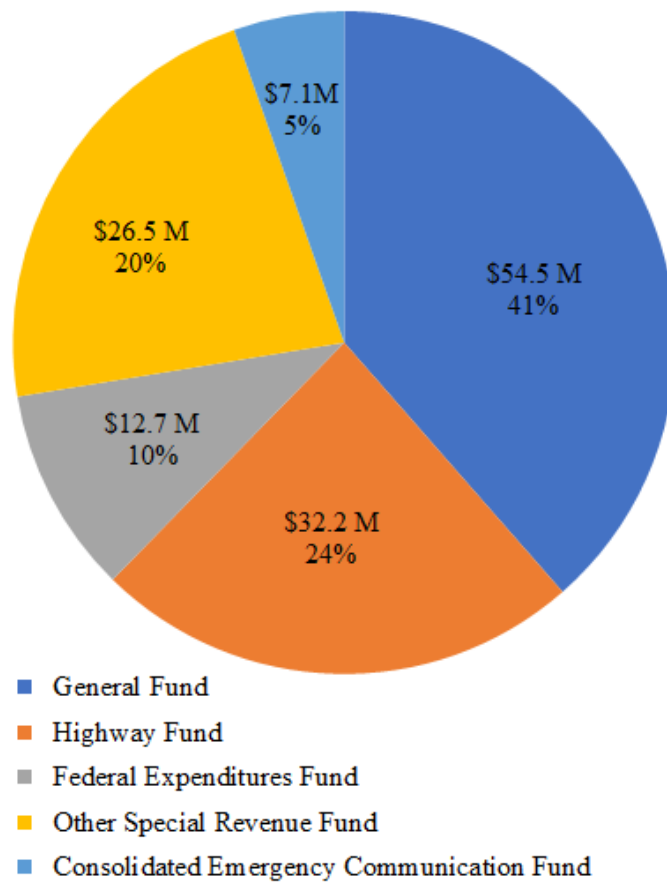
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Welcome to the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

DPS was established to serve the people by providing, coordinating, and leading a comprehensive public safety system to protect their lives, rights and properties. This broad mission is accomplished with 625 positions spread across 10 bureaus. The Bureaus are Administration, Capitol Police, Consolidated Emergency Communications, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Marshal's Office, Gambling Control, Highway Safety, Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Maine State Police. DPS operates with a budget of approximately \$ 133 million per year.

Department of Public Safety FY22/23 Proposed Budget



MISSION

TO SERVE THE PEOPLE BY PROVIDING, COORDINATING AND LEADING A RESPONSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC SAFETY SYSTEM TO PROTECT THEIR LIVES, RIGHTS AND PROPERTIES

VISION

To provide the highest quality of service and to merit confidence and respect, we will:

- Recognize and respond to the public safety needs of the people;
- Promote leadership, innovation, initiative, training and teamwork with the Department;
- Recognize our responsibility for leadership in statewide public safety issues while providing support, cooperation, education and assistance to others; and,
- Work together to ensure a more secure work environment of mutual respect, support and trust.

VALUES

We, in Public Safety, value:

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

We vigorously strive for excellence and continuously seek to improve the quality of our performance.

TEAMWORK

We promote teamwork by building a work environment that encourages:

Trust and respect

Open and honest communication

Personal and professional growth

EMPOWERMENT

We recognize the importance of each individual and encourage exploration on innovative solutions and participation in decisions.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

We recognize our responsibility to prudently manage all resources entrusted to us by the taxpayers.

PERSONAL BALANCE

We recognize the need to balance competing demands in life, including family, work, friends and health.

STATUTES

Citations for Departmental structure and authority, as well as subject matter statutes.

Bureaus:

Building Codes and Standards: 10 MRS 9721 et. seq.
Capitol Police: 25 MRS 2908 et. seq.
Commissioner's Office: 25 MRS 2901 et. seq
Consolidated Emergency Communications: 25 MRS 1533 et. seq.
Emergency Medical Services: 32 MRS 81 et. seq.
Fire Marshal's Office: 25 MRS 2396 et. seq.
Gambling Control Unit: 8 MRS 1002 et. seq.
Highway Safety: 25 MRS 2902 et. seq.
Maine Criminal Justice Academy: 25 MRS 2801 et. seq.
Maine Drug Enforcement Agency: 25 MRS 2951 et. seq.
State Police: 25 MRS 1501 et. seq.

Subject Matter Statutes:

Biased Based Profiling Committee: 25 MRS 3301
Criminal History Records Act: 16 MRS 631 et. seq.
Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act: 34-A MRS 11201 et. seq.
Automatic License Plate Reader Committee: 29-A MRS 2117-a
Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Assault 19-A MRS 4013 et. seq.
Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act: 22 MRS 2421 et. seq.
Restoration of Firearms Rights to Prohibited Persons: 15 MRS 393
Freedom of Access Act: 1 MRS 401 et. seq.
Right to Know Advisory Committee: 1 MRS 411 et. seq.
Confidentiality of Juvenile Criminal Records Act: 15 MRS 3308
Maine Fire Protection Services Commission: 5 MRS 3371 et. seq.
Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau: 25 MRS 2922 et. seq.
Confidentiality of Personnel Records: 30-A MRS 2702
Interstate Police Assistance Act: 30-A MRS 2676

Commissioner's Office



**Michael J. Sauschuck,
Commissioner**

Commissioner Michael J. Sauschuck came to the Department of Public Safety from the City of Portland, where he worked as the Assistant City Manager. He started his law enforcement career with the Portland Police Department in 1997 and was promoted through the ranks of that agency, ultimately becoming the Chief of Police for the department in July 2011. At the Portland Police Department, Commissioner Sauschuck was responsible for the executive command of 163 sworn officers and 60 civilian employees, and for administering a law enforcement agency with an annual budget of 16.6 million dollars. His philosophy was geared to creating partnerships with those he served in order to develop long-term solutions that help citizens thrive. He is a former United States Marine Corps Machine Gunner, and he has held specialties as a Field Training Officer, a Special Reaction Team Member, a Crisis Intervention Team Member, and a Weapons of Mass Destruction Team Member. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology. Commissioner Sauschuck lives in Windham with his wife, Mary.



**Kendra Coates,
Assistant to the Commissioner**

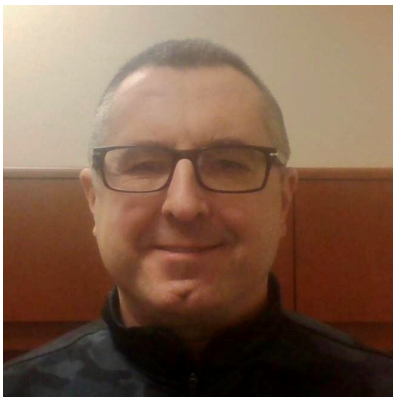
Kendra Coates has served Maine State Government in various senior management and executive-level positions for over 25 years. She came to the Department of Public Safety from the Office of Information Technology (OIT), where she was the Finance Director for more than four years. Before working for OIT, Kendra spent fifteen years in various insurance regulatory roles at the Bureau of Insurance. As Assistant to the Commissioner, she is responsible for overseeing the financial management of the Department. Kendra works with the Commissioner and the Bureau Chiefs on day-to-day management issues as well as long-range planning. She was a Captain in the Maine Army National Guard and served as the Company Commander for the 314th Medical Company. Kendra is a graduate of Saint Joseph's College, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She became a Certified Public Accountant in 2001. Kendra resides in Farmingdale with her family.

Commissioner's Office, Continued



**Danielle E. Namer,
Executive Assistant**

Danielle Namer is the Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, the Assistant to the Commissioner and the Maine State Police Command Staff. She has worked for the Department of Public Safety for three years. Danielle came to DPS after working as an executive assistant in the health care field for 10 years. She is a graduate of the University of Maine at Augusta, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a minor in Advocacy. Danielle lives in Woolwich with her family.



**Christopher Parr,
Staff Attorney**

Christopher Parr is the Staff Attorney for the Maine State Police and the Legislative Coordinator for the Department of Public Safety. He has been with the department since January 2006.

Capitol Police



**Russell J. Gauvin,
Chief**

The Bureau of Capitol Police is a law enforcement agency responsible for the safety of the people and the security of the buildings that make up Maine's seat of government. The Bureau was first organized in 1967 by Governor Kenneth Curtis. While Capitol Police officers are based at the Capitol Complex and their efforts are primarily focused on the immediate area, they may take action statewide as needed. Officers take great pride in ensuring the safety and security of state legislators, legislative staff, state employees and the people of the State of Maine. We act cooperatively with other local, county, state, and federal agencies to ensure that we provide the best possible services. Our primary areas of responsibility include the State House, the other State buildings within the Capitol Area campus, and the buildings on the east side of the Kennebec River within the East Side Campus (formerly the Augusta Mental Health Institute). Bureau police officers patrol State owned or controlled properties in Augusta, enforce laws, including parking and traffic regulations, and respond to alarms and other calls for help or assistance on the two campuses. Additionally, we have an office at Riverview Psychiatric Center and provide 24 hour police services to assist staff and individuals who are receiving care.

Consolidated Emergency Communications



**Brodie S. Hinckley,
Director**

The Bureau of Consolidated Emergency Communications provides consolidated emergency communications to state, county and local public safety agencies. With three Regional Communications Centers (RCC), Consolidated Emergency Communications provides both enhanced 911 and emergency dispatch services for police, fire and emergency medical services. The RCCs provide dispatching services for State Police, Maine Warden Service, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, State Fire Marshal's Office, Maine Turnpike Authority, and the Departments of Marine Resources, Environmental Protection and Maine Forest Rangers. In addition, the Regional Communications Centers provide dispatch services for dozens of fire, rescue, police, and ambulance services across Maine.

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (Maine EMS)



**J. Sam Hurley,
Director**

The Maine Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (Maine EMS) serves as the administrative body for the Maine Board of EMS. The Board is responsible for regulation of all EMS agencies, EMS clinicians (EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs, paramedics), EMS educational institutions, emergency medical dispatch centers, and emergency medical dispatchers. Over the past year, Maine EMS has been extensively involved with the ongoing pandemic response; however, our agency is prioritizing strategic planning to help devise our pathway forward state-wide and will be presenting legislation about improving our quality control and improvement capabilities.

Fire Marshal's Office



**Joseph E. Thomas,
Chief**

The mission of the Office of State Fire Marshal is to prevent loss of life and property for those that live, work and visit the State of Maine. The programs of the State Fire Marshal have primary goals of 1) investigation of the origin and cause of fires and explosions; 2) arson investigation, evidence gathering and case preparation for possible prosecution; 3) regulate, permit and inspect for the use of explosives, fireworks, and certain flammable liquids; 4) inspect approximately 25 different types of buildings and facilities with the primary focus to enforce life safety codes and standards; 5) review plans to issue permits for construction and alteration of public buildings, handicap accessibility, installation of fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems, installation of above ground fuel storage tanks, amusement rides, and new self-service gas stations; 6) conduct and offer specialized training for trade professionals, care givers, code enforcement officials, and fire and law enforcement professionals; 7) coordinate efforts of specialty subject areas such as the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Task Force; 8) implement, manage, and report on Maine's Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette law; 9) develop and deliver public education and awareness programs on fire prevention and safety to Maine's most vulnerable populations; and, 10) conduct research and analysis of the state fire burden for use in the development, implementation, and improvement of new and existing programs.

Gambling Control Unit



**Milton F. Champion,
Director**

The Gambling Control Board is a 5-member board appointed by the Governor and charged with the regulation of casino gaming as authorized by 8 MRSA, Chapter 31. The Gambling Control Unit reports to the Board and is responsible for the inspection, monitoring and investigation of the companies and individuals that are associated with gaming activities at licensed facilities in the State. The Gambling Control Unit regulates, supervises, and exercises general control over the operations of Casino Gaming, Beano and Bingo operations, Games of Chance and Fantasy Sports. Further, the Gambling Control Unit oversees the collection and distribution of funds that are generated from those operations. The Gambling Control Unit also assists in the investigation of illegal gambling in Maine.

Bureau of Highway Safety (MeBHS)



**Lauren V. Stewart,
Director**

The goal of the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety is to eliminate death, injury and economic losses resulting from traffic crashes on all of Maine's roadways by developing and implementing data-driven highway safety programs designed to address driver behavior. Funding is provided at the state and local community level to address Maine's highway safety needs. Loss of life on Maine's roads is completely preventable. The Bureau strives to cultivate new and existing partnerships to help eliminate traffic fatalities. Everyone has a role and our most important highway safety partners are Maine's citizens. Each person, whether traveling by motor vehicle, bicycle or foot, can help by making a daily commitment to not drive distracted, impaired or aggressively and to buckle up every trip. In addition to administering federal grant funds, the MeBHS is also responsible for managing Maine's Implied Consent Program, developing and administering the Maine Driving Dynamics Driver Improvement Program, and administration of the Federal Fatal Analysis Reporting System through a cooperative agreement with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Though we focus on the behavioral aspect of highway safety, our unrelenting overall goal is to reduce and eliminate all preventable motor vehicle crashes. We believe that through committed partnerships with others interested in highway safety, through comprehensive and strategic program planning, through public information and education, and through a data-driven approach to coordinated education and enforcement, that we can achieve our goals and save lives from preventable crashes.

Maine Criminal Justice Academy



**Richard R. Desjardins,
Director**

The mission of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy is to provide the highest level of training, within given resources, to law enforcement and correctional officers in the State. By statute, the Academy is required to provide a basic training program for all full-time law enforcement officers, judicial marshals, capitol police officers, pre-service training for all part-time law enforcement officers and basic corrections training for all county and state correctional officers. The Academy also coordinates the eight Regional Training Districts across the state, which provides in-service training to officers in remote areas. The primary responsibilities of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and our Board of Trustees are to certify and set the standards for certification of graduates of the Academy, to promulgate the entrance standards of students and to prescribe the content of the curriculum. The Board of Trustees is empowered to certify and set standards for the certification and decertification of law enforcement executives, law enforcement officers, corrections officers, judicial marshals, capitol police officers, canine handler teams, instructors, probation officers, forest rangers and many others.

Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA)



**Roy E. McKinney,
Director**

The mission of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency is to disrupt the drug market, thereby undermining the ability of drug suppliers to meet, expand, and profit from drug demand while supporting prevention efforts and contributing to treatment efforts. Its goals are to: reduce the availability of drugs; protect the State's borders by stemming the flow of drugs into and through Maine; strengthen the State's drug law enforcement infrastructure; strengthen intelligence and information sharing; enhance collaboration and coordination with all law enforcement agencies; and establish effective partnerships with agencies focused on reducing drug abuse. Maine Drug Enforcement is a cornerstone of the State's enforcement strategy to address drug trafficking and it provides the administrative platform for the efficient use of limited resources through partnerships with federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement agencies.

Maine State Police



**John E. Cote,
Colonel**

The primary purpose of the Maine State Police is to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Maine and those who visit our state by enforcing motor vehicle and criminal statutes. These efforts are primarily focused on the rural areas of Maine without organized police departments, on the Maine Turnpike and the Interstate System. The Bureau investigates all homicides in Maine that occur outside of the state's two largest cities – Portland and Bangor. The State Police provide a wide array of specialized response teams and support functions for Maine law enforcement agencies. The Bureau operates the Maine

Information and Analysis Center (MIAC) – the State's designated intelligence fusion center, as well as the State Bureau of Identification, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit, and Maine's digital forensic support unit for major investigations, the Computer Crimes Unit. The Bureau's Executive Protection Unit provides personal protection for the Governor, the first family, and visiting dignitaries.

The Maine State Police is a large and dynamic bureau and it's organized into two divisions, field operations and support services. Please refer to the file 'Maine State Police Structure' for more detailed information.

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

The Department has a broad mission and a complex budget. Legislative oversight is divided among several Joint Standing Committees.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee: The majority of the Bureaus fall under this Committee for both subject areas and budgets.

Energy, Utilities and Technology: Jurisdiction of subject area of emergency communications, but not the Budget of the Bureau of Consolidated Emergency Communications.

Health and Human Services: Jurisdiction of subject areas that could impact several of the Department's bureaus.

Labor, Research, Commerce and Economic Development: Jurisdiction of the subject area of building codes and standards, but not the budget for that unit of the Fire Marshal's Office.

Judiciary: Subject matter jurisdiction that could impact several of the Department's bureaus.

Transportation Committee:

- Jurisdiction of the subject matter and the budget for the Bureau of Highway Safety.
- Jurisdiction of the budget for the Bureau of State Police and most of its component units, but not necessarily all the subject areas pertaining to the State Police. Note: The Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee has jurisdiction over much of the subject matters for the State Police and prefers to be briefed on the State Police budget, though jurisdiction is technically with the Transportation Committee.

Veterans and Legal Affairs: Gambling Control Unit

Boards and Commissions Associated with the Department of Public Safety

The following are organizations created in statute. One or more DPS positions are named as members:

Criminal Justice Information System Policy Board (16 MRS § 633), Commissioner and Colonel

Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse (19-A MRS § 4013), Commissioner and Colonel

Homeland Security Advisory Council (37-B MRS § 708), Commissioner and Colonel

Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees (25 MRS § 2802), Commissioner and Colonel

Maine Drug Enforcement Advisory Board (25 MRS § 2954), Colonel

Uniform Building and Technical Standards Board (10 MRS §9722), Commissioner is ex officio chair, non-voting

Homicide Review Panel (19-A MRS § 4013(4)), falls under the Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, no named members but the Commissioner and the Colonel participate

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (34-A MRS § 1209), Commissioner ex officio voting member

State Emergency Response Commission (37-B MRS § 792), Emergency Medical Services Director and Colonel

Maine Fire Protection Services Commission (5 MRS § 3371), State Fire Marshal and Emergency Medical Services Director

State Trauma Prevention and Control Advisory Committee (32 MRS § 87-A), Emergency Medical Services Director

Boards that Fall Within the Department:

Board of Emergency Medical Services

Gambling Control Board

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES 130th 1ST SESSION

- **Emergency Medical Services bill: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF HEALTH CARE INFORMATION TO THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES' BOARD**
 - The bill allows the Board of Maine Emergency Medical Services to request and collect health care information or records, including information or records that identify a patient. The bill also requires hospitals and physicians to provide health care information concerning individuals who have received emergency medical treatment, except for information that includes HIV/AIDS status or test results or that relates to treatment or services for a behavioral, mental health or substance use disorder. The bill provides that such information will remain confidential.
- **Fire Marshal's Office bill: AN ACT TO AMEND THE STORAGE REQUIREMENTS OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS**
 - The bill authorizes the Office of State Fire Marshal to inspect and permit consumer fireworks storage by those authorized by law to sell consumer fireworks.
- **Maine State Police bill: AN ACT TO IMPROVE INFORMATION SHARING BY CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, OFFICE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES**
 - The bill improves the ability of criminal justice agencies to share investigative information with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services and similar agencies in other States for the purposes of informing investigations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children or incapacitated or dependent adults.
- **Maine State Police bill: AN ACT TO ENSURE GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY AND SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC**
 - The bill amends Maine law to allow criminal justice agencies to refuse to confirm the existence or nonexistence of statutorily-confidential intelligence or investigative information, but only in limited circumstances. (Current law broadly requires such agencies to not confirm the existence or nonexistence of such information to persons not allowed to receive the information itself.) The bill also enacts an appeal process for a person aggrieved by a decision of an agency not to confirm existence or nonexistence of such information.
- **Maine State Police bill: AN ACT TO REQUIRE ANNUAL INFORMATION REPORTING BY THE MAINE INFORMATION & ANALYSIS CENTER**
 - The bill requires an annual written report from the Maine Information and Analysis Center to be made to the Legislature. The report will need to include a general narrative about the activities of the center, as well as information regarding the privacy audits the center conducts.
- **Gambling Control Unit bill: AN ACT TO CHANGE THE RENEWAL ISSUANCE TIME FROM 6 MONTHS TO 60 DAYS**
 - The bill changes from 6 months to 60 days the application-renewal timeframe Relating to certain licenses issued by the Gambling Control Unit.

ONGOING INITIATIVES AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

Consolidated Emergency Communications

The Bureau of Consolidated Emergency Communications (BCEC) continues to struggle with recruitment and retention, especially at our Augusta Center. There are 56 total Emergency Communication Specialist positions for the three Regional Communication Centers (RCC). We currently have 8 open positions.

Recruitment and retention are nationwide issues for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS), and it is due to many factors. Low pay for the job performed, long hours due to inadequate staffing, competing with other surrounding agencies for new hires, and the job's overall stress are contributing factors. All three RCC's in DPS have and continue to experience all these factors.

Fire Marshal's Office

Considerable effort and work continue in providing alternative means of compliance to adopted fire and life safety codes and the various occupancy types that they impact. With continued demand for life safety code inspections of health care and hospital facilities a requirement of the Center for Medicare Services, Fire Marshal's Office personnel safety and best practices are challenging. Alternative means of inspections such as virtual inspections technology have been explored and implemented where appropriate.

Public assembly occupancies such as restaurants and public gathering facilities continue to require ongoing assessment to allow for space usage that provides egress requirement compliance yet affords the most effective use of floor space to allow social distancing to take place.

Schools and educational facilities continue to require a continuous assessment of alternative facility use such as tents, modular classrooms, non-traditional school spaces. Occupant load of alternative spaces continues to be a requirement. As winter months arrive, alternative space use and alternative means of compliance becomes more challenging.

The Office of State Fire Marshal is presently involved in emergency rule making in order to address an issue that relates to the fire and life safety code definition of "Temporary". Under code provisions alternative means of compliance can be applied for periods of time not exceeding 180 days. In an effort to allow for temporary use to continue through the period of time the State is impacted by the pandemic, this emergency rulemaking initiative will allow for continued alternative means of compliance without violating the requirements of the codes.

Gambling Control Unit

As a result of the pandemic the Department of Public Safety and the Gambling Control Unit worked in unison with both the Oxford and Hollywood Casino's to protect its patrons and the industry. With closings and subsequent re-openings of the facilities with 1/3 of the games offered to the public, we have seen a decrease year to date versus 2019 of 49.2%.

In 2020 there has been a significant increase in the interest around internet wagering. Currently it is legal to wager on horse racing through the advance deposit wagering (ADW) law. The state recently concluded a competitive bidding process that designated Hollywood Races LLC as the only company authorized to take horse racing wagers over the internet. The ADW law is separate from all other sporting events and thus does not include sports or fantasy wagering.

Preliminarily adopted rules for Fantasy Sports have recently been completed and will be presented to the VLA committee for final adoption of the major substantive rules upon their return to session.

Charitable organizations have made several inquiries regarding their ability to operate raffles online. These questions have come in large part due to Covid-19 restrictions and their negative impact on a non-profit organizations ability to conduct in person raffles or fund raisers.

Highway Safety

In the First Regular Session of the 129th, LD 141 addressed the concern that Maine does not have an open-container provision in law for marijuana and marijuana consumables, as we do with open containers for alcohol. There was much discussion amongst the committee members of the 129th regarding definitions of container, where containers could be located in the vehicle, whether medical marijuana or products should be treated differently than recreational and ultimately the LD was tabled and carried over to the second regular session and still not voted on. We anticipate, with recreational sales, that this issue will come up again in the 130th.

The use of National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) federal funds for law enforcement overtime patrols has become part of the national conversation around "defunding" the police. Because the highway safety offices rely on enforcement and education for behavioral change, this is a very big issue for us and we are watching it closely. We believe a balance between education and enforcement is necessary and we currently do not have other innovative countermeasures if we lost this effective tool.

Highway Safety, Continued

The Bureau of Highway Safety has effectively utilized federal funding to start and support the state's E-Citation or Electronic Citation program. Maine does not currently collect racial data on traffic stops, however this issue has been raised by the 129th and we believe it will likely be raised by the 130th. Traffic Records working groups are having preliminary discussions regarding data element changes for collection of additional information on crash forms and the e-citation form.

Maine Criminal Justice Academy

As described in our primary responsibilities, the Academy is the single source of all initial certifications for law enforcement and corrections. Much of this training currently requires in-person, performance-based graduation standards for certification. During a Global Pandemic, we have had to reimagine our entire training model and we continue to look for innovative methods to deliver these vital curriculums.

We are also working on the initial steps to conduct a workload analysis for law enforcement in Maine. That analysis will ultimately inform a strategic planning process that is intended to provide a comprehensive look at our mission, goals and training techniques.

The Maine Criminal Justice Academy has also entered the initial phases of the rule making process. Our intent is to update our existing rules and consider additional expansions of the Board's authority to act on certification holders as appropriate.

Maine Drug Enforcement Agency

The Maine Drug Enforcement Agency is engaged with Maine's Opioid Response strategy to reduce the illicit opioid supply with the goal to identify, investigate and prosecute most dangerous drug traffickers through the strategies of improving information gathering and sharing; coordinating local, state and federal drug enforcement investigatory resources; and emphasizing death and serious injury resulting investigations and prosecutions.

Operating in a task force environment readily yields accomplishments while also having distinct challenges. Personnel are constantly rotating in and out of the task force groups creating training challenges and impacting abilities to further long-term more complex investigations. Advances in technology and adaptations by the drug trafficking groups present another set of distinct challenges. At the same time, equipment necessary to fulfill Maine Drug Enforcement's mission must be acquired and staff trained to further the Agency's mission.

Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, Continued

Challenges include that posed by members of out-of-state drug trafficking organizations establishing themselves in Maine communities, who join forces with Maine's drug users and those who deal to support their substance use, to sell heroin, fentanyl, cocaine powder and crack cocaine at significant profit margins, and the manufacture, importation and sale of high purity methamphetamine also at significant profit margins.

The challenge with these out-of-state drug trafficking organizations establishing themselves in Maine is that the enforcement effort may disrupt the organization with the arrest of several within the group. However, a failure to arrest and successfully prosecute even one member leaves a foothold for the organization to continue operating in the community.

To address this threat requires maintaining a balance between creating disruption by enforcement action while focusing intently on the "group" traffickers to ensure the dismantling of the organization. Investigative successes resulting from a more focused "targeting" approach by the task force groups have led to significant cases and removal of drugs from Maine's communities.

Maine State Police

2021 marks the 100th year of providing services for the people of the State of Maine. We plan to celebrate this milestone through many avenues. These avenues include, a state police yearbook (the first in 20 years), commemorative badges, retro license plates and even a handful of specially marked cruisers designed to replicate the markings of the first cruisers issued back in the 1930's as troopers transitioned from patrolling on motorcycles 12 months of the year.

We are experiencing an increase in retirements and troopers choosing to leave law enforcement. Those we do hire are currently unable to attend the academy due to COVID closures. We currently have 24 sworn vacancies and 5 civilian vacancies. We are down a Sergeant headcount which results in the inability to staff each shift with a supervisor. We are in dire need of a Sergeant position to reduce this liability.

Long term staffing deficiencies have also led to an on-call staffing model that is no longer effective and led to changes in call sharing agreements across the state. We also think it's important to note that our current staffing levels fail to provide us the Troopers necessary to provide 24-hour patrol coverage. The Maine Turnpike is currently the only area that has 24-hour coverage.

Maine State Police, Continued

We have newly enacted measures to increase officer wellness. We have limited the number of hours an officer can physically work. We have implemented programs where members can receive a small financial stipend for maintaining physical and mental health standards.

Along with benefits and programs provided to all state employees, our agency has a cadre of State Police Chaplains as another layer of support for our members, their families and the communities. Despite our best efforts, these steps remain at odds with the difficulties presented with the current on-call model and increased demands.

Our investigative units continue to be stretched with heavy caseloads and ever-increasing technology demands.

- In 2016 the Computer Crimes Unit received 375 cybertips reference to child pornography cases. In 2020, year to date, we've already received approximately 1100 of these tips. The legislature has always been very supportive of this highly specialized unit and its victims, but we continue to struggle with an ever-growing caseload.
- We have identified the need to augment and expand protection of one of Maine's most vulnerable populations, the elderly. As an agency we do not have the capacity to become the sole entity tasked with that additional work. We are committed to working with other law enforcement agencies, advocates and prosecutors to develop a better network and collaborative approach to this important crime area.
- Homicides – Although the number of homicides in Maine have remained relatively static the complexities of these cases have increased exponentially in the last several years.
 - Drug related – Homicides with non-credible or uncooperative witnesses require many more investigative hours than traditional homicides.
 - Electronic evidence – Hundreds, sometime thousands of pages of returns from social media require many tedious detective hours to sift through.
 - Dozens or hundreds of hours of videos from cell phone, security systems, closed circuit TV and other surveillance systems also require an hour for hour review by detectives.
 - Digital Discovery – Increased demands placed on detectives by the prosecutors and the courts are consuming dozens of detective hours for every case.
 - The death investigation protocol change in 2017 has about tripled the number of calls our Major Crimes Units receive annually, straining already limited resources.

Maine State Police, Continued

We continue to work with Bureau of General Services (BGS) to repair and replace existing Troop Barracks around the state.

- Troop C Barracks – Skowhegan – Built in the 1940's. This facility is well past its life expectancy and we must examine replacement.

- Troop D Barracks at 36 Hospital Street in Augusta
 - This is one of the oldest state occupied buildings in Maine. It has been identified as a priority for the Bureau of General Services as being in need of replacement.
 - We have several Troops / Units housed there and have outgrown the facility.
 - We also have several expensive Specialty Vehicles in need of a structure to enclose them to protect them from potential targets of theft or vandalism. A structure would also ensure the response vehicles are protected from the elements clear of snow, with charged batteries, and ready to roll in an emergency.