

**TESTIMONY
OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. SAUSCHUCK
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Veterans and
Legal Affairs

Hearing Date: Monday, March 15, 2021

**“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State
Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law
Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June
30, 2021, June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023”**

Good afternoon Senator Breen, Representative Pierce, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Luchini and Representative Caiazzo, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veteran and Legal Affairs. My name is Michael Sauschuck and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (DPS). I am here today to testify in support of the biennial budget, LD 221.

Overall Budget

As Governor Mills said, at a time when Maine people are hurting, when small businesses are struggling to keep their doors open, when the ranks of the unemployed have swelled, and when we are fighting a deadly virus all around us, we are proposing balanced budgets as required by the Constitution that continue efficiencies, good fiscal management and curtailments to cover projected revenue shortfalls for all three fiscal years. They focus on combatting the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to rebuild the State’s public health infrastructure and protecting essential health care, education, and life-saving services. They do not change Maine tax rates and they maintain the Budget Stabilization Fund. With a future made unpredictable due to the ongoing pandemic, these budgets make good on the promise of government, which is to protect and support the wellbeing of our people and institutions.

Department Overview

DPS was established to serve the people by providing, coordinating and leading a responsive and 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, Gambling Control Board, Highway Safety, Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Maine State Police.

DPS has one program before you today, the Gambling Control Board. The Gambling Control Board begins on Page A-453 of the budget document. The Gambling Control Unit (the Unit) supports a five-member Board that license and regulate companies and employees associated with two casinos, the distribution of casino related equipment and advance deposit wagering allowing bets on horse races throughout the country. The Unit is also charged with regulating fantasy sports contests and charitable non-profit Games of Chance, Beano and Bingo.

The General Fund baseline budget includes 17.0 positions and Personnel Services of \$1,481,531 in FY22 and \$1,503,231 in FY23. The baseline also includes All Other allocations of \$4,442 in both years. The Other Special Revenue Funds baseline budget includes 1.0 position and Personnel Services of \$74,414 in FY22 and \$75,022 in FY23. The baseline also includes All Other allocations of \$8,240,375 in both years. These amounts provide funds to support the staff and include payments to outside entities in accordance with Title 8 of Maine Statutes.

The first initiative increases the allocation in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$320,000 each year to fund the net commission distribution of the advanced deposit wagering revenues authorized by Title 8, section 1072, sub-section 1-F.

The next initiative provides funding for the maintenance and support costs related to the agency licensing management system. The agency licensing management system is the platform

used to support all areas of licensing. The increase to the Other Special Revenue Funds All Other is \$16,183 in both years.

The final initiative increases the allocation in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$8,632 each year to support increases in the lease cost of the Central Maine Commerce Center.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.