MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Joy J. O'Brien

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

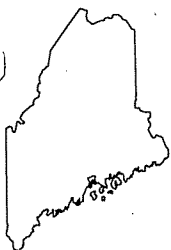Presented by Senator ESTY of Cumberland
    Cosponsored by Representative LARRIVEE of Gorham and Senator CLEVELAND of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act to Increase the Probationary Period for Police Officers.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

30-A MRSA §2701, as amended by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

§2701. Employee probation periods

Except as specifically provided otherwise by charter or ordinance, any reference to cause and hearing in this Part only applies to an employee who has completed a reasonable probation period established by the municipality. Periods of probation may not exceed 6 calendar months or the length of time in effect in a municipality on January 1, 1984, whichever is greater, except that in the case of police officers, a longer probationary period may be established as the result of collective bargaining.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill allows municipalities and unions to increase the probationary period for police officers through the collective bargaining process. Current law requires police officers to get formal training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. That course lasts 12 weeks. The weeks spent at the Criminal Justice Academy count toward the 6-month probationary period, meaning that a police officer only has 14 weeks of actual duty within the hiring municipality before a final hiring decision has to be made. This bill allows a longer probation period if an agreement on that issue is reached during collective bargaining.