

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

Legislative Document

No. 2028

S.P. 779

In Senate, February 28, 2006

**An Act To Establish a Computer Crimes Unit within the Maine
State Police Crime Laboratory**

(EMERGENCY)

Reported by Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin for the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Order S.P. 762 and ordered printed under Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

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6 **Whereas,** in order for the State to combat the serious
problem of child pornography and the related crime of child
sexual abuse through the seizure and forensic evaluation of
8 computers, more state resources must be dedicated for that
purpose; and

10
12 **Whereas,** in order for the Department of Public Safety to be
able to hire new forensic examiners for the full fiscal year to
aggressively address the proliferation of child pornography,
14 resources for that purpose must be appropriated immediately; and

16 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
18 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
20 safety; now, therefore,

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

24 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA c. 192-A,** as amended, is repealed.

26 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following
appropriations and allocations are made.

28 **PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**

30 **State Police 0291**

32 Initiative: Appropriates funds for the creation of a computer
34 crimes unit within the State Police program by establishing 2
Computer Crimes Forensic Analyst positions with necessary
36 operational costs for the unit.

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GENERAL FUND	2005-06	2006-07
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$60,237
All Other	\$0	\$50,948
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$111,185

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HIGHWAY FUND	2005-06	2006-07
Personal Services	\$0	\$102,563
All Other	\$0	\$86,750
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$189,313

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2	PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF		
	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2005-06	2006-07
4	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$111,185
	HIGHWAY FUND	\$0	\$189,313
6		<hr/>	<hr/>
8	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$300,498

10 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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SUMMARY

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16 This bill is proposed by the Joint Standing Committee on
Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The bill repeals the Maine
18 Computer Crimes Task Force and creates a new Computer Crimes Unit
to be housed within the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory,
which is part of the State Police Program. The Computer Crimes
20 Unit will consist of 6 full-time positions, 4 of which already
exist and 2 that are new. The Computer Crimes Unit will continue
22 the work of the Maine Computer Crimes Task Force by working
collaboratively with the Department of the Attorney General and
24 local law enforcement agencies for the purposes of investigation
and assisting all law enforcement agencies in crimes involving
26 computers.