

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

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Legislative Document

No. 1999

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H.P. 1486

House of Representatives, February 23, 2022

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### **An Act To Require Civil Rights Officers at Law Enforcement Agencies**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶E,** as amended by PL 2019, c. 410, §2, is  
3 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4 E. Hate or bias crimes. A policy adopted under this paragraph must:

5 (1) Include a policy statement that prohibits stops, detentions, searches or asset  
6 seizures and forfeitures efforts based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation,  
7 gender identity, religion, socioeconomic status, age, national origin or ancestry by  
8 members of the law enforcement agency, states that individuals may be stopped or  
9 detained only when legal authority exists to do so and states that members of the  
10 law enforcement agency must base their enforcement actions solely on an  
11 individual's conduct and behavior or specific suspect information; and

12 (2) Require the law enforcement agency to select, assign and secure training for a  
13 civil rights officer, notify the Attorney General of the name and contact  
14 information for the civil rights officer and notify the Attorney General of any  
15 change in assignment of the civil rights officer as soon as practicable after the  
16 change is made. The Attorney General shall make the information provided  
17 pursuant to this subparagraph available on the Attorney General's publicly  
18 accessible website. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "civil rights officer"  
19 means a law enforcement officer who has received special training approved by  
20 the Attorney General in identifying and investigating civil rights violations;

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

23 **PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**

24 **Criminal Justice Academy 0290**

25 Initiative: Provides funding for computer programming costs and related maintenance.

26 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
27 All Other	\$0	\$22,750
28 Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$126,250
29		
30 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$149,000

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill amends the provision in law that requires law enforcement agencies to adopt  
33 written policies regarding procedures to deal with hate or bias crimes by adding a  
34 requirement that such a policy must require the law enforcement agency to select, assign  
35 and secure training for a civil rights officer and to provide the name of and contact  
36 information for the civil rights officer to the Attorney General. The bill also provides  
37 funding for computer programming costs and related maintenance.