

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2094

S.P. 887

In Senate, January 3, 2024

**Resolve, to Require the Establishment of a Stakeholder Group to
Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of
Law Enforcement Officers**

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 black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative DODGE of Belfast and
Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, CURRY of Waldo, FARRIN of Somerset,
HARRINGTON of York, HICKMAN of Kennebec, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.

1 **Sec. 1. Formation of stakeholder group; study. Resolved:** That the
2 Department of Public Safety shall convene a stakeholder group composed of members as
3 required by section 2 to study long-term solutions to improve the recruitment, retention and
4 wellness of law enforcement officers in the State. The study must include, but is not limited
5 to:

6 1. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage the recruitment of law enforcement
7 officers and how funding could be provided to address vacant law enforcement positions;

8 2. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage the retention of law enforcement
9 officers and how funding could be provided to support this goal;

10 3. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage mental and physical wellness
11 programs for law enforcement officers and how funding could be provided to support this
12 goal;

13 4. An analysis of how to develop and support law enforcement entities in rural
14 communities and how funding could be provided to support community peace and crime
15 deterrence;

16 5. An analysis of the current educational, social service, public health, criminal justice,
17 drug enforcement and economic needs of communities and law enforcement entities,
18 opportunities to address those needs and how funding could be provided to support the
19 peacekeeping efforts of law enforcement entities;

20 6. An analysis of media coverage in the State, the scope of which is to be determined
21 by the stakeholder group, and the impact of media on public perception of law enforcement
22 officers; and

23 7. An analysis of current community policing, social services and crime prevention
24 programs throughout the State, and recommendations for future programs, and how
25 funding could be provided to support the peacekeeping efforts of law enforcement entities.

26 **Sec. 2. Stakeholder group membership. Resolved:** That the stakeholder group
27 under section 1 consists of 10 members as follows:

28 1. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee; and

29 2. Nine members appointed by the Governor who possess expertise in the subject
30 matter of the study as follows:

31 A. An individual representing the Maine Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police;

32 B. An individual representing the Maine Association of Police;

33 C. An individual representing a statewide association that represents retired law
34 enforcement officers;

35 D. An individual representing a statewide association advocating for state troopers in
36 the State;

37 E. An individual representing the Maine State Law Enforcement Association;

38 F. An individual representing the Maine Law Enforcement Coalition;

39 G. An individual representing the Maine Criminal Justice Academy;

40 H. An individual representing a statewide mental health organization; and

1 I. An individual representing a statewide private law enforcement organization.

2 The Department of Public Safety shall report to the joint standing committee of the
3 Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters no later than January 2, 2025 with
4 findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation. The joint standing
5 committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

6 **SUMMARY**

7 This resolve requires the Department of Public Safety to convene a stakeholder group
8 composed of individuals representing law enforcement officers, retired law enforcement
9 officers, criminal justice educators and administrators, private security firms and mental
10 health professionals to examine and propose long-term solutions to improve the
11 recruitment, retention and wellness of law enforcement officers.