

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
Maine State Police
42 State House Station
Augusta, Maine
04333-0042

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR
ANNE H. JORDAN
COMMISSIONER

COL. PATRICK J. FLEMING
CHIEF
LT. COL. ROBERT A. WILLIAMS
DEPUTY CHIEF

Report to the Joint Standing Committee
On Transportation

Report to the Transportation Committee
Regarding the Data Collected from the State
Police Activity Report for the Calendar Year 2008
Title 25 Section 1509 - A

January 2009

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Offices located at: Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Dr., Ste. 1, Augusta, ME 04333-0042
(207) 624-7200 (Voice) (207) 287-3659 (TDD) (207) 287-3042 (Fax)

I. Introduction

During the 123rd Legislature, LD 2324 was passed that required the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police to report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters the activity data collected by the Bureau during calendar year 2008 under the tracking and reporting system established to track State Police officers' work activity. This tracking and reporting system was implemented by the Bureau in order to better track the activities performed by its members and determine how many hours were spent performing those activities. It is required that all sworn members of the State Police complete this report.

II. Findings

In February of 2007, the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability presented its findings on a study of Highway Fund Eligibility of select activities at the Department of Public Safety. One of the results of that study was that determining the appropriate split between the highway fund and the general fund would be difficult due to the lack of activity data that can be linked to financial data. The Bureau of State Police had recognized that it did not do a very good job on documenting its activities and was in the process of developing and implementing a new electronic activity report. After discussing the new report with the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation it was decided that the State Police would report the results of the activity report to the committee in order for the committee to determine the appropriate split for the funding of the department.

During the development of the activity report there were many discussions as to the purpose and use of the report. It was discussed whether the report would be used to determine what the State Police actually did or would it be used as an accountability tool for the discipline process. It was decided that the State Police would develop and use the report to examine how its time is spent and if its resources could be better managed. During the reports development, members of all levels and divisions of the State Police were consulted to ensure that the report would be inclusive of all activities performed and would be practical in its use. The activity report was put into use in January of 2008.

The activity report measures what types of activities are performed by the State Police as well as the output, if any, that comes from the performance of those activities. The activities are broken down into six major categories, air wing, commercial vehicle, criminal, other support, public service, and traffic. The major categories are then broken down into sub-categories (Appendix A) based on the criteria set for that category. The sub-categories were added to provide some detail to the categories and give the department a better understanding of what work functions are performed.

LD 2324 addressed the funding formula of the Bureau of State Police, changing the split from sixty percent Highway fund and forty percent General fund to forty nine percent Highway fund and fifty one percent General fund. It was determined that this report would look at the data from a broad view to get an assessment of the duties performed by the members of the department. The information enclosed uses the major categories as headings but more in depth data is available.

The analysis of the activity report data produced some interesting results. It was determined that a large percentage of the time spent by members of the Maine State Police is not doing what would be considered traditional "police work". The data shows that although the mission of the State Police is to enforce traffic and criminal laws, a majority of the time is spent either in preparation of the performance of the mission, training or equipment maintenance, or in the post performance, report writing or court. Administrative time spent by the Troop Commanders and Command Staff, as well as the supervisory hours spent by the Sergeants, takes a significant amount of the time away from conventional police duties. The State Police also spends a considerable amount of its time providing public service such as responding to 911 hang-up calls and psychiatric welfare and evaluation complaints. These public service calls do not lend themselves to be categorized into either criminal or traffic.

Upon review of the data it was determined that certain categories such as court time and report writing were difficult to determine where they belong because it is not split out if they are traffic or criminal related. A report for an assault would definitely be criminal related as time spent doing a crash report would be traffic related but there is currently no mechanism to separate the two. A user group is currently looking at the program to see if some of the categories that could be broken down further into criminal or traffic can be done so without making the report too complicated.

The first report looked at while reviewing the data was an overall compilation of all users reporting in all categories (Appendix B). It was this report that showed that fifty four percent of the time spent by the Maine State Police is spent in the other support category, which includes court time, equipment maintenance, and report writing. The next largest use of time is traffic related hours, which along with Commercial Vehicle Unit, combines for thirty one percent of the departments time. Criminal related matters account for twelve percent of the department's time.

It was decided that it might make sense to look deeper into the data to see if there were other ways that might help in the funding decision. The data was then looked at with just the criminal and traffic hours tabulated to see what percentage of each was achieved when the members of the department had the opportunity to devote time to the primary mission (Appendix C). It was determined that when devoting time to the mission, the State Police spent sixty

seven percent of its time doing traffic related activities and thirty three percent of its time doing criminal related activities.

The data was reviewed in several other ways such as taking out management positions (Appendix D), looking at just split funded members of the State Police, looking at all categories (Appendix E), and just criminal and traffic (Appendix F) . Generally when looking at all the categories together the percentages came out approximately the same showing a majority of the hours spent doing other support functions. When the data was reviewed using just the split revenue positions doing just the criminal and traffic categories the percentage split was fifty eight percent traffic and forty two percent criminal.

III. Recommendations

The Bureau of State Police currently has a user group examining the activity report and how it is being used. There are categories being looked at such as court time and report writing to see if they can be further delineated to assist in determining what the funding split should be. Title 25 section 1509 lists the current split at fifty one percent general fund and forty nine percent highway fund for the 2010 and 2011 biennial budget. It is recommended that this split stay in effect until such time that the State Police can make adjustments to the activity report and collect sufficient data to determine if further adjustment is necessary.

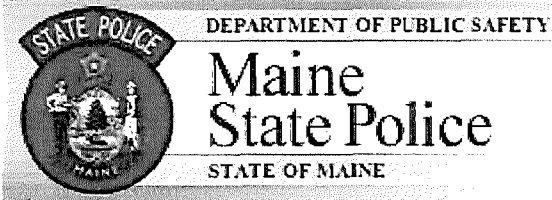
Appendix A

Maine State Police Activity Report Categories and Subcategories

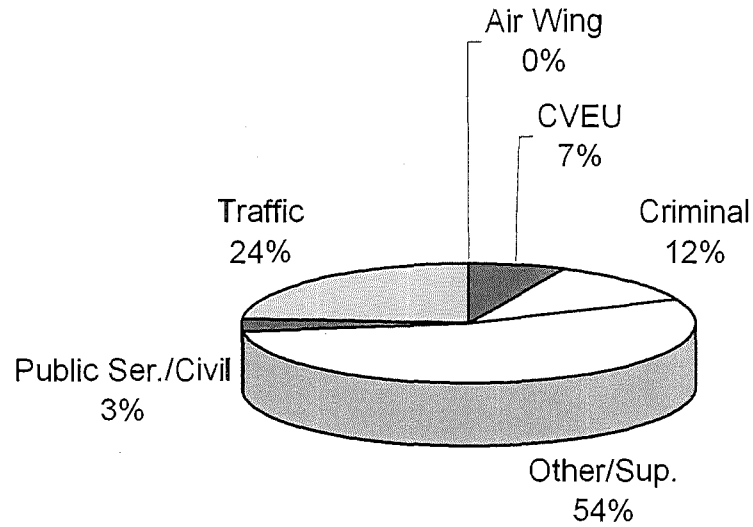
- 1) Air Wing
 - A) Aerial Photography
 - B) Attempt to Locate/Patrol Support
 - C) Maine Forest Service Fire Detection Flights
 - D) Search and Rescue
 - E) Specialty Mission Support
 - F) Transport
- 2) Commercial Vehicle
 - A) Administrative
 - B) Legislative
 - C) MCSAP Inspections
 - D) Speaking engagements
 - E) Training
 - F) Trucks Weighed – Fixed
 - G) Trucks Weighed – Portable Scales
 - H) Trucks Weighed – Semi-portable
 - I) Trucks Weighed – W/M
- 3) Public Service
 - A) 911 Hang ups
 - B) Alarm – Residence/Business
 - C) Animal Complaints
 - D) Attempt to Locate
 - E) Child Custody
 - F) Citizen Assist
 - G) Domestic Escort
 - H) Landlord/Tenant Dispute
 - I) Paper Service
 - J) Property Dispute
 - K) Suspicious Event
 - L) Welfare/Evaluation Check
- 4) Criminal
 - A) Alcohol Violations
 - B) Crimes Against Persons
 - C) Crimes Against Property
 - D) Crimes Against Society
 - E) Domestic Violence
 - F) Drug Violations
 - G) Warrant Arrest
- 5) Other Support
 - A) Administrative
 - B) Applicant Background

- C) Assist Other Agency
 - D) Court
 - E) Equipment Maintenance
 - F) Legislative
 - G) Polygraph Preparation
 - H) Polygraph Testing
 - I) Report Writing
 - J) Security
 - K) Speaking Engagement
 - L) Special Detail – Non-traffic
 - M) Specialty Hours
 - N) Supervisory
 - O) Training – Instructor
 - P) Training – Student
- 6) Traffic
- A) Assist Motorist
 - B) Construction
 - C) Crash/Fatal
 - D) Crash/Non-reportable
 - E) Crash/PD or PI
 - F) Erratic Vehicle
 - G) Interstate/Turnpike Patrol
 - H) Patrol Check
 - I) Reconstruction Supervision
 - J) Rural Patrol
 - K) Traffic Control
 - L) Traffic Detail – Supervisor
 - M) Traffic Hazard
 - N) Vehicle Escort

Appendix B

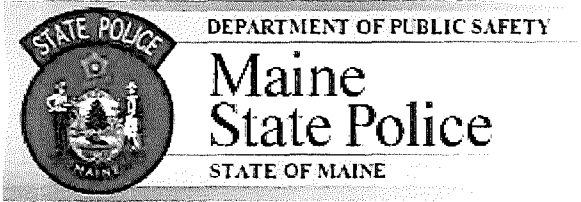


2008 All Troops Reporting in All Categories

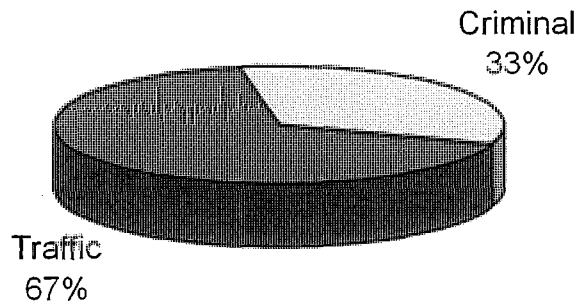


Air Wing	256.50
CVEU	41,795.95
Criminal	71,338.55
Other/Sup.	336,264.60
Public Ser./Civil	20,022.10
Traffic	144,779.60
TOTAL	614,457.30

Appendix C



2008 All Troops Reporting in Criminal and Traffic Categories Only

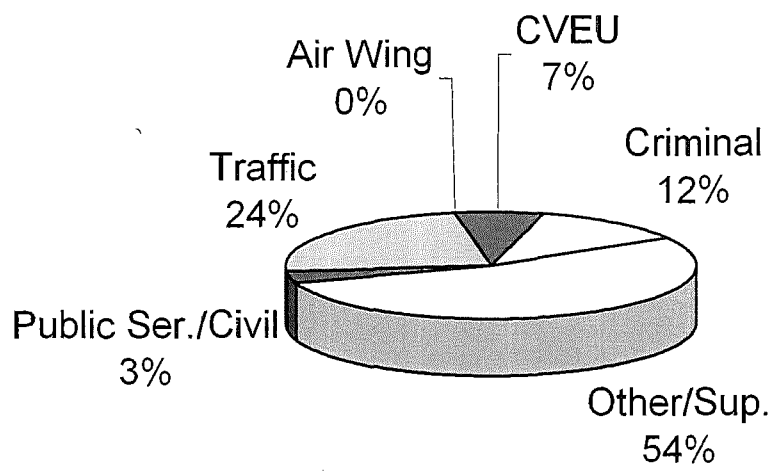


Criminal	71,338.55
Traffic	144,779.60
TOTAL	216,118.15

Appendix D

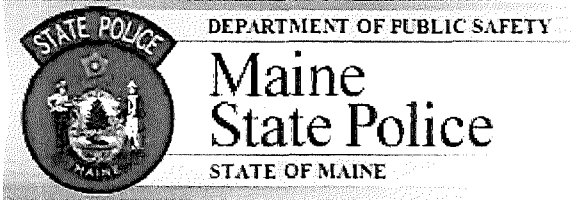


2008 Non-Management Positions Reporting in All Categories

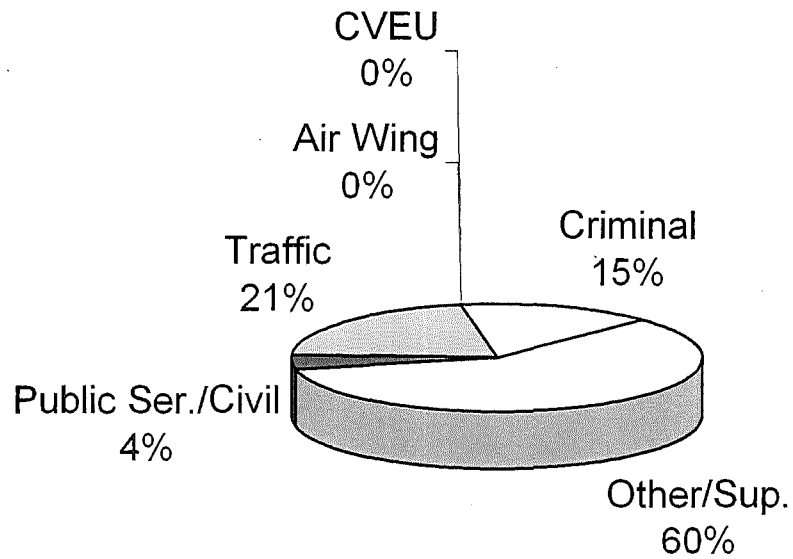


Air Wing	256.50
CVEU	40,566.45
Criminal	70,768.55
Other/Sup.	312,439.25
Public Ser./Civil	19,975.10
Traffic	140,112.35
TOTAL	584,118.20

Appendix E

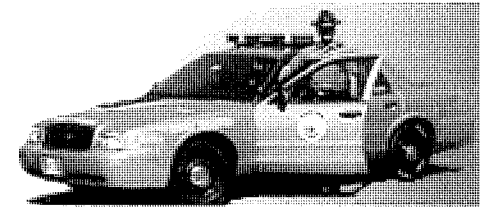


2008 Split Revenue Positions Reporting in All Categories

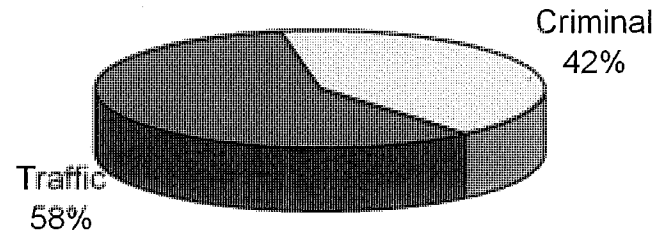


Air Wing	12.00
CVEU	253.50
Criminal	69,899.05
Other/Sup.	271,330.15
Public Ser./Civil	19,722.35
Traffic	97,856.30
TOTAL	459,073.35

Appendix F



2008 Split Revenue Positions Reporting in Criminal and Traffic Categories Only



Criminal	69,899.05
Traffic	97,856.30
TOTAL	167,755.35