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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

To: Senator Catherine E. Breen, Senate Chair
Representative Teresa S. Pierce, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: Senator Susan A. Deschambault, Senate Chair
Charlotte Warren, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Date: March 19, 2021

Re: Corrected Copy - Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee Report on LD 221, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2021, June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to report to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee regarding the work of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee on LD 221, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2021, June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

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Along with the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee heard four hours of testimony in opposition to the Department of Corrections and Department of Public Safety budgets on March 1. These hours of testimony have informed the committee's work sessions.

The CJPS Committee held ten work sessions, each a half day, on the budget. Four work sessions were dedicated to the Department of Corrections and four were dedicated to the Department of Public Safety. And one work session each was dedicated to the Maine Fire Protection Service Commission and the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

Strong support for substance use disorder treatment was shown in the unanimous vote of the CJPS Committee after a motion by Rep Warren and a second by Sen Deschambault.

The CJPS committee heard in February from Gordon Smith, the Governor's Director of Opioid Response, that Maine lacks medically supervised withdrawal services and other treatment and recovery services for youths and adults suffering from substance use disorder. Our neighbors continue to suffer from this disorder, get arrested, are incarcerated and die because Maine does not provide substance use disorder services. The CJPS Committee strongly requests that the

AFA Committee consult with Gordon Smith about specific needs across the state and add sufficient funding to address these needs in the biennial budget.

With regard to the Department of Corrections, the CJPS Committee reviewed background information on the administration and programs within the department, discussed in detail budget accounts and held a half day briefing on the department's new juvenile services strategic plan. CJPS did not work through each initiative or determine the initial level of support for each initiative or take any votes. CJPS Committee did not discuss or determine support for language Parts BB and CC in the proposed biennial budget.

CJPS members are aware that the governor plans to include the Department of Corrections' new juvenile services strategic plan in the Governor's biennial budget change package. The CJPS committee plans to hold a work session on the department's new juvenile services strategic plan and report back our budget recommendations to the AFA committee.

With regard to the Department of Public Safety, the CJPS Committee reviewed background information on the administration and programs within the department and discussed in detail budget accounts. With the exception of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, CJPS did work through each initiative to determine an initial level of support for each initiative. With the exception of the 2 votes noted below, CJPS Committee did not vote on the DPS proposed budget.

- With regard to the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency 0388, CJPS members discussed decreasing the total funding to the agency by half (a General Fund decrease of \$3,281,872 in FY2021-22 and \$3,282,776 in FY 2022-23) and increasing funding in a program in the DHHS budget that provides substance use disorder treatment and recovery services, expressing support for medically managed withdrawal sites for youth and adults and residential treatment for youth and adults. Six members support this motion and seven oppose it. Votes were not taken to determine the level of support for each initiative in the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency budget.
- With regard to the Maine State Police in the budget line that includes the Maine Information and Analysis Center 0291, CJPS members discussed decreasing General Fund funding by \$650,765 in each year of the biennium and increasing funding for the Computer Crimes Unit by the same amount each year to fund 5 new positions, those being 4 detectives and 1 sergeant. Five members support this motion and eight oppose it.

With regard to the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, the CJPS Committee reviewed background information, discussed the proposed budget and expressed support for the funding. CJPS Committee did not vote on the funding. In addition, CJPS members noted and now pass along to the Appropriations Committee their unanimous support for LD 242, An Act to Support the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, which as amended by the committee, provides ongoing funding from the General Fund of \$500,000 per year. LD 242 was reported out of committee on March 8, was passed to be enacted in the House and Senate on March 12 and was placed on the Appropriations Table in the Senate on March 12.

With regard to the Maine Emergency Management Agency, within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, the CJPS Committee reviewed the baseline and proposed budgets. CJPS members expressed initial support for all initiatives in the MEMA budget except for Stream Gaging, on report template page 31. Stream Gaging, which is in the proposed budget flat funded at the baseline, was inadvertently skipped over and not considered. CJPS Committee did not vote on the MEMA proposed budget.