

**JUDICIAL BRANCH
TRAFFIC FINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Type: Short-Term Advisory Committee
Established: February 21, 2014
Chair: Director, Judicial Branch Service Center
Report Date: September 31, 2014
Reports to: Chief Judge, Maine District Court
Completion Date: October 1, 2014

I. Introduction:

The Chief Judge of the District Court is charged with the responsibility of setting the waiver fines for all traffic infractions. 4 M.R.S. § 164 (12) (B). The last comprehensive review and update of those fines was undertaken in 2002, under the leadership of then-Chief Judge Vendean V. Vafiades.

In the past twelve years, economic changes and changes in traffic enforcement have occurred, and public safety concerns and revenue collections have evolved. The Supreme Judicial Court has asked the Chief Judge of the District Court to undertake a thorough, updated analysis of the current traffic waiver fines and determine what changes, if any, are appropriate at this time. Input from law enforcement, and public safety professionals, community groups, and others will be important to the completion of a thorough review.

II. Duties:

The Advisory Committee shall:

- Review the current traffic waiver fines;
- Compare traffic waiver fines imposed in Maine to fines imposed for similar offenses in other states;
- Make such recommendations to the Chief Judge of the District Court for changes to the current traffic waiver fines as they deem appropriate;
- Prepare a written report of the Committee's recommendations to be submitted to the Chief Judge of the District Court, with copies to the State Court Administrator and the Supreme Judicial Court.

III. Authority:

The Advisory Committee may seek input, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals and groups within and outside the Judicial Branch and may invite consultants

to its meetings as needed. Advisory Committee members may consult with others at the request of the Chair.

The Advisory Committee is authorized to study traffic fine amounts in effect in other court systems in New England and nationally.

IV. Membership:

The members of the Judicial Branch Traffic Fine Advisory Committee are as follows:

- Manager of the Judicial Branch Service Center (Chair)
- Two Chiefs of Police, or designees
- A representative of the Department of Public Safety
- A County Sheriff, or designee
- Secretary of State, or designee
- Senior Court Management Analyst
- One or More Community Members

V. Meetings:

The Committee will meet at such times and places as shall be designated by the Chair for a period not to exceed six months.

VI. Reporting:

The Advisory Committee will provide its analysis and advice to the Chief Judge of the Maine District Court in the form of a report, which shall be completed no later than September 31, 2014. The report will be provided to the Chief Judge of the District Court, with copies to the State Court Administrator and the Supreme Judicial Court. The report will be made public on the Court's website.

VII. Commission Duration:

The Traffic Fine Advisory Committee will be an Advisory Committee of the Judicial Branch and will cease to exist October 1, 2014.

Dated: February 21, 2014

Approved by:

/s/
Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley
Maine Supreme Judicial Court

**JUDICIAL BRANCH
TRAFFIC FINE ADVISORY GROUP**

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

John T. Smith, Manager of the Judicial Branch Service Center (**Chair**)
Chief Phillip L. Crowell Jr., Auburn Police
Deputy Chief Charles Rumsey, Waterville Police
Sheriff Randall A. Liberty, Kennebec County Sheriff
Colonel Robert A. Williams, Maine State Police (DPS)
Matthew Dunlap, Secretary of State
Sherry A. Wilkins, Senior Court Management Analyst
Debra Plowman, Community Member
Eric Fuller, United Bikers of Maine, Community Member
William Diamond, Community Member
Other Members as identified by the Chair

Chief Judge Charles LaVerdiere, District Court, *ex officio*