



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

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March 15, 2024

Senator Anne Carey
Representative Matt Moonen
Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station, Room 438
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 2236 “An Act to Expand the List of Crimes Eligible for a Post-Judgment Motion to Seal Criminal History Record Information to Include Convictions for Possession and Cultivation of Marijuana.”

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

MACDL supports LD 2236.

LD 2236 implements the recommendations of the Criminal Records Review Committee (hereinafter “the Committee”) to expand the number of marijuana convictions eligible for sealing.

I was a member of the Committee that made this recommendation. The Committee is comprised of stakeholders across many different parts of the criminal justice system. Although the Committee does not always arrive at a consensus on its recommendations, it did so here. These modest additions to the eligible crimes for sealing add in misdemeanor marijuana crimes, which would no longer be criminal charges under Maine’s present adult cannabis use laws in effect since 2017.

MACDL, as stated in prior testimony before this Committee, supports the expansion of sealing laws, especially to non-violent drug convictions. LD 2236 is a modest first step. People convicted of misdemeanor marijuana crimes that are no longer treated as crimes should certainly be allowed to move for the sealing of those prior convictions.

For these reasons, MACDL supports LD 2236.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew D. Morgan

Matthew D. Morgan, Esq.
MACDL President-Elect