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Date: (Filing No. H-)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 346, L.D. 527, “An Act to Establish Bail Officers to Administer the Maine Bail Code”

Amend the bill in section 6 in §1025 in the first indented paragraph in the 3rd line (page 4, line 25 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "~~Class D or~~" and inserting the following: 'Class D or'

Amend the bill in section 6 in §1025 in the first indented paragraph in the 3rd line (page 4, line 25 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "as required by Title 15, section 1092, paragraph 4"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 16 the following:

'Sec. 17. Working group; report. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall convene a working group with representatives that are currently employed as bail commissioners to examine the establishment of bail officers, whether bail officers have improved administration of the bail code and whether any further changes to state law are necessary in relation to the establishment of bail officers. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall submit a report containing the findings and recommendations of the working group to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters by November 4, 2026. The committee may report out legislation based on the report during the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 18. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Provides funding for 3 bail officer positions and related All Other costs to set and execute bail in accordance with the law.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3,000	3,000
Personal Services	\$390,162	\$404,208

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1	All Other	\$10,215	\$5,190
2			
3	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$400,377</u>	<u>\$409,398</u>

4

5 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
6 number to read consecutively.

7

SUMMARY

8 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, amends the bill by
9 retaining a bail commissioner's authority to take the personal recognizance of any
10 defendant for appearance on a charge of a Class D crime as authorized by current law and
11 makes a technical change. The amendment requires that the Administrative Office of the
12 Courts convene a working group with members that are employed as bail commissioners
13 to examine the establishment of bail officers. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall
14 submit a report based on the findings of the working group to the joint standing committee
15 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters by
16 November 4, 2026. The committee may submit legislation based on the report to the 133rd
17 Legislature in 2027. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

18

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

19

(See attached)