



Maine County Commissioners Association

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LD 747, An Act to Require the Probate Court to Report Name Changes to the State Bureau of Identification

May 31, 2023

Chair Carney, Chair Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Stephen Gorden and in addition to serving as a member of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as chair of the legislative policy committee of the Maine County Commissioners Association. In particular, we understand that this bill was heard originally in March, and has been worked by the Committee on two occasions in the intervening months. We write at this time to express our belated support for this bill and urge the Committee to pass the bill.

About MCCA. Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta, represents all 16 of Maine's counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

Discussion. LD 747 requires county probate courts to report by electronic means all name changes to the Bureau of Identification within the Department of Public Safety. Reporting such name changes would not be a burdensome requirement on county probate courts, and some courts already do so. Additionally, requiring such reporting would strengthen public safety by increasing the likelihood that law enforcement has information about individuals required to report, such as individuals on the sex offender registry whose names have been subsequently changed by the probate courts. For these reasons, we write in support of LD 747.

Conclusion. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill, and if you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Gorden
Chair, Legislative Policy Committee

cc: Commissioner Richard Dutremble, President, MCCA
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel