

# STATE OF MAINE

KATHRYN SLATTERY  
DISTRICT I

JACQUELINE SARTORIS  
DISTRICT II

NEIL MCLEAN  
DISTRICT III

MAEGHAN MALONEY  
DISTRICT IV



R. CHRISTOPHER ALMY  
DISTRICT V

NATASHA IRVING  
DISTRICT VI

ROBERT GRANGER  
DISTRICT VII

TODD R. COLLINS  
DISTRICT VIII

**MAINE PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION  
ADA TANYA PIERSON, JUVENILE PROSECUTOR**

**NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST**

**LD 2171**

**“An Act Establishing Concurrent Jurisdiction with the Federal Courts in Certain Juvenile Matters”**

Public Hearing Date: February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Senator Anne Carney, Chair  
Representative Matt Moonen, Chair  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

My name is Tanya Pierson and I am an Assistant District Attorney for York County Maine. I have spent the vast majority of my 34 year career helping to create and administer a juvenile docket in York County. My testimony is on behalf of the Maine Prosecutors' Association, specifically the District Attorneys, on LD 2171.

We support and applaud the efforts of this bill that attempts to ensure military families and their children have access to services through concurrent State jurisdiction, which might not otherwise be available through the Federal Court system.

For many years now, Maine has been focused on implementing “best practices” in our juvenile justice system. This bill compliments our broader goals of best practices for *all* youth in Maine, including the children of service members. Through concurrent jurisdiction, military families would have access to State resources available in Maine’s Juvenile Justice System; both alleged offenders and victims would be safeguarded under the State Juvenile Court.

The MPA is not immensely concerned with further over-burdening Maine prosecutors through this legislation. Maine has an extremely limited number of Federal facilities where juveniles could realistically be expected to be located. Essentially only Portsmouth Naval Ship Yard, which does not have military housing, is currently the only federal installation where juvenile offenses *might* occur. Therefore, the number of State prosecutions that could be generated through this legislation would be extremely limited.

The MPA's only concern is that State prosecutors retain the authority to decline to prosecute any case. If an individual case is particularly complicated, and prosecutorial staffing is limited, the relevant District Attorney's Office must have the authority to decline to accept jurisdiction.

The MPA supports the CLAC recommended revision, as the proposed draft language is not consistent with the definition of the jurisdiction of the Maine Juvenile Court as defined under Title 15.

Sincerely,

ADA Tanya Pierson  
On behalf of the Maine Prosecutors' Association