



Maine County Commissioners Association

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LD 2090, An Act to Modernize and Consolidate Certain Court Facilities

February 28, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on the 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. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee in support of LD 2090.

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 of Maine's 16 counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

What does LD 2090 do? LD 2090 proposes to increase the maximum amount of securities that may be issued by the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority for specific allocation to the Judicial Branch. Current law states that the Authority may not issue securities in excess of \$189 million outstanding at any one time. *4 M.R.S. § 1606*. Additionally, no less than \$136 million of that funding must be allocated to Judicial Branch projects. *Id.* The purpose of the increase proposed in LD 2090 would be to fund projects to consolidate and modernize court facilities in Androscoggin, Hancock, and Somerset counties.

Discussion. It is widely recognized that the Judicial Branch facilities in the counties affected by this bill would benefit greatly from necessary updating and modernization. Additionally, since this bill proposes to consolidate certain Judicial facilities, this bill would have the effect of reducing the fiscal burden on counties that might otherwise be hosting stand-alone county courthouses. For these reasons, our Association supports this bill.

Conclusion. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to 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