

Randall Medeiros
Atkinson
LD 179

Committee Members,

I have been a full time law enforcement Officer in Maine since 2010, I have seen legislation come and go. The thought of this bill as proposed is deeply concerning. Class E bail violations exist for a reason, mainly to protect victims of crimes.

There are many examples of this however the biggest one in particular that I can think of is the protection of Domestic Violence Victims. Currently if an offender is arrested for Domestic Violence Assault, Terrorizing, Stalking, Criminal Threatening etc. their bail conditions will include not to have contact with the victim or return to their residence, violation of these conditions is a Class E crime.

By making this not an arrestable offense, an offender can be bailed out within hours of committing the aforementioned crime and return right back to their residence the residence and be right back with the victim within hours with no recourse for law enforcement.

The argument made is that a judge can revoke bail, and though this sounds like an easy process it is not. Currently this would require the District Attorney to put forth a motion to revoke bail, the offender will have the opportunity to be represented, and assuming the judge decides to revoke the bail a warrant may have to be issued and the offender located.

As we have seen in previous incidents throughout the state, an offender who knows they are going to be arrested may decide to target the victim and/or witnesses prior to their arrest, or simply use their time on the run to torment the victim.

There are numerous other cases where crimes committed by offenders are not arrestable offenses however the presence of bail conditions allow officers to make an arrest and remedy the situation.

This include transients who steal or commit car burglaries or other low level offenses that disrupt the lives of honest, hardworking Maine people who are just trying to go about their day to day business.

Currently there are numerous subjects out on multiple sets of bail, many with double digit sets. This indicates to me that the people being arrested are either not abiding by conditions or not going to court because they are aware there is little to no recourse for their actions.

One suspect told me that once he is aware he will be arrested for one thing he will go on a spree and rack up numerous charges knowing the cases won't be tried individually and he will receive a universal resolution.

The fact that those who are frequently arrested know how to manipulate the system is a sure sign that becoming more lenient with bail conditions I will only make offenders more empowered and bolder.

I hope that when you consider this bill you consider the consequences this will have on crime victims here in the State of Maine.

Thank you for your time,

Respectfully,
Randall R. Medeiros