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LD 268

I oppose LD 268, "An Act to Restore Sentencing Discretion to the Judiciary by Removing Mandatory Minimum Sentences of Incarceration," and believe it "ought not to pass."

As I understand it, this bill would introduce a new provision into existing law that would effectively override the statutory mandatory minimum sentences for crimes, starting next year.

This proposed change sets a dangerous precedent. The primary role of our legislature should be to ensure public safety, not to potentially compromise it by allowing judicial discretion to override established legal safeguards meant for the protection of society.

As Senator Scott Cyrway (R-Kennebec) has stated, "Mandatory minimums exist to ensure that the public is kept safe from those who commit the most heinous crimes." This sentiment underscores the importance of maintaining these minimum sentences to deter and punish severe criminal acts adequately.

For these reasons, I strongly believe that LD 268 should not be passed and should be allowed to die in committee.