



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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March 3, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF
MARY-ANNE LAMARRE
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

In OPPOSITION to

LD 340 – An Act Regarding Speedy Trials

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing on Judiciary. My name is Mary-Anne LaMarre, and I am privileged to represent the Maine Sheriffs Association as their Executive Director.

Maine sheriffs met to discuss this bill and voted to oppose L.D. 340 - An Act Regarding Speedy Trials.

Maine sheriffs deeply appreciate the attempt to reduce the number of inmates who are awaiting trial in Maine's county and regional jails. As you may know, our jail populations are averaging over 80% pre-trial inmates. Sadly, this bill would not lower the population in a way that centers around public safety.

When discussing this bill, the opportunity to recommend a solution was brought forward and endorsed by the membership. We have seen other states successfully develop a state-wide Office of Public Defender. We believe if you work with Maine's Attorney General's office to implement, this could better address the problems we're facing with our pre-trial populations.

To summarize our position on LD 340, please note the following:

- ✪ Passage of this bill will not lower population in a way that centers around public safety.
- ✪ Speedy trials are already a constitutional right.
- ✪ We are not able to compare other states' speedy trial right statute with Maine as all our resources and procedures are different, including the inability to currently find defense counsel.
- ✪ This may lead to mass dismissals affecting public safety.

Maine sheriffs urge you to vote to unanimously defeat LD 340. Thank you for your consideration.