



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

P.O. Box 17642
Portland, ME 04112-8642
(207) 523-9869
mainemacdl@gmail.com

2024-2025 OFFICERS

March 12, 2025

President
Jeremy Pratt

Senator Anne Bebe-Center - Chair
Representative Tavis Hasenfus - Chair

President-Elect
Matthew D. Morgan

Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
100 State House Station Room 436

Vice President
Sarah E. Branch

Augusta, ME 04330

Secretary
Luke Rioux

RE: LD 527 -- An Act to Establish Bail Officers to Administer the Maine Bail Code

Treasurer
Justin Andrus

Dear Senator Bebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

2024-2025 DIRECTORS

MACDL supports LD 527.

Jesse James Archer
Randall Bates
Dylan R. Boyd
Daniel Dubé
Andrew Edwards
Benjamin T. Everett
Kristine C. Hanly
James Mason
Joseph Mekonis
Jennifer Rohde
Robert J. Ruffner
John Steed
Caitlyn Smith
Lisa Whittier

This bill would create the new position of bail officer. In essence it would professionalize the setting of bail by having an individual whose sole job is to set and review bail. This should minimize errors, minimize the amount of time people are incarcerated, and ensure that appropriate bail and bail conditions are set.

The bail officer would be required to undergo mandatory training and therefore they would be in a better position to make appropriate decisions regarding bail. The bail process would be fully remote which would remove the \$60 bail commissioner fee which is often onerous to indigent defendants. A \$60 bail commissioner fee is due when a bail commissioner shows up at a jail to set bail.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tina Heather Nadeau

Additionally, the bill would allow for law enforcement and or corrections officers to fill out bail bonds according to the specifications set by the bail officer. This should help expedite the processing and releasing of Defendants.

This bill should be voted Ought to Pass.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Committee on this important issue.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jeremy Pratt, Esq.
President, MACDL