

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support For

LD 981 – An Act to Provide Electronic Notification to Victims of Crimes

March 26, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Rebecca Graham, and I am testifying in support for LD 981, at the direction of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). Our LPC is made up of individuals from across Maine with municipal officials elected by their peers across Maine's 35 Senate districts representing communities with very different access to available enforcement resources and local capacity.

Survivors of criminal acts, particularly ones involving serious physical trauma, need and deserve to have consistent and timely notification of their case and significant issues related to the release or abscondment of their perpetrator. Under current law, this must be done in person by a county sheriff deputy, which is not always timely due to competing public safety duties and not always appropriate for a victim who can be retraumatized by arrival of law enforcement in their place of safe refuge.

LD 981 provides a 21st century notification system that allows for timely, discreet, and meaningful notice for victims which has the potential to connect them with community-based support services including housing, mental and physical health resources and domestic violence resources. The universality of the system to be created should LD 981 will also provide uniformity amongst all correctional institutes and a consistent process of victim notification between counties.

For these reasons, and to reduce the burden on local property tax for the operation of jails that may choose to adopt 15 different notification systems should this bill not pass, officials ask that you support LD 928 and provide a state wide system of victim notification for all communities.