



4 April 2025

LD 421 An Act to Eliminate Barriers to Reentry into the Community After Incarceration by
Repealing Certain Driver's License Suspension Provisions

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of Joint Committee on
Criminal Justice and Public Safety;

My name is Dorothy Odell and I live in Belfast. I represent the Legislative Committee of Restorative
Justice Project Maine which supports LD 421 and asks that you unanimously recommend its
passage.

This bill is important to our organization, which was critical in helping to establish the Reentry
Center in Waldo County. Over the past twenty years, our staff and volunteers have helped many men
transition successfully transition back to the community from incarceration. Our experience has
shown that the challenge of taking responsibility for basic needs such as food and housing after
years in prison cannot be overstated.

The first order of business is likely to be finding a job, but without a driver's license, there may be
no way to get to the interview, let alone report for work on time, day after day. In a state with limited
or non-existent public transportation, it is almost impossible for the average person to get along
without being able to drive a car.

If we want to lower the recidivism rate, save thousands of dollars, and serve the best interests of our
citizens, then it is foolish to stand in the way of someone trying to lead a normal life after
incarceration by denying them the right to obtain a driver's license.

Please support LD 421

Dorothy Odell
Restorative Justice Project Maine
LD 421

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