



# MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

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April 7, 2025

Senator Anne Beebe-Center, Chair  
Representative Tavis Hasenfus, Chair  
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
5 State House Station, Room 436  
Augusta, ME 04333

### **RE: LD 1215 An Act Regarding Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders**

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Members of the  
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:

MACDL **opposes** LD 1215.

LD 1215 seeks to expand the already voluminous restrictions on individuals subject to the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Acts throughout Maine. In particular, it seeks to add municipal-level restrictions on where individuals can reside. It would make violations of such municipal-level restrictions a Class D crime for first violations and higher level crimes for any subsequent violations.

This is an unnecessary and unfair law because unlike other specific parts of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, such as the duty to register one's address with the sex offender registry or to notify law enforcement when moving into a community, these municipal-level duties are a patchwork of community imposed restrictions that vary from town to town. Even as an attorney practicing in the State of Maine, I would have difficulty easily locating these restrictions let alone understanding where they might apply on the ground at any given point in time. It is also extremely unlikely that anyone at the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act or Attorney General's Office would be able to provide guidance to registrants so that even if someone wished to comply with these requirements in good faith they were able to do so.

These municipal-level restrictions are imposed by the communities in which people live and they ought to be enforced by those communities as well. Fines as well as possible eviction or other removal from restricted areas are more than sufficient to assure compliance with and effective enforcement of these laws.

LD 1215 creates an unconstitutionally vague and extremely difficult to comply with law that should not be passed.

For all these reasons MACDL opposes LD 1215.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew D. Morgan  
Matthew D. Morgan, Esq.  
MACDL President Elect