



STATE OF MAINE
SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT AND RISK
ASSESSMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Kent Avery, Chair
Adam Silberman, Secretary-Treasurer
Shira Burns
Elizabeth Coleman
Amanda Doherty, ex-officio
Renee Fortier
Melissa Martin

April 8, 2025

Re: L.D. 1215 – An Act Regarding Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:

I am writing on behalf of the Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory Commission, in opposition to L.D. 1215.

The Commission is opposed to the immediate statutory changes proposed in Sections 1 and 2 as they propose to make a significant change to SORNA without any study or empirical analysis of the effectiveness of residency restrictions. It should be noted that the overwhelming consensus of current research into residency restrictions for sex offenders indicate that they are not effective. The Commission is not aware of any study that provides support for the effectiveness of residency restrictions.

Regarding Section 3, given the current state of research on this issue, we are skeptical that a study at this time would yield significantly different results than the current literature, namely that residency restrictions are not effective. Finally, the Commission also foresees the need for support staff to conduct such a study. As the Commission has no staff, we would need at least administrative support, as well as possibly experts in some areas such as empirical/statistical analysis.

For the reasons above, the Commission opposes L.D. 1215. The Commission is happy to further assist the committee or the sponsor and can be available for any work session.

Kent Avery
Chair, Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory Commission