



# MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

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April 25, 2025

Senator Carney  
Representative Kuhn  
5 State House Station, Room 436  
Augusta, ME 04333

### **RE: LD 1706: “An Act Regarding Notification of Appointment of Legal Representation for Indigent Clients in Custody.”**

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee:

MACDL supports LD 1706

LD 1706 requires clerks’ offices to enter orders of appointment of counsel to indigent defendants held in custody within 24 hours of the order excluding holidays and weekends.

MACDL understands this bill is meant to address situations whereby the court-appointed attorneys for incarcerated defendants may not receive notice of appointment for days or even weeks after the appointment happens in the courtroom.

Timely notice of appointment is critical to adequate defense because newly appointed counsel may seek to amend bail so that accused criminal defendants are able to return to work, home, and their families. Timely notice also means that an attorney can schedule a time to meet his or her new client in jails that often have limited hours for even attorney visits. These initial appointments are necessary to explore defenses and identify witnesses to interview.

In short, time is of the essence when people are accused of crimes and held in jail.

For all these reasons, MACDL supports LD 1706.

Thank you.

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