



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

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May 12, 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 1909: Resolve, to Provide a Comprehensive Analysis of Criminal Legal System Data

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

The Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers is a non-profit organization that has nearly 300 member attorneys who practice criminal defense across the state. Since 1992, MACDL has advocated for its members and the people we are fortunate to represent in courtrooms throughout Maine and at the State House.

MACDL presents this testimony in **support** of LD 1909.

If passed and effectively implemented, this bill would assist the Legislature—and in turn, the people of Maine—immeasurably by requiring the collection of much necessary data from the criminal legal system and the analysis of said data. No more would it be acceptable to rely on personal anecdotes or “I wish we had that data” when considering proposals for change.

Directing law enforcement agencies, the Judicial Branch, and the Department of Corrections and local jail facilities to provide access to their data collection systems to carry out this independent study is necessary. The veils of secrecy—whether intentional or not—have led to a dearth of information on how these systems interact with and impact people across the State of Maine.

The timeline proposed in the bill appears to be sufficient for this independent study entity to collect the necessary data and to analyze it and present it in such a way that it is useful to the future iteration of this Committee. Well-informed committees do the best work—the results of this study should assist greatly in ensuring that this Committee can do its best work moving forward. Our clients depend on the Legislature to do right by them in considering bills and other proposals: operating from a point of objective data is necessary to ensure reasoned decision-making.

We urge this Committee to vote **ought to pass** on LD 1909.

Thank you for your consideration, for your attention to this important matter, and for allowing me to present this testimony to you all today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tina H. Nadeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Tina H. Nadeau, Esq.
MACDL Executive Director