



Richard A. Bennett
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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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**Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety on
LD 1646, An Act to Amend Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Regarding
Suspected Drug-related Overdoses
January 7, 2026**

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

I am Senator Rick Bennett of Oxford, and I have the honor of serving 14 communities in Western Maine in the State Senate. I am pleased to cosponsor LD 1646, "An Act to Amend Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Regarding Suspected Drug-related Overdoses."

When someone dials 911 because they fear a person may be overdosing, they are acting with urgency and care for someone else's life. Maine's Good Samaritan law was designed to encourage those calls by reducing fear and uncertainty in life-or-death situations. And, for years, it has worked as intended.

Right now, however, there is confusion about what must be said during a 911 call for Good Samaritan protections to apply. This uncertainty creates hesitation, delay, and ultimately puts lives at risk. LD 1646 makes a narrow and thoughtful clarification to the Good Samaritan law to ensure that its protections apply when help is requested for suspected drug-related overdose. It does not change the scope of the law or weaken accountability; it simply makes certain the law functions as intended.

LD 1646 helps ensure that Mainers do not hesitate to call for help when someone is exhibiting signs of an overdose. I urge you to support this necessary clarification to our Good Samaritan law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.