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MAINE PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION
SHIRA BURNS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**“An Act to Eliminate the Juvenile Crime of Willful Refusal to Pay a Fine or Comply with the
Terms of a Court Order”**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Public Hearing Date: January 22, 2026

Testimony in Support of LD 2126

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Shira Buns, I represent the Maine Prosecutors Association and I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 2126.

Great progress in the realm of juvenile justice was made last session with the passage of P.L. 2025, ch. 431 that gave jurisdiction to the Juvenile Court for any crime committed by a minor. The Maine Prosecutors Association worked hard in drafting this bill with input from many other stakeholders to correctly understand the interplay with different statutes throughout many titles to make sure the whole scheme worked. For various reasons, the stakeholders agreed to keep 15 M.R.S. § 3103(1)(H) in statute to address crimes committed by juveniles that were under the jurisdiction of the adult court before the effective date of P.L. 2025, ch. 431. Without that statute, there was no enforcement mechanism for sentences imposed for Title 29-A and Title 12 crimes when a juvenile was charged as an adult and they did not appear or they did not pay their fine.

However, at this time, the statute is no longer needed. All criminal offenses committed by a minor now fall under the Juvenile Court’s jurisdiction and the Juvenile Court has the authority to enforce failure to pay fines or failure to comply with a court order under the juvenile code. The crime is simply not needed.

For these reasons, the Maine Prosecutors Association supports LD 2126.