



Administrative Office of the Courts

P.O. Box 4820, Portland, Maine 04112-4820

Tel: (207) 822-0792 FAX: (207) 822-0781 TTY: (207) 822-0701

Julia Finn, Esq.
Legislative Analyst

julia.finn@courts.maine.gov

Tel: (207) 822-0767

Judicial Branch testimony neither for nor against LD 2163, An Act to Improve the Response to Complaints by Victims of Crime and Enhance Victims' Rights:

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Julie Finn and I represent the Judicial Branch. I would like to provide some brief testimony regarding LD 2163.

The Judicial Branch takes no position on the policy issues underlying this bill. The responsibility to provide information and notification to victims lands mostly with the Office of the Attorney General. This is consistent with other provisions of Title 17-A Chapter 75 that require "the attorney for the State ... to inform each victim" of the scheduling and timing of hearings, sentencings, plea agreements and other case events. 17-A MRS § 2102.

That said, new section 2110 of the bill regarding "subpoenas for victim's records" indicates that a "victim has the right to timely notice" of court proceedings involving a subpoena issued for records pertaining to the victim. It does not say who is responsible for providing the "timely notice." It seems likely that the "attorney for the State" would also be required to provide the notice in section 2110 but we suggest that it would be beneficial to so specify. The Judicial Branch is not able to provide notice to victims because we do not routinely collect victim contact information.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.