



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

William D. Pluecker

1133 Finntown Road

Warren, ME 04864

Phone: (207) 273-3044

Bill.pluecker@legislature.maine.gov

Testimony of Rep. Bill Pluecker introducing

LD 483, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Retirement Benefit Reductions for Certain Employees Currently Included in the 1998 Special Plan

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and distinguished members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Bill Pluecker and I proudly represent House District 44 which consists of the towns of Hope, Union and Warren. I come before you to present **LD 483, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Retirement Benefit Reductions for Certain Employees Currently Included in the 1998 Special Plan** for your consideration.

This bill is an attempt to address an issue that was created in the passage of another bill in 2021. Certain supervisors in the Dept. of Corrections were unintentionally excluded from a retirement benefit that applies to those they supervise.

Of course, this was never the intention of the legislation or the legislature. Unfortunately, despite previous bills attempting to make this fix passing in previous legislatures, we have not been able to find the funding to get it off the table up to now.

You will certainly hear from the people affected by this oversight and their representatives after me, and they will be able to speak to you about the details necessary to bring this issue to a proper resolution more eloquently than I can.

Working behind the walls in the prison is hard work. To a large extent, our society does not wish to acknowledge neither the people working in these conditions, nor the people living in them. As a society and as a legislature, we must fully recognize the necessary work done behind the walls, out of sight, if we expect to have a fully functioning, rehabilitative Criminal Justice system. Making mistakes of this sort right, is a significant step to ensuring that the employees of the Department of Corrections are treated with the same dignity as any other law enforcement officer in our state. Therefore, I strongly urge the committee to recommend an "Ought to Pass" report and move this proposal forward for the entire Legislature's review.

Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions you have for me now or at the work session.