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THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

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Testimony of Senator Mark Lawrence introducing LD 186 “An Act to Provide Funding for Prosecutor Positions”

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

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Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. I am Senator Mark Lawrence, and I represent Senate District 35, which is made up of Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, South Berwick, and York. I am here today to present LD 186, “An Act to Provide Funding for Prosecutor Positions.”

I am presenting this bill on behalf of the Maine Prosecutors Association. The bill appropriates ongoing funds to establish ten Assistant District attorney positions to provide eight new prosecutors for recovery courts, specialty dockets and diversion programs and two new prosecutors for appellate and post-conviction review cases.

In Maine, we have a need for a properly funded criminal justice system for both the prosecution and defense. Ensuring these sides have the necessary funding is critical to keeping the system functioning in a just and appropriate manner. As a lawyer myself, have seen that there is a need for these positions to help our courts function to their best ability. When it comes to getting our courts on track, this is a step in the right direction.

I thank you all for your time and consideration, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have, thank you.