



Pinny Beebe-Center
Senator, District 12

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Pinny Beebe-Center introducing LD 1449 "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Violations of Condition of Release"

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

April 10, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. I am Senator Pinny Beebe-Center, and I represent all of Knox County, except for Isle Au Haut and the town of Washington. I am here to introduce LD 1449, "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Violations of Condition of Release."

Violating one's condition of release should be taken seriously, and this purpose of this bill is not to make light of those conditions. However, as it currently stands, those who are on bail for a felony offense, and misdemeanor charge that is added, no matter how small, is upgraded to a felony charge for the violation of condition of release. Small bail violations should not become full blown felonies just because someone was on bail for a felony charge. The punishment should fit the crime, and as it stands now, the punishment is far harsher.

This bill would reduce the number of people sitting in jail for minor bail violations. Our jails have too many people in there for these minor offenses when they can and should be out working and doing a whole host of things that are more productive. It is an issue that can be mended if we take the time and measures to act on it.

I thank you for your time and consideration. I invite you to direct your questions to Walter McKee of the Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.