



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
111 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA MAINE
04333-0111

RANDALL A. LIBERTY
COMMISSIONER

TESTIMONY OF
RANDALL A. LIBERTY, COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

NFNA

**LD 1626 An Act to Standardize Requirements Between Boards of Visitors for County Jails and
Department of Corrections Correctional Facilities**

Before the
Criminal Justice Public Safety Committee
April 25, 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and other distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I am Randall Liberty, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Corrections providing testimony NFNA LD 1626.

While the MDOC was aware of Senator Beebe-Center's bill, we have not had an opportunity to discuss it yet with her or others.

One of the things it'll be helpful to talk through is the work that took place during the 130th Legislature to improve and enhance county and State correctional facility Boards of Visitors.

During the 130th the MDOC and the Maine Sheriffs Association worked closely with now Speaker Talbot Ross on LD 1721 which, among other things, increased the number of Board members from 5 to 7 within county jails, and on the MDOC end of things created a new Board of Visitors specifically for women's services.

We also hope Senator Beebe-Center is open to a conversation around the removal of the Governor's authority to appoint a chair of the Boards, the rationale around what's included in Sec 6 of the bill, pertaining to lists of community resources, and finally to help us better understand the intent in Section 7.

As always, we look forward to working with the sponsor and other stakeholders on agreeable language.

Thank You,

Randall A. Liberty, Commissioner
Maine Department of Corrections