



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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January 17, 2024

Testimony of Representative Suzanne Salisbury presenting

LD 2045, An Act to Establish Training and Certification Standards for Probation and Parole Officers

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Senator Beebe-Center and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Sue Salisbury. I represent House District 128, which is part of the town of Westbrook. I am happy to present **LD 1644, LD 2045, An Act to Establish Training and Certification Standards for Probation and Parole Officers.**

This bill comes from the Department of Corrections (DOC) and seeks to increase accountability and professionalism of probation and parole officers by standardizing their training procedures. The bill would direct the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to establish specific training and certification standards, set requirements for courses, prescribe curricula and certify graduates of board-approved courses for probation officers.

Currently, these officers only receive training from the DOC, unlike other law enforcement officials. The bill would further improve accountability by providing a disciplinary mechanism for officers that fail to meet academy standards. Additionally,

Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill today. Folks from the Department will follow and will be better prepared to answer questions.



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