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Testimony of Rep. Marc Malon in support of
**LD 2277, Resolve, Authorizing the Commissioner of Administrative and
Financial Services to Convey by Sale the Interests of the State in 3 Properties
Located in Biddeford, Sanford and York**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere and honorable members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing: I am Marc Malon, and I proudly represent House District 133, which is part of the great City of Biddeford and directly adjacent to your honorable House chair's district. I am here to testify in strong support of LD 2277.

As committee members know, Maine's housing crunch is severe, particularly in York County. So when the district courthouses closed in favor of the new York Judicial Center (located in my district), I wondered if there would be a chance of repurposing this strong and sturdy infrastructure for housing purposes. Fortunately, I was not the only one who had this idea. It makes too much sense.

I know that the excellent director of the Biddeford Housing Authority, Guy Gagnon, has had the Biddeford location in his sights for a while. I mean this literally - it is located across the street from his office. And it really is a perfect location for this use. The Biddeford courthouse is located in the heart of downtown, with City Hall across the street and many of the amenities one can now find in our revitalized Main Street corridor. Residents of new housing units here can walk to all of these amenities and have access to bus service.

The increased density downtown helps us with our housing goals and serves the city's economic development strategy. I know that the conversion of the York and Sanford buildings will also benefit those communities' goals and the overall health of York County because, after all, housing is a regional and statewide concern.

This bill is a no-brainer. I urge the committee to support it. I, too, am incredibly troubled about the proposed funding cuts in the Governor's supplemental budget. I have expressed my concerns

with legislative leadership and with members of the budget-setting committee. I advise that you and anyone else upset about the proposed cuts contact the same committee to ensure your voices are heard. I will not support a supplemental budget that removes support from those who need it most. Period.