

*132nd Legislature*  
*Senate of*  
*Maine*  
*Senate District 6*

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LD 16 - "*An Act to Establish Separate Prosecutorial Districts in Downeast Maine*"

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Joint Standing Committee, my name is Marianne Moore. I proudly represent Senate District 6, which includes all of Washington County along with 16 Communities in Eastern Hancock County.

I am here today to introduce LD 16, "*An Act To Establish Separate Prosecutorial Districts in Downeast Maine*".

As you know by statute, there are currently 8 Prosecutorial Districts. Since the creation of the districts in 1987, the law has not been changed to reflect population and demographic shifts. Unlike the redistricting we see as Legislators every 10 years coinciding with the official census.

Washington County covers 3,258 square miles with a population of 31,379 during the 2020 census and is currently part of District 7 with Hancock County. In comparison, Hancock County is 2,345 square miles with a population of 54,987 (2020). Washington County's footprint is spread out similar to Aroostook County. Travel from one end of Washington County to the other could take 5 hours, little lone travelling from Calais or Danforth to the Courthouse in Ellsworth especially in bad weather.

Creating Prosecutorial District #9 for Washington County will give the public, counsel, and those involved in court proceedings greater access to justice without delays and with the full support of all law enforcement personnel in their communities.

Someone who lives and works in Washington County is going to better represent their community putting the needs of their friends and neighbors first, just as we do here in the Legislature.

Cost-wise, each county currently pays for buildings and support staff. This would not change under this bill, nor would it stop each county from collaborating with others or even sharing resources with one another.

I ask your support of the bill to allow the citizens in Washington County to have their own District Attorney. Thank you!

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have at this time.