TESTIMONY OF

ANTHONY CANTILLO, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

January 27, 2025

In Support of:

LD 17, An Act to Designate the Warden of the Maine State Prison as Chief Administrative Officer of the Bolduc Correctional Facility

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, I am Tony Cantillo, Deputy Commissioner of the Maine Department of Corrections (DOC) providing testimony today in strong support of LD 17, An Act to Designate the Warden of the Maine State Prison as Chief Administrative Officer of the Bolduc Correctional Facility. As further explained below, this bill is a simple house keeping proposal to help us better manage Department resources. The Department thanks Senator Beebe-Center for sponsoring this bill on our behalf.

The proposal before you today represents an effort by our Department to optimize the management of resources between Maine State Prison (MSP) and Bolduc Correctional Facility (BCF). As discussed during our orientation presentation last week, BCF is one of three pre-release facilities operated by our Department. BCF houses residents at minimum or community custody levels who have five years or less left on their sentence. Residents of BCF may participate in community-based work release, education, and other community-based programs. MSP, on the other hand, is the State's sole maximum-security facility, which houses residents at custody levels of medium or greater.

Those who have spent time visiting MSP or BCF will be familiar with how closely the two facilities are located. The facilities are a less than three minute drive apart and the properties are connected by a contiguous land mass. This closeness in proximity means that MSP and BCF are often looked at as if they are one unified campus. They share staff and programming resources, and residents from MSP often transition to BCF when they reach the appropriate custody level. However, MSP and BCF are established separately and with separate leadership in Maine statute. BCF is established under Title 34-A, Chapter 3, Subchapter 9 and MSP is established under Title 34-A, Chapter 3, Subchapter 2, both with distinct leadership structures.

For two facilities that operate in such close proximity with overlapping resources, this separation creates some awkwardness is managing those resources. The separation results in the facilities being managed under separate budgets and it also slows down the process of staff from one facility stepping in to provide support for the other facility when needed. Speaking of the budget, you'll also notice that this proposal aligns with our 26-27 Biennial Budget proposal to unify the finances for these facilities. This separation results in more paperwork and less administrative flexibility when compared to a campus like Maine Correctional Center, where the secure facility at the top of the hill and the Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center at the bottom of the hill are managed as a single campus.

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The bottom line is that we are seeking this change in order to allow the Department to be more efficient with our management of resources. The director of BCF will continue to oversee BCF and the warden of MSP will continue to oversee MSP. This change will simply allow for the more efficient sharing of staff, financial resources, and material resources in a similar way to how we currently manage campuses at Maine Correctional Center and Mountain View Correctional Facility.

For the reasons stated above, the Department respectfully asks for the committee's support in this proposal.

This concludes my testimony.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Anthony Cantillo
Deputy Commissioner
Maine Department of Corrections