

AARON M. FREY
ATTORNEY GENERAL



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
6 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0006

TEL: (207) 626-8800
TTY USERS CALL MAINE RELAY 711

REGIONAL OFFICES
84 HARLOW ST. 2ND FLOOR
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
TEL: (207) 941-3070
FAX: (207) 941-3075

125 PRESUMPSCOT ST., STE. 26
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
TEL: (207) 822-0260
FAX: (207) 822-0259

14 ACCESS HIGHWAY, STE. 1
CARIBOU, MAINE 04736
TEL: (207) 496-3792
FAX: (207) 496-3291

February 24, 2025

Senator Anne Carney, Senate Chair
Representative Amy Kuhn, House Chair
Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station, Room 438
Augusta, Maine 04333-0100

Re: *LD 425 An Act to Establish a Conviction Integrity Unit in the
Attorney General's Office*

Dear Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn:

I am writing to provide my thoughts regarding LD 425, *An Act to Establish a Conviction Integrity Unit in the Attorney General's Office*. I see value in establishing a conviction integrity unit and, consistent with the support I offered to an identical proposal in the 130th Legislature, I do not object to establishing such a unit in the Office of the Attorney General, independent from the Criminal Division, that would provide a statewide application with independence from prosecutors.

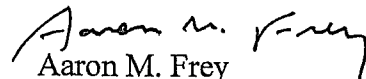
While my office was involved in discussions to establish a conviction integrity unit in the 130th, my office has not been involved in any discussions leading up to the introduction of LD 425. A conviction integrity unit should be a part of a comprehensive system working to ensure that justice is being dispensed in a manner that provides confidence in the integrity of the outcomes. Prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, and defendants all have their responsibility to ensure the integrity of the criminal judicial system. Additionally, a conviction integrity unit does not replace the role of trials, appeals, and post-conviction reviews. If the Committee moves forward with this proposal, it would be helpful to have this Committee frame the particular gap the conviction integrity unit is intended to fill.

Finally, as was the case with the prior proposal, my office does not have the resources to create a conviction integrity unit. My office would need staff to achieve the independence and capacity called for by LD 425.

Senator Anne Carney, Senate Chair
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Thank you for your attention to this letter and please let my office know if we may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,


Aaron M. Frey
Attorney General