



Matt Moonen

House Majority Leader

Matt.Moonen@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: State Relay 711

LD 284: An Act to Update Major Policy-influencing Positions Within the Maine Human Rights Commission

Testimony of Rep. Matt Moonen, Portland
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Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. I am here today to present LD 284: An Act to Update Major Policy-influencing Positions Within the Maine Human Rights Commission.

This bill is incredibly simple: with regard to the Commission's two Major Policy-Influencing positions, it replaces Chief Compliance Officer with Commission Counsel. This is necessary and appropriate, since there has not been a Chief Compliance Officer at the Commission for at least a decade, and Commission Counsel is responsible for drafting all Commission-submitted bills as well as the Commission's rules and regulations.

Those of you who are returning members of this committee may remember that we have dealt with this issue once before - in LD 2142 in the 131st. That bill was passed unanimously in this committee and in both the House and Senate, and even made it off the AFA table, but died on Veto Day when it was one of a number of bills held by the Chief Executive and effectively pocket vetoed.

So here we are, dealing with this incredibly simple issue once again. I believe that representatives of the Maine Human Rights Commission are present, and I'd happily defer questions to them as you consider this bill. Thank you.