

Craig V. Hickman Senator, District 14 **THE MAINE SENATE** 132nd Legislature

3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman introducing LD 794, An Act to Include Judicial Marshals in the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Committee on Labor, my name is Craig Hickman, and I am proud to represent Senate District 14, twelve municipalities in southern Kennebec County, including my beloved hometown of Winthrop. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce <u>LD 794</u>, "An Act to Include Judicial Marshals in the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement," to the Committee today.

As many of you are aware, I am and have long been a strong supporter of Maine law enforcement and an active proponent of parity within the Maine Public Employees Retirement System for law enforcement officers within various jurisdictions of state and local government.

This past fall, while attending the Monmouth Fair, it was brought to my attention by one of my constituents that the Maine Judicial Marshals, who provide protection for Maine state employees, judges, and the public at courthouses across the state, were not included in the 1998 Special Retirement Plan. That constituent is a Deputy Judicial Marshal, and he will present testimony to you this morning.

The Judicial Marshals are the law enforcement arm of the Judicial Branch. They are a vital component of the Maine Judicial System. Without them, courts cannot conduct their daily business.

The bill, as written, seeks to apply the Special Retirement Plan retroactively. With that being said, I understand that the budget is tight this year, and the Marshals ask, if retroactivity is not possible this session, that the Committee proceed with adding the Marshals to the Special Retirement Plan moving forward.

Thank you for your time, and I ask that you vote to pass this important bill to support our Judicial Marshals.

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

Craig V. Hickman State Senator, District 14

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