

STATE OF MAINE

KATHRYN SLATTERY
DISTRICT I

JACQUELINE SARTORIS
DISTRICT II

NEIL MCLEAN
DISTRICT III

MAEGHAN MALONEY
DISTRICT IV



I

R. CHRISTOPHER ALMY
DISTRICT V

NATASHA IRVING
DISTRICT VI

ROBERT GRANGER
DISTRICT VII

TODD R. COLLINS
DISTRICT VIII

MAINE PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION
SHIRA BURNS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"An Act to Establish Bail Officers to Administer the Maine Bail Code"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Public Hearing Date: March 17, 2025
Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 527

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Shira Burns and I represent the Maine Prosecutors Association. I am here to testify in support of LD 527.

Establishing a new bail officer position within the Maine Judicial Branch will lead to more efficiency, consistency, and accuracy of bail conditions. Prosecutors are on-call throughout the night to answer questions that law enforcement are dealing with in that moment on the road. Many of these questions deal with bail, specifically what the officer should do when they can't get a hold of a bail commissioner or when a bail commissioner set bail not authorized by statute. We have tremendous bail commissioners around the State, but this position will fill in the gaps where they are needed. This centralized position will allow a specific point of contact that specializes and becomes a subject matter expert on bail.

The Maine Prosecutors Association appreciates the need for this position and the good it can do for crime victims and defendants charged with crimes.

For these reasons, the Maine Prosecutors Association is in support of LD 527.

Shira S. Burns

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