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Testimony of Rep. Dani O'Halloran introducing

LD 931, An Act to Amend the Law Allowing Incarcerated Pretrial or Presentence Individuals to Be Credited Time for Participation in Voluntary Work Projects in a Jail Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Good morning Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Dani O'Halloran, and I proudly represent District 20, which includes part of Brewer. Today, I am here to introduce **LD 931, An Act to Amend the Law Allowing Incarcerated Pretrial or Presentence Individuals to Be Credited Time for Participation in Voluntary Work Projects in a Jail.**

Maine's Sherriff Association brought this bill to my attention, hoping to find a way to improve the lives of inmates in correctional facilities while also addressing the risk of overcrowding. If passed, this bill will allow pretrial or presentence inmates to volunteer in public works programs and receive credit for time served. Specifically, for every 16 hours of volunteering, one day will be deducted from their sentence. This bill not only helps reduce inmates' sentence but also provides them with valuable skills for future employment after incarceration.

When this measure was first introduced in 2021, it was in reaction to the COVID-19 influenza and was an attempt to mitigate the spread of the virus due to close corridors. Let's not wait until there is another emergency to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this measure. If you have any questions, I would ask that you direct them to the experts testifying after me.