



# Administrative Office of the Courts

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## Judicial Branch testimony in opposition to LD 428, An Act Regarding the State Forensic Service:

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Julie Finn and I represent the Judicial Branch. I would like to provide some brief testimony in opposition to LD 428.

This bill requires the State Forensic Service to transmit incompetency and other mental health reports to the Judicial Branch electronically. We support this idea as it aligns with Judicial Branch goal of implementing the Maine eCourts system. This system is expected to be used statewide in all case types in the near future. Thus, it does not make fiscal sense to pay for an electronic transfer of information within our current case management system, which is scheduled to be retired in late 2026 or early 2027.

Currently, Maine eCourts is being used by the Violations Bureau for all traffic violations statewide. It has also been implemented in the Penobscot Superior and Bangor District Courts; Androscoggin Superior and Lewiston District Courts; and Rumford District, Farmington Superior, Farmington District, South Paris Superior, and South Paris District Courts for the following case types: most Family and Civil case types, excluding mental health cases, and protection orders. The Business and Consumer Docket is also up and running on Maine eCourts. The next implementation planned is for the Criminal and Juvenile cases types in June of 2025.

Because all case types will be transferred to the Maine eCourts system within the next 2-3 years, LD 428 is not necessary. Implementing the bill any sooner will involve assessing the cost of contract resources to do the work.

Thank you for your time.