



Administrative Office of the Courts

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Judicial Branch testimony in favor of LD 1965, Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Create a Court Navigation Program Plan:

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Julie Finn and I represent the Judicial Branch. I would like to provide some testimony in favor of this bill.

LD 1965 creates a Task Force that would study the addition of court navigators to provide guidance and information about court processes and procedures to persons involved with the court system. In addition, they would be trained to refer court users to community-based resources and services depending on their needs.

The Judicial Branch is currently piloting a project at the York Judicial Center in Biddeford to provide volunteer greeters to the public. The York County clerk described the pilot as follows.

"The York Judicial Center opened in 2023 and is a beautiful modern courthouse, but it's also big and can be intimidating for people who have never visited it. In this pilot program we hope to attract volunteers who are comfortable interacting with the public and who are enthusiastic about helping people get the information and resources they need quickly and with a minimum of stress."

The task force described in this resolve would assist court users with finding appropriate services after they leave the courthouse and would dovetail nicely with the Judicial Branch pilot project already begun.

Members of the Judicial Branch staff would be happy to participate in the task force and assist in any way that is needed and helpful.

Thank you for your time.