

LD 1962: AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE CORRECTIONS OMBUDSMAN

LD 1962 proposes a Corrections Ombudsman—an independent office to help Maine's Department of Corrections meet its goal of promoting the safety and well-being of staff and residents. Unlike Maine's Boards of Visitors, it would have authority to:

- investigate concerns and complaints and negotiate solutions.
- recommend changes to policies and procedures.
- report to taxpayers about prison problems.
- make changes that improve prisons and save money.

An Ombudsman will drive reform in our prisons.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS! Here's how you can help us pass the Ombudsman Bill:

1 Volunteer to spread the word

- Submit your opinions to the editors of local newspapers.
- Host or attend community discussions (online or in person).

2 Contact your representatives

- Email or call your legislators or sign petitions advocating for this bill.


3 Speak out in favor of the bill

- Testify at public hearings (you don't need to be an expert).
- Highlight the need for independent oversight and accountability.

4 Post on social media

- Post on social media in support for LD 1962, emphasizing transparency.





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The Maine Department of Corrections operates out of public view, while in charge of a large, hidden, and dependent population. Scandals, lawsuits, and unresolved problems reduce public trust and morale within the system.

Maine has a chance to open the door to dignity and truth. Twelve other states and the federal government already use ombudsman offices with proven results.

These offices identify problems early and push to solve them to the benefit of residents, staff, families, taxpayers, and communities.

Focusing on accountability, justice, and healing is vital to upholding public safety.

1 What is it?

- LD 1962 creates an independent office to investigate confidential complaints by residents, staff, families and others about the state's prisons.

2 How does it work?

- The office gathers information by doing interviews, reviewing policies, and completing inspections.

3 What will change?

- The office works to achieve positive outcomes, recommends policy changes and reports to the Governor, the Maine DOC, the legislature, and the public.

4 When will it happen?

- LD 1962 will be taken up by the Maine Legislature's Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee during the December 2025–April 2026 session.

