

*132nd Legislature*

***Senate of  
Maine***

***Senate District 29***

***Senator Anne Carney***  
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*Testimony of Senator Anne Carney introducing*  
**LD 1994, An Act to Provide Immunity from Civil Liability for Justices of the Peace**  
*before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*  
January 21, 2026

Chair Kuhn and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary, my name is Anne Carney, I represent Senate District 29 and I am honored to introduce LD 1994, "An Act to Provide Immunity from Civil Liability for Justices of the Peace."

This legislation seeks to modernize the justice of the peace statute to provide justices of the peace the same immunity from civil liability currently granted to all other appointees serving as judicial officers or in quasi-judicial roles. Without statutory protection from liability, highly qualified prospective and new justices of the peace may be hesitant to pursue the role, potentially compromising courts' capacity to efficiently review emergency orders including Extreme Risk Protection Orders, Involuntary Commitments, Search Warrants and Arrest Warrants.

I urge you to support LD 1994 as a simple fix to an outdated statute, ensuring all judicial officers receive the same protections when acting in their official capacity moving forward.