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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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**Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary on
LD 1997, An Act to Authorize Issuance of Securities to Modernize and
Consolidate Certain Court Facilities
January 21, 2026**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and my esteemed colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary: I am Dave Haggan and I have the honor of representing the people of Senate District 10, which includes three municipalities in Hancock County and nine municipalities in Penobscot County. On behalf of the Judiciary, I am pleased to sponsor LD 1997, *An Act to Authorize Issuance of Securities to Modernize and Consolidate Certain Court Facilities*.

Those of us on this committee know all too well that many of our courthouses are in serious disrepair. To ensure safe, efficient, and equitable access to justice, we must prioritize the repair and modernization of these facilities.

I agreed to sponsor this bill on behalf of the Judiciary because conditions at some courthouses have reached a critical point. Last year, the Newport District Court was forced to close due to unsafe mold conditions, requiring parties to travel to Bangor instead. The closure of local courthouses create a real barrier to justice for the people they serve.

I urge you to support LD 1997. A representative from the Judiciary will follow and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time today.