



MAINE COMMISSION ON  
PUBLIC DEFENSE  
SERVICES

Executive Director Frayla Tarpinian

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February 18, 2026

Dear Chairs Carney and Kuhn and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing in **support** of LD 2195: An Act to Prohibit the Appointment or Assignment of a Private Attorney to Provide Indigent Legal Services Without That Attorney's Consent. This bill is necessary to ensure attorneys are protected from being appointed without notice and the ability to determine if they have the capacity to competently handle a particular matter. Recently, a small number of courts issued orders appointing attorneys without asking them if they were willing to accept the case or if they had capacity to render competent representation. This bill would clarify that an attorney could not be appointed to represent an individual eligible to receive indigent legal services without the attorney's consent and a determination by PDS that the attorney is eligible to accept the case.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill and urge you to vote "ought to pass" on this critical legislation.

Thank you,

Frayla Tarpinian  
Executive Director Maine Commission on Public Defense Services