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2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1440  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

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## Arthur Kevin Mingo

404 Shattuck Rd.  
Calais, ME 04619  
Phone: (207) 214-8537  
Arthur.Mingo@legislature.maine.gov

*Testimony of Rep. Arthur Mingo*  
**L.D. 2232, "An Act to Increase County Jail Funding"**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

March 17, 2026

Good afternoon Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, distinguished members of the committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 2232, the very important bill that would increase state funding for jail operations and declare this measure immediately necessary for the preservation of public peace, health and safety.

The County Jail Operations Fund plays a vital role in supporting both the safe operations of local detention facilities and the community-based programs that help individuals successfully transition back into society. County jails serve as a critical part of the justice system, but their responsibilities extend far beyond simply housing individuals in custody. Many jails provide access to programs and services that address the underlying issues that contribute to incarceration. Increasing the funding available through this program may help counties expand community-based initiatives that improve public safety. Funding for county jail operations has remained flat while the cost to operate jails has steadily increased, creating an ever-mounting burden on county budgets which directly affects property tax payers. Many municipal governments already fund law enforcement in their own communities and by not increasing the County Jail Operation Fund may lead these communities to make the hard decision of cutting their own public safety departments. It is time for relief and strengthening this fund ensures counties have the tools needed to develop effective programming and maintain safe, well managed facilities.

Thank for your time and will be happy to answer any questions.

Arthur Mingo  
State Representative

District 9 Baileyville, Baring, Calais, Eastport, Grand Lake Stream, Meddybemps,  
Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point, Perry, Robbinston, Passamaquoddy Indian Township