



Maine County Corrections Professional Standards Council

March 16, 2026

LD2232 An Act to Increase Jail Funding

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and esteemed members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Tim Curtis, Somerset County Administrator and I am testifying in support of LD2232 on behalf of the Maine County Corrections Professional Standards Council. LD2232 originated from the LD719 Report delivered to CJPS on January 15, 2026, and presented to Committee members on February 4, 2026.

The bill seeks to accomplish four objectives:

1. **Raise the baseline Jail Operations Fund** in statute by \$8M from \$20,342,105 to \$28,342,104. This restores the state's contribution to roughly 20% of jail operation costs.
2. **Set an annual increase of 4%.** This would alleviate the yearly request for additional funding. Note, the bill also adds carry forward language that is common to other statutory requirements (See Title 34-A §1205-A. Correctional Medical Services Fund)
3. **Separate out state funding for Community Corrections at \$5M annually.** Currently this funding is 25% of the Jail Operations Fund and does not allow for use for the increasing costs of jail operations. County jails report program spending more than \$5M (\$7.12M in FY25).
4. **Change the language regarding distribution.** Currently the Operations Fund is distributed based on data collected from the *most recent fiscal year*. It is presumed to be the state's fiscal year which means this data is collected in August of each year, well after most county jails have established their budget. This format does not allow counties to have accurate revenue estimates and leaves the potential for shortfalls that would have to be filled by fund balance. The bill corrects that by changing the timing to use jail population data from the *previous state fiscal year*. ***This would not have any fiscal impact.***

Each of these objectives will ultimately reduce the burden on property taxpayers who are responsible for the remaining 80% of jail operation costs.

In addition, the Council recommends funding for clerical duties. LD852 in its original draft had a provision for clerical services costs associated with the activities of the council that must be paid by the department.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.C.'.

Tim Curtis – Somerset County Administrator