

CLAC MEMORANDUM/TESTIMONY
LD 428 (Support)

TO: Senator Anne Beebe-Center
Representative Suzanne Salisbury
Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

FR: Criminal Law Advisory Commission (CLAC)
c/o laura.yustak@maine.gov

RE: LD 428, An Act to Reclassify Certain Offenses Under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Laws and Increase the Efficiency of the Criminal Justice System.

DA: March 6, 2023

The Criminal Law Advisory Commission (CLAC)* respectfully submits the following testimony in support of LD 428. CLAC supports efforts to decriminalize the non-violent conduct identified in the bill.

*CLAC is an advisory body established by the Legislature. 17-A M.R.S. §§ 1351-1357. It consists of 9 members appointed by the Attorney General. Our current members include current defense attorneys, prosecutors, Maine Bar Counsel, and a retired practitioner with experience as defense counsel, prosecutor and in court administration. In addition, three sitting judges and one retired practitioner, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, and, by statute, the Co-Chairs of the Legislature's Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, serve as consultants. The Supreme Judicial Court's Criminal Process Manager serves as liaison from the Court to CLAC. CLAC advises the Legislature on matters relating to crimes in the Criminal Code and in other Titles, the Bail and Juvenile Codes, and with respect to other statutes related to criminal justice processes.