



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

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Senator Anne Beebe-Center, Chair
Representative Suzanne Salisbury
Committee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety
100 State House Station Room 436
Augusta, ME 04330

RE: LD 692 -- An Act Regarding Eligibility of County Jail Inmates for a
Community Confinement Monitoring Program

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and Members of the Criminal
Justice and Public Safety Committee:

MACDL opposes LD 692.

This bill places limits on what a sheriff can do with respect to allowing an inmate to participate in a community confinement monitoring program. As it stands now, the sheriff has the discretion to allow a whole host of inmates to participate in these important programs that allow for the transition of an inmate from incarceration to being free again. Sheriffs already assess the risk of allowing an inmate to participate in a community confinement monitoring program, and forcing the sheriff to have to go through a detailed, multi-part analysis, for each inmate, is time-consuming, burdensome, and takes away the power from the sheriff to make decisions as the sheriff sees fit.

The Legislature should allow our county sheriffs to address inmate issues like this on their own. This is especially so in the age of significant overcrowding of our county jails. Placing more limits on what a sheriff can do and under what circumstances a sheriff can do it only serves to harm the reduction of the overcrowding problem, not help it.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue.

Sincerely,

Walter F. McKee
Chair, Legislative Committee