



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

P.O. Box 17642
Portland, ME 04112-8642
(207) 523-9869
mainemacdl@gmail.com

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February 12, 2025

Senator Carney
Representative Kuhn
5 State House Station, Room 436
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 259: An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission in Statute.

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee:

MACDL **supports** LD 259 An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission in Statute.

The Criminal Records Review Committee (hereinafter “the Committee”) was initially established in 2021 and has continued to meet since its inception through bills reestablishing it passed by this Committee. It is made up of many different members with backgrounds intended to represent all stakeholders involved in the world of criminal records.

The Committee’s prior work and recommendations contributed to a recently passed sealing law. 15 M.R.S. § 2261 et seq. The expansion of sealing rights beyond persons aged 18-24 has seen a marked rise in the filing of post-judgment motions to seal. Each successfully filed motion allows Maine citizens, who have paid their dues and stayed out of trouble, a clean slate.

The Committee has grappled with issues ranging from how to best notify people who are eligible to seek sealing of a prior conviction about their rights to the question of separation of powers and whether expungement is allowed under Maine law. Ultimately, the Committee is working in an important and complicated area of law where Maine lags behind other states.

LD 259 creates a permanent commission to continue the important work of the Committee. MACDL **supports** LD 259 and continued work on improving access to sealing and expungement for the people of Maine.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew D. Morgan
Matthew D. Morgan, Esq.
MACDL President Elect