

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 169, L.D. 514, Bill, "An Act To Protect Community Safety by Amending Maine's Bail Code"

Amend the bill by inserting before section 1 the following:

Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §1003, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1997, c. 543, §§3 and 4, is further amended to read:

1. Bail. "Bail" is defined as follows.

A. In the preconviction context, "bail" means the obtaining of the release of the defendant upon an undertaking that the defendant shall appear at the time and place required, and that the defendant shall conform to any each condition imposed, in accordance with section 1026; that is designed to ensure that the defendant shall refrains from any new criminal conduct, to ensure the integrity of the judicial process and that the defendant shall refrain from any new criminal conduct to ensure the safety of others in the community. For crimes bailable only as a matter of discretion preconviction, bail also means the obtaining of the release of the defendant upon an undertaking that the defendant shall conform to each condition that is designed to ensure the safety of others in the community.

B. In the post-conviction context, "bail" means the obtaining of the release of the defendant upon an undertaking that the defendant shall appear and surrender into custody at the time and place required, and that the defendant shall refrain from any new criminal conduct and that the defendant shall conform to each condition imposed in accordance with section 1051 that is designed to otherwise ensure that the defendant refrains from any new criminal conduct, to ensure the integrity of the judicial process and to ensure the safety of others in the community.

Sec. 2. 15 MRSA §1003, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Ensure the safety of others in the community. "Ensure the safety of others in the community," when used in the context of the granting or denial of bail, means protecting community members, other than those already protected under subsection 5,

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 169, L.D. 514

1 from the potential danger posed by the defendant to a specific person or to persons in the
2 community generally.'

3 Amend the bill in section 3 in subsection 2-A by striking out all of paragraphs B and
4 C and inserting the following:

5 'B. The release would not reasonably ensure that the defendant would refrain from
6 any new criminal conduct;

7 C. The release would not reasonably ensure the integrity of the judicial process; or

8 D. The release would not reasonably ensure the safety of others in the community.'

9 Amend the bill in section 4 in paragraph A by striking out all of the first 2 paragraphs
10 (page 1, lines 19 to 39 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

11 'A. If, after consideration of the factors listed in subsection 4, the judicial officer
12 determines that the release described in subsection ~~2~~ 2-A will not reasonably ensure
13 the appearance of the defendant as at the time and place required or, will not
14 ~~otherwise~~ reasonably ensure that the defendant will refrain from any new criminal
15 conduct, will not reasonably ensure the integrity of the judicial process or will not
16 reasonably ensure the safety of others in the community, the judicial officer shall
17 order the pretrial release of the defendant subject to the least restrictive further
18 condition or combination of conditions that the judicial officer determines will
19 reasonably ensure the appearance of the defendant as at the time and place required
20 ~~and,~~ will ~~otherwise~~ reasonably ensure that the defendant will refrain from any new
21 criminal conduct, will reasonably ensure the integrity of the judicial process and will
22 reasonably ensure the safety of others in the community. These conditions may
23 include that the defendant:

24 (1) Remain in the custody of a designated person or organization agreeing to
25 supervise the defendant, including a public official, public agency or publicly
26 funded organization, if the designated person or organization is able to
27 reasonably ensure ~~both~~ the appearance of the defendant as at the time and place
28 required and, that the defendant will refrain from any new criminal conduct, the
29 integrity of the judicial process and the safety of others in the community. When
30 it is feasible to do so, the judicial officer shall impose the responsibility upon the
31 defendant to produce the designated person or organization. The judicial officer
32 may interview the designated person or organization to ensure satisfaction of
33 both the willingness and ability required. The designated person or organization
34 shall agree to notify immediately the judicial officer of any violation of release
35 by the defendant;'

36 Amend the bill in section 4 in paragraph A by striking out all of subparagraphs (11)
37 and (12) and inserting the following:

38 '(11) Execute an agreement to forfeit, ~~upon failing to appear as required in the~~
39 event of noncompliance, such designated property, including money, as is
40 reasonably necessary to ensure the appearance of the defendant as at the time and

1 place required and, to ensure that the defendant will refrain from any new
2 criminal conduct, to ensure the integrity of the judicial process and to ensure the
3 safety of others in the community and post with an appropriate court such
4 evidence of ownership of the property or such percentage of the money as the
5 judicial officer specifies;

6 (12) Execute a bail bond with sureties in such amount as is reasonably necessary
7 to ensure the appearance of the defendant as at the time and place required and, to
8 ensure the integrity of the judicial process and to ensure the safety of others in the
9 community;'

10 Amend the bill in section 4 in paragraph A in subparagraph (17) in the 2nd line (page
11 2, line 35 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "summoned" and inserting the following:
12 'summoned summonsed'

13 Amend the bill in section 4 in paragraph A by striking out all of subparagraph (18)
14 and inserting the following:

15 ' (18) Satisfy any other condition that is reasonably necessary to ensure the
16 appearance of the defendant as at the time and place required and, to ~~otherwise~~
17 reasonably ensure that the defendant will refrain from any new criminal conduct,
18 to ensure the integrity of the judicial process and to ensure the safety of others in
19 the community.'

20 Amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the following:

21 '**Sec. 5. 15 MRSA §1026, sub-§3, ¶B,** as amended by PL 1997, c. 543, §7, is
22 further amended to read:

23 B. The judicial officer may not impose a financial condition that, either alone or in
24 combination with other conditions of bail, is in excess of that reasonably necessary to
25 ensure the appearance of the defendant as at the time and place required or, to
26 ~~otherwise~~ ensure that the defendant will refrain from any new criminal conduct, to
27 ensure the integrity of the judicial process or to ensure the safety of others in the
28 community.

29 **Sec. 6. 15 MRSA §1026, sub-§3, ¶C,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 758, §20, is
30 amended to read:

31 C. Upon motion by the attorney for the State or the defendant and after notice and
32 upon a showing of changed circumstances or upon the discovery of new and
33 significant information, the court may amend the bail order to relieve the defendant
34 of any condition of release, modify the conditions imposed or impose further
35 conditions authorized by this subsection as the court determines ~~will to~~ reasonably
36 ensure the appearance of the defendant as at the time and place required and will
37 ~~otherwise reasonably ensure,~~ that the defendant will refrain from any new criminal
38 conduct, the integrity of the judicial process and the safety of others in the
39 community.

1 **Sec. 7. 15 MRSA §1026, sub-§4, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 543, §7, is
2 further amended to read:

3 C. The history and characteristics of the defendant, including, but not limited to:

- 4 (1) The defendant's character and physical and mental condition;
5 (2) The defendant's family ties in the State;
6 (3) The defendant's employment history in the State;
7 (4) The defendant's financial resources;
8 (5) The defendant's length of residence in the community and the defendant's
9 community ties;
10 (6) The defendant's past conduct, including any history relating to drug or
11 alcohol abuse;
12 (7) The defendant's criminal history, if any;
13 (8) The defendant's record concerning appearances at court proceedings;
14 (9) Whether, at the time of the current offense or arrest, the defendant was on
15 probation, parole or other release pending trial, sentencing, appeal or completion
16 of a sentence for an offense in this jurisdiction or another;

17 (9-A) Any evidence that the defendant poses a danger to the safety of others in
18 the community;

19 (10) Any evidence that the defendant has obstructed or attempted to obstruct
20 justice by threatening, injuring or intimidating a victim or a prospective witness,
21 juror, attorney for the State, judge, justice or other officer of the court; and

22 (11) Whether the defendant has previously violated conditions of release,
23 probation or other court orders, including, but not limited to, violating protection
24 from abuse orders pursuant to Title 19, section 769 or Title 19-A, section 4011.'

25 Amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following:

26 '**Sec. 6. 15 MRSA §1027, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 543, §§8 and 9, is
27 further amended to read:

28 **3. When conditional right has been extinguished at Harnish bail proceeding.**
29 The court's finding that probable cause exists to believe that the defendant committed a
30 formerly capital offense extinguishes the defendant's right to have bail set. The court
31 shall make a determination as to whether or not the setting of bail is appropriate as a
32 matter of discretion. The court may set bail unless the State establishes by clear and
33 convincing evidence that:

34 A. There is a substantial risk that the capital defendant will not appear as at the time
35 and place required or will otherwise pose a substantial risk to the integrity of the
36 judicial process;

1 B. There is a substantial risk that the capital defendant will pose a danger to another
2 or to the community; or

3 C. There is a substantial risk that the capital defendant will commit new criminal
4 conduct.

5 In exercising its discretion, the court shall consider the factors listed in section 1026 and
6 ~~any prior history of dangerousness~~. If the court has issued a bail order on the basis of its
7 discretionary authority to set bail in a case involving a formerly capital offense, the court
8 having jurisdiction of the case may modify or deny bail at any time upon motion by the
9 attorney for the State or the defendant or upon its own initiative and upon a showing of
10 changed circumstances or the discovery of new and significant information.

11 **Sec. 7. 15 MRSA §1051, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 543, §13, is further
12 amended to read:

13 **2. Standards.** Except as provided in subsection 4, a defendant may not be admitted
14 to bail under this section unless the judge or justice has probable cause to believe that:

15 A. There is no substantial risk that the defendant will fail to appear as required and
16 will not otherwise pose a substantial risk to the integrity of the judicial process;

17 B. There is no substantial risk that the defendant will pose a danger to another or to
18 the community; and

19 C. There is no substantial risk that the defendant will commit new criminal conduct.

20 In determining whether to admit a defendant to bail, the judge or justice shall consider the
21 factors relevant to preconviction bail listed in section 1026, as well as the facts proved at
22 trial, the length of the term of imprisonment imposed, ~~any history of dangerousness~~ and
23 any previous unexcused failure to appear as required before any court or the defendant's
24 prior failure to obey an order or judgment of any court, including, but not limited to,
25 violating a protection from abuse order pursuant to Title 19, section 769 or Title 19-A,
26 section 4011.

27 If the judge or justice decides to set post-conviction bail for a defendant, the judge or
28 justice shall apply the same factors in setting the kind and amount of that bail.

29 **Sec. 8. 15 MRSA §1097, sub-§2**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1997, c. 543,
30 §23, is amended to read:

31 **2. Appearance of the defendant; ensuring the integrity of the judicial process;**
32 **ensuring the safety of others in the community.** If the judge or justice finds that there
33 are conditions of release that will reasonably ensure the defendant's appearance ~~when~~ at
34 the time and place required and ~~will otherwise~~ ensure the integrity of the judicial process
35 and the safety of others in the community, the judge or justice shall issue an order under
36 section 1026. If the judicial finding is otherwise, the judge or justice shall issue an order
37 denying bail.

38 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
39 section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

The amendment makes the following substantive changes to the Maine Bail Code.

1. It amends the definition of "bail" in the preconviction context for crimes bailable as of right to include the imposition of conditions, in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 15, section 1026, designed to ensure the safety of others in the community. The bill attempted to accomplish this change but did not capture all necessary provisions.

2. It conforms the language and structure of the parallel definitions of preconviction and post-conviction bail.

3. It adds a definition for the phrase "ensure the safety of others in the community."

4. It amends the standards for release for a crime bailable as of right preconviction in Title 15, section 1026 to require a judicial officer to consider, in addition to the appearance of the defendant at the time and place required and the integrity of the judicial process, both the defendant's potential for engaging in new criminal conduct and the defendant's potential danger to a specific person or to persons in the community generally. The addition of these 2 considerations in Title 15, section 1026 does not change the underlying fact that a judicial officer is without authority to deny bail relative to a crime bailable as of right preconviction except following a revocation of preconviction bail pursuant to Title 15, section 1094. More specifically, in the context of consideration by a judicial officer as to the defendant's potential dangerousness, Title 15, section 1026 does not allow for "preventative detention." Instead, section 1026 allows a judicial officer to impose one or more bail conditions determined by the officer to be reasonably necessary to ensure community safety.

5. It precludes, in the context of a crime bailable as of right, a judicial officer from imposing a financial condition that, either alone or in combination with other conditions of bail, is in excess of that reasonably necessary to ensure that the defendant will refrain from any new criminal conduct or to ensure the safety of others in the community.

6. It adds to the factors to be considered in the release decision for a crime bailable as of right preconviction "any evidence that the defendant poses a danger to the safety of others in the community."

7. It removes the reference to "history of dangerousness" in Title 15, sections 1027 and 1051 relating to crimes bailable only as a matter of discretion preconviction and post-conviction bail since that factor is now expressly listed in Title 15, section 1026.

8. It adds "ensuring the safety of others in the community" to Title 15, section 1097 relating to setting bail following a revocation of preconviction bail.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 514

LR 39(02)

An Act To Protect Community Safety by Amending Maine's Bail Code

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A "

Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

Any additional costs associated with this legislation will be absorbed by the Judicial Department utilizing existing budgeted resources.