



PAUL R. LePAGE  
GOVERNOR

TESTIMONY OF  
HANK FENTON  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PAUL R. LEPAGE

**LD 1824: An Act to Provide Additional Authority to the State  
Board of Corrections**

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
21 March 2014

Senator Gerzofsky, Representative Dion, and Distinguished Members of the Committee, I am Hank Fenton, Deputy Counsel to Governor LePage, and I submit this testimony in opposition to LD 1824.

The administration believes that there is more work to be done on this bill in order to provide more centralized control over the jail system. The administration believes that at this time the only viable options include a return of control of the jails to the counties or a grant of authority over the jails to the Department of Corrections. The administration cannot stress enough the need for a concentration of decision making authority. Without that vital element, any bill that seeks to address the problems that plague the jail system will be inadequate.

The administration is prepared to work with the committee in order to arrive at a solution that will address the problems this bill seeks to fix.