

Union of Saints

Our Position on Prostitution, Crimes of “Necessity,” and Other Crimes Symbolizing the “Worst of Humanity” or Fourth Generation Warfare Becoming Normalized Through Extreme Democratic Ideology and Foreign and Domestic Lobbying

We see this as a form of “political cultural degradation,” “energetic slavery,” and “political exploitation” for Mainers.

1. Decriminalization Normalizes the Conduct

Removing criminal penalties communicates social and legal acceptance. Union of Saints opposes policies that normalize prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation.

2. All People Are Responsible for Their Actions

Every competent adult is responsible for their voluntary actions. Safeguards should protect people subjected to trafficking, coercion, force, fraud, or abuse without eliminating accountability for voluntary criminal conduct.

3. Corruption Should Not Be Normalized. Safeguards Are Required.

Laws must protect victims while preserving public order and individual responsibility. Union of Saints supports firm safeguards against prostitution, trafficking, exploitation, organized crime, and the normalization of conduct that harms individuals and communities.

Legal accuracy note: Maine enacted partial decriminalization rather than full decriminalization. The law removed the offense for adults selling sexual activity while retaining penalties for purchasing sexual activity, trafficking, and profiting from exploitation.

We Support the Restoration of Legal Accountability

1. Restore the offense.
2. Establish graduated penalties.
3. Protect trafficking victims.
4. Protect minors completely.
5. Require mandatory screening and deferred disposition in appropriate trafficking cases.
6. Preserve consequences for voluntary conduct.

7. Reject the oversimplification of complex legal and social issues.

Legislative Approach

A repeal or amendment bill could:

1. Reenact former **17-A M.R.S. §853-A** in revised form.
2. Restore penalties for knowingly selling sexual activity.
3. Create an affirmative defense for trafficking, force, fraud, and coercion.
4. Establish mandatory screening before prosecution proceeds.
5. Prefer deferred disposition for appropriate first offenses.
6. Increase penalties for repeated, organized, advertised, or third party profited prostitution.
7. Preserve Maine's existing penalties against purchasers, traffickers, and people involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of minors.

The same concerns apply to other offenses described as “crimes of necessity.” Certain political and advocacy movements have promoted policies that reduce or eliminate criminal consequences on the theory that poverty, desperation, addiction, discrimination, or another social condition caused the conduct. The resulting experience can feel relieving and unsettling at the same time because assistance may be offered while legal and societal boundaries are pushed toward their tipping points.

Union of Saints believes that political, religious, foreign, and domestic advocacy organizations should be examined according to their documented policies, lobbying activities, funding sources, and legislative influence. Our present concern involves specific organizations and lobbying campaigns advocating the abolition or substantial weakening of policing, criminal accountability, and laws intended to protect public safety and culture norms. See Jewish Political Bund: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/07/molly-crabapple-new-book-jewish-socialism>

Extreme decriminalization can remove protections for ordinary Americans and create conditions in which theft, violence, exploitation, organized criminality, and other harmful behavior become tolerated. It can benefit criminals, hostile actors, and people who seek to harm Americans or disregard the rule of law. These extremes can and should be mitigated to preserve public order, protect the community, and keep innocent people out of harm's way.

Maine Law Reversal Process

In Maine, an existing law can be reversed through subsequent legislation, a citizen initiative, or a successful constitutional challenge. For **LD 1435**, the most direct method would be a new bill repealing or amending Public Law 2023, chapter 316.

1. Legislative Repeal or Amendment

A Maine representative or senator could introduce a bill titled:

An Act to Repeal Public Law 2023, Chapter 316 and Restore the Laws Governing Prostitution

The process would generally be:

1. A legislator agrees to sponsor the repeal or amendment bill.
2. The bill is drafted through Maine's Office of the Revisor of Statutes.
3. It is assigned an LD number and referred to a legislative committee, most likely the Judiciary Committee.
4. The committee holds a public hearing.
5. Supporters and opponents submit written testimony or testify before the committee.
6. The committee conducts a work session and recommends passage, amendment, or rejection.
7. The House and Senate consider the committee report.
8. A majority of each chamber must ordinarily approve the bill.
9. The bill is presented to the governor.
10. The governor may sign it, allow it to become law without a signature, or veto it.
11. If the governor vetoes the bill, two thirds of the members present and voting in both chambers must approve an override.

Source: <https://legislature.maine.gov/general/path-of-legislation-in-maine-detailed/9285>

Because Governor Janet Mills signed LD 1435, a repeal attempted during her administration could face a veto. A veto proof legislative majority or a future governor willing to sign the repeal would make this route more viable.

The repeal could be complete or could restore penalties under specified circumstances. Lawmakers could restore the offense for voluntary adult prostitution while creating an affirmative defense for people subjected to trafficking, force, fraud, coercion, or abuse.

2. Citizen Initiated Legislation

Maine voters may propose a new law that repeals or replaces LD 1435.

The basic process is:

1. A registered Maine voter prepares the complete text of the proposed repeal or amendment.

2. The voter submits an application to the Secretary of State.
3. The application identifies the applicant and five additional registered Maine voters who will receive official notices.
4. The Secretary of State and Office of the Revisor of Statutes review the proposal for proper legislative form.
5. The Secretary of State approves the petition form.
6. Registered Maine voters circulate the petition.
7. Circulators collect the required number of valid signatures.
8. Municipal officials certify the signatures.
9. The completed petitions are submitted to the Secretary of State.
10. If the petition is certified as valid, the proposed legislation goes to the Legislature.
11. The Legislature may enact the proposal exactly as submitted.
12. If the Legislature does not enact it, the proposal goes before Maine voters.
13. Approval by a majority of voters at the statewide election enacts the proposed law.

The present threshold is **67,682 valid signatures**, representing 10 percent of the votes cast in Maine's 2022 gubernatorial election. The required number will change after the next gubernatorial election.

Sources:

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/elections-voting/peoples-veto-or-citizens-initiative-resources/deadlines-for-current-citizen-initiatives>

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/elections-voting/peoples-veto-or-citizens-initiative-resources/citizen-initiative-application-packet>

This is the citizen petition route presently available for reversing or replacing LD 1435.

3. People's Veto

A people's veto allows Maine voters to suspend and reject a newly enacted nonemergency law before it takes effect. It requires valid signatures equal to at least 10 percent of the votes cast in the preceding gubernatorial election.

The application must be filed within **10 business days after adjournment of the legislative session in which the law was passed**. The completed petitions must also satisfy the applicable constitutional filing deadline.

Source:

<https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/21-a/title21-Asec901.html>

Because LD 1435 was enacted in 2023 and has already taken effect, the people's veto deadline has passed. The law cannot now be subjected to a retroactive people's veto. Opponents would need to pursue new legislation or a citizen initiative.

4. Court Challenge

A court can prevent the enforcement of a law if an eligible plaintiff proves that it violates the Maine Constitution or United States Constitution.

A successful challenge generally requires:

- A plaintiff with legal standing
- An actual injury or credible threat of injury
- A legally recognized constitutional claim
- A lawsuit filed in the proper state or federal court
- Evidence and legal arguments establishing that the statute is unconstitutional

Disagreement with the policy is insufficient. The plaintiff must identify a constitutional defect involving equal protection, due process, freedom of speech, unconstitutional vagueness, or another legally recognized protection.

A successful challenge might invalidate only part of the statute. Courts do not ordinarily repeal statutes through the legislative process. They may declare a provision unconstitutional or prohibit its enforcement.

Most Practical Route for LD 1435

The clearest strategy would be:

1. Draft a targeted repeal or amendment.
2. Find a Maine legislator willing to sponsor it.
3. Assemble legal, law enforcement, survivor, community, and public policy testimony.
4. Request a Judiciary Committee public hearing.
5. Advocate for majority passage in both legislative chambers.
6. Prepare for a possible gubernatorial veto.
7. If legislative repeal fails, pursue a citizen initiative requiring at least **67,682 valid signatures under the present threshold**.

A campaign should describe its requested result precisely. Reversing the law could mean restoring the former prohibition completely, restoring penalties for voluntary adult conduct, creating diversion instead of automatic incarceration, or retaining immunity exclusively for

people subjected to trafficking, force, fraud, coercion, or abuse. Each approach would produce materially different legislation.