



Maine Municipal  
Association

60 COMMUNITY DRIVE  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-9486  
(207) 623-8428  
[www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org)

## “Placeholder” Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against LD 2019

*An Act To Extend to Other Public Sector Employees the Same Protections Provided to State Employees upon the Expiration of Contracts*

January 29, 2020

---

Senator Bellows, Representative Sylvester and members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Kate Dufour and I am providing placeholder testimony “neither for nor against” LD 2019 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA).

Although our Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) will establish the Association’s official position on LD 2019 at its January 30 meeting, in preparation for this hearing MMA staff conducted an informal poll to gauge municipal response to the changes proposed in the bill.

The municipal officials participating in the survey question the need to amend municipal labor negotiations practices in this way. Nothing in state statute or rule prevents the negotiation of contracts that include provisions to extend increases in wages upon the expiration of a contract. Furthermore, many of the contracts labor unions negotiate with municipalities include similar provisions. For this reason, municipal officials believe that this negotiation tool should be retained by the impacted parties, rather than being provided to one side of the bargaining table to the disadvantage of the property taxpayers who fund these salaries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If our Policy Committee’s official position on this bill varies considerably from the testimony presented today, I will inform the members of the committee of that outcome in a timely fashion. If you have any questions regarding our position on LD 2019, please do not hesitate to contact me at either [kdufour@memun.org](mailto:kdufour@memun.org) or 1-800-452-8786.