



Maine County Commissioners Association

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LD 88, An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax Revenues

March 21, 2023

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Stephen Gorden and in addition to serving as a member of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as chair of the legislative policy committee of the Maine County Commissioners Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee in qualified support of LD 88, with one recommended amendment discussed below.

About MCCA. Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta, represents all of Maine's 16 counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

Discussion. LD 88 would establish the Local Government Cannabis Revenue Fund, which would require the transfer to the Fund of revenue from the sales tax on adult use cannabis products and the cannabis excise tax. The Fund would be distributed to municipalities in proportion to the ratio of revenues gathered on adult use cannabis within the municipality as compared to the revenues generated statewide. Our Association writes in qualified support of LD 88.

The premise of LD 88 is to provide resources to local government to enforce adult use cannabis laws and otherwise maintain public safety. However, as currently drafted, LD 88 would only provide financial support to one unit of local government: municipalities. We should be mindful that Maine's counties also are units of local government who play an active role in cannabis enforcement, including through the county sheriff departments. Much of the costs for these services ultimately fall on the local property tax.

For this reason, if the Legislature decides to move forward with this bill, we would strongly encourage that it be amended to include county government as well.

Conclusion. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill, and if you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Gorden
Chair, Legislative Policy Committee

cc: James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel