



Maine County Commissioners Association

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LD 1588, An Act to Provide Public Sector Labor Unions Reasonable Access to Information Regarding Employees

April 20, 2023

Chair Tipping, Chair Roeder, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, 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 opposition to LD 1588.

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 16 of Maine's counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

Discussion. LD 1588 expands the rights of bargaining agents of public sector unions to gain access not only to the personal contact information of members of such bargaining unit and any newly hired employees, but also to the personal information of employees who are not union members. The personal information to be provided includes an employee's home address, home and personal cell phone numbers, personal email address, and other personal contact information. Very simply, we believe this bill represents a significant overreach of authority by public sector unions that violates the privacy rights of government employees who have chosen not to be union members. Accordingly, we write to oppose this bill.

Similarly, most counties throughout the State have more than one bargaining unit, and our Association would also be opposed to bargaining agents of public sector unions gaining access to the personal contact information of an employee in another bargaining unit in the county.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Gorden".

Stephen Gorden
Chair, Legislative Policy Committee

Cc: Commissioner Richard Dutremble, President, MCCA
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel