



**MAINE MUNICIPAL  
ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936**

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## **Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association**

### **In Opposition to**

### ***LD 1748 - An Act to Reform the School Budget Referendum Process by Limiting the Circumstances in Which Referenda Occur***

**May 2, 2023**

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Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 1748 on behalf of Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, the LPC provides direction to the advocacy team at MMA and establishes the position on bills of municipal interest.

Municipal officials are opposed to only requiring a budget validation referendum if a written petition, signed by at least 20% of the voters that voted in the last gubernatorial election, is submitted. The residents in some communities may prefer to validate the school budget while for others it might not be a hot topic.

Local leaders find the amendment for LD 1370, *An Act to Simplify the School Budget Validation Process*, to utilize a budget validation referendum opt in approach is more appropriate when considering the need to maintain local control and provide the process that works best for the residents within their communities.

For these reasons the LPC is opposed to LD 1748. Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.



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