



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither for Nor Against

LD 1914, An Act to Enact the Maine Psilocybin Health Access Act

May 15, 2023

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony neither for nor against LD 1914 on behalf of the 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.

The Association's policy committee has not yet taken a position on LD 1914. However, MMA submitted testimony on this topic during the last legislative session and were strongly opposed. My testimony presented today is neither for nor against but would likely change to opposition once the LPC has had an opportunity to discuss it at their next meeting.

Currently, Maine is still grappling with the unresolved statutory issues in the adult and medical use cannabis markets and adding another controversially regulated business would be reckless at best. Adding to the confusion, LD 1914 significantly restricts local regulatory authority and does not offer an option to opt-in to allow these businesses to operate within their borders, as has been done with cannabis businesses.

Before venturing down a path of legalizing a new industry, local leaders strongly recommend that the Legislature settle all medical and adult use cannabis issues. Given the number of proposed bills this session relating to cannabis, it's clear there is still much work to be done. With the stigma surrounding its use is still alive, it might be best for the committee to continue this work to develop a well-constructed cannabis market to use as a model for psilocybin in the future.

If this measure were to pass, municipal officials would strongly urge the committee to consider the respect for your residents and their ability to regulate activities within municipal boundaries.

Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.

