



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition To

LD 1952, *An Act to Allow On-site Cannabis Consumption*

January 24, 2024

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 1952, *An Act to Allow On-site Cannabis Consumption*, on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC), who provides direction to the advocacy team and establishes the position on bills of municipal interest.

Municipal officials continue to express concerns with the enforcement aspect of on-site cannabis consumption and the public safety implications with potential driver impairment, particularly regarding edibles and their delayed effects, as well as the overarching public health concerns.

Due to the uncertain risks associated with on-site cannabis consumption, if this bill were to pass, local leaders kindly urge committee members to consider implementing risk management strategies that incorporate insurance protections along with a program to mitigate risk through best practices and relevant training. The responsible beverage service training could be used as a model to develop a similar training program for employees at these establishments.

It is also worth noting that municipal officials remain firm in maintaining local control and insist on municipal approval before any on-site cannabis consumption is allowed.

For these reasons MMA is opposed to LD 1952. I appreciate your time and thank you for considering the municipal perspective.

