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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support Of

LD 2201 - An Act Regarding the Approval for the Placement of Portable Toilets

February 20, 2024

Sen. Nangle, Rep. Stover, and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am testifying today in support of LD 2201 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) who establish the position on bills of municipal interest.

Many communities use portable toilets as a convenient way to provide restroom facilities to people attending ball games, visiting local parks, or staying at seasonal campgrounds, located within their borders. These facilities are provided, normally during the summer months, as a cost-effective way of providing an important public health service, which has been a practice for several years with no known issues. Temporary toilets for construction workers doing projects within communities are another consideration as sometimes projects can take longer than seven days to complete.

While discussing LD 2201 at their recent meeting, more questions rose about the newly effective subsurface wastewater disposal regulations in place. Guidance issued by the Maine Dept of Health & Human Services indicates that the Local Plumbing Inspector for a municipality may choose to provide permission, by any means appropriate, formally or by means as informal as an email. Further, there are no fees or information required to be sent to the State by the municipality following granting permission. With no real enforcement aspect to this regulation, local leaders are left wondering why it is necessary, essentially solidifying their position of support for LD 2201.

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



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