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## Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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Date: February 4, 2025

To: Senator Tim Nangle, Senate Chair  
Representative Holly Stover, House Chair  
And members of the State and Local Government Committee

From: Patti Dubois, Chairperson, Legislative Policy Committee  
Maine Town and City Clerks' Association  
Ashley Rand, Vice Chairperson, Legislative Police Committee  
Maine Town and City Clerk's Association

Re: LD 129– An Act to Amend the Law Governing Dedimus Justices

Position: Support

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is in support of LD 129 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your Committee.

Members expressed support for this bill, as a way to keep the list of justices current. Justices who retire, move or die often stay on the list long after they are available to perform these services for the public. Dedimus justice services are offered at many municipal offices as a service to area residents; however, a moratorium on new appointments has resulted in a shortage of appointees.

Changing from a lifetime appointment to establishing a 7-year term will go a long way in keeping the list up to date. In addition, adding the ability to resign will provide a mechanism for those who have retired or moved to be removed from this responsibility and will provide a more accurate reflection of the number of appointees that are still active.

Members suggested an amendment to require the Secretary of State to conduct a mailing to all currently appointed justices requesting them to submit a form indicating if they wish to continue in this position and if so, provide an updated address, phone number and email address. Members also suggested that information be obtained on where the justice is most likely to provide services, since many offer them at their workplace rather than their homes.

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association appreciates the opportunity to share its testimony with the Committee. Should any questions arise, please feel free to contact me at 207)680-4210 or by email: [pdubois@waterville-me.gov](mailto:pdubois@waterville-me.gov) .

**Representing Over 400**