



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against

LD 494 - An Act to Update and Clarify Certain Provisions of State Liquor and Lottery Laws

February 26, 2025

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 494 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, the LPC guides MMA's advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

Our LPC participated in an email poll as well as a Zoom meeting, if they were able, to discuss the merits of the proposed bill. MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine.

Municipalities appreciate efforts to update and clarify existing provisions. Clarity in regulations benefits both local governments and businesses by reducing confusion, ensuring equitable enforcement, and streamlining administrative processes. As the governing bodies responsible for issuing permits, ensuring compliance, and maintaining public safety, municipalities recognize the importance of clear and effective laws regarding alcohol sales and lottery operations.

In general, local leaders are neutral on the specific details of the proposed changes in LD 494 but strongly advocate for a process that prioritizes collaboration, transparency, and local flexibility. The only area sparking debate among members was regarding the changes to signage. Some members have no issue with the amount of signage, while others appreciate limits to keep in line with community aesthetic. Overall, the feeling is that if the laws need to be updated, then it should be done.

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

