



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

**In Opposition To**

*LD 734 - An Act to Promote Voter Registration for Students in Maine's High Schools*

March 12, 2025

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Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Education & Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 734 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine and the LPC guides the advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

Municipal officials appreciate that this bill aims to increase voter registration and education, but do not feel that mandating school districts to promote voter registration is the right way to move forward. Increasingly, local leaders are hearing from their school partners about the stress state mandates have placed on their budgets, as well as their daily schedules.

Additionally, home rule authority allows municipalities to set the curriculum taught in their schools and believe that LD 734 would infringe on that authority. Knowing there are schools that incorporate mock elections into their school day when appropriate, whose efforts are assisted by the Secretary of State's office, we offer a suggestion of incorporating voter registration into these activities. Rather than mandating a program at the state level, those schools who participate in mock elections would be better positioned to help accomplish the goal for voter registration in secondary schools.

Thank you for your time and considering the municipal perspective.

