

## **Maine County Commissioners Association**

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March 13, 2025

Sen. Ingwersen, Chair Rep. Meyer, Chair Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services 100 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Comments of MCCA on LD 110, An Act to Require Reporting on the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds by Certain Municipalities and County Governments

Chair Ingwersen, Chair Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee Health and Human Services:

On behalf of the Maine County Commissioners Association, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in *opposition* to LD 110.

**About MCCA.** Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta, represents all 16 of Maine's counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

What does LD 110 do? LD 110 would require certain municipalities and counties to file annual reports with the Office of the Maine Attorney General detailing expenditures of funds received pursuant to court settlements of the opioid crisis litigation.

**Discussion.** We take no issue with what we assume is the purpose of LD 110 – transparency and accountability regarding expenditures of opioid settlement funds. Our concern with this bill is that it seems both unnecessary and unduly burdensome. County commissioners are happy to share their county's opioid settlement expenditures with any entity that asks, as counties have done with reporters and other interested parties in recent years. Moreover, the information is subject to Maine's Freedom of Access Act. In the meantime, LD 110 would mean one more mandatory report to draft for under-resourced county governments without relieving any duty to continue providing information under FOAA or other inquiries. Where the same information is readily accessible by sending an email or placing a phone call to county commissioners, we would ask that the Legislature not create an additional legal requirements for county governments.

**Conclusion.** We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to LD 110. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Gorden

Co-Chair, Legislative Policy Committee, MCCA

Jean-Marie, Caterina

Co-Chair, Legislative Policy Committee, MCCA

cc: Commissioner Andre Cushing, President, MCCA

James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel