



March 6, 2025

**Testimony In Support Of
LD 132, Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Constitution of Maine**

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Alexander Price, and I am here to testify in support of LD 132 on behalf of the Maine Jobs Council, which is a statewide, nonpartisan, member-driven advocacy organization that advances public policies to support the creation and preservation of foundational jobs in Maine. The Maine Jobs Council supports LD 132 because we believe that Maine has several complex problems facing it right now, and that requires a comprehensive review of all aspects of public policy, including the Constitution of Maine.

A recent assessment of the competitiveness of Maine's statewide economy by the Porter Development Initiative (PDI) found that Maine is not attracting new employment at the same rates as other areas of the U.S. and that existing firms in Maine are not achieving the high levels of productivity that would support increasing wage levels for employees. PDI's research revealed that we are among the least productive states in the nation, despite high levels of labor force participation among working-age Mainers; we create fewer jobs, attract less investment, and start fewer businesses than most other states; our worker wages are low and contrast with higher cost burdens; and we lack many of the hallmarks of a competitive location for business.

This information provides just one example of the many complex issues facing Maine today. Understanding Maine's situation, and addressing the complex issues we face, starts with looking at the big picture and requires a comprehensive review of public policy, including the Constitution of Maine. There is a similar piece of legislation introduced this session to establish a commission to study the operations of the Maine Legislature. We view these as companion bills. There is no cure-all for improving public policy and there are pros and cons to every suggestion, but we believe both bills pave the way for thoughtful analysis, consideration, and discussion of possible improvements to Maine's public policy and provide a starting point for solving the complex issues facing Maine today. We need to ensure that our public policy is working as effectively and efficiently as possible if we are to increase quality jobs, keep young Mainers here, educate children to reach their full potential, reverse our adverse demographics, and several other issues.

The MJC thanks the committee for its time and consideration of this issue, and we would welcome any opportunity to discuss it with you.

Thank you,

Alexander Price, Pierce Atwood
On behalf of the Maine Jobs Council