



60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486  
1-800-452-8786 (in state) | (t) 207-623-8428  
(f) 207-624-0129

## **Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)**

### **Neither For nor Against**

#### *LD 650, An Act to Support Municipal Public Health*

March 24, 2025

---

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony neither for nor against LD 650 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

LD 650, as amended, expands municipal options and potential board duties when a community considers the appointment of a local board of health, which is currently allowed under 22 MRSA §453.

Municipal officials appreciate the continued optional nature of the statute. However, as with any addition of prescriptive language to statute, local officials expressed concern for unintended consequences of that language. The proposed prescriptive language, while broadening health opportunities, may in fact impact a community's desire to create such a board. Volunteers for appointed boards are becoming fewer and farther between, more so when a board is expected to deliver on specific goals, even when those prescribed goals are optional.

At the conclusion of the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature, PL 2023, Ch.46 §1 provided municipalities the opportunity to appoint an Associate Health Officer, in addition to a Local Health Officer. The statute, both existing and as proposed, does not elaborate on that official's role in the proposed expansion of the local board.

In addition, it is unclear what is meant by the board being "representative of the population served."

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective on this important topic. Please feel free to contact any member of the LPC or the MMA Advocacy team with any questions relating to municipal operations.