



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

Local Government Center • 60 Community Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330-9486
1-800-452-8786 (In Maine) • 207-623-8428
Fax 207-626-5947

Date: March 20, 2025

To: Senator Rachel Talbot Ross, Senate Chair
Representative William Pluecker, House Chair
And members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee

From: Patti Dubois, Chairperson, Legislative Policy Committee
Maine Town and City Clerks' Association

Re: LD 1057 – Resolve to Aid Municipalities, Animal Control Officers and Other Parties
in Complying with Electronic Dog Licensing Requirements

Position: SUPPORT

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is in support of LD 1057 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your Committee.

Members strongly support this bill and encourage passage. Members noted the following key issues:

- Rollout of the new PetPoint database and processes was disastrous, occurring during the immediate lead up to the November 4, 2024 Presidential Election, when clerks are managing absentee ballot requests, voter registration activities and planning for election day. In addition, the weeks after election day are also busy with post-election activities which include finalizing results to send to the Secretary of State, entering voter registration cards received on election day, and then entering voter participation history into the Central Voter Registration system. Each of these tasks has a specific deadline and requires continued effort and focus. Clerks were told that participation was mandatory and were given a hard deadline to enter licenses.
- Rollout of another statewide new database and processes for liquor licensing occurred at the exact same time, with no flexibility on whether to participate and when.
- Training and documentation for the new dog licensing program was extremely sparse to non-existent. A few optional zoom trainings were provided but were not comprehensive and left more confusion than clarification.



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- Many municipalities have been duplicating the dog licensing work in their individual dog licensing programs found in packages such as Trio or Munis, since they either aren't comfortable navigating the new PetPoint system and/or don't have confidence in the new system. The individual systems have been paid for and are being phased-out by some municipalities. Since the budget process is well underway for most municipalities, future funding for these programs is questionable unless immediate guidance is provided to clerks on the continuation, delay or scrapping of the PetPoint system.
- Larger municipalities have designated a staff member to dissect the new system and figure it out on their own. Smaller municipalities don't have the staffing depth to do this; therefore, many simply are not using the system.
- Reporting modules in PetPoint are troublesome. Clerks feel that the entire system is more cumbersome than it needs to be.

Clerks questioned why clerks are being mandated to use the program but other groups are not being mandated to use the program, such as veterinarians and Animal Control Officers, both of whom require state licenses or certifications.

Members support the establishment of a software user group and suggest the inclusion of stakeholders who worked on the prior database project undertaken pre-COVID, which was abandoned prior to rollout of PetPoint.

Members support a delay in implementation for one year for PetPoint or any other software for dog licensing.

We urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1057.

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association appreciates the opportunity to share its testimony with the Committee. Should any questions arise, please feel free to contact me at (207)680-4210 or by email: pdubois@waterville-me.gov .