



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition To

LD 984 - An Act to Require Every State and Municipal Building to Have at Least One Automated External Defibrillator

March 26, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 634 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, 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 the intent behind the bill to have automated external defibrillator (AED) devices available in all municipal buildings for emergency situations, and there is a possibility that some municipal buildings already have this type of device available, particularly in communities with emergency services. However, these same officials also have concerns about the cost of requiring in statute that an AED be installed in every municipal building.

Not only does this bill require every municipality to purchase and install the AED device but also it does not take into consideration the ongoing training and maintenance of the AED's which are not addressed in LD 634. Having AED's available for use is great, but if there isn't anyone who knows how to operate them or if the device itself isn't working due to lack of maintenance, the intent of the bill will not be fulfilled.

Further, as this bill would require a municipality to fund the addition of AEDs in every municipal building, it creates an unfunded mandate on local governments and would require the legislature to either fund 90% of the cost of implementing the mandate, or inclusion of the mandate preamble on the bill, requiring the legislature to pass the cost onto municipalities by a two-thirds majority vote.

Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.

