



Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

***Testimony of Senate President Mattie Daughtry in support of
LD 954, “An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Membership of the Government
Oversight Committee”
Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
March 26, 2025***

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23 in the Legislature, which includes Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. I am here to testify in support of LD 954, “An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Membership of the Government Oversight Committee.”

This bill, as the title suggests, simply removes requirements related to the membership of the Government Oversight Committee, or GOC. In the 131st Legislature, we changed the law regarding membership to specify and favor broad representation from other committee membership. The intent of this bill was good, the goal to balance committee membership is admirable. This change was well intentioned and I appreciate the effort to make sure GOC has the right membership to carry out its important mission. Before that change, the membership of the committee and the selection of chairs are established by joint rule of the Legislature. To me, that joint rule is what we should return to as one Legislature should not tie the hands of the next. And there is good reason for that.

It is important that we leave this to Presiding Officers. I am not here because I want to change the Committee’s membership in the 132nd Legislature, but because I don’t believe legislative leaders hands to be tied when considering who is best to serve. I don’t want any other Presiding Officer’s hands to be tied in the future.

When considering who to place on the Government Oversight Committee, we should appoint a members who *want* to be on the Committee, who understand that there will be a diverse range of issues to consider and is eager to dive into them. We should appoint members who understand why the GOC is important and is aligned with the values behind the push for accountability in government. Appointment decisions should be made entirely on these considerations, without also having to consider the priorities of a previous Legislature.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to take questions.