



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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Date: March 20, 2025

To: Senator Craig Hickman, Senate Chair
Representative Laura Supica, House Chair
And members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

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

Re: LD 1148 – An Act to Improve Access to Absentee Ballots for Municipal Elections for
Uniformed Service and Overseas Voters

Position: SUPPORT

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is in support of LD 1148 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your committee.

Members were in favor of having the Secretary of State issue ballots electronically to UOCAVA voters in municipal elections but questioned whether the service would be available when the municipal election is not held on the same day as a state election. Inconsistency with election procedures is difficult for voters to understand.

The language in Section 6 of the bill was unclear regarding whether "a copy of the local ballot" required to be provided was a paper ballot or an electronic copy.

Clerks wondered what the timeline would be to provide the ballot to the state in order to be included in the electronic ballot process, since each municipality has different timelines for finalizing their slate of candidates.

Members felt that providing municipal ballots with state ballots to UOCAVA voters may increase the return rate of those absentee ballots for local elections. Members did express concern on how the voted ballots would be returned to municipalities to be counted on election night.

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.