



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support Of

LD 1131 - An Act to Reform the Process by Which a Person May Petition an Agency to Adopt or Modify Rules Under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act

March 31, 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 support of LD 1131 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.

Local officials appreciate the proposal in that it raises the threshold for the number of signatures needed to file a petition to adopt or modify rules under the Maine Administrative Procedures Act. Municipalities often deal with a variety of issues that impact the lives of residents, from land-use regulations to public health and safety issues. If the threshold for filing petitions is set too low, it could encourage petitions based on narrow, specialized interests rather than the broad consensus needed for good public policy. Raising the required number of voters ensures that petitions are more likely to reflect the concerns and desires of a larger portion of the population, rather than the vocal minority.

Additionally, petitioners would be incentivized to build coalitions among stakeholders and work to gain community backing for their cause, rather than relying on a small group to trigger regulatory changes. This would foster a more deliberative approach to rulemaking and strengthen the quality of public discourse surrounding changes to regulations.

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

