



Maine County Commissioners Association

4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2 Augusta, ME 04330, 207-623-4697
www.maine counties.org

April 2, 2025

Sen. Joseph Baldacci, Chair
Rep. Suzanne Salisbury, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on State &
Local Government
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 1155, An Act to Ensure Appropriate County Government Operations Relating to the Position of Dedimus Justice

Dear Members of the State and Local Government Committee:

On behalf of the Maine County Commissioners Association, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee in support of LD 1155. Counties throughout Maine rely on Dedimus Justices to ensure the proper administration of oaths, which are essential for a wide variety of county operations.

About MCCA. Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta, represents all 16 of Maine's counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

What does LD 1155 do? This legislation aims to address the backlog and inefficiencies in appointing new Dedimus Justices for county operations. The bill seeks to update the list of Dedimus Justices, remove ineligible individuals, and improve the process to ensure that counties have the necessary personnel for administrative functions.

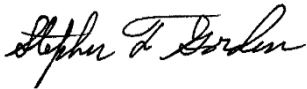
Discussion. Counties across Maine depend on Dedimus Justices to administer oaths, crucial functions in jails, and for a broad range of county operations. To fulfill this function, county governments have historically designated employees to undergo the process to become a Dedimus Justice, and receive an appointment to become one. However, in recent years, the appointment of Dedimus Justices has slowed to the point where county governments are no longer able to ensure that a Dedimus Justice is on staff. County sheriffs are facing similar challenges.

Without a Dedimus Justice on staff with county government, counties are forced to look elsewhere for these needed services. This has been challenging given that the current list of Dedimus Justices remains outdated, with many individuals who are no longer eligible to serve—some due to age, others are deceased, and others are incarcerated or living outside of Maine. This outdated list, which ties Dedimus Justices to their towns of residence, further complicates the process and creates unnecessary hurdles for counties that need access to Dedimus Justices.

We fully support the provisions of LD 1155, which seeks to clean up the list of Dedimus Justices, remove individuals who can no longer serve, and modernize the process to ensure that counties can continue to operate efficiently.

Conclusion. We respectfully urge the Committee to support this important legislation to ensure appropriate county government operations. Thank you, and please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Gorden
Co-Chair, Legislative Policy Committee, MCCA



Jean-Marie Caterina
Co-Chair, Legislative Policy Committee, MCCA

cc: Commissioner Andre Cushing, President, MCCA
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel

