



Maine County Commissioners Association

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April 11, 2025

Sen. Carney, Chair
Rep. Kuhn, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: ***Testimony of MCCA regarding LD 1484, An Act Related to Public Access of
Records of Certain Disciplinary Actions of Public Employees***

Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

On behalf of the Maine County Commissioners Association, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to this Committee in opposition to LD 1484. County government depends on the public's trust, and that trust is supported by a commitment to transparency in how we manage public resources, including public personnel.

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.

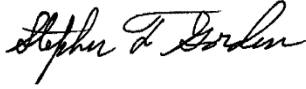
What does LD 1484 do? LD 1484 would make records of the final written decision of disciplinary actions against public employees confidential if the discipline does not result in a financial loss. The bill frames financial loss from the standpoint of the employee—such as suspension without pay or demotion. This would limit public access to certain disciplinary decisions that are currently available under Maine's Freedom of Access Act.

Discussion. LD 1484 would limit public access to records of written decisions of disciplinary actions against public employees when the discipline does not result in a financial loss to the employee. In doing so, the bill creates a new distinction between "serious" and "non-serious" discipline that may shield from public view important information about how employee misconduct is handled, even when it involves issues of public concern or safety. This could prevent future employers—including other public agencies—from discovering past misconduct that was addressed but not publicly documented, reducing accountability across government.

MCCA believes this bill moves in the wrong direction. We support greater transparency, not less, and this proposal undermines longstanding principles of open government that help ensure accountability, build trust in public institutions, and deter future misconduct.

Conclusion. For these reasons, MCCA urges the Committee to vote **Ought Not to Pass** on LD 1484. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Gordon
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

