

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition To

LD 1462 - *An Act to Promote Artisans and the Creative Economy*
April 17, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing updated testimony in opposition to LD 1462 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.

Generally speaking, municipalities do not favor proposals that would prohibit their adoption of ordinances and circumvent their local control authority. That said, it is appreciated that the bill recognizes there are instances when it is appropriate for a municipality to adopt an ordinance that would dictate where and when certain vendor activities could take place and appreciate that the intent of the bill sponsor is to not further burden municipalities.

Ultimately though, local leaders feel that this type of activity is a decision that is best left to the residents within their communities. Many communities across Maine see artists creating expressive matter and view this bill as a solution to a nonexistent problem. For example, in Wiscasset, artisans regularly set up their easels on the street, giving passersby a glimpse into the creation of their beautiful works of art. An article in the [July 2024](#) Maine Town & City magazine issue touches on this activity and again in the [August 2024](#) issue where photographers were captured at the East Point Sanctuary in Biddeford. Likewise, these activities extend to island communities such as Monhegan and Chebeague Island, and in the mountain areas like the majestic Baxter State Park.

There is also some concern about what types of expressive content would be allowed to be sold. The bill language refers to materials of written works, that include visual arts like photography, paintings, sculpture, or the activity of performance artists. Municipal officials question if this would include materials with offensive pictures or language or that depict nudity in the name of art but with the intent to disrupt the community.

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

Rebecca Lambert
Maine Municipal Association
LD 1462

Please note, this is updated testimony to reflect the official position taken by the
Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Policy Committee. Thank you.