



Maine County Commissioners Association

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April 28, 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 1542, An Act to Amend the Membership of the Washington County Budget Advisory Committee***

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 1542. This legislation aims to improve representation, transparency, and input in the county budgeting process.

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 1542 do? This legislation proposes thoughtful amendments to the composition of the Washington County Budget Advisory Committee by:

1. Appointing a resident from the unorganized territory in Washington County as a voting member for a three-year term; and
2. Modifying the role of the Washington County legislative delegation member from a nonvoting to a voting member, selected biennially for a two-year term.

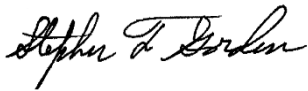
Discussion. These changes aim to enhance representation and transparency in the county's budgetary process. By including a resident from the unorganized territory, the bill ensures that all areas within the county have a voice in fiscal decisions. Transitioning the legislative delegate to a voting member further strengthens the collaborative relationship between county and state governance. MCCA believes that these adjustments will lead to a more inclusive and effective budget advisory committee, better reflecting the diverse interests of Washington County's constituents.

Conclusion. We respectfully ask the Committee to support this legislation. Thank you, and please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

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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

MCCA Letter re LD 1542

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