

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 1743

AN ACT TO ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES TO PROHIBIT FIREARMS WITHIN THEIR MUNICIPAL
BUILDINGS AND VOTING PLACES AND AT THEIR MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS

May 1, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Steven Bailey, the Executive Director of the Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and the Maine School Superintendents Association in support of L.D. 1743, An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms Within Their Municipal Buildings and Voting Places and at Their Municipal Public Proceedings.

We expect this bill would have limited impact on schools, as both federal and state laws already prohibit firearms within a school zone. These laws help to protect our students and make our staff and children feel safe within their classrooms.

Schools do routinely serve as polling places, and our associations appreciate that L.D. 1743 would allow municipalities to reinforce these other legal protections and could prohibit firearms within these locations. We also appreciate Section 4 of this bill, which would require that if a municipality adopts an ordinance or policy, it shall post “in a prominent location outside of all buildings and other places to which the order, ordinance, policy or regulation applies, notice of the limitation or prohibition against the possession of firearms, including any adopted exceptions to the limitation or prohibition.”

Such posting would provide ample public information to residents about any restrictions on firearms, and we believe this would help students, families, and educators feel more safe on voting day. For these reasons, we ask you to pass L.D. 1743.