

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association  
**In Opposition To**

*LD 1517 - An Act to Replace Participation Thresholds with Approval Thresholds in Certain School,  
Municipal and County Measures*

May 14, 2025

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Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 1517 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.

The LPC understands the intent to combine LD 1388 and this bill since they deal with similar topics and that the bill received a divided report at the work session. At the time of the public hearing, the LPC had not taken an official position but has since voted to oppose LD 1517. The basis for the policy committee's opposition is that having a higher participation threshold assures that a fair amount of the residents support the measure and is not only brought forth by a vocal minority, particularly when referencing charter revisions.

Charter revisions are not to be made lightly and require careful consideration and public input to be sure the changes are reflective of the community values. Thank you for your time and considering the municipal perspective.