



Testimony in Support of LD 2228:

“An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions”

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Montana Towers, and I serve as policy analyst for Maine Policy Institute. Maine Policy is a free market think tank, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates for individual liberty and economic freedom in Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 2228, “An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions.”

LD 2228 takes a simple but important step toward improving government efficiency and accountability by eliminating boards and commissions that are no longer functioning or serving an active public purpose. Maintaining inactive boards in statute contributes to the growth of government bureaucracy without delivering tangible benefits to Maine citizens. When boards cease to meet, fail to report, or no longer perform their intended duties, they become relics of past policy priorities rather than effective tools of governance.

Reducing Unnecessary Government Structures

Maine has hundreds of boards, commissions, and advisory groups, not including task forces or other special groups. The large number of these entities can make it difficult to find qualified applicants to fill vacancies. Before the start of the 132nd Legislature, there were many such vacancies on dozens of different existing boards and commissions across state government.¹

While many boards operate with minimal direct costs, they still impose administrative burdens. Agencies must track reporting requirements, maintain records, and ensure statutory compliance even when the underlying entity is inactive.

More importantly, unnecessary boards contribute to the broader problem of government sprawl. Over time, well-intentioned legislation creates advisory groups, task forces, and commissions that are rarely revisited after their creation. Without regular review, government structures accumulate indefinitely.

¹ <https://www.maine.gov/sos/sites/maine.gov.sos/files/inline-files/vacancyreport2025.pdf>



Establishing a Strong Precedent for Legislative Review

LD 2228 also establishes an important precedent for regularly reviewing the boards and commissions that exist in Maine statute. As public policy priorities evolve, some advisory bodies inevitably become outdated or redundant. Periodic review ensures that government structures remain relevant and effective rather than remaining in statute long after their purpose has passed.

Continuing this practice in future legislative sessions would help maintain a streamlined and transparent system of boards and commissions that reflects Maine's current policy priorities.

A Responsible, Common-Sense Reform

LD 2228 does not eliminate active boards performing valuable work. Instead, it addresses entities that have already demonstrated inactivity or failure to meet basic reporting requirements. In that sense, the bill represents a prudent housekeeping measure that strengthens oversight without disrupting functioning programs.

Regular reviews of boards and commissions help ensure that Maine's government remains focused, transparent, and accountable to taxpayers.

For these reasons, Maine Policy Institute strongly urges this committee to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 2228. Thank you for your time and consideration.