



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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Date: January 31, 2023

To: Senator Craig Hickman, Senate Chair
Representative Laura Supica, House Chair
And members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

From: Patti Dubois, Chairperson, Legislative Policy Committee
Maine Town and City Clerks' Association

Re: LD 233 – An Act to Ensure Efficiency in Petitions Reviewed by the Secretary of
State by Clarifying Deadline Related to Those Petitions

Position: Support

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is in support of LD 233 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your Committee.

Municipal clerks and registrars of voters often seek guidance and support from the staff at the Secretary of State's office regarding the administration of elections and voter registration. Understandably, the state staff members must prioritize their efforts for an impending deadline, most notably ones dictated in the Constitution of Maine. This prioritization may require delayed responses to municipal questions.

Affording the Secretary of State a few additional days for their review process by changing the language from "30 days" to "30 business days" doesn't create a hardship to the petitioners and may allow more time for the Secretary of State's staff to complete their review, which is very time-consuming.

Additionally, consideration of a Constitutional amendment extending the duration to 18 months for the validity of signatures would be supported.

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association appreciates the opportunity to share its testimony with the Committee. Should any questions arise, please feel free to contact me at 207)680-4210 or by email: pdubois@waterville-me.gov.