



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

Local Government Center • 60 Community Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330-9486
1-800-452-8786 (In Maine) • 207-623-8428
Fax 207-626-5947

Date: February 7, 2023

To: Senator Tim Nangle, Senate Chair
Representative Holly Stover, House Chair
And members of the State and Local Government Committee

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

Re: LD 422 – An Act to Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities Provide Public Notice in Newspapers

Position: Support

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is in strong support of LD 422 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your Committee.

Municipal clerks support the option of meeting the public notice requirement by placing the notice on its municipal website. The fact that this is not a requirement but, rather, is optional was a selling point for our members since no size fits all in readership and availability of newspapers across the state. This bill would allow flexibility for municipalities to decide what method of notice is best for reaching its citizens.

Clerks noted that cost savings could be realized by municipalities should this be passed. In addition, this could provide more consistency for citizens since newspapers that historically were daily newspapers are now opting to be printed for fewer days each week and have generally seen a shrinking audience with online news options being widely available.

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 .