



## Maine County Commissioners Association

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### *LD 422, An Act to Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities Provide Public Notice in Newspapers*

March 2, 2023

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Stephen Gorden and in addition to serving as a member of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as chair of the legislative policy committee of the Maine County Commissioners Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee in qualified support of LD 422, with one recommended amendment discussed below.

**About MCCA.** Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta, represents all of Maine's 16 counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

**Discussion.** Current law requires municipalities to provide public notice in a newspaper in certain instances. LD 422 would provide municipalities with an alternative way to provide such public notice by permitting municipalities to provide the required notice on its publicly accessible website instead of in a newspaper. This change not only will save the taxpayers money, but it also acknowledges that the public gets their information through different channels than they did in the past – including through websites.

As drafted, this bill would provide municipalities, but not counties, an alternative way to provide public notice as required by statute. Counties, like municipalities, are subject to such public notice requirements under current law.

If the Legislature does decide to move forward with this bill, we would ask that it be amended to include counties as well.

**Conclusion.** We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill, and if you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Gorden  
Chair, Legislative Policy Committee

cc: James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel