



STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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**Testimony of the Maine Public Utilities Commission**

**In Support of**

**LD 1065, An Act to Improve the Telecommunications Relay Services Council by Reducing Its Membership and Allowing for the Hiring of an Executive Director**

April 13, 2023

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology (Committee), my name is Deirdre Schneider, testifying in support of the sponsor's amendment to LD 1065, An Act to Improve the Telecommunications Relay Services Council by Reducing Its Membership and Allowing for the Hiring of an Executive Director, on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission.

LD 1065 directs the Telecommunications Relay Service Council (Council) to hire and compensate a part time Executive Director, within its existing allowable budget, to assist the Council in carrying out its duties. The amendment establishes the duties of the director.

The Commission has been one of the members of the Council since its inception and is supportive of this legislation. The Council assists the State in providing critical services to deaf, late-deafened, hard-of-hearing, or speech-disabled citizens. The Council has no paid staff to address the administrative requirements of providing services to these communities. A part time executive director will allow the Council to meet its statutory obligations much more effectively and will help ensure the Council meets all state government administrative requirements such as procurement policies and procedures.

I would be happy to answer any questions or provide additional information for the work session.