



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony in Support of LD 1233

“An Act Regarding the Maine Cemetery Preservation Commission”

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Representative Randy Greenwood, proudly serving the residents of House District 56 in Litchfield, Monmouth and my hometown of Wales in both Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties.

I am pleased to present this legislation on behalf of the Maine Cemetery Preservation Commission for the Committee’s consideration.

The creation of this Commission was carried over in the first session of the 130th Legislature and unanimously passed in in the Second Session. It created the Maine Cemetery Preservation Commission. Now that this Commission has been created, this is Step Two, which would give it authority in carrying out its mission.

I am presenting this Legislation on behalf of Helen Shaw who is an expert in this area of Cemeteries and Ancient Burial Grounds. Also, another expert, Hugh Lemaster, who a funeral director and more importantly my constituent, both whom have worked tirelessly on this initiative. This proposal will actually enable the Maine Cemetery Preservation Commission to be funded and provide a method of enforcement if needed. This bill authorizes the commission to hire staff, create a web page on the State’s publicly available website as well as preparing educational materials for municipalities.

Questions might best be reserved for the experts from the Commission and after any additional co sponsors that wish to speak. I ask you to recognize Ms. Shaw and Mr. Lemaster for their testimony.

Thank you and I'll do my best to answer any questions you may have.