



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES
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*Testimony of Anya Trundy, Chief of Legislative and Strategic Operations
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**LD 2088, An Act to Change the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in Certain
Municipalities**

Sponsored by Senator Daughtry
To the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Hickman and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veteran and Legal Affairs, I am Anya Trundy, Chief of Legislative and Strategic Operations for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. I am providing testimony **neither for nor against** LD 2088.

Twice a year, once in the Spring in advance of the Summer tourism season and once in the Fall in advance of the holidays and ski season, the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations (BABLO) opens a selection of municipalities with available agency liquor store licenses—meaning those municipalities have a number of agency liquor store licensees that is less than the total number permitted by statute. Current beer and wine retailers may apply for the newly available licenses. This can be a highly competitive process, as the frequency with which licenses become available is low and the total number of licenses that may be awarded within a given municipality is limited depending upon the population bracket in statute. Often a municipality only gains an additional available license as a result of crossing into a higher population bracket at the time of the decennial Census, which is why the Legislature sees a bill in a similar vein to LD 2088 almost every session.

This bill primarily concerns mid-sized Maine communities with populations between 10,000 and 15,000 people. There are seven municipalities in the state that would be impacted by the proposed changes, so a maximum of seven new agency liquor stores could be licensed as a result of this bill.

The second part of this bill concerns the Bureau's authority to, at the request of a municipality, grant an additional license beyond the otherwise stated limit with regard to seasonal impact on population. This bill would increase the population threshold for this special consideration, meaning a wider range of municipalities would have the ability to request an additional license. The Committee may want to consider allowing any municipality to request an additional license for whatever reason the municipality deems appropriate, though it is worth noting that