131st Legislature Senate of Maine Senate District 25

Senator Mattie Daughtry Assistant Senate Majority Leader 3 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0003 Office (207) 287-1515

Testimony of Senator Mattie Daughtry introducing

LD 2088, An Act to Change the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in Certain

Municipalities

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs January 22, 2024

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Mattie Daughtry, and I proudly represent Senate District 23, which includes Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. Today, I am pleased to introduce LD 2088, "An Act to Change the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in Certain Municipalities."

The idea for the bill before you came from a constituent business in my district. Although the idea came from one business in our community, I wanted to find a way for this legislation to be able to impact Maine communities and businesses across the state.

LD 2088 is a very simple bill that I consider a fix. Currently, there is a formula for licensing by population that allows a certain number of agency liquor licenses in increments of 10,000 people in a municipality. This bill would improve how agency liquor licensing works to benefit Maine's smaller communities of under 15,000 people.

It would allow the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations (BABLO) to issue an additional license in communities of under 15,000 which could help the tax base in those communities without a large lift from the Legislature. I see this as a simple solution that will benefit smaller communities in Maine and help them compete with larger cities.

I thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Mattie Daughtry

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Assistant Senate Majority Leader, Senate District 23

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