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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES  
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*Testimony of Anya Trundy, Chief of Legislative Affairs and Strategic Operations  
Department of Administrative and Financial Services  
testifying in support of*

### **LD 1948, An Act To Amend the State's Data Governance Program Regarding Propriety Data**

Sponsored by Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government*

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Anya Trundy, I am the Chief of Legislative Affairs and Strategic Operations for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS), and I come before you this afternoon to offer testimony in support of the sponsor's proposed amendment to LD.

DAFS has worked closely with the Speaker, the Secretary of State, and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations to develop the broad strokes of the sponsor's proposed amendment. Two years ago, this Committee and the Legislature passed P.L. 2021, ch.717 (LD 1610), which through the implementation of a data governance program aims to harness the untapped potential of the massive amounts of data siloed within State of Maine departments and agencies. I want to start by level setting and say, this is an ambitious long-term project and it's role out and implementation will realistically span multiple years, but it will be a permanent shift in how the State approaches data. At present, most of the data possessed by the State wasn't collected with the intention of analyzing it for meaningful demographic insights, therefore much of it isn't linked with demographic data or in a useable queriable format, and in it's current form doesn't lend itself to informing policy decisions or improving how the State delivers services. A data governance program is a framework of guiding principles and best practices applied across all departments and agencies to reshape how the State of Maine collects, manages, uses, shares, and protects the data it holds.

LD 1948 proposes practical next steps necessary to transition data governance from a concept to an on-going practice. The first and largest of these steps is for DAFS to oversee a statewide inventory of each department and agencies' collection and storage of demographic data related to race, ethnicity, gender, birth sex, age, and location as this amendment would charge. This effort will be modeled on the report that DAFS completed this past summer and fall for the Judiciary Committee in response to Resolves 2021, ch. 76 (LD 942) to compile a list of all printed and electronic forms, applications and other documents across the State's departments and agencies that require a person to designate their gender, and estimate the time and cost required to include within those forms, applications and other documents an option to designate "X" for gender. The result of this work was a report that in addition to quantifying the task and establishing anticipated costs, also identified circumstance under which exemptions to the proposed requirement may have merit and allowed DAFS to develop a plan for "how to eat the elephant." Ultimately, DAFS was able to recommend to the Judiciary Committee implementation in stages over a timeline that will accomplish the original objective while minimizing the sticker shock of the fiscal impact if

required to implement immediately. By better knowing the data that State departments and agencies collect and maintain, DAFS hopes to chart a similar problem-solving focused plan with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, birth sex, age, and location.

Parallel to the inventory, DAFS will work in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Permanent Commission to 1) develop definitions and standards around the collection of demographic data that are rooted in industry and national best practices, and 2) convene groups of stakeholders across State government to foster continued learning and buy-in around demographic data collection efforts and data governance more generally.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. I am happy to take questions from the committee at this time and bring back any additional information requested to the work session.