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Testimony of Tim Feeley, In favor of L.D. 2241, *An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions*

March 12, 2024

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Tim Feeley, Deputy Legal Counsel in the Office of the Governor. I am here today to offer testimony on L.D. 2241, *An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions*. I have collected information from affected state agencies and will offer their recommendations to you on each of the seventeen boards and commissions that are on this list and to request that ultimately you pass this bill as amended.

Title 5, Chapter 379 contains several lists of boards and commissions and the status of these are tracked by the Secretary of state.¹ By our count there are well over 300 listed here, but I would note that this is not all of the boards and commissions that exist. There are some that exist in statute that are not listed here and each session the legislature creates many commissions by resolve that require appointments. Each of these boards has at least three members, and a handful have as many forty. Title 5 also contains a provision that directs the Secretary of State to submit legislation every 2 years to repeal boards or commissions that have not submitted an annual report in the past 2 years and that list is reflected here in L.D. 2241.²

Of the seventeen boards and commissions listed in L.D. 2241 several of the boards live within Executive Branch departments, but several are with quasi-independent agencies, institutions of higher education, or the Legislature. I have reached out to Executive Branch agencies and several others to inquire if these boards and commissions are truly inactive or if there is a reason to retain the boards in statute. The information I have collected is reflected below.

	Board or Commission Name	Comment
1	Advisory Committee on Fair Competition with Private Enterprise	Has not met in approximately ten years. Only convenes in response to a complaint filed. DAFS has other ways to hear these complaints and give relief, so keeping this board is not required in order to achieve the

¹The Secretary of State maintains a web-based database to search membership and other information related to these boards and commissions. See, Secretary of State, Boards & Commissions Reports Home: https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/icrs/boards/public_reports.pl

² 5 M.R.S. § 12006(2).



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		goal of hearing and responding to a complaint.
2	Advisory Committee on Medical Education	This Board is under FAME and has not met since 2016. The board was established only to stand up a program and it has been running for some time now.
3	Bd. of Licensure of Professional Investigators	DPS – Keep
4	Bd. of Trustees, Me School for Marine Science, Tech, Trans. and Eng.	DoE reports that this school no longer exists
5	Cannabis Adv. Comm.	NFNA, this is a legislative advisory committee
6	Citizen Trade Policy Commission	This had been a Legislative Committee, but after the Clerk/Analyst retired recently it was shifted to DECD/MITC to administer. We have heard that interested parties would like to retain.
7	Development Ready Adv. Comm.	This commission was just established in statute and has not been convened yet - do not eliminate.
8	Higher Education Interpersonal Violence Adv. Comm.	DOE - Has made appointments, but this is a new commission and needs more time.
9	Homeland Security Adv. Council	MEMA - do not eliminate - see attached letter.
10	Me. Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Adv. Bd.	DACF - Do not eliminate
11	Me Fire Protection Svc. Comm'n	DACF - Do not eliminate
12	Me. Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Inst.	The UMS is responsible for reporting - have filed a late report, they oppose elimination.
13	Me Healthcare Provider Loan Repayment Program Adv. Comm.	FAME - Do not eliminate, was just established in 2021 and is taking time to get started
14	Nutrition Mgmt. Review Bd.	DACF - Do not eliminate
15	Polygraph Examiners Adv. Bd.	DPS - Do not eliminate
16	Science, Tech, Engineering and Mathematics Council	NFNA, this council has not met in some time and some participants reported that STEM programming has become much more

		ingrained into education and the forum may have served its purpose.
17	State Education and Employment Outcomes Taskforce	The UMS and MCCS both report they want to retain this Taskforce.

In summary, there are three on the list that we did not have concerns with eliminating: The Advisory Board on Fair Competition with Private Enterprise, the Advisory Committee on Medical Education, and the Board of Trustees for the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.