

Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

Local Government Center • 60 Community Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330-9486
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Date: February 4, 2025

To: Senator Craig Hickman, Senate Chair
Representative Laura Supica, House Chair
And members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

From: Patti Dubois, Chairperson, Legislative Policy Committee
Maine Town and City Clerks' Association

Re: LD 313 – An Act to Improve Voter Confidence in Electronic Ballot Counting by
Requiring Ballots to Contain Unique Identifiers

Position: Neither for Nor Against

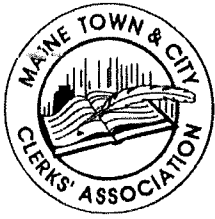
The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is neither for nor against LD 313 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your committee.

Members appreciate that the intent of this bill is to improve voter confidence, but expressed concern that this could cause more confusion with voters who try to track/verify their vote. Should a voter have overvoted, or improperly marked their ballot, they may assume that it was counted as they intended but may not understand why it was counted as a blank and could think that the machines were inaccurate.

Voters would need to either remember, write down or take a photo of their ballots' unique identifier. Voters who note the identifying number incorrectly could conclude that the machine did not count their vote accurately.

Clerks questioned how void/spoiled/defective ballots would be incorporated into the posted reports and worried that this could add to questions about the reported data if numbers weren't sequential, which would lead to more distrust of elections. Members suggested that it would take a significant amount of work to reconcile the data before it can be posted on a website, which could impact the finalization of the election results being sent to the Secretary of State. Downloading the data from the memory sticks could be time-consuming as well.

Clerks also questioned whether a voter's privacy might be compromised if they shared or lost their unique identifier number. Also, voters may feel that clerks are now tracking how they vote, which could lead to more distrust. In addition, since many municipalities follow this section of state law for local elections, these costs and requirements would also apply to the local ballots. This could result in voters being assigned a different identifier for each ballot, which could add further confusion.



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Members pointed out that there could be additional costs to the state for printing the number on the ballots or possibly providing ballot stubs to the voters. Should there be an option to program the machine to assign a unique identifier during processing or providing a receipt from the machine would also add additional costs.

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association appreciates the opportunity to share its testimony with the Committee. Should any questions arise, please feel free to contact me at 207)680-4210 or by email: pdubois@waterville-me.gov .