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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

**FEBRUARY 26, 2025**

**TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE RYAN D. FECTEAU, SPEAKER OF THE MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, REGARDING LD 434, AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE  
MAINE GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY TO ISSUE ADDITIONAL SECURITIES  
FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE  
SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and esteemed members of the committee on State & Local Government. I am House Speaker Ryan Fecteau, and I have the privilege of representing the people of my hometown of Biddeford, which is House District 132.

I am here today to present LD 434, *An Act to Authorize the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to Issue Additional Securities for the Replacement of the Legislative Management System for the Senate and the House of Representatives*.

Each day that the Legislature meets in Augusta to do the people's business, we rely on the technology behind the scenes. Many of the systems have already been updated, but the legacy computer system that functions like the "brain" of the House and the Senate has not. This system, which was installed 25 years ago, is the repository of bills. It allows staff to generate the House and Senate calendars, and makes it possible for Legislators and the general public to track bills as they move through the legislative process.

The business we do in the Chamber requires technology to be conducted efficiently. And as this computer system grows more and more outdated, it is more and more difficult to maintain.

There are fewer and fewer folks who can maintain the system and fix it when it breaks. Which happens regularly, as continuing, necessary updates to Microsoft Word require shortcuts and functions to be rebuilt again and again.

If the system were to fail completely, the Clerk's Office team would need to do tasks by hand: typing out the calendars and other documents like amendments, sentiments, and supplements. If we had to revert to using paper due to a technological failure, the added

cost and staff time would be tremendous. If you think things take too long now, imagine what it would be like if we had to return to these methods.

The bond this bill would authorize will allow the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to plan for, purchase, and implement an updated system that will not only improve reliability and ensure that the public as well as Legislators can continue to follow and engage with the work of the Legislature more easily.

Further, the judicial branch has already done this on a much larger scale, across multiple locations, using the same funding mechanism.

In short, passing this bill and investing in this system will be good not only for the staff who do the hard work of keeping the Legislature, and the members of the Legislature, but for all our constituents - Maine people - as well. I thank you for your consideration of this bill and am happy to take any questions you may have.