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*Testimony of Rep. Jennifer Poirier introducing  
**LD 732, "An Act to Prohibit Copyrights for Works of State Government"**  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government*

March 24, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Committee on State and Local Government,

My name is Jennifer Poirier, and I have the privilege of representing Skowhegan. Today, I introduce and support **LD 732, "An Act to Prohibit Copyrights for Works of State Government."**

### Why This Bill is Necessary

Government documents, created with taxpayer dollars, should belong to the people of Maine. Under current law, individuals must seek permission to quote, reuse, or repurpose state-produced materials unless relying on fair use. Many are unaware of this requirement, leading to potential violations and discouraging public engagement, education, and oversight. Even within government, not all employees fully understand copyright implications, adding unnecessary bureaucratic burdens.

### A Sensible and Proven Approach

This is not a radical idea. Federal law (17 U.S.C. § 105) already places federal government works in the public domain, and states like California and Florida have adopted similar policies.

### Protecting Important Interests

LD 732 ensures appropriate protections remain in place:

- Merchandised Goods – Agencies like the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife can still protect logos on products.
- Transferred Copyrights – The state can retain copyrights assigned or bequeathed to it.
- Prospective Application – The bill applies only to future state government works, ensuring a smooth transition.

### Conclusion

LD 732 removes unnecessary legal and administrative barriers, aligns Maine with best practices in government transparency, and ensures that taxpayer-funded works remain accessible to the public.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Jennifer Poirier  
State Representative

District 70 Skowhegan