



LD 965, "An Act to Require the Automatic Repealing of Agency Rules"

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

I am pleased to introduce LD 965, "An Act to Require the Automatic Repealing of Agency Rules."

This bill represents a significant step toward streamlining Maine's regulatory framework by instituting a systematic review and expiration of agency rules, thereby promoting a more efficient and accountable government.

Reducing Bureaucracy and Enhancing Government Efficiency

Over time, the accumulation of agency rules can lead to an overly complex and burdensome regulatory environment. Such complexity often hampers economic growth, stifles innovation, and imposes unnecessary costs on businesses and individuals. By implementing automatic repeal provisions, this bill ensures that outdated or redundant regulations are regularly assessed and, if no longer relevant, allowed to expire. This process not only reduces bureaucratic inertia but also encourages agencies to focus on crafting clear, effective, and necessary regulations.

Eliminating Red Tape and Encouraging Accountability

The proposed legislation mandates that agency rules adopted after January 1, 2026, will automatically repeal five years from their adoption date, unless renewed through a structured review process. This sunset provision compels agencies to justify the continued necessity of their rules, fostering a culture of accountability and responsiveness. By requiring agencies to provide a cost-benefit analysis and seek legislative approval for rule renewals, the bill effectively cuts through bureaucratic red tape, ensuring that regulations serve the public interest without imposing undue burdens.

Promoting a Leaner, More Responsive Government

A government that regularly evaluates and updates its regulations is better positioned to adapt to changing circumstances and meet the needs of its citizens. This bill's emphasis on periodic review aligns with the principles of smaller government by preventing the unchecked expansion of regulatory authority. It ensures that the state's regulatory framework remains relevant, efficient, and conducive to economic prosperity.

In conclusion, LD 965 offers a pragmatic approach to regulatory reform by instituting automatic repeal and systematic review of agency rules. This initiative will reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, eliminate outdated regulations, and promote a more efficient and accountable government. I urge the Committee to support this bill and recommend its passage to the full Legislature.