



**MAINE MUNICIPAL
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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against

*LD 1090 - Resolve, to Form a Working Group to Address Vacancies in Municipal Government
Management Positions*

March 31, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony neither for nor against LD 1090 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine and the LPC guides the advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

In the current municipal management climate, local leaders have increasingly become the proverbial punching bag for some members in their communities. This lack of discourse towards town and city managers has become one of the biggest challenges of enticing people into the profession and is part of the reason for the lack of municipal managers entering the workforce today.

This hesitancy to be in the line of fire, coupled with the lack of a dedicated municipal management post-secondary program are both major factors that are contributing to the workforce challenges municipalities are seeing today. Likewise, fewer individuals in the workforce are staying with the same employer for long periods of time. For municipal government, in years past this commonly looked like a clerk working their way up through the ranks and that simply is not happening as much as it used to.

Local leaders appreciate the intent of LD 1090 in that it seeks to address a problem that municipalities across Maine are experiencing, but they are also cognizant of tight budgets and question whether this is the best use of resources to tackle the problem. Instead, municipal leaders believe that the Legislature should focus its attention on the element in Rep. Rollins' legislation which speaks to the need for the return of public management and administrative courses in our public post-secondary institutions. Ensuring that future municipal leaders have the tools and skills necessary to manage an increasingly more complex role is a step in the right direction and one that municipal officials strongly support.

Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.



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