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April 2, 2025

*Testimony of Representative Dan Ankeles presenting*

**LD 1153, An Act to Change in Statute the Areas Represented by the Members of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Insurance Arena from Sets of Municipalities to the County Commissioner Districts of Cumberland County**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government*

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, thank you for the opportunity to come before you today for the first time. I am Representative Dan Ankeles, and I serve House District 100, which is a central slice of Brunswick. I'm here to present **LD 1153, An Act to Change in Statute the Areas Represented by the Members of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Insurance Arena from Sets of Municipalities to the County Commissioner Districts of Cumberland County.**

This is not officially a "department bill," but I am submitting this measure on behalf of Cumberland County government. The title is certainly a mouthful, but the bill itself is a clean and simple fix.

In Portland, you have the Cross Insurance Arena, which is governed by a county-wide board of trustees. There are five geographic district-level members and two at-large members. The district map for this board is exactly the same as the county commissioner map.

The only difference is that with this board of trustees district map, each district is statutorily defined as a fixed list of towns and is not actually pegged to the county commission districts.

There's not really any good reason for this, so LD 1153 erases that difference and just pegs the trustee district definitions to the county commission map.

I'll use my own district as an example. Trustee District 3 is statutorily defined as Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal and New Gloucester. If this bill were to pass, Trustee District 3 would now be defined as County Commission District 3. The list of towns would go away.

The benefits are a) a reduction in confusion and b) a guarantee that the arena districts, just like the county commissioner districts, will self-adjust each time we do a census and draw new maps. Which brings me to c) the second-best part — you won't ever have to see me come before you ever again.

Well then, you might be wondering, what is the best part? If you guessed “no fiscal note,” you win! No one-time money, no ongoing money, no new headcount. If you weren’t sold before, hopefully those were the magic words that just got you to “yes.”

I’m happy to answer questions, but you’re probably better off directing your queries to the representative from Cumberland County government, who is more familiar with the thought process behind the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I do hope you’ll see fit to advance this bill with a favorable recommendation.

# *Maine* **Cumberland County**

## **CROSS INSURANCE ARENA TRUSTEES**

### **DISTRICT 1**

Baldwin  
 Bridgton  
 Gorham  
 Scarborough  
 Sebago  
 Standish

**Frank Clark**

### **DISTRICT 2**

Casco  
 Falmouth  
 Frye Island  
 Gray  
 Harrison  
 Naples  
 New Gloucester  
 Raymond  
 Windham

**Tom Tyler**

### **DISTRICT 3**

Brunswick  
 Cumberland  
 Chebeague Isl.  
 Freeport  
 Long Isl.  
 Harpswell  
 North Yarmouth  
 Pownal  
 Yarmouth

**Jon Crimmins**

### **DISTRICT 4**

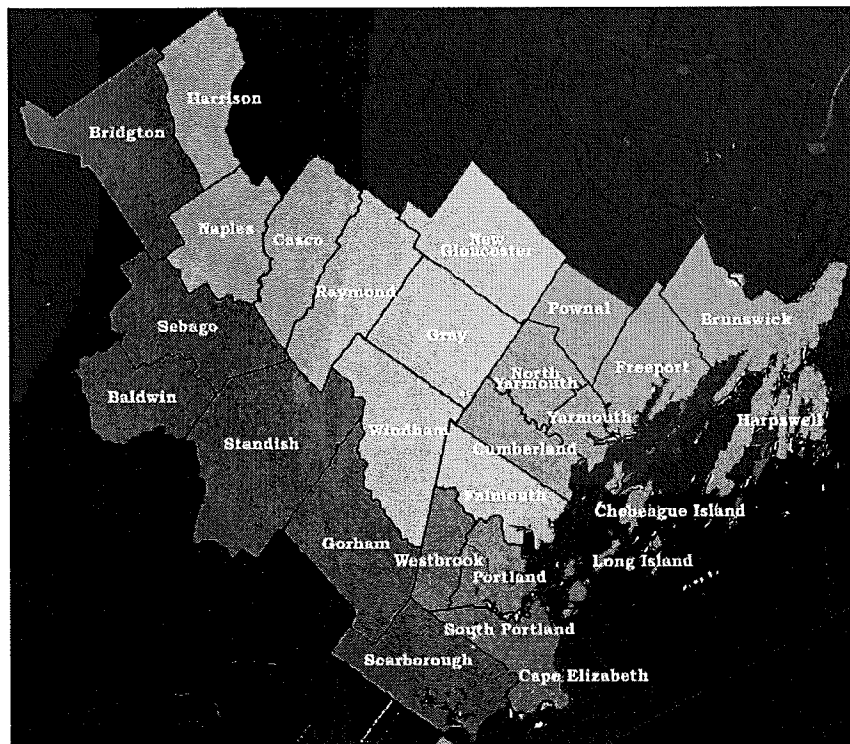
Cape Elizabeth  
 Part of Portland  
 South Portland  
 Westbrook

**John Jamieson**

### **DISTRICT 5**

Most of  
 Portland

**Sam Surprise**



### **AT-LARGE**

County-wide

**Lori Norman**

### **AT-LARGE**

County-wide

**Steve Woods**

### **COMMISSIONER**

County-wide

**Susan Witonis**

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