



**MAINE MUNICIPAL
ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936**

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against

LD 1348 - An Act to Increase the Limit on Damages Under the Maine Tort Claims Act for Negligence Involving School Field Trips

And

LD 1347 - An Act to Increase the Cap on Liability for Governmental Entities Under the Maine Tort Claims Act

April 7, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Rebecca Graham, and I am submitting placeholder on LD 1347 & 1348 testimony on behalf of the Association as our Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) has not had the opportunity to review the proposed changes in these bills due to the brief period between printing and the public hearing.

As drafted, the bills could have a significant impact on the costs of communities to be insured. For these reasons, officials ask that you allow them more time to gather data around the perceived problem with the existing tort claims limit the Association hopes will be provided from these hearings and allow them to evaluate the true cost of these proposals on municipal government which is supported by the local property taxpayer almost exclusively. If the committee has not established a position and our LPC has an opportunity to establish a firm before the work session on this bill, I will submit additional testimony at that time.

Because of the possible significant operational impact on municipal government, the Association hopes the committee will consider changing these proposals into a study with a report back on the policy objectives and related costs for addressing the underlying problem not currently apparent. The Association is happy to work with stakeholders, the sponsors and other interested parties to provide a more comprehensive review and possible solutions to any identified problem in the interim should such a position be desired by the committee.