



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Bill Bridgeo

In Support of LD 1388 and LD 1517

Before the Joint Standing Committee of State and Local Government

April 14, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government,

My name is Bill Bridgeo and I represent the good people of House District 60 – the East Side of Augusta. I am here to present LD 1388 – an act related to participation thresholds related to adoption or modification of municipal charters and to speak in support, as a co-sponsor – of LD 1517, a broader bill that also speaks to thresholds in certain school, municipal and county measures.

Both bills, in my opinion, are good government measures intended to avoid future confusion or contention in local government ballot measures.

LD 1388 was brought to me by my friend and constituent Kevin Lamoreau. As our colleague (and fifteen-year veteran of the Augusta City Council and Mayoralty) will attest, Kevin has a brilliant mind for math and probability, and is deeply committed to community service and good government. In my forty years as a city manager, I've never met anyone as capable when it comes to appreciating the nuances of voting statistics and thresholds. The bill that he and I have collaborated on would simplify determinations on when a ballot question on the subject matter at issue succeeds.

LD 1517 also addresses the threshold issue at play in LD 1388 but in a broader, more comprehensive fashion. I commend Representative Sato and the League of Women Voters for bringing it forward and I suggest that you consider incorporating LD 1388 into LD 1517 as you work them.

Given all of the contentious issues we must address in the 132nd, it is refreshing to have the opportunity to improve our election statutes in such a fashion.

I'm happy to answer questions as best I can although there are others present who can likely do a better job.

Thank you.