



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES
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SERVING THE PUBLIC AND DELIVERING ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO STATE GOVERNMENT

JANET T. MILLS
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*Testimony of Anya Trundy, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Administrative and Financial Services
Testifying Neither for Nor Against*

**LD 1449, Resolve, Requiring the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to
Conduct a Study of the State's Grant, Contracting and Procurement Services.**

Sponsored by Sen. Michael Tipping
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government: I am Anya Trundy, a Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS). I am providing testimony today Neither for Nor Against LD 1449, based upon the Sponsor's amendment to the bill that has either been shared with the Committee or is anticipated. The amendment still needs further refinement prior to passage, but DAFS has been engaged in conversations with the Maine Association of Non-Profits (MANP) regarding contracts, grants, and procurement for over a year, and we're confident that the bill is headed in a direction that DAFS can commit to.

Many of the primary concerns that have been identified by MANP and their members are matters of contract and grant management rather than matters of procurement. Contract and grant management, which includes contract negotiation and execution, payments, and ongoing communication with vendors and awardees is not centrally overseen by the Office of State Procurement Services, it is instead distributed across the departments and agencies that are directly contracting for services and administering grants. Procurement, on the other hand, oversees and upholds the State's competitive bid processes and assists departments and agencies to successfully navigate them.

Furthermore, much of the State's contracting and grant-making of interest to MANP and their members is the result of federal funding flowing through the State, and many of the requirements associated with that federal funding are dictated by the Federal Government and not at the discretion of the State of Maine. For these reasons, DAFS thinks that it is appropriate to broaden the conversation to date to become inclusive of departments and agencies of State Government that account for the bulk of contracting and grant administration, as well as a representative sampling of the interested and impacted organizations.

It is DAFS' hope that this process can lead us to a greater mutual understanding of 1) the specific challenges experienced by the State's not-for-profit vendors and grant awardees and 2) the ways in which the State may be limited in our ability to remedy certain issues, so that together we can identify and focus on those changes that will have the most positive impact on organizations and actually can be achieved via Maine statute and agency policies and procedures.

I am happy to answer any questions from the Committee now and can be available for the work session.