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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Testimony of Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State  
Department of the Secretary of State

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L.D. 1483 "An Act to Validate Certain Referendum Proceedings Conducted by the City of South Portland"

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Shenna Bellows, I live in Manchester, and I am the Secretary of State. I am testifying neither for nor against L.D. 1483, but to provide you with information.

First, I want to confirm that the legislature does have the power to cure the procedural defects in the referendum process through a vehicle like L.D. 1483.

Additionally, a corrected notice was sent by the Elections Division to the City of South Portland the same day – indeed less than an hour and a half after the incorrect notice was sent, and before the close of business that day. Given this quick correction, we believe the 10<sup>th</sup> "Whereas" should be removed from the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information and I would be happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.