



**MAINE MUNICIPAL
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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support Of

LD 1586 - *An Act to Amend the Regional School Unit Budget Validation Referendum Law*
April 30, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Education & Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in support of LD 1586 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine and the LPC guides the advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

This change is a critical step toward ensuring transparency, fostering informed voting, and enhancing the democratic process in our municipalities. The public has a right to understand the full financial implications of their votes, and this simple, yet impactful, change will provide voters with the clarity they need to make informed decisions about the school budgets that directly affect their lives and communities.

School budgets are complex and multilayered, and school districts must work in partnership with municipalities to ensure public resources are spent wisely and effectively. By providing a clear, bottom-line amount on how the school budget will impact voters, will foster trust between local government, school administrators, and the taxpayer base, and shows that the school district is committed to being open and forthright with the public about the costs involved.

Thank you for your time and considering the municipal perspective.



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