



Craig V. Hickman
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman introducing

LD 1640, “An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission and to Reestablish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission,”

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Representative Supica and honorable colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Craig Hickman, and I am proud to represent Senate District 14, twelve municipalities in southern Kennebec County including my beloved hometown of Winthrop. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce LD 1640, “An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission and to Reestablish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission.”

In 2023, the Legislature established the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission by Resolve 2023, chapter 95. We created the Commission to study the impacts of exposure to harmful chemicals on veterans who served at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada. It was to issue a report to the Legislature — which it did in December 2023.

This bill implements some of the recommendations from that report, including reestablishing the Commission. It will be newly emboldened to request certain information it determines necessary from the United States Department of Defense and other federal agencies to provide medical testing for individuals identified through information received pursuant to the requests. Additionally, LD 1640 establishes the Base Gagetown Training Registry within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans’ Services to collect and maintain data related to military service and health conditions from individuals who voluntarily provide such data and who have trained at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick.

This legislation got all the way to the finish line last session — but not across it. As the son of a veteran myself, I hope you will join me in supporting our veterans and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation by voting Ought to Pass on LD 1640.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to introduce this bill. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Craig V. Hickman
State Senator, District 14

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