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Assistant Majority Leader

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senate Assistant Majority Leader Jill C. Duson introducing
**LD 1668, An Act Regarding the Voting Requirement to Extend the Date for Adjournment
of the Legislature**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

May 5, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. My name is Jill Duson. I represent Senate District 27, which includes part of the City of Westbrook and part of Portland. In addition, I have the honor of serving as the Senate Assistant Majority Leader. I am here today to present **LD 1668, An Act Regarding the Voting Requirement to Extend the Date for Adjournment of the Legislature.**

This bill would shift the current requirement to extend the length of a regular session of the Legislature beyond the statutory adjournment date from 2/3 vote to a majority vote of the members of the Senate and House present and voting.

At the end of each legislative session, nonpartisan staff – who keep this building moving – often are faced with an extraordinary time crunch. We often see dozens of amendments proposed on budgets and key pieces of legislation when they make it to the floor. That is time the Revisor's office must spend drafting these amendments in addition to drafting hundreds if not thousands of bills.

The Senate Secretary's Office and House Clerk's Office are responsible for moving paper up and down the hall, often resulting in late nights for staff who then have to drive home and be back for work the next day. This bill would give those staff members and the legislators who take votes on each bill a little extra breathing room to complete the people's work in an organized and thoughtful way.

LD 1668 is a conversation starter. This bill would give us, the Legislature, an opportunity to finish our thoughtful work, work that our constituents sent us here to complete on their behalf, in a manner that isn't rushed.

This body tackles issues that weren't foreseen back when these governing statutes were created. Modernizing the operations and ensuring we have enough time to complete the work of the people is paramount and this bill serves as a vehicle to get us closer to that goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill, I would be happy to answer any questions.