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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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LD 38, "An Act Requiring Photographic Identification for Voting"
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
April 2, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs: My name is Jeff Timberlake and I am before you today to present LD 38, "An Act Requiring Photographic Identification for Voting."

I believe this bill is a common-sense step to strengthen public trust in our elections. This legislation requires that voters present a valid photo identification document when voting in person. Acceptable forms include a current Maine driver's license or non-driver ID, a United States passport, military ID or a Maine-issued concealed handgun permit that includes a photograph. The bill also provides an important safeguard: Any eligible voter who does not possess a qualifying ID can request a free special voter photo ID from the Secretary of State.

The goal here is simple – verify that the person casting a ballot is who they say they are. Most Mainers already carry a valid photo ID for everyday tasks – driving, flying, cashing a check, or picking up a prescription. Applying that same standard to voting is both reasonable and fair.

Importantly, this bill balances security with access. By offering a no-cost option for those who need a qualifying ID, we are ensuring that no eligible voter is excluded. We are also making it clear that the integrity of our elections is a shared priority, regardless of political affiliation.

The bill does exclude college IDs, and that decision is intentional. Unlike government-issued IDs, college IDs are not standardized, vary in security features, and are often not updated when a student changes address or residency. Voting is a constitutional right, and verifying identity with secure, government-issued documentation is the most consistent way to protect that right.

This will help reinforce confidence in the public that every vote cast is legitimate and verifiable. It's a proactive measure—and thoughtful investment in the future credibility of our elections.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this bill, and I would be happy to answer any questions.