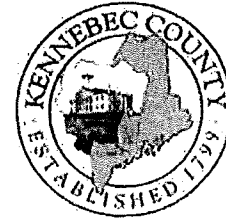


# Kennebec County, Maine



May 8, 2025

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 1884 Resolve, to Increase the Number of Kennebec County Commissioners

Senator Joe Baldacci, Representative Suzanne Salisbury, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government.

As longstanding Commissioners of Kennebec County, we encourage the committee to vote, *ought not to pass* on LD 1884 (as well as LD 1556).

Our impression is that the requirement of Title 30-A §72. Quorum *A majority of the commissioners constitutes a quorum* which does not allow commissioners, of a commission of three, to talk outside of a public meeting. While this has not presented a problem in the 200 year plus history of Kennebec County, apparently it now does. We feel discussion and consensus between commissioners should be made in public and without prior discussions or "agreements".

We have other concerns with LD 1884 and LD 1556, which are as follows:

- ✓ The Kennebec County Commissioners were not asked about nor consulted regarding these bills.
- ✓ No issues (prior to these bills) were made known to the Commission that this was even a desire of the public (which we believe it is not), but that of a few select individuals.
- ✓ Associated cost:
  - The need for a referendum at a statewide election.
  - Apportion to increase the number of county commissioner districts.
  - Advertising of the above in compliance with state regulations.
  - Increased salary, benefits and other costs (memberships, training, reimbursement).
  - Remodeling of County facilities to accommodate five commissioners.
    - the current meeting room cannot accommodate five.
  - Administrative costs in managing all of the above and five districts and the additional representatives.

Kennebec County has functioned effectively without the need for two additional commissioners for over two hundred years. Given the rising cost of government, the complexity of issues faced by the public today, county government should be decisive and sensitive to the needs and desires of the community it serves. We are concerned that this legislation will increase bureaucracy, ineffectiveness and additional cost which will be borne by an already overburdened property taxpayer. It is our belief that this change would *not* be in the best interest of the county or its residents.

We thank you for your consideration of our request, *ought not to pass*.

Please let us know if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Patsy G. Crockett  
Commissioner, Chair (9 years – 123<sup>rd</sup> & 124<sup>th</sup> Leg.)

George M. Jabar, II  
Commissioner (34 years)