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## **Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association**

### **In Opposition To**

**LD 2121 – An Act to Enhance the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials, Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor by Allowing Certain Personal Information to Be Removed from Designated Public Records**

**January 20, 2026**

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 2121 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). Our LPC is composed of municipal officials from across Maine, elected by their peers to represent member communities. MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization that aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents of Maine.

It is the LPC's belief that public records exist for a reason—they are a cornerstone of transparency, accountability, and public trust. When individuals choose to serve in positions of public authority, they accept a higher level of scrutiny because their decisions affect the public's safety, finances, and rights. Limiting access to information about those officials, especially when it is already lawfully public, is a step toward eroding that trust.

This bill would impose significant and ongoing administrative burdens on municipalities. Local governments would be responsible for reviewing and redacting information, responding to opt-in or opt-out requests from the newly created office, updating databases, training staff, and ensuring continued compliance. These tasks would require substantial time, legal oversight, and technical resources—costs that many municipalities are not equipped to absorb without additional funding. The result would be reduced transparency, increased administrative complexity, and potentially an unfunded mandate.

Thank you for your time and considering the LPC's perspective on this issue.



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