

Committee Testimony on LD 1059 Amendment (Maine)

If an Article V Convention is called tomorrow, is Maine ready?

How many delegates will you send?

How will you decide who is a delegate?

Are there consequences if a delegate exceeds his/her authority?

Chair, Madam/Mr. Chair, and distinguished members of the committee,

Those are not hypothetical questions. They are practical governance questions — and today, Maine does not have clear answers to them.

Representative Greenwood's amendment to LD 1059 fixes that.

At its core, this amendment does something very simple and very important:

It makes sure that if Maine ever participates in an Article V convention, your state's representatives are carefully chosen, clearly instructed, closely accountable, and legally bound to stay within their authority.

This bill does not call a convention.

It does not advance any specific amendment.

It simply creates guardrails — so Maine is never unprepared and never unprotected.

A Serious, Thoughtful Process

This legislation was not written lightly.

It is the product of extensive work by Article V legal and grassroots experts. The process began with a team that compiled and reviewed existing legislation and model legislation from around the country. From that research, they drafted a proposal using the best components of what already exists.

That draft was then reviewed and edited by multiple attorneys well-versed in Article V constitutional law. Finally, it was reviewed by state legislators, whose practical feedback was incorporated into the final version.

In short, this is carefully vetted, legally informed, and legislatively tested.

Why This Matters

An Article V convention is constitutionally authorized, but it understandably raises serious concerns across the political spectrum.

People worry about:

- Delegates exceeding their authority
- The scope expanding beyond what states intended
- Or Maine losing control of its own representation

This amendment directly addresses those concerns.

What This Amendment Does

This proposal:

1. **Sets strict qualifications** for commissioners
No federal lobbyists. No recent federal officials. No conflicts of interest.
2. **Requires clear, written instructions**
Commissioners may only act within the scope authorized by the Maine Legislature and the applications that triggered the convention.
3. **Binds them with a sworn oath**
Violating that oath carries real legal consequences.
4. **Creates real-time oversight**
A legislative advisory committee can monitor the convention, advise commissioners, and immediately suspend or remove commissioners who exceed their authority.
5. **Enforces the rules with real penalties**
Exceeding authority or interfering with commissioners is a criminal offense.
6. **Preserves Maine's sovereignty**
Maine's delegation acts as a unit. Maine controls its vote. Maine sets its limits.

What This Is Not

This is not about whether you personally support or oppose an Article V convention.

This is about responsible governance.

It says:

If something this important ever happens, Maine will not walk into it blind, unprepared, or unprotected.

The Bottom Line

This legislation is:

- Pro-Constitution
- Pro-legislative authority
- Pro-transparency
- Pro-accountability
- And Pro-Maine

Regardless of where anyone stands on Article V, every legislator should agree that Maine should have rules, safeguards, and enforcement mechanisms in place before anything happens — not after.

I respectfully urge the committee to support Representative Greenwood's amendment to LD 1059.

Thank you for your time and your service.