

## **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.