



Russell Black
Senator, District 5

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

LD 2042, “An Act to Eliminate the Requirement for Municipalities to Provide Public Notice in a Newspaper”

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
January 21, 2026

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

My name is Russell Black; and I represent Senate District 5, which includes several communities in Franklin, Kennebec and Somerset Counties. I am here today to present LD 2042, *“An Act to Eliminate the Requirement for Municipalities to Provide Public Notice in a Newspaper.”*

I am introducing this bill on behalf of a constituent as well as towns both in my district and across Maine. Local officials have raised concerns about the rising cost of mandatory newspaper notices and whether those notices are still the most effective way to reach residents.

LD 2042 does not eliminate public notice requirements. It allows municipalities to meet existing notice requirements by posting them on a publicly accessible website, as long as all required information is included. Towns could still choose to use newspapers if they prefer.

LD 2042 would not reduce transparency; it would modernize it, while saving our taxpayers real money.

Most municipalities already maintain websites that residents regularly use to find meeting notices, agendas, and public information. This bill provides flexibility, reflects how people now access information, and offers towns a way to reduce unnecessary costs.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to support LD 2042. There are town officials both here and on zoom that would be happy to answer further questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.