



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Ann Matlack in support of

LD 2158, An Act to Address Vacancies on the Knox County Budget Committee

Before the State & Local Government Committee

Good morning, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and esteemed colleagues on the State & Local Government Committee. My name is Ann Matlack and I represent House District 43, which includes the communities of Cushing, Thomaston, South Thomaston, St George and part of Owls Head, all in Knox County. I am here today to testify in support of LD 2158, An Act to Address Vacancies on the Knox County Budget Committee.

Esteemed author Edward Gorey once wrote a children's book entitled "The Dwindling Party." It is the story of the MacFizset family's visit to Hickyacket Hall and the mysterious disappearances of family members in customary Gorey fashion, until only Neville MacFizset remains. As Neville remarks, "it was all for the best."

Well, it appears the same problem may have occurred to the Knox County Budget Committee, although, unlike Neville, I do not think it was all for the best. As Representative Pluecker has explained, there are no longer enough members of the Knox County Budget Committee to transact business nor to fill empty seats because there is no quorum.

We have before you a simple, short-term fix to this dilemma: allow the Knox County Commissioners to appoint Budget Committee members until the Committee can once again function. And, this fix will sunset in 2029, when it is hoped the County will have updated its Charter and rectified this issue.

I hope the Committee will see its way to moving directly into a Work Session and voting to move this bill forward, so once again Knox County has a functioning Budget Committee.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.