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LD 1004: An Act to Ensure the Proper Operation of the State

Testimony of Rep. Matt Moonen, Portland

March 18, 2026

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, thank you for the opportunity to present **LD 1004**, which as proposed would be amended with a new title, **An Act to Adjust Certain Implementation and Reporting Dates in Legislation Recently Enacted or Passed by the Legislature and Subsequently Held by the Governor**.

As you know, several bills passed by the Legislature were held by the Chief Executive at the end of the session last June. Subsequently, the Chief Executive allowed the majority of those bills to become law when we returned this year for the start of the Second Regular Session. Per the Maine Constitution, those bills are now law and will either become effective 90 days after the close of the current session or, in the case of emergency legislation, became effective on January 11 of this year.

Unfortunately, several of those bills contained dates for reports or other deadlines that anticipated those bills' passage last year. For example, some of the implementation dates or report deadlines in those bills were this past December or January. As a result, these deadlines obviously cannot be met. The bill before you simply seeks to address that problem and ensure that departments and agencies can meet realistic timelines for legislation that have either recently gone into effect or will be in effect 90 days after adjournment.

This bill does not seek to make any policy changes to the enacted legislation, nor does it seek to pass any judgment on the legislation we passed last year. It simply seeks to ensure that the directives this body put into Maine law can be met in a realistic manner by the individuals we have tasked with that work.

The nearly 20 bills addressed by this legislation include both Democratic- and Republican-sponsored bills, and we consulted with the bill sponsors to make sure they agreed with the proposed changes. In all cases, we sought to arrive at the easiest and most logical way to meet the intent of the law. Generally, that resulted in advancing directives and deadlines out roughly a year to account for the new effective dates of the legislation. For bills that required or allowed the Legislature to take additional action, we have authorized that to be done in the first year of the 133rd Legislature.

I would like to thank your Committee Analyst, Kristin Bishop, who was instrumental in crafting the draft you have before you and who I am sure can run you through the details of this bill better than I could at this point.

I am happy to answer any questions and urge you to support this legislation to address the unusual situation that has resulted from the delayed implementation of these held bills. Thank you.