



Maine Municipal  
Association

60 COMMUNITY DRIVE  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-9486  
(207) 623-8428  
www.memun.org

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of

LD 390 - *An Act Regarding the Mapping of Shoreland Zones*  
March 3, 2021

---

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environmental and Natural Resource Committee, my name is Rebecca Graham, and I am providing testimony in support of LD 390 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

In speaking with Department of Environmental Protection and the sponsor of this bill, municipal officials understand that the goals of this bill are to use easily understandable definitions for the municipal officials who must carry out a nexus of multi-department regulations pertaining to waters and wet lands across the state with limited resources and support.

As indicated in previous testimony, this is a response to the symptom of a continued shift of important environmental activity to the municipal level due to capacity within the department for review of processes with their municipal partners. The goals of this legislation are to provide clearer definitions to assist the officials, who often volunteer their personal time, carrying out extremely important protection activities during the planning process.

Officials also understand that many of the definitions are problematic for some of the divisions of the state charged with wildlife and water resource protections. While municipal officials appreciate the concerns of the many departments that these rules intersect, we think is a very valid vehicle for the committee to explore how that intersection can be improved between departments and divisions of state government in service of their municipal partners who deliver on these activities.

To that end, officials support the goals of this legislation and ask that at the very least you use it as a vehicle to increase support for the department to address the issues highlighted by the sponsor and improve the efforts for this task for municipalities.