



Maine Municipal
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against

LD 1544- *An Act Regarding Credit and Debit Card Merchant Fees*

April 27, 2021

Senator Sandborn, Representative Tepler and distinguished members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services committee, my name is Rebecca Graham and I am submitting testimony neither for nor against LD 1544 as MMA's 70 member Legislative Policy Committee has not had an opportunity to review the bill language yet.

While MMA understands the sponsor's intent may be to limit the fees charged to sales tax and fees, we feel this bill also may help residents who use these payment methods for their registrations and property tax payments.

Municipal officials understand interchange fees can be significant when residents who use cards for convenience or need to use credit cards to pay taxes remotely particularly during the pandemic. The Association feels the removal of this interbank charge for these transactions may be appropriate particularly when many individuals were forced to use these methods when they would not normally do so as a way of reducing risks for both parties to the transaction.

If the committee has not held the work session on LD 1544 before our LPC meets again, I will resubmit our official position once officials have had the opportunity to review the bill.