



Maine Municipal  
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition of

*LD 992 – An Act To Prevent the Denial or Revocation of a Professional or Business License for a Violation Not Related to That Profession or Business*

April 8, 2021

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Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee, my name is Neal Goldberg, and I am providing testimony in opposition of LD 992 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

The Association is opposed to this bill because as written it is uncertain what local control municipalities might lose. LD 922 raises concern that additional home rule powers might be lost through the process of identifying statutes that provide for the denial or revocation of businesses licenses for violations unrelated to the conduct of the business. MMA staff also question the extent to which municipalities are currently denying or revoking business licenses for violations unrelated to the conduct of business. Statutes vital to municipal licensing authority, or any home rule power, could be at risk of repeal if this bill is enacted.

Municipal officials do not condone unlawful license denial or revocation and might support legislation that from the onset clearly delineates which statutes are in conflict with the protections this bill intends to give businesses.

Municipalities have good reason to retain local control over licensing authority as it is their primary method of ensuring businesses are operating safely and in a manner consistent with local ordinances. Municipal officials lean on licensing authority to protect their communities and any limitation of this power reduces the ability of communities to self-regulate.

Keeping the authority local can also benefit the business community. Local control over licensing also allows for flexibility when handling violations warranting license denial or revocation.

For these reasons, licensing authority should remain with the municipal officials closest to business operations. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.