



**MAINE MUNICIPAL
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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition To

LD 152 - An Act to Amend the Freedom of Access Act to Require a Specific Time Frame for Agencies to Comply with Requests for Public Records

February 5, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 158 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, the LPC guides the MMA's advocacy efforts and establishes the position on bills of municipal interest.

MMA members are strongly opposed to LD 152, quite simply because there are many times when it takes longer than a 30-day period to comply with a FOAA request. Local officials aim to be transparent and are happy to fully comply with all legitimate FOAA requests but must have flexibility to be sure the information they provide is accurate and complete.

At their January meeting, one LPC member provided an example of four separate requests in a single year that took their office longer than 30 days to comply with. This was due to the breadth of information that was requested. Likewise, another member reported that in their experience, there have been times when it takes longer than 30 days to determine the full scope of the request or for the requestor to come up with the payment required to complete the request.

For these reasons, MMA is opposed to LD 158. Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.



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