



Maine Municipal  
Association

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

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition to

*LD 775, An Act To Include within the Definition of “Public Employee” and “Judicial Employee” Those Who Have Been Employed for Less Than 6 Months*

April 2, 2021

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Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Kate Dufour and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 775 on behalf of MMA’s Legislative Policy Committee.

While municipal officials appreciate that Section 12 of LD 775 proposes to amend statutes governing municipal employment to clarify the right of employers to dismiss employees within the first six months of employment without cause or grievance, they nonetheless opposed the bill.

The proposed amendment to the definition of an employee in the municipal labor relations laws raises concerns for municipal officials. Since nothing in state statute or rule prevents the negotiation of contracts that include provisions providing day one access to union membership, municipal leaders believe this negotiation tool should be retained by the impacted parties, rather than provided to one side of the bargaining table to the disadvantage of the property taxpayers who fund municipal employees’ salaries.

From the municipal perspective, the existing laws are working well and absent evidence demonstrating a compelling need for this change, the bill should be amended to exclude towns and cities.

Thank you for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.