



Maine Municipal  
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of

LD 1024, *Resolve, Directing the Workers' Compensation Board To Study the Impact of  
Workers' Compensation Laws on Certain Public Sector Employees*

April 16, 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 strong support of LD 1024 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

A periodic study of programs and services is important for ensuring that intended outcomes are achieved. It is an opportunity to review what is and is not working and make improvements that guarantee that all impacted parties are treated fairly and, with respect to government programs, that public resources are appropriately invested.

It is for this reason that municipal leaders strongly support the proposal in LD 1024 to study the impacts that Maine's presumption of workplace injury laws have had on municipalities over the last two decades and to determine how best to pay for those expenditures.

Currently, all of the presumption benefits granted by the Legislature to public employees are paid for by the property taxpayers. The state has not invested in these benefits or reimbursed communities for related costs, forcing municipalities to prioritize the mandates of the state to the detriment of local needs.

Municipal officials are simply asking that the Legislature study the impacts of these laws and work with local government partners in the development of a cost-share system that reduces the burdens placed on property taxpayers.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the municipal perspective on LD 1024.