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**April 16, 2021**

**Testimony of Rep. John Tuttle  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing  
Presenting LD 1024, Resolve, Directing the Workers' Compensation Board To Study the  
Impact of Workers' Compensation Laws on Certain Public Sector Employees**

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is John Tuttle and I represent House District 18: part of the city of Sanford. I'm pleased to present **LD 1024, Resolve, Directing the Workers' Compensation Board To Study the Impact of Workers' Compensation Laws on Certain Public Sector Employees**.

This is a resolve submitted in collaboration with my city manager in Sanford, Stephen Buck, in the hope Maine can develop better strategies and more effective policies to address workers' compensation costs at the municipal level.

LD 1024 directs the Workers' Compensation Board to study the fiscal impact of certain workers' compensation laws providing a rebuttable presumption that certain employees received injuries in the course of their employment on municipalities and to devise a high-risk pool to protect the municipalities from that impact. It further directs the board to report back to the Legislature's State and Local Government Committee in December 2022 with policy recommendations and authorizes the committee to report out legislation in the 131st Legislature.

We know that workers' compensation incidents create significant cost spikes for cities and towns and that these incidents can cause annual workers' compensation premiums to rise at a faster rate year over year. We know that state and local governments are entirely different animals from private sector companies and depend on property tax revenue to provide essential services.

The Workers' Compensation Board would be providing a tremendous service to local governments throughout Maine if the study proposed in LD 1024 were to help with the development of risk pools and other strategies for relieving budget pressure while still ensuring that municipal employees receive their proper due when an incident qualifying for workers' compensation takes place.

Thank you for the chance to testify. Our city manager will be able to share further details about why a study like this matters and some of the history behind this effort. I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.