



# Manufacturers Association of Maine

Testimony of  
Jessica L. Laliberte  
On Behalf Manufacturers Association of Maine  
In Opposition of

***LD 938 An Act To Ensure Maine Workers' Right To Request a Schedule Change at Their Places of Employment***

April 21, 2021

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Jessica L. Laliberte. I am the policy relations manager for the Manufacturers Association of Maine, a non-partisan, pro-growth, pro-manufacturing industry organization representing about 400 manufacturing businesses in our state and the 29,000 workers they employ. Several of our members are employee owned, ESOP companies.

I am here today to speak in opposition of ***LD 938 An Act To Ensure Maine Workers' Right To Request a Schedule Change at Their Places of Employment.***

This bill is yet another this session seeking to place further regulation on businesses in the state. **LD 938** would require an employer respond in writing to an employee's request to change his or her schedule. As proposed an employee has the right to request a temporary change, to last up to one year, to a previously agreed upon work schedule. The request must be made in writing and must describe the reason for the request. Failure to respond to the request in writing will result in a fine of no less than \$5,000 for the business.

What if an employee makes the request via text message? Is a response text back deemed written response? Further, there is no limitation on the number of requests that can be made in a year. Many of Maine's manufacturers operate multiple shifts a day, some of which are less desirable than others. Each shift, or week, an employee could request a change in their shift for any number of reasons: child care concerns, leisure activities, etc. and manufacturers would be tasked with responding to each of these requests, despite the employee being hired to work a specific set shift.

Proposals like this is another overreach of government in private business. They add more regulation and thus increase the administrative burden to operations and further weaken Maine's

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*"The Manufacturers Association of Maine is dedicated to promoting and growing manufacturing."*

business friendliness ranking. Yet again, we ask how does this bill align with the economic strategy of the state to attract new businesses and grow the workforce?

The Manufacturer's Association of Maine opposes this bill and urges an ought not to pass vote.

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