

**Testimony**  
**Rep. Will Tuell**  
**February 18, 2021**

**LD 158, “An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions.”**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, Distinguished Colleagues on the State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Will Tuell. I represent Cutler, East Machias, Eastport, Lubec, Machias, Machiasport, Roque Bluffs, Whiting and Trescott Township in the 130<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature, and I am here today to present LD 158, “An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions.”

LD 158 is a housekeeping bill. Generally this committee takes up legislation in the second session to eliminate boards and commissions which no longer meet, at the recommendation of the Chief Executive and/or the Secretary of State.

Last year, the 129<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature adjourned before legislation could be finalized. At the time of adjournment, our committee had decided to reach out to the list of inactive boards and commissions – compiled by the Secretary of State, which is charged with keeping track of them, and ensuring they meet reporting requirements set out in law – and see whether these boards and commissions wished to weigh in.

Then the pandemic hit. The bill was put aside, just as appointing a new state archivist was, and died with the close of the 129<sup>th</sup>.

The bill before us is a re-submission of last year’s bill. The list of boards and commissions comes from the Secretary of State and was drafted by our able analyst once I expressed a desire to pick things up where they left off.

Specifically, this bill proposes eliminating the following boards and commissions: Advisory committee on truancy, dropouts and alternative education; Advisory Committee on Fair Competition with Private Enterprise; Maine Biomedical Research Board; Maine Drug Enforcement Agency Advisory Board; Maine-New Hampshire Interstate Bridge Authority; Pollution Prevention and Small Business Assistance Advisory Panel; Prison Industries Advisory Council; Regulatory Fairness Board; State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force; and Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Council.

I should state right here that my request to eliminate these boards is not a reflection on the members, the work they have done in the past, or in any way intended to dismiss the seriousness of the issues they were formed to address.

It is with that in mind that I request the committee amend the bill. I have heard from members of the tobacco prevention group that they are indeed active and engaged with tobacco prevention efforts across the state.

It is not my intention to eliminate their board, or any other board that is truly active. I am thankful that they came forward on learning of this bill, and will certainly support their case for removal from it – along with any other board that is actively doing the work they were charged with doing.

In closing, I want to thank our analyst and the Secretary of State for helping with this piece of legislation.

I am happy to answer any questions members may have, and know that whatever I can't answer, the Secretary of State can.

Thank you