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Deputy Secretary of State

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

LD 379 “An Act to Establish the Maine State Cemetery Commission”

*Testimony Provided by Cathy Beaudoin, Director of Corporations, UCC and Commissions
March 1, 2021*

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, I am providing testimony neither for nor against this legislation; however, our office would like to provide some information to you.

The Secretary of State’s office is charged with tracking and maintaining information on boards and commissions created for State Government. As we conduct our business of tracking over 250 boards and commissions, we have found the formation of these boards and commissions varies greatly. Due to the variations, it creates some difficulties for both the appointing authority of the members and our office.

In reviewing this legislation, there are pieces that you might want to consider adding to the bill that will assist our office and the appointing authority for the members of this commission. Suggested additions to consider:

1. It is recommended that you add a provision to define the length of term for the public members. Additionally, something to consider is whether a staggering clause to prevent the terms of the members from ending at the same time should be added.
2. It is recommended that you consider adding a provision that deals with a vacancy of a board member to clarify how a vacancy will be filled.

I would be happy to make myself available for a work session on this bill, should you want additional language recommendations.