

Dear Senator Baldacci,
Representative Matlack,
and distinguished members of the Committee on State and Local Government,

My name is Patricia Collins, and I live in Windham, Maine.

I come to you today to ask that you vote, Ought to Pass as amended on LD 1039, SP0329.

It is my personal opinion the Governor of the state of Maine should be required to operate in full cooperation and accountability with the Legislative branches of government, with full Transparency to and for the good of Maine Residents and Businesses, regardless of the powers granted in the state of emergency.

I agree that this bill be amended to the provisions of law regarding the termination of a state of emergency by removing the Governor's authority to renew a state of emergency after 30 days and instead providing that the renewal of a state of emergency must be approved by a majority vote of each House of the Legislature upon request by the Governor. The state of emergency may be renewed for up to 30 days at a time, and the renewal process may be repeated indefinitely. If the Legislature is out of session at the time the request is issued by the Governor, the Governor must give at least 3 days' notice to the Legislature for the Legislature to convene to consider the request. If the state of emergency is terminated for any reason, the Governor may not declare another state of emergency for the same emergency or set of circumstances underlying the first state of emergency. The Governor's powers as Commander in Chief of the military forces of the State are not affected by this bill. The bill authorizes the Legislature to terminate any specific emergency order by the Governor by a 2/3 vote in each House of the Legislature. This bill also allows the Legislature during a state of emergency to vote on a proclamation or executive order made during that emergency remotely by electronic or other means.

Thank you for your time, and I respectfully ask that you vote Ought to Pass LD 1039, SP0329.

Sincerely,

Patricia Collins
Windham, Maine