

Jennifer White
Gray

Dear Members of the Committee on State and Local Government,
I am submitting my written testimony to show my support of the following proposed bills. Although there are subtle differences between them, I support the overall intent of what these bills are trying to do and I hope you will too.

- LD 14 An Act To Require a Two-thirds Vote To Extend a State of Emergency
- LD 131 An Act To Amend the Governor's Emergency Powers
- LD 628 An Act To Protect Businesses and Civic and Religious Organizations from Actions Taken Pursuant to an Emergency Proclamation
- LD 729 An Act To Provide Transparency Regarding State Contracts during a State of Emergency
- LD 955 An Act To Narrowly Tailor Emergency Powers of the Governor and Other Public Officials
- LD 980 An Act To Establish Balance in the Governor's Emergency Powers
- LD 1039 An Act To Safeguard the People's Voice in a State of Emergency
- LD 1142 An Act To Prohibit the Unequal Restriction of Essential Businesses during a State of Civil Emergency
- LD 1237 An Act To Allow the Governor To Declare a Limited State of Emergency for Federal Aid Purposes

We are living in unprecedented times with the outbreak of Covid-19. This past year has been a devastating one for many Maine families, businesses, churches, school children, college students, senior citizens, including those living in nursing facilities and those living alone. The word LOSS does not begin to describe what the people of Maine have gone through—not just from the virus but from government overreach and the devastating effects of it. Amid a global pandemic and yearlong state of emergency, our state legislators were left out of the critical decision making that needed to happen. This is unfathomable as their role representing their constituents was taken away leaving us vulnerable and unable to have a voice in governing. Our Governor has made incredibly challenging decisions this past year without formally allowing your input. This has dragged on for far too long and, unfortunately, many lives and livelihoods have been destroyed because of it. I am asking that every elected state lawmaker, starting with those serving in this committee, take proactive measures to protect the citizens and businesses in this state so that any future State of Emergency will be carried out in a responsible manner. There should be time restrictions in place, and we need our state legislators involved in the decision making! This was an extremely hard lesson for our state to learn. Many did not see this coming. Please support these bills with voting OUGHT TO PASS and prevent this overreach from happening again!

Respectfully,
Jennifer White
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