



Maine Municipal
Association

60 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-9486
(207) 623-8428
www.memun.org

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of

LD- 876 An Act To Promote Efficiency in County and Municipal Government

April 7, 2021

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Rebecca Graham and I am providing testimony in support of LD 876 on behalf of MMA at the direction of our 70-member Legislative Policy Committee.

Municipal officials recognize there has been a significant shift in how the public and their residents and property owners receive information. Officials believe that this proposed change in law will save time, produce more timely announcements of official notices, and reach a greater number of interested parties who may not have access to printed news media.

In many areas of the state, the regional newspapers are weekly publications that require advanced timing to meet deadlines and provide proper public notice. Not only can this be a challenge for small town offices, but such papers also have a limited exposure and may not reach absentee property owners who may wish to provide input.

Online based publication of public notices also provides municipal officials with metrics on the impact and reach for public information. This can be helpful for busy small communities to know where to best promote announcements linked to their town website. If notices are always posted on a town website, it will also allow a stable and predictable location for residents and interested parties to visit to receive the best information on upcoming municipal meetings.

For all of these reasons, and for the permissive construction of the bill that allows municipalities with limited website support to continue with traditional notices, municipal officials request the committee vote ought to pass on LD 876.