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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 1274

### AN ACT REGARDING 2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND TOWN MEETINGS

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and members of the State and Local Government Committee, I am Victoria Wallack, Communications and Government Relations Director for Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association in support of L.D. 1274.

School leaders support this bill because it allows us to get necessary school budgets passed under still existing Covid restrictions and ultimately commit property taxes necessary for funding education.

Budget meetings were held in February for March Town Meetings, with the next waive coming in May for June approval.

There is a desire in communities to turn back to “normal” around the budget approval process. Communities are getting creative around holding their Town Meetings so people can come together in person and still be socially distanced. My town, for example, held its meeting last year outside in fire department tents.

The plans are now moving forward for the next round of June town meetings and elections.

L.D. 1274 provides flexibility built around the language in Governor Mills’ executive order on the same topic. We support it because we want to provide a safe and effective process to allow our school budgets to move forward in anticipation of new school year in the fall when our hope is all students will be back in the classroom fulltime.