

APRIL 23, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING – LD 1365

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT MUNICIPALITIES FROM PROHIBITING SHORT-TERM RENTALS

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

The Bar Harbor Town Council voted unanimously to oppose this bill at the Council meeting on April 20.

Maine communities differ widely in their preferences and opportunities for short-term rental housing. This is a Home Rule issue. It should be up to a municipality and its residents to decide whether they want to allow short-term rentals or not.

As written, it appears that the prohibition only applies to accommodations “rented through a transient rental platform...” Does this mean that property owners could advertise and rent properties if they did not use a “transient rental platform?” What is the rationale for that?

The bill language says the municipality may not prohibit short-term rentals but does not address whether a municipality could limit them in any way, such as by location or percentage of housing units that could be dedicated to short-term rentals.

Please allow Maine municipalities to make their own decisions on permitted uses of local housing.

Submitted by the Bar Harbor Town Council

Contact: Jill Goldthwait, Councilor, 207-288-5461; [jillgold@gwi.net](mailto:jillgold@gwi.net)

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Bar Harbor

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