



Department of the Secretary of State

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
LD 1522, “An Act To Update and Eliminate References in Statute to
Aldermen, Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor”**

*Testimony in Favor
Provided by Julie L. Flynn, Deputy Secretary of State
May 7, 2021*

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, I am Julie Flynn, Deputy Secretary of State. I am testifying in favor of the bill but would like to provide information and an amendment for the Committee to consider.

We agree that it is important to eliminate the use of arcane terms and to replace male gender terms with gender-neutral terms in the statutes. However, as drafted, this bill creates several circular definitions by replacing arcane or male gender terms in the definitions of “municipal officer”, “municipal officers” and “select board” with the term that is being defined in the definition.

To resolve the problem, we are proposing to replace the definition for “municipal officers” in sections 1, 6, 13, 17, 18, 21, 55 and 56 of the bill, with the following definition:

Municipal officers. "Municipal officers" means the members of the elected governing body of a municipality and includes the mayor and aldermen or councillors of a city, the selectmen members of the select board or councillors of a town and the assessors of a plantation.

Additionally, we recommend that the definition for “municipal officer” in section 19 of the bill be replaced with the following definition:

Municipal officer; definition. The term "municipal officer," as it refers to the Oxford County Budget Advisory Committee in this section, means a ~~selectman~~ select board member or council member.

And finally, we recommend that the definition for “Select board” in section 50 of the bill be replaced with the following definition:

Selectmen Select board. "~~Selectmen~~ Select board" means the ~~board of selectmen~~ board of selectmen ~~elect~~ governing body of the town or, if the town has no ~~selectmen~~ elect governing body, the officers charged with the duties customarily imposed on the ~~board of selectmen~~ board of selectmen elect governing body of a town.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of this bill, and I’m happy to take any questions.