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**Testimony of Senator Russell Black before the Joint Standing Committee on
State and Local Government**

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LD 895, An Act To Make Necessary Changes to State Law

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and members of the Committee on State and Local Government. I am Senator Russell Black and I represent Senate District 17. I am here to provide testimony in support of LD 895, An Act To Make Necessary Changes to State Law, a bill to define the new County Commissioner districts in Franklin County submitted by Representative Michelle Dunphy.

As you are aware, earlier this year the legislature passed for the second time a bill to increase the number of commissioners in Franklin County from three to five. This past November the voters of Franklin County overwhelmingly passed the referendum to go from 3 to 5 commissioners.

Now this legislation will define the makeup of the new districts based on information from the recent US Census results. I believe that the districts will meet what the majority of citizens in Franklin County asked for at the ballot box and what I have heard from folks in the county who really want this change.

I urge you to pass this proposal and I am happy to answer any questions that you have. Thank you!