



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

April 2, 2025

Hon. Joseph Baldacci, Chair  
Hon. Suzanne Salisbury, Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government  
Cross Office Building, Room 214  
Augusta, Maine 04330

**Re: LD 1155, An Act to Ensure Appropriate County Government Operations Relating to the Position of Dedimus Justice**

Dear Sen. Baldacci and Rep. Salisbury:

Please accept these comments in opposition to LD 1155, *An Act to Ensure Appropriate County Government Operations Relating to the Position of Dedimus Justice*. The State and Local Government Committee recently voted unanimously in favor of LD 129, *An Act to Amend the Law Governing Dedimus Justices*, a bill that was submitted by the Department of Secretary of State after consultation with the Office of the Governor to address some practical issues that have arisen regarding the position of dedimus justice. LD 1155 does nothing to improve the situation.

As drafted, LD 1155 appears to limit the number of newly appointed dedimus justices to just 32 officials, two per county, who are limited to doing work on behalf of county officials, and 16 others, who are limited to work on behalf of each sheriff. As discussed in the course of LD 129, there are currently approximately 1100 dedimus justices in the state who are empowered to administer oaths to all manner of officials – notaries, members of state boards and commissions, municipal officials, etc. Limiting the Office in this way would seriously compromise the ability of officials to be sworn in as time goes by. In addition, LD 1155 does not advance the reforms the Governor seeks, such as imposing a term of years on newly appointed dedimus justices.

For these reasons, we request the Committee vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1155 and allow LD 129 to advance.

Sincerely,

Jim Feeley  
Deputy Legal Counsel  
Office of the Governor



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