

Dane Courtois
Hiram
LD 1563

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1563, An Act to Establish Content Standards for Legislation. This bill addresses critical issues surrounding government transparency, legislative accountability, and the integrity of the lawmaking process.

Government transparency is the cornerstone of a functioning democracy. Citizens and legislators alike must have adequate time to review and understand the content of proposed legislation. Too often, bills are introduced with insufficient time for thorough review, leaving both lawmakers and the public in the dark about their implications. This practice undermines trust in our institutions and deprives constituents of their right to engage meaningfully in the legislative process. LD 1563 would ensure that bills are presented with clear, accessible content and sufficient time for review, fostering an open and accountable government.

Moreover, the hypocrisy of rushing complex or vaguely worded legislation through the process while claiming to serve the public interest must end. Bills are frequently named in ways that obscure their true purpose or impact, misleading both legislators and the public. This lack of clarity erodes confidence in the legislative process and risks enacting laws that do not reflect the will of the people. LD 1563 promotes accuracy in the naming of bills, ensuring that titles reflect their actual content and intent. This simple but vital reform will enhance public understanding and prevent deceptive framing of legislation.

By establishing clear content standards, LD 1563 will strengthen the legislative process, promote fairness, and uphold the principles of transparency and accountability. I urge you to support this bill and take a stand for a more open and honest government.

Sincerely, Dane Courtois
Hiram, Maine