



**MAINE MUNICIPAL
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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition To

LD 1560 - An Act to Address Conflicts of Interest with Municipal Contracts

April 28, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing updated testimony in opposition to LD 1560 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine and the LPC guides the advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

It's appreciated that this bill aims to eliminate conflicts of interest by those holding a position within a municipality, but in reality, this one size fits all approach will be difficult to implement in several smaller municipalities we have in this state. In some of Maine's more isolated communities, it is a challenge to find contracted professional services and at times cannot be avoided when a business is owned by a family member of a municipal official.

State law already addresses the issue of conflict and MMA's Legal Service Department offers guidance to towns and cities as it relates to conflicts of interest and encourages its members to disclose any conflicts publicly and recuse themselves when applicable from the vote on the contract. At this time, municipalities across Maine do not feel that this is a necessary proposal to consider.

Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.



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