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Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in support of
**LD 1577 – An Act to Establish the Commission to Study and Recommend
Solutions for Modernizing the Maine Legislature**
To the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and esteemed members of the Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Representative Holly Eaton, and I proudly represent House District 15, which includes the communities of Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan’s Island, Isle au Haut, and Vinalhaven.

I’m here today to testify in support of LD 1577, which would establish a commission to study and recommend solutions for modernizing the Maine Legislature.

As a single parent currently serving in the Legislature, I know firsthand how challenging it can be to balance public service with family responsibilities. While I don't believe it's my role to preempt the work of the proposed commission by pointing to specific reforms today, I do want to express my strong support for this effort. Many of the areas outlined in this resolve—such as increasing flexibility, exploring remote access, and making the Legislature more family-friendly—are directly relevant to my experience.

More broadly, I believe this bill has the potential to encourage broader participation in the legislative process from Mainers of all backgrounds. By examining ways to make our institution more inclusive, accessible, and effective, we can help ensure that the Legislature truly reflects the people it serves.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I respectfully urge you to support LD 1577.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor,
Stonington, Swan’s Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven