

MATTHEW RHODES

Unity
LD 2228

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to LD 2228
“An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions”

Dear Members of the Committee,

I write in opposition to LD 2228, not because inactive boards should be preserved indefinitely, but because this bill removes statutory oversight structures without addressing where their responsibilities have gone.

This legislation eliminates multiple boards and commissions on the basis that they failed to report or were inactive. However, the bill makes no effort to determine whether the functions of these entities have ceased to exist or have simply been absorbed elsewhere within state government.

That distinction is critical.

Boards and commissions, even when imperfect, provide three essential safeguards:

Public visibility

Structured reporting

Independent or semi-independent oversight

When these entities are removed from statute, their functions do not necessarily disappear. In many cases, those responsibilities are transferred into executive agencies, departments, or internal administrative processes—areas that operate with significantly less transparency and fewer formal accountability mechanisms.

LD 2228 contains no requirement to:

Audit where these responsibilities have gone

Reassign them through statute

Ensure continued public reporting or oversight

Instead, it relies on a technical cleanup process that includes removing statutory references and allowing the Revisor of Statutes to erase cross-references. This has the effect of eliminating not only the boards, but also their visibility within Maine law.

If these boards are truly unnecessary, then their responsibilities should be clearly repealed and discontinued. If their responsibilities still exist, then the Legislature should explicitly determine where those powers reside and how they will be overseen.

Without that step, this bill risks consolidating authority inside administrative agencies while reducing transparency and legislative visibility.

At a minimum, this bill should be amended to:

Identify whether each board’s statutory duties are still being performed

Specify where those duties will reside going forward

Require continued reporting to the Legislature or the public

Eliminating inactive entities may appear to streamline government, but without structural reassignment and oversight, it can unintentionally weaken accountability.

“This bill doesn’t reduce government — it reduces visibility. The question is not whether these boards were inactive, but whether their powers have been relocated into less accountable parts of government.”

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose LD 2228 in its current form or amend it to ensure transparency and proper legislative control over any remaining functions.

Respectfully,