



Maine Municipal  
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition to  
LD 208, *An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots*

March 8, 2021

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Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Kate Dufour and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 208 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

Municipal officials do not understand the concern LD 208 is intending to remedy. As illustrated by the 514,000 voters who cast absentee ballots during the November 2021 election, the existing process for obtaining an absentee ballot works.

Furthermore, the act of voting in the presence of the clerk requires the clerk to "sign the affidavit on the return envelope as a witness, indicate on the envelope that the voter voted in the presence of a clerk and ensure that the affidavit on the return envelope is properly completed by the voter." It is not a simple process. Allowing individuals to cast votes in the presence of the clerk on the Friday or Monday before the election only serves to pull election officials away from the vital task of preparing for and conducting an election.

Excepting an emergency which is already addressed in existing law, if by the Friday before an election an absentee ballot has not been obtained, casting a ballot at the polls on the day of the election is a much better use of limited public resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.