



Maine Municipal
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition to
LD 941, *An Act To Protect the Privacy of Absentee Voters*

April 7, 2021

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 941 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

Municipal officials are concerned that wrapping a sheet of paper around absentee ballots a sheet of paper will increase the cost of administering elections and the burden placed on election officials. While some might describe the proposed task as insignificant, the time and costs associated with the new requirement will have disparate impacts on communities of varying populations. For example, during the 2020 presidential election, the cities of Bangor, Lewiston and Portland collectively received 56,033 absentee ballots.

Absent evidence showing the need for this new and time consuming step, municipal officials would urge the Committee to oppose the initiative.

Thank you for your time and consideration of municipal perspective on LD 941.