

130th Legislature
**Senate of
Maine**
Senate District 12

Senator David R. Miramant
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1515
David.Miramant@legislature.maine.gov

April 21, 2021

Testimony Presenting LD 1354
"Resolve To Study the Establishment of a System of Voting by Mail"

Good morning Sen. Luchini, Rep. Caiazzo, and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Dave Miramant, and I proudly represent all of the people of Appleton, Camden, Criehaven, Cushing, Friendship, Hope, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, Muscle Ridge Islands, North Haven, Owl's Head, Rockland, Rockport, South Thomaston, St. George, Thomaston, Union, Vinalhaven and Warren in the Maine Senate.

I come before you today to present LD 1354, Resolve, To Study the Establishment of a System of Voting by Mail.

I have been studying the system developed in Oregon since its beginning. I met with and talked to several of their legislators about the challenges in establishing Vote by Mail and what to avoid. Since then, other states such as Washington and Colorado have also added this to the methods available for voters. This has increased voter participation and is more in line with the convenience that many voters enjoyed during the recent Presidential election.

Because I come at this from a different direction than others including our Secretary of State, it seemed best to involve her office in developing the rules for Maine. Secretary Bellows has stated her willingness to find the best method for Maine and this bill gives time for that process with a report back to this committee. The bill also includes a list of issues to be considered during the discussion so as to be thorough and to minimize confusion and objections.

Thank you for your consideration, I am glad to answer questions if I can.