

MAINE SERVICE CENTERS COALITION

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Testimony of the Maine Service Centers Coalition LD 177, An Act to Create Municipal Cannabis Revenue Sharing, and LD 347, An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales Tax and Excise Tax Revenue

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, the Maine Service Centers Coalition is submitting testimony in support of LD 177, An Act to Create Municipal Cannabis Revenue Sharing, and LD 347, An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales Tax and Excise Tax Revenue.

The Maine Service Centers Coalition, comprised of 26 towns and cities across the state, articulates the importance of healthy and thriving service center communities, advocates for public policy that supports and contributes to the economic and social viability of our communities, and collaborates with municipal officials, legislators, state agencies and non-profits to pursue quality of life for all who live and work in our state.

We are supporting LD 177 and LD 347 as both provide welcome sources of funding for cities and towns with adult use cannabis establishments. Under LD 177, these municipalities would receive 10 percent of the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund. Under LD 347, the municipalities would receive 12 percent of the revenue from the sales and excise taxes on adult use cannabis and corresponding products.

Both bills guarantee additional revenues would flow to cities and towns already providing municipal services to adult cannabis establishments. The new funds would allow these municipalities to continue to meet their obligations to all their citizens and, importantly, reduce the property tax burdens that now fall squarely onto homeowners and businesses.

For these reasons, we ask you to give every consideration to supporting LD 177 and LD 347.

Thank you for your time and attention.