

Jeffrey Harmon - Auburn
Cara Pelletier - Bangor
Martin Grohman - Biddeford
Carl Sheline - Lewiston
Mark Dion - Portland
Penelope York - Rockland



Jodi MacPhail - Saco
Becky Brink - Sanford
Richard Matthews - South Portland
Michael Morris - Waterville
David Morse - Westbrook

Supported By: Mitchell Tardy Jackson Government Affairs - 104 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine 04330 - 207-622-1365

**Maine Mayors Coalition Testimony on
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 distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, the Maine Mayors Coalition is providing 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 Mayors Coalition is a nonpartisan group representing the mayors of eleven Maine communities – Auburn, Bangor, Biddeford, Lewiston, Portland, Rockland, Saco, Sanford, South Portland, Waterville and Westbrook – and nearly 300,000 residents. The Coalition advocates on behalf of our citizens and municipalities for policies that recognize the vital services Maine cities provide and the positive impact Maine cities have on our state. The Coalition seeks to work in partnership with state and federal elected officials to meet the needs of Maine people.

Cities permitting adult use cannabis establishments will benefit under both bills. LD 177 directs 10 percent of the funds in the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund go equally to these municipalities. LD 347 establishes a new fund requiring 12 percent of the revenue from sales and excise taxes on adult use cannabis be distributed to the municipalities.

Like you, we make every effort to keep property taxes as low as possible while providing our citizens with necessary municipal services. Rising costs and spiking property values in recent years have made this much more difficult. And, it is Maine property owners who pay the price with higher property taxes.

The new income streams included in both bills will provide our cities with additional financial resources that will help us meet our municipal obligations. In turn, our homeowners and businesses would see property tax relief through a reduction in the municipal tax levy.

We respectfully ask you to support LD 177 and LD 347. Thank you for your time.