



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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Date: February 26, 2025

To: Senator Craig Hickman, Senate Chair
Representative Laura Supica, House Chair
And members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

From: Patti Dubois, Chairperson, Legislative Policy Committee
Maine Town and City Clerks' Association

Re: LD 600 – An Act to Initiate Recounts in Tied Elections

Position: SUPPORT

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is in support of LD 600 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your committee.

Members felt that initiating an automatic recount would streamline matters, since they would not be waiting for a candidate to request a recount. The Secretary of State and/or municipal clerk could start the administrative process of preparing a recount sooner rather than waiting for a candidate to request one. As such, we feel this will expedite the process and benefit both the candidates and voters and create a more efficient process overall.

Clerks did express concern about the cost of conducting the automatic recount, since the costs are now the responsibility of the candidate requesting the recount if the election result is not overturned. It appears that these costs would be totally incurred by the municipality for automatic local recounts, and by the state for automatic state recounts. This would also apply to local and state referenda recounts.

Of course, this is a relatively infrequent situation which likely won't have significant financial impact.

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association appreciates the opportunity to share its testimony with the Committee. Should any questions arise, please feel free to contact me at (207)680-4210 or by email: pdubois@waterville-me.gov.