



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against

*LD 1148 - An Act to Improve Access to Absentee Ballots for Municipal Elections for Uniformed Service
Voters and Overseas Voters*

March 31, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 1148 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine and the LPC guides the advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

Municipalities across Maine have a vested interest in ensuring that the voting process is accessible, efficient, and fair for all eligible voters, including those working or residing overseas. Likewise, local leaders recognize there are complexities and potential challenges that may arise from this change in procedure.

In general, municipalities fully support the fundamental right of U.S. citizens who are abroad to participate in elections, including those related to local ballot measures and municipal elections. Overseas voters contribute to the diversity and richness of our democratic process, and it is important to ensure that they can vote, just as any other citizen is able to do so. Enabling these voters to have access to local ballots is a meaningful way to extend that right.

Many municipalities have established processes for managing absentee voting and local ballot distribution, and this change could require substantial adjustments to those systems. Although local officials appreciate the intent behind LD 1148, in reality, they fear it could create a logistical nightmare and further question whether the change would improve the process and if the cost would be worthwhile.

Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.

