



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In “Conditional” Opposition To

LD 1840 - An Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act

May 5, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing conditional testimony in opposition to LD 1840 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 MMA’s advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

MMA staff are in the process of polling its members for their thoughts on LD 1840, of which the results will be discussed at a Zoom meeting on Tuesday. However, based on an initial review of the bill, there are concerns with section 26 that would preempt municipal authority in certain cases.

It’s important to remember that the municipality itself does not approve or deny the operation of cannabis businesses in their communities—it is the voters who make that final decision with municipal staff left to carry out the will of the voters. Under Maine law, municipalities have the authority to opt in to allow cannabis businesses from both programs, and further, to regulate the time, place, and manner in which those businesses operate.

In practice, this means local communities are responsible for determining zoning, public safety protocols, nuisance mitigation, and ensuring that businesses meet local ordinances. The Office of Cannabis Policy’s (OCP) requirement for municipal confirmation through a simple form confirms that these local processes have taken place, and given the increase in illegal cannabis grows that the state is attempting to get a handle as evidenced by the proposal of LD 1535, having this step in the process would help collaboration between state and local governments, and pave the way for increased transparency.

Simply put, the form in question is not seen as a barrier by municipalities, but a bridge for state and local leaders. It clarifies expectations for applicants and provides municipalities with confidence that their oversight is being respected. To prohibit OCP from requesting this documentation undermines the very spirit of local control embedded in Maine culture.

Thank you for your time and considering the municipal perspective.

