



Maine Municipal
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support Of LD 559

An Act To Standardize the Law Concerning Property Transfers and To Protect Water Quality

March 7, 2017

Senator Volk, Representative Fecteau and members of the Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee, my name is Garrett Corbin and I am providing testimony in support of LD 559 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) at the direction of MMA's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

With exceptions for recently constructed or recently inspected septic systems, current law requires a full inspection of a septic system located on property being sold or transferred that is located within the coastal shoreland zone. This bill expands those same requirements to the sale or transfer of property including a septic system in all shoreland zones, not just the coastal shoreland areas.

This inspection expansion seems appropriate to members of our Policy Committee. The purpose of the current inspection requirement is to help ensure human waste is adequately contained on premises and does not make its way into the sea. Maine's fresh water lakes, ponds, streams and rivers are vital to our population, and often serve as tributaries to these coastal waters. Pre-transfer inspections are one step toward achieving the goal of keeping effluent out of the Gulf of Maine. Taking another step by inspecting septic systems on bodies of fresh water makes sense.