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*Testimony of Rep. Scott Cuddy presenting  
LD 1541, An Act To Establish "Ballad of the 20th Maine" as the Official State Ballad  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government*

Senator Claxton, Representative Martin and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Scott Cuddy. I live in Winterport and I represent House District 98, which includes the towns of Frankfort, Searsport, Swanville and Winterport. I am before you today to present **LD 1541, An Act To Establish "Ballad of the 20th Maine" as the Official State Ballad**. The lyrics to the ballad, written by Griffin Sherry, as performed by The Ghost of Paul Revere, are included on the second page.

So where do we stand with official state music right now? Maine currently has a State Song: The State of Maine Song, by Roger Vinton Snow and adopted in 1931, as well as a State March, "The Dirigo March," by Leo Pepin, adopted in 2012 and unanimously approved by both houses and signed into law by Gov. Paul LePage.

The State Song sings the praises of this great state. Pepin's March is a stately march that is perfect for any celebration of Maine. Neither would be displaced by this bill, in fact we would augment the repertoire of the official emblems of Maine by adding the "Ballad of the 20th Maine" to the list of official state music.

Why would we add a state ballad? A ballad typically tells a story in poetry or song. A State Ballad then would celebrate a particular story of Maine. If we are to celebrate Maine and tell a story of Maine to the world, I know Maine has many powerful stories to tell. Passing this bill does not dishonor any of those narratives, it simply recognizes the power of the story of the 20th Maine. That story of the Battle of Gettysburg where, at Little Round Top, Gen. Chamberlain and the men of the 20th Maine protected the left flank of the Union army with a bravery and resilience for which the women and men of Maine are renowned. With ammunition running low, they mounted a last ditch, desperate attack with bayonets and won the day, helping to secure victory for the Union army.

This ballad tells a story of how Maine helped save this nation from literally being torn in two. It tells a story that inspires all of us to remember where we come from, and who we are.

Why *this* ballad? "The Ballad of the 20th Maine" is firmly rooted in today's culture, played in a style of music that has been around for many years, about an event from 1863 that continues to ring in the consciousness of Maine and America. The Ghost of Paul Revere has succeeded in bringing the past into the present in a way that will not fade with time.

Now, I understand “emblem fatigue.” Too many bills on flags, birds and whatnot. We now have a state dessert AND a state treat. I get it. But what I’m here asking this committee to do is to dig into this moment in our States time, and recognize the timelessness of the moment to which this ballad speaks! On the front page of the website of the bi-partisan Maine200 Commission you’re met with a picture of Gov. Joshua Chamberlain and the words “In 1863 Joshua Chamberlain led the way in winning the Battle of Gettysburg.” We know this was a defining moment for Maine. Let’s recognize that. Let’s enshrine that as our State Ballad. A ballad written by a Mainer to respect that moment, and the state, we are all so proud of.

Thank you for your time, and I’m happy to take any questions you may have.

#### LYRICS OF “BALLAD OF 20<sup>th</sup> MAINE”

*My name is Andrew Tozier, a child of Lichfield Maine  
I left my only family for sea, and salt, and rain  
When Lincoln called the banners in 1861  
I joined the union army for the land I'm from*

*We were baptized by fire, at the battle of Bull Run  
And we fought our southern brothers, in the wind, the snow, and sun  
And when our time was over, we heard our Governor say  
Keep fighting for the union, for just another day  
So we joined the lion of Bowdoin, Chamberlain his name  
and we marched back into battle as the 20th of Maine*

*If we should die today, dream a dream of heaven  
Take your northern heart with you to the grave  
Be proud and true you are a union soldier  
Stand fast, ye are the boys of Maine*

*Well, our western flank was missing  
As the confederates pushed on  
And we fought them tooth and nail  
Our ammunition all but gone  
Alone I stood with colors  
Flying proud and true  
For to let my northern brothers know  
the battle was not through*

*Then appeared our lion roaring bayonets  
Charging down the mountain with what soldiers we had left  
We were steadfast as katahdin, hard as winters rain  
Take that rebel yell with you to hell  
We are the 20th Maine*

*If we should die today, dream a dream of heaven  
Take your northern heart with you to the grave  
Be proud and true you are a union soldier  
Stand fast, ye are the boys of Maine*