



Senator Richard A. Bennett
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Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Government Oversight Committee

Testimony of Senator Richard A. Bennett

LD 1995, "An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023"

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

7 March 2022

Senator Breen, Representative Pierce, Senator Hickman, Representative Caiazzo and distinguished members of the committees, I am Senator Rick Bennett of Oxford, and I have the honoring of serving 13 towns in Oxford and Cumberland Counties in the Maine Senate.

Today I am testifying in support of the Maine Ethics Commission's request budget. The initiative would increase the All Other portion of their General Fund appropriation by \$107,821 so they can pay 45% of their administrative costs from the General Fund. Additionally, they are requesting that \$171,172 be moved to Personal Services from the General Fund.

Currently, the Maine Clean Election Fund is paying for administrative and personal services costs for the Maine Ethics Commission. The Clean Election Fund should not be routinely raided to pay for other activities in the Ethics Office; those funds have been approved by the voters of Maine for a specific purpose.

I urge you to allocate this funding so the Maine Ethics Commission can continue their work with proper funding sources. Thank you.