

To: Legislative Policy Committee
Fr: Rebecca Lambert, Municipal Issues Specialist
Re: LPC Feedback on Draft Municipal Franchise Legislation

Date: December 11, 2024

Over the course of regularly scheduled meetings, the policy committee will establish the association's positions on many printed bills. However, as other interested parties develop their own legislative platforms, MMA occasionally receives requests for LPC feedback on an issue prior to a bill being submitted. At times, the request is made on behalf of a legislator who is seeking a broader municipal perspective on an issue.

With respect to these requests, the policy committee can either decide to wait to establish its position until the bill is printed or establish its position via poll.

To that end, MMA has been asked for its position on the [attached](#) legislation, which is being advanced by the Maine Community Media Association (MCMA). The potential bill sponsor, Rep. Melanie Sachs, and MCMA are hesitant to put forth a bill without any input from MMA's LPC and would like to hear your thoughts.

As the summary indicates, the bill provides that a video services provider (VSP), such as Charter or Comcast, is responsible for upgrading the transmission equipment supporting public, education and governmental access facilities at the request of a municipality. The bill also requires a VSP to maintain audio and video quality at current industry standards.

To that end, it would be greatly appreciated if you could respond to the following questions before **noon on Wednesday, December 17** by emailing me at rlambert@memun.org.

1. Do you want to establish MMA's position on the MCMA bill via this poll?
2. If yes, do you want MMA to:
 - a. Support the bill.
 - b. Oppose the bill.
 - c. Take a "Neither for Nor Against" stand on the bill.
 - d. Take "no position" on the bill.

As a reminder to all, there is a difference between a "neither for nor against" (NFNA) and "no position" stance on a bill.

An NFNA stance is reserved for more comprehensive legislation where the policy committee may support some elements of a bill and oppose others, or in cases the LPC needs additional information to make an informed decision. If voting NFNA, please provide comments as to what elements you support or oppose, to help frame MMA's testimony.

With respect to "no position" MMA does not participate in either the public hearing or work session. The bill is only on the radar to watch for amendments that may require review.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.