



Maine State Legislature Hearing “How To” Guide

Bill Title and Information:

LD 1643, An Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center

- Presented by: Senator Teresa Pierce of Cumberland
- Senate Cosponsors: Senators Cameron Reny (D-Lincoln), Rick Bennett (R-Oxford), and Marianne Moore (R-Washington)
- House Cosponsors: Representatives Sam Zager (D-Portland), Traci Gere (D-Kennebunkport), Kristen Cloutier (D-Lewiston), Daniel Sayre (D-Kennebunk), Holly Stover (D-Boothbay), and John Ducharme (R-Madison)

Hearing Information:

Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
Committee Chairs: Senator Chip Curry and Representative Traci Gere
Thursday, April 24, 2025 @ 4:30 PM EDT
Room 206 Cross Building

Preparing Testimony:

Testimony can be delivered in person (most impactful), remotely via zoom, or in writing. For in-person and zoom testimony you will have **no more than three minutes** to speak. If you plan to testify remotely by Zoom, you must be present during the hearing and be available and on the call when the bill discussion takes place.

Please email Dana O'Brien at dana@mainebioscience.org if you plan to attend the hearing in person.

We suggest the following steps to laying out your testimony:

Introduction:

- Begin by addressing the committee chairs and members of the committee.
- Introduce yourself and, if applicable, the organization you represent or hometown.

Statement of Position:

- Clearly state whether you support, oppose, or are neutral on the bill.

Leverage the talking points that follow to tell your own individual story, being mindful that Legislators do not like to hear the same points repeatedly. They want to hear from you – why



you support or oppose a bill, why the state should spend money on an initiative, etc. You are the citizen and stakeholder, so tell your story uniquely with the data in hand.

Sample Testimony Format and Intro

Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
Testimony of [Name + Organization]

In Support of LD 1643

LD 1643, an Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center

April 24, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and esteemed members of the Joint Committee on Housing and Economic Development.

My name is [Name]. I am from [Town or Organization] and am honored to testify in support of LD 1643...

Testifying in Person

- Print out at least 20 copies to distribute to the committee members; the committee clerk will assist you.
- Arrive early to sign in and familiarize yourself with the setting.
- The bill sponsor presents first, followed by cosponsors.
- Public testimony is then invited, typically starting with supporters, followed by opponents, and then neutral parties.
- When called, approach the podium and sign in.
- Address the committee and present your testimony in 3-minutes.
- Be prepared to answer questions from the committee.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, that's okay – just tell them that you don't know but will get back to them.

Submitting Written Testimony Online

- You may simply submit written testimony for the hearing without intending to testify in person or via Zoom. To do so, visit the [Maine Legislature's Testimony Submission page](#).
 - Select the appropriate hearing type, committee, date, and bill.



- Upload your testimony or enter it directly into the provided field.
- Complete the form with your personal information and submit.
- If you wish to testify via Zoom, you may do so on this website.

Testimony Talking Points

Bottom Line Message: Maine has the talent, the institutions, and the momentum to lead in life sciences, but without a dedicated, statewide Center to coordinate and accelerate this growth, we risk falling behind. LD 1643 is a smart, strategic investment that will unify Maine's strengths, attract national funding, and create jobs across the state. The time to act is now.

Top 5 Points in Support of LD 1643

1. Maine Is Ready and Unique

Maine's life sciences sector is growing fast, 31% job growth in five years, and is uniquely positioned at the intersection of health and natural resources. We're applying biotech to fishing, farming, and environmental health. This is Maine's competitive edge.

2. A Statewide Center Will Accelerate Growth

The Center will serve as a statewide hub to align funding, workforce, and research, which is something Maine doesn't have today. It won't duplicate existing work. It will connect and strengthen it.

3. This Is a Strategic, Accountable Investment

The Center will be overseen by a public-private board, report annually to the Legislature, and be held to clear, measurable goals. It's designed to deliver a strong return on taxpayer investment and to attract private, federal, and philanthropic funding.

4. Other States Are Moving Faster and Winning

Rhode Island invested \$45 million in 2023. Massachusetts has invested \$1 billion. Maine's \$3 million is modest, but it's our moment to act.

5. If We Wait, We'll Fall Behind

Maine risks losing talent, startups, and funding to faster-moving states. The cost of doing nothing is higher than the cost of moving forward. This Center is the vehicle to compete and win.