

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Municipal Lobbying Expenses,  
Municipal Contributions To Maine Municipal Assn.  
30 M.R.S.A. § 5102-8.

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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

September 14, 1978

Honorable Carroll Minkowsky  
Senate Chambers  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Senator Minkowsky:

This responds to your request for an opinion as to whether municipalities may contribute funds to the Maine Municipal Association, which funds may then be used by the Association for lobbying purposes.

We would answer that municipalities may contribute funds to the Maine Municipal Association, which funds are then used for lobbying purposes. The Legislature has specifically authorized municipalities to contribute to the Maine Municipal Association by enactment of 30 M.R.S.A. § 5102-8. The purposes of the Maine Municipal Association include advice to municipalities and efforts to influence legislation in a way favorable to municipalities or at least to the membership of the Maine Municipal Association. The Legislature must be presumed to have been aware of these purposes when it enacted § 5102-8 and kept that section in effect.

Enclosed for your interest is a more detailed opinion regarding municipal expenditures to influence public policy decisions. We would note that while expenditures for direct efforts to influence public policy may require specific enactments, contributions to the Maine Municipal Association being authorized by statute, need no such specific enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. G. Alexander", written over a horizontal line.

DONALD G. ALEXANDER  
Deputy Attorney General

DGA/ec