



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)

Neither For Nor Against

LD 191, An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Certain Business Equipment Tax Benefits

February 14, 2022

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and members of the Taxation Committee. My name is Kate Dufour, and I am offering testimony “neither for nor against” LD 191 on behalf of the 70 municipal leaders who were elected by their peers to serve on the Association’s Legislative Policy Committee and directed to establish MMA’s position on bills of municipal interest.

While the Association appreciates the sentiment behind LD 191 and the need to protect Maine’s heritage industries, municipal officials are concerned with the unintended consequences and the administrative burdens associated with the implementation of the proposed provision. Municipal assessors are unclear how this standard would be applied or how the information necessary to assess eligibility would be shared with communities and are further concerned that state reimbursement would be “clawed back” if an error was discovered after the exemption was granted.

Municipal officials believe there must be other avenues for addressing the concern raised in LD 191 that do not shift burdens onto municipal officials or put municipal revenues at risk. If the committee elects to move forward with this measure, municipal leaders ask that you put safeguards in place to protect limited municipal human and financial resources.

Thank you for considering the municipal perspective on this issue. If you have any questions about our position, please contact me at kdufour@memun.org or 592-4038.