



60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486
1-800-452-8786 (in state) | (t) 207-623-8428
(f) 207-624-0129

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of LD 1345, *An Act to Permit Municipalities to Establish by Ordinance a Program for Partial Deferral of Property Taxes for Seniors*

April 12, 2023

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and members of the Taxation Committee. My name is Kate Dufour, and I am offering testimony in support of LD 1345 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.

The authority of self-governance is a privilege that the residents of Maine's 484 communities take seriously. No two communities are alike. Residents are motivated by different priorities, principles, and values, which are translated into policies, ordinances and charter provisions that are debated openly and rigorously at the annual town meeting and at selectboard and council meetings.

Municipal government proceedings are open, heavily monitored by media and regulated by the requirements of Maine's Freedom of Access laws. They are also conducted at times of the day when most residents are available to participate, and through the use of remote technology, now accessible at great convenience. Municipal government is truly an open book.

It is for this reason municipal officials support the passage of LD 1345. With the guidance proposed, the bill provides municipalities an avenue to implement, administer and fund a property tax program that addresses the unique needs of the communities they serve.

Thank you for considering the municipal perspective. If you have questions about the Association's testimony, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-800-452-8786 or kdufour@memun.org.