



# MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936

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## Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)

### In Support of

*LD 637, Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services  
to Evaluate the Municipal General Assistance Program Database*

April 7, 2025

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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony in support of LD 637 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

During the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session, MMA proposed a platform bill for General Assistance (GA) reforms at both the state and local level. While PL 2023, Ch. 575 (printed as LD 1732) morphed into a bill that was far from MMA's proposal, one element that the LPC continued to support was the implementation of a statewide database for tracking and monitoring GA activity. While progress on a database has occurred to some degree, LD 637 would ensure that the department makes progress on the much-needed upgrade in technology for the local administrators of this state mandated program.

It is worth noting that the language passed in PL 2023, Ch.575 requires that, "access to an Internet-based, real-time database containing the information necessary to properly determine an applicant's eligibility" be provided beginning on July 1, 2025.

A search of the Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs, Office of State Procurement Services website shows a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a "Maine General Assistance Management Technology Platform" posted on August 26, 2024, with a closing date of October 22, 2024. The purpose of the RFP is described as, "...seeking a technology platform for management of GA benefits," and continues that, "Due to data limitations and lack of a comprehensive State-wide database, the State does not have an accurate count of the total number of individuals receiving GA benefits in any given year or the related amounts." As of the writing of this testimony, almost six months from the close of the RFP posting, no awardee has been publicly named.

Municipal officials support LD 637 and hope that through the process provided in the bill, the state can fulfill the requirements outlined in LD 1732 and thereby bolster the state-local partnership for General Assistance.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective on this important topic. Please feel free to contact any member of the LPC or the MMA Advocacy team with any questions relating to municipal operations.