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**Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)  
In Opposition to**

*LD 657, An Act to Modify the Law Governing Municipal General Assistance  
by Designating Broadband Internet Access Service and  
Wireless Access Point Technology as Basic Necessities*

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 opposition to LD 657 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

LD 657 would expand the General Assistance definition of "basic necessities" to include broadband internet access service and wireless access point technology. This expansion would require that the provision of those services be reimbursed at the current rate of 70%. Any increase in the type of allowable expenses may result in less aid for eligible applicants overall as state maximum levels could be met more quickly, simultaneously reducing amounts of aid from other aid categories. This expansion would also result in an increased property tax burden on communities funding the 30% balance for aid provided.

Currently, Maine taxpayers fund 30% of General Assistance provided in their communities and 100% of the cost for local administration of a state mandated program. Municipal officials are opposed to any expansion of the program that will ultimately result in increased property taxes.

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.