



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 (MMA)  
In Opposition to**

*LD 1029, An Act to Ensure General Assistance for Housing Does Not Reduce Assistance  
for Other Basic Necessities and to Increase Presumptive Eligibility  
and State Reimbursement for General Assistance*

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 1029 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

LD 1029 proposes to remove housing assistance from the current structure for maximum levels of assistance that can be provided to an eligible applicant. This bill also increases the presumption of eligibility for people provided shelter in an emergency shelter from 30 days to 180 days and provides that the state must reimburse municipalities for 100% of emergency shelter direct costs and 90% for all other direct costs.

Municipal officials have long supported proposals for increased reimbursement for direct costs of GA.

However, the non-reimbursement sections of this bill would amend GA statutes and rules in a manner that simply shifts costs, increases aid for only a specific category of eligible applicants and seems to make the current procedure of setting maximum levels of assistance obsolete.

In addition, an increase in the timeframe for presumptive eligibility, specifically to one area of aid presents an administrative burden on municipal officials as well as an inequity in aid to GA applicants.

Municipal officials acknowledge that the GA program needs review and revision. Until that time, proposed changes should benefit all applicants and not present additional tasks for municipal officials or burdens for Maine's property taxpayers. For these reasons, despite the allowances for increased reimbursements, the LPC is opposed to LD 1029.

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.