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

*LD 1046, An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency Requirement
for Receiving Municipal General Assistance*

April 7, 2025

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 1046 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

LD 1046 proposes to repeal the sections of 22 MRSA §4307 that prohibits a "durational residency requirement" and replace it with a new section requiring proof of 180 days of state residency before becoming eligible for General Assistance (GA).

Since its inception, Maine's GA program has never required proof of residency, in either duration or location.

The addition of residency requirements would significantly reduce the availability of assistance to members of the unhoused community. This new requirement would also add to the ever changing and complex task of administering the GA program, all of which is done at the local level and none of which is reimbursed.

Municipal officials acknowledge that the GA program needs review and revision. Until that time, changes to the program that increase administrative burden and limit assistance to those who are in the most need should be limited. For these reasons the LPC is opposed to LD 1046.

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.