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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) In Support of

LD 1081, An Act to Support Access to General Assistance at Municipal General Assistance Offices and Designated Places

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 1081 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

LD 1081 makes necessary and appropriate clarifications to language that was enacted by PL. 2023, Ch. 575, originally printed as MMA platform bill LD 1732 during the 131st legislative session. While LD 1732 morphed into a bill that was far from MMA's proposal, the element of access to GA offices for applicants was supported by the LPC.

This bill simply acknowledges that while applications may be obtained at a municipal office during regular business hours, separate hours may be necessary to accommodate processing of those applications. Language in this bill also states that hours for processing applications may not be less than fifty percent of the total business hours of the municipal office. Additionally, the currently required posted notices must be updated to reflect these changes.

These amendments provide constructive clarity to the application process and allowances for municipal officials to address both the needs of applicants and municipal staff administering the GA program.

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.