



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support Of

LD 1282 - An Act Regarding Eligibility for Historic Preservation Bond Proceeds

April 10, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Education & Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in support of LD 1282 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine and the LPC guides the advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

Countless communities across Maine have taken proactive steps to preserve their historic character by adopting local historic preservation ordinances. This demonstrates a commitment not just in words, but by investing time, resources, and political capital to protect the unique cultural and architectural heritage that defines that community's identity. Likewise, these local ordinances are often the first line of defense against demolition, inappropriate development, and the slow erosion of community character.

However, despite their proactive efforts, they are not automatically eligible for certain Maine Historical Preservation Commission (MHPC) grant programs since their historical significance is not recorded in the National Register of Historic Places. Being eligible for these types of funding opportunities could support critical preservation planning, historic surveys, technical assistance, and public education, while also recognizing the value of locally led preservation.

Inclusion is not just a matter of fairness; it's one of strategic investment. The towns that have stepped up to protect their heritage are ready partners for the MHPC. By supporting the expansion of eligibility to municipally designated historical buildings and places, it affirms Maine's commitment to both honoring the past and building a resilient, historically rich future and offering them tools for success.

Thank you for your time and considering the municipal perspective.

