

132nd Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 29

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Testimony of Senator Anne Carney in support of
LD 560, “An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Coastal Climate Resiliency,”

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
April 10, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and esteemed members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, I am Senator Anne Carney, proudly representing Senate District 29, which includes South Portland, Cape Elizabeth and part of Scarborough. It is a pleasure to be with you today to speak in support of LD 560, “An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Coastal Climate Resiliency.”

Improving the resilience of our coastal communities and helping them prepare for increasingly severe storms due to climate change is a key priority for the people of my district. South Portland, Cape Elizabeth, and Scarborough have been hard at work preparing for this new reality, and I have been proud to support them in those efforts. I look forward to having the grants funded by this bond as additional resources for their resilience efforts.

However, I believe that this bill could be even more impactful with one small change. I propose that the Committee consider amending the bill to include public educational institutions, especially institutions of higher education, in the list of entities eligible to apply for these grants.

This request is motivated by a specific instance in my district, on the seaside South Portland campus of Southern Maine Community College (SMCC). Last winter’s storms caused extensive damage to Fort Preble, the Spring Point Shoreway walking path which traverses it, and the entire eastern coast of SMCC’s campus. Some of SMCC’s academic buildings are threatened due to the erosion of the shoreland, and the college is desperately looking for resources to repair this damage. The college wants to build back in a more resilient way that adapts to the new reality of coastal storms and sea level rise, but they have struggled to find the financial resources to do so.

What I found in my quest to help SMCC and our community repair the damage caused by last winter’s storms is that most of our grant opportunities exclude educational institutions from applying. Allowing public educational institutions to participate in the grants created by this bill would create a new pathway to fund these important repairs.

I hope you will join me in supporting this bill, along with this change. I welcome any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial "A" and a trailing flourish.

Anne Carney
State Senator, District 29