

Placeholder Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

LD 1738, An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State

April 28, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting placeholder testimony on LD 1738 because our Legislative Policy Committee will establish its official position tomorrow, April 29, afternoon.

Considering the bill creates a grant program to assist hypodermic apparatus mitigation and collection efforts, which is becoming an increasingly more difficult task that communities in all corners of the state must address and manage, it is likely that municipal leaders will support the initiative. Furthermore, the voluntary nature of the bill leaves the decision to apply for the grant to municipal officials and residents. What may give our members pause is the phrase in the bill making the grant funds “subject to available funding resources,” which suggests that grants could be available sporadically, if at all. While staff appreciate the bill sponsor’s intent and attention to this serious issue, funding is a vital component to the program’s success.

As soon as practical, MMA will submit supplemental testimony outlying the association’s official position for the committee’s consideration.

Thank you for your time and patience.