

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association  
In Opposition to

*LD 1603, An Act to Eliminate the Property Tax on Business Equipment With a Value of No More Than \$50,000*

May 1, 2025

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Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and members of the Taxation Committee, my name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1603 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee, which establishes the association's positions on all municipally relevant legislation.

Considering that the Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) program already exists, exempting individual pieces of business equipment valued at less than \$50,000 will result in an increase in the volume of work for assessors, because two property tax exemption avenues would be available to the owners of business equipment. With the BETE mechanism in place, municipal officials fail to understand why the exemption proposed in the bill is necessary. If this bill addresses an underlying issue that the committee believes needs to be resolved, municipal leaders urge that the proposal is administered and funded with state level resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the municipal perspective on this issue.