

Diane Bailey
Maine Assoc. of Retirees
LD 1798

DATE:May 1, 2025

TO:Senator Nicole Grohoski
Representative Kristen Cloutier
Members, Committee on Taxation

FROM:William H. Laubenstein, III
President, Maine Association of Retirees

SUBJECT: LD 1798, An Act to Increase Revenue Sharing and to Control Property Taxes

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and Members of the Committee on Taxation. My name is William H. Laubenstein, III. I am President of the Maine Association of Retirees (MAR) whose membership includes retired State employees, educators, municipalities and other public service retirees.

MAR supports LD 1798, An Act to Increase Revenue Sharing and to Control Property Taxes which among other things, calls for money in the Local Government Fund to be distributed to each municipality in proportion to the product of the population multiplied by the property tax burden of the municipality. Most importantly, however, LD 1798 provides for a municipality to be eligible for an additional 20% if the municipality implements a program to limit property tax increases of not more than 2% annually on residents 65 years of age or older who qualify for a Maine resident homestead exemption.

This municipal oriented property tax stabilization proposal would be of great benefit to all retirees who continue to struggle to meet the increased prices of goods and services brought about by stubborn high inflation and the economic instability resulting from the tariff policies of the administration in Washington. For the oldest population of Maine, many of whom live in old homesteads on fixed incomes, winter poses the additional burden of heating a poorly insulated house.

The much debated and now abandoned statewide Property Stabilization Act was not only popular with MAR members but provided much needed certainty in lives too often filled with uncertainty of growing older. It was comforting to know that the April tax bill would not be a shock to the system.

MAR urges the Committee to give its full consideration to LD 1798 which would help to address the financial burdens of Maine retiree homeowners.