

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition to

*LD 1707, An Act to Require a Person to Be a United States Citizen to Receive State or Local Financial Assistance and to Ensure Municipal Compliance with Federal Immigration Laws*

May 2, 2025

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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health & Human Services Committee, my name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1707 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee, which establishes the association's positions on all municipally relevant legislation.

Revenue sharing is provided to municipalities in recognition of the fact that local level economic development efforts help generate state sales and income taxes and due to the increases in unfunded mandates that shift additional burdens to the property taxpayers. It is for these reasons that at no point in time should revenues dedicated to towns and cities be threatened. If the state wants to incentivize municipal law enforcement agencies to work with federal immigration officials, then those tasks should be funded with state revenues and provided to municipalities who are willing to assist in those efforts, rather than mandate that all participate. Property taxpayers need to retain the authority to decide what services they are willing to provide and fund.

Municipal officials also oppose the provision in the bill restricting access to General Assistance to U.S. citizens only. All individuals who otherwise qualify for aid should have access to basic necessities.

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