

Manufacturers Association of **Maine**

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2 May 2025

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Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

My name is Mike Roughton and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Manufacturers Association of Maine in strong support of LD 1673, Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact Statements in the Legislative Process. The Manufacturers Association of Maine (MAME) is a non-partisan 501(c)6 non-profit grounded in service to its membership, providing a network of resources designed to support the strategic business growth needs of Maine manufacturing entrepreneurs. Maine's manufacturing businesses are diverse, employing almost 60,000 individuals in military and defense, aerospace, metal fabrication, paper, boat building, semi-conductor, wood products, aquaculture and biotech, medical device, composites, and bioplastics, as well as the food and beverage industries. These businesses represent almost 10% of Maine's annual GDP and 14.5% of all the wages paid in the state on a weekly basis. MAME's mission is to help manufacturing grow and succeed and supports Maine's development of future manufacturing assets through a variety of programs. This bill aims to incorporate economic impact statements into the legislative process, and is not only timely but essential for creating a more informed and effective legislative framework that directly benefits the citizens of Maine.

The inclusion of economic impact statements will provide lawmakers with critical information regarding the potential consequences of their decisions on our economy. By analyzing the direct and indirect effects of proposed legislation—such as job creation, investment opportunities, and tax implications—the Legislature can make more informed choices that enhance the state's prosperity and competitiveness.

The ability to analyze and understand the economic ramifications of legislation will help ensure the legislature is proactive rather than reactive in its approach to governance. This is a key to success anytime but is particularly crucial in a time of extreme economic uncertainty, where every legislative decision can have far-reaching impacts on our communities and workforce.

The collaboration between the Legislative Council and the University of Maine System is a commendable strategy that leverages academic expertise to develop a robust economic impact statement model. This model will not only ensure a

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comprehensive analysis of legislation across various critical sectors—taxation, housing, healthcare, energy, and education—but will also prioritize the evaluation of laws that significantly affect employment and the broader economy.

Furthermore, the requirement for a report detailing the effectiveness of this pilot project will provide transparency and accountability. It will allow for the assessment of the impact of economic considerations in the legislative process and guide future decisions on expanding the use of economic impact statements.

Our membership urges you to support this resolution. By establishing this pilot project, you will be taking a significant step toward ensuring that economic considerations are front and center in legislative deliberations. This initiative promises to empower lawmakers with the knowledge they need to create policies that foster growth, stability, and prosperity for all Maine residents.

Thank you for your time, and for your continued commitment to Maine’s future.

Respectfully submitted, .



Mike Boughton
Executive Director

