

TESTIMONY OF
Joel Allumbaugh, President & Chief Executive Officer
The Allumbaugh Agency
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
May 5, 2025

L.D. 1673 “Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact Statements in the Legislative Process”

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. My name is Joel Allumbaugh; I am the President & Chief Executive Officer of the Allumbaugh Agency, a full-service employee benefit agency specializing in the design and administration of employee benefit plans. Our customers are Maine small businesses and their employees. I also serve as a Board Member of the Maine Jobs Council. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of LD 1673, *Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact Statements in the Legislative Process*.

As someone who has spent his entire career working at the intersection of health policy, economic reform, and small business advocacy, I have witnessed firsthand the cumulative toll of well-intentioned legislation that lacked adequate economic scrutiny. Whether it is health care mandates, regulatory changes, or labor proposals, the absence of clear, data-driven economic forecasting can result in policy outcomes that hinder rather than help Maine people and businesses.

Maine’s economy is not growing at rates comparable to most other states, and that trend should concern everyone in this room. We routinely fall into the bottom ten nationally in both economic and demographic rankings. Our workforce is shrinking, our population is aging, and our small businesses – who make up the backbone of our economy – are being asked to do more with less under mounting regulatory pressure.

We cannot afford to let these trends continue. Incorporating economic impact statements into the legislative process is not a political gesture – it’s a common-sense practice that ensures lawmakers have access to credible, nonpartisan, timely and accessible analysis of how proposed legislation will affect talent attraction, jobs, investment, income, gross domestic, taxes, and our overall economic competitiveness.

As President & Chief Executive Officer of the Allumbaugh Agency and a Board Member of the Maine Jobs Council, I can say with confidence that data matters. It should inform every decision we make as a state – especially those with long-term implications for our economy. The tools and expertise exist to evaluate economic impact; we simply need the will to make it a standard part of how we govern.

By requiring economic impact statements, we not only improve transparency and accountability – we increase our chances of enacting legislation that genuinely improves the lives of Mainers and our competitive standing nationwide. I urge this committee to support this measure as a vital step toward a more prosperous and forward-thinking Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joel Allumbaugh