



Tiffany Roberts
35 Buttonwood Road
South Berwick, ME 03908
Phone: (207) 210-3287
Tiffany.Roberts@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: Maine Relay 711

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Testimony of Rep. Tiffany Roberts presenting
LD 1673, Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact Statements in the Legislative Process
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Good morning, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Representative Tiffany Roberts, and I represent House District 149, which includes parts of North and South Berwick. Thank you for the opportunity to present **LD 1673, Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact Statements in the Legislative Process**. This bill is an outgrowth of several years of work and research by the Alliance for Maine and the Maine Jobs Council, who will be following me today to provide more information about the need for this legislation.

A recent assessment by the Porter Development Initiative indicates that Maine faces economic growth challenges compared to other states. Their research suggests we have opportunities for improvement in job creation, investment attraction, and business formation. Our wage levels and cost of living present additional considerations for economic development.

Maine's economic and demographic indicators suggest areas where focused attention could be beneficial. We currently rank 43rd nationally in overall economic standing and 41st in venture capital investment. We have the highest percentage of residents over 65 and the second lowest percentage under 18. We also face challenges with our tax structure, electricity costs, healthcare expenses, and overall cost of living. These factors may contribute to Maine businesses being acquired by out-of-state entities.

These indicators suggest an opportunity to strengthen our economic and demographic position. Comprehensive research on legislative implications could help to inform our decision-making process. A coordinated approach might help advance Maine's prosperity, productivity, and competitiveness.

LD 1673 proposes establishing a pilot project to develop and implement economic impact statements for evaluating proposed legislation. The Legislature would partner with public, private, nonprofit, or academic entities to create a methodology for measuring how legislation might affect the state's economic landscape. These statements would provide legislators with

nonpartisan, timely analysis of potential direct and indirect economic effects, including impacts on talent attraction, job creation, investment, income, GDP, and tax revenue. The goal is to support more informed decisions that consider both intended and unintended long-term economic consequences.

More comprehensive information can lead to more effective decision-making.

LD 1673 aims to complement the Legislature's existing work. With bipartisan sponsorship, it could serve as a valuable tool for supporting economic development, increasing prosperity, creating quality jobs, expanding our tax base, and creating conditions that encourage young people to build their futures here in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.