

Placeholder Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

LD 1904, *An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund*

May 12, 2025

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Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting placeholder testimony on LD 1904 because our Legislative Policy Committee will establish its official position on May 14.

Normally, testimony of this nature would provide a sense of our members' likely position on proposed legislation, with a promise to follow up with an official stance. However, with respect to LD 1904 staff remain uncertain of the response.

There are elements of the bill, such as providing access to the revenues necessary to assist municipalities in funding the cost of pursuing shoreland zoning violations, which might be supported by town and city leaders. However, our members might raise concerns with the condition in the bill requiring, win or lose, the municipality to reimburse the fund within six months of a settlement or final adjudication. While we understand this is an "eyes wide open" endeavor, depending on the timing of the decision, it may be months before the municipality, particularly a town meeting community, can raise and collect the repayment funds.

Seeing that LD 1904 is scheduled for a work session on Thursday (5/15), MMA will submit supplemental testimony as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and patience.