



STATE OF MAINE  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF POLICY INNOVATION AND THE FUTURE  
181 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0181

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

*Testimony Neither for Nor Against*

**May 12, 2025**

Senator Tepler, Representative Gramlich, and distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am Brian Hubbell, Senior Advisor in the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF). Thank you for this opportunity to offer this testimony neither for nor against LD 1904.

LD 1904 would charge our office with administering and maintaining what appears to be a revolving loan fund for municipalities' costs for legal challenges to land use violations within the shoreland zone.

From the bill language, we are uncertain whether our office would be expected to screen such requests based on adjudicatory viability or whether it would be solely up to municipalities to determine what circumstances would constitute a qualifying "egregious" violation.

Either way, administration of such a program would be beyond the current scope of GOPIF's work and would require additional staff and resources.

Further, we have reservations about Section 5 of the bill which adds a statutory requirement for the Governor to maintain a balance in the proposed fund thereby privileging it in budget proposals against other competing state needs and priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this legislation and thank you all for your service on this committee.