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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)

In Opposition to

LD 1895, An Act to Require the Removal from a Property Tax Lien the Name of a Previous Owner Who Paid Prorated Property Taxes

May 16, 2025

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1895 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

While municipal officials appreciate the sponsor's approach, they oppose assigning a new task to municipal treasurers because there are remedies available to ensure that the issue being addressed in LD 1895 is prevented. By using a reputable mortgage company, real estate attorney or a purchase and sales agreement, sellers of property can ensure that they will not be left accountable for the buyer's prorated share of property taxes. Because these options exist, there is no need to increase the cost of providing municipal services, as well as the burdens placed on the property taxpayers, by mandating municipalities to prepare and record a tax lien discharge against the seller.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective on this important topic. Please feel free to contact any member of the LPC or the MMA Advocacy team with any questions relating to municipal operations.