



# MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936

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## **Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) In Opposition to**

*LD 1737, An Act to Ensure the Future of Maine's Sporting Camp Heritage*

May 19, 2025

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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1737 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

Municipal officials recognize the importance of all Maine's heritage industries, including sporting camps. As proposed, LD 1737 aims to create a new definition of "commercial sporting camp" while prohibiting the department from requiring basic safety systems, like sprinklers, that would otherwise be required as part of the licensing process for current lodging and eatery establishments. Of concern to municipal officials is the potential for increased strain on already overwhelmed emergency response departments, especially in the small community areas to which this bill applies. In addition, local officials have environmental concerns regarding a prohibition on requiring septic system upgrades. While the bill states that this would apply to systems that are operational, it does not clarify if camps would also be exempt from upgrades if a system were expanded. These prohibitions would prevent camps that are catering to the public from meeting code, and while local code enforcement officers in communities of 1,500 residents or less are not required to inspect buildings to meet the requirements of the Maine Uniform Building and Electrical Code, those buildings must nevertheless be built to meet the MUBEC code.

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.