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## Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Neither For Nor Against

*LD 1973, Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Oversight and Funding Structures for Recovery Residences and Resident Protections*

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 neither for nor against LD 1973 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

The resolve proposed in LD 1973 establishes a commission to study the policies and standards of operation for recovery residences. Municipal officials agree that with recent increases in recovery residence housing and the role local government plays in the process, a review of these policies is appropriate. This bill looks to address residences with 25 or more beds, which is important for the one municipality that is host to a residence of that scale, but it is worth noting that communities that host multiple smaller residences are facing increased financial burdens as well, funded entirely by the property taxpayers. It is possible that proposed legislation that this committee has already heard, which does not limit a stakeholder group's membership to a municipal official from a community that hosts larger facility, may achieve what the sponsor of LD 1973 is looking to achieve.

Regardless of the vehicle used to accomplish the proposed commission, or stakeholder group, municipal leaders request representation from communities hosting all sizes of recovery residences. Additionally, the proposed timeline for a report back, while ambitious, may not provide the time that this topic requires for a full vetting of the policies, administration, funding and oversight of recovery residences in Maine.

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.