



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

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January 7, 2026

Senator Talbot Ross, Senate Chair
Representative Pluecker, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and Distinguished Members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee:

LD 2040, An Act to Survey Food Insecurity in Maine, directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in partnership with outside agencies or other state agencies as necessary, to guide the implementation of the State's strategic plan to end hunger in the State by 2030 with an annual survey report regarding food insecurity in the State.

The cancellation of the USDA Food Insecurity Survey leaves states without public and timely data to measure food insecurity. This legislation would support interagency coordination and public and private partnerships to create state specific data to replace this survey.

Collecting data already available to the public, in a way that is meaningful and measurable, would allow Maine to track its progress in fighting to end hunger.

The Department can be available to provide additional information on LD 2040 and respond to any questions during the upcoming work session.

Sincerely,

Jane McLucas

Jane McLucas
Director of Child Nutrition
Maine Department of Education