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January 13, 2026

Testimony in Support: LD 1998, An Act to Authorize Registration of Certain Cash-dispensing Machines Through the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry and to Limit the Use of Certain Cash-dispensing Machines as Virtual Currency Kiosks

Greetings Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Committee On Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Riley Worth with AARP Maine, the nation's largest nonprofit and nonpartisan organization. On behalf of our nearly 200,000 members statewide, thank you for the opportunity to share testimony today in support of LD 1998.

When we testified in support of the original cryptocurrency kiosk regulatory bill last session, we anticipated that follow-up legislation in the months and years to come would strengthen the state's current role in protecting older Mainers from all manner of cryptocurrency fraud. We believe LD 1998 does just that.

By requiring kiosk operators to hold a money transmitter license, this bill closes a dangerous loophole and ensures these machines are subject to the same rigorous oversight, money laundering standards, and consumer protection as legitimate financial institutions. This is an important guardrail that disrupts the infrastructure many scammers rely on to steal from our vulnerable citizens in Maine. By modernizing registration processes through the nationwide mortgage licensing system, mandating background checks for operators, and creating fees for registration of new machines for kiosks, this bill helps to ensure there is appropriate oversight, regulation, and responsible governance for these types of money transmitters.

As mentioned in our testimony on the first piece of legislation involving cryptocurrency kiosks here in Maine, AARP is pursuing robust regulatory oversight and consumer safety protections to ensure that more Maine people are not taken advantage of by scammers utilizing untraceable cryptocurrency transactions.

AARP Maine is strongly in support of LD 1998, as we believe it further solidifies the strong foundation of cryptocurrency kiosk regulation in the state, without placing undue burdens on their operators, all while protecting older adults and all Mainers across the state.



Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Riley Worth

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