



Town of Winthrop

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January 21, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the committee:

My name is Anthony Wilson, and I serve as the Town Manager of Winthrop. I first want to thank the committee for its support last year of LD 215, *An Act to Establish a Program to Assist Residents of Large Recovery Residences*. That legislation has meaningfully reduced the financial burden on Winthrop taxpayers associated with General Assistance costs from residents of the state's largest recovery home. We are grateful for the committee's leadership on that issue.

I am writing today to respectfully urge the committee to oppose LD 1996, *An Act to Clarify Responsibilities of the State in Laws Governing General Assistance*. This bill would reverse the State's commitment to provide a statewide database to assist municipal General Assistance administrators in determining applicant eligibility.

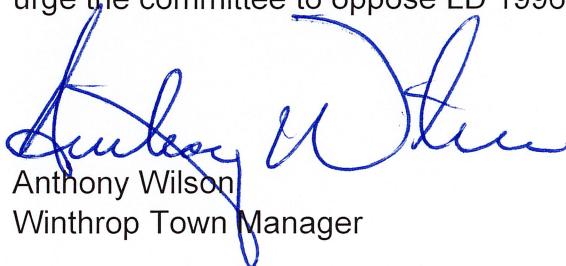
Such a database would be an essential tool for municipalities in administering a state-mandated program fairly, consistently, and efficiently.

Primarily, a database would allow administrators to identify applicants who have been disqualified or denied in another municipality for failure to comply with state General Assistance rules. Winthrop expects to process approximately 500 GA applications this year. It is reasonable to assume that some applicants have been deemed ineligible elsewhere, yet municipalities currently have no practical way to verify that information without contacting other towns individually.

A statewide database would also help prevent applicants from receiving General Assistance from more than one municipality within the same eligibility period. Again, without a centralized system, there is no effective way to detect or prevent this form of duplication.

Municipalities are legally required to administer the State's General Assistance program. In turn, the State should provide the tools necessary to carry out that responsibility accurately and efficiently. Doing so promotes program integrity and represents a responsible use of taxpayer resources.

For these reasons, on behalf of the Town of Winthrop and its taxpayers, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose LD 1996.


Anthony Wilson
Winthrop Town Manager