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*Testimony of Representative Jennifer Poirier presenting*

## **LD 529 “An Act to Remove the Annual Filing Requirement in the Property Tax Stabilization Laws”**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation*

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Jennifer Poirier, and I proudly represent House District 70, which is comprised of Skowhegan. I am pleased to stand before you today to present **LD 529, An Act to Remove the Annual Filing Requirement in the Property Tax Stabilization Laws**.

Throughout last summer and fall, I had the opportunity to discuss the Property Tax Stabilization Laws with many of my constituents. So many seniors were thrilled and relieved that they could now have predictable property tax bills with the new freeze on their tax rates.

As I spoke to people, I realized that what may seem like a simple process to you and I, was more complex to many seniors. I assisted people to fill out the forms properly and stressed the importance of turning the paperwork in to their town office before the deadline. When I told people that they needed to apply each year to keep receiving the tax freeze, I was often met with worry. People questioned why they must reapply annually, and they worry that they will forget or not have someone available to help them fill out the form.

LD 529 removes the annual filing requirement. Instead of filing every year, a person would need to report a change in residency or the death of a recipient to their clerk's office. This bill will streamline the process and help seniors continue to receive the benefits of the freeze without worrying about deadlines. Changing the annual requirement will also benefit municipal clerks by decreasing the number of annual applications which they are required to process.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to support LD 529 and I thank you for your consideration.

I would be glad to answer any questions.

Rep. Jennifer Poirier