



Glenn "Chip" Curry
Senator, District 11

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Chip Curry introducing
**LD 1755, "An Act to Exempt All Youth Development Nonprofit Organizations
from Sales Tax and the Service Provider Tax"**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
May 9, 2023

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and distinguished colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, I am Senator Chip Curry, and I represent the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County. Today I am here to present LD 1755, "An Act to Exempt All Youth Development Nonprofit Organizations from Sales Tax and the Service Provider Tax."

LD 1755 aims to expand the current tax exemptions for nonprofit youth organizations to include those beyond athletic instruction. As the law stands now, many valuable youth development organizations must pay sales taxes simply because their focus is not primarily athletic instruction. Expanding the exemption can ensure a more equitable and inclusive environment for all youth development organizations in Maine.

By providing this sales tax exemption, we can increase the available funds for youth programs, allowing organizations to reinvest in services and resources that directly benefit Maine's young people. This bill is responsive to our youth's diverse interests and needs, helping them explore their passions and develop their skills in many areas.

Maine's youth organizations offer a diverse array of programs that contribute to the growth of vibrant and inclusive communities. For example, in my district, The Game Loft focuses on positive youth development through non-electronic games and community involvement. However, athletics is not their primary focus, so they are ineligible for this exemption.

I'm sure the exemption for youth development organizations that primarily focus on athletics originates from a time when athletics was the dominant strategy for promoting youth leadership and character development. Today there are a variety of service organizations, arts groups, leadership clubs, robotics clubs, and more. By including organizations like these, including The Game Loft, in the tax exemptions, we can both save these organizations money and appropriately recognize the community benefits they provide.



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LD 1755 represents a small but meaningful opportunity for us to invest in the future of our state by supporting all nonprofit youth development organizations, regardless of the medium they use to promote the character, competence, and leadership of our next generation.

I ask this committee to support LD 1755 and make a lasting impact on the lives of Maine's youth and the communities they call home. Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chip Curry".

Chip Curry
State Senator, District 11
Representing the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County