



MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936

60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486
1-800-452-8786 (in state) | (t) 207-623-8428
(f) 207-624-0129

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)

LD 209, An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

Neither For Nor Against Part S – General Assistance

January 24, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Gattine, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name in Amanda Campbell and I am submitting testimony Neither For Nor Against Part S of LD 209 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association.

MMA's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) is tasked with debating and voting on positions for bills with a municipal impact. Since the LPC meets for the first time on January 30th, I will provide additional testimony next week after an official position has been established.

As proposed in Part S, unless it is used to fund temporary housing or emergency shelters and for certain hardships, General Assistance applicants are limited to three months of housing assistance and 30 days of aid for all other non-housing related living expenses during a 12-month period. Under the current law, provided applicants meet all eligibility requirements, there is no limit on the number of months in which aid can be provided. However, there is a limit on the value of the assistance provided, which is calculated according to the formula found in Title 22, §4305.

Municipal officials understand and appreciate the need for the State to make tough decisions to ensure the implementation of an appropriately funded and balanced budget. We also recognize that the proposed amendment seeks to return GA to its historic "program of last resort" status. This proposed change will certainly reduce both state and local costs, but at what human cost? Several questions have been raised by members that staff are unable to answer. Answers to those questions will be key in determining both how the proposed changes may impact communities and the final position the Association will take.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and for your patience while the Association comes to an official position on this section of Governor Mills' FY 25 Supplemental Budget. I look forward to sharing the municipal perspective on this important state mandated and locally provided service.