



**MAINE MUNICIPAL  
ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936**

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**Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association**

*LD 210 - An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027*

**In Support of Part D (Pages 6-42)**

February 5, 2025

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Sen. Rotundo, Rep. Gattine, Sen. Curry, Rep. Gere and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Housing and Economic Development, my name is Rebecca Graham, and I am providing testimony in support of Part D of LD 210 on behalf of Maine Municipal Association.

The Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) has an enormous and welcomed remit to be a one stop shop to support communities to access grants to build and protect the community for the future, technical support in achieving community goals and most importantly acting as a streamlining conduit for separate and interdependent regulatory guidance that is only integrated when municipal officials attempt to apply it on the ground.

Municipal officials across the state will openly share that since the loss of the former State Planning Office, communication has been challenging between several different but interconnected departments that at times are directing municipalities to act in ways that conflict with the directives from another state agency. MOCA, which is currently an office of one, is committed to coordinating those demands that will help to preemptively identify conflicts, provide clear guidance to municipalities, and enable more effective planning and governance. The support for this office in Part D is vital to achieve any of the housing or economic goals passed by this Legislature.

Officials ask that you think clearly and deliberately on how to support the municipal delivery of the growth goals you discuss this session with adequate technical support and resources that enable volunteer boards and municipalities with no regional planning agencies to build for their future. When you support the entities that help make public policy achievable for the 407 communities in Maine with the town meeting form of government, you make it achievable for all 487 communities. It is for all these reasons that the Association asks you to support the initiatives under Part D and the Maine Office of Community Affairs more generally.