



Department of the Secretary of State

Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

TESTIMONY OF SHENNA BELLOWS, SECRETARY OF STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and State and
Local Government

February 28, 2025

L.D. 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

Senators Rotundo and Baldacci, Representatives Gattine and Salisbury, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and State and Local Government, my name is Shenna Bellows and I am the Secretary of State. I am here today to present testimony in support of those items presented in the 2026-2027 Biennial Budget for the Department of the Secretary of State.

Department information begins on page **A-617** of the **Budget Document**.

Administration – Archives 0050

There are 3 General Fund initiatives:

1. Provides one-time funding for the refresh of computer equipment for the Maine State Archives. The All Other request is **\$80,600 in FY 2025-26** and **\$0 in FY2026-27**.

This request is for lifecycle replacement of personal computers, monitors, printers and desktop scanners for Bureau staff to increase productivity and efficiency and avoid equipment failures requiring emergency replacement.

2. Provides one-time funding for replacement of a records management database. The All Other request is **\$0 in FY 2025-26** and **\$150,000 in FY2026-27**.

The Maine State Archives is responsible for all state records for all agencies – both archival and also records that are on records retention schedules of varying lengths. Given the volume of records we maintain, it's critically important that we accurately track them and the appropriate retention schedules to ensure destruction of records that

are not archival. This management system ensures that the state does not have to warehouse unnecessary records but also ensures that vital archival records are maintained. Maine State Archives currently maintains all records retention schedules, records transfer forms, and list of approved records officer in an old Access database that is failing after its 30 years of use. The Archives will issue an RFP to select and acquire a new, modern, and stable records management database to ensure continued operations.

3. Provides funding for increases in technology costs in accordance with MaineIT rate structure. The All Other request is **\$1,545 in FY 2025-26** and **\$1,545 in FY2026-27**.

Expenses from MaineIT have increased. This initiative seeks to provide funding for the increases. We depend upon MaineIT for network support, which safeguards all of our efforts to make records accessible in a secure way to the public online.

This concludes my testimony on the items included in the Governor's proposed General Fund FY 2026-27 budget.

I would be happy to answer questions now or at the work session.

Thank you.