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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)

Neither For Nor Against

LD 294, An Act to Expand Municipal Volunteer Program Eligibility Requirements in the Municipal Property Tax Assistance Laws

March 5, 2025

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony neither for nor against LD 294 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

This session, the LPC proactively established a platform of bills intended to bolster and support the property taxpayers of Maine. Through initiatives across the legislative board, they are committed to protecting the interests of their residents and to reducing the burden of property taxes.

LD 294 would expand the opportunities within the Municipal Property Tax Assistance program to include volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical services personnel of any age.

In recognition that not all communities may be inclined or prepared to offer this type of assistance, municipal officials appreciate the continued voluntary nature of the program. For municipalities that consider these proposed expansions beneficial, these options can provide property tax relief to eligible taxpayers. LPC members questioned how this program might work in communities where volunteer firefighters are paid a wage or stipend.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective on this important topic. Please feel free to contact any member of the LPC or the MMA Advocacy team with any questions relating to municipal operations.