



TESTIMONY OF THOMAS RECORD
FOR THE MAINE ASSOCIATION OF RETIREES
IN SUPPORT OF
LD 715, AN ACT TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF BY INCREASING THE
AVAILABILITY OF THE PROPERTY TAX FAIRNESS CREDIT BASE ON A
RESIDENT'S AGE AND INCOME
PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION
MARCH 5, 2025

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, Members of the Committee, good morning. My name is Tom Record. I am a resident of Farmingdale and speak today on behalf of the Maine Association of Retirees (MAR). MAR is a nonprofit association of 11,000 Maine public service retirees.

During Maine Revenue Services briefing for the Committee earlier this session, several committee members expressed concern with the role of rising property taxes throughout Maine making it difficult for people, and particularly the elderly with limited and often fixed incomes, to remain in their family homes. MAR shares that concern.

As we understand LD 715, it does not alter any of the current ways in which Mainers may now qualify for the property tax fairness credit. But it does provide an additional way to qualify for those age 65 or older with a "benefit base" of \$36,000 or less. For those people, the property tax would only need to exceed 3% of the benefit base rather than the 4% otherwise applicable.

MAR does not know how many Mainers would be able to qualify for the property tax fairness credit under the new criteria who were not otherwise eligible. That would require consideration of total adjusted income levels of property owners 65 years old or older, their Maine state income tax levels as well as their property tax levels—all information which MAR does not have. We look forward to perhaps learning more about that as this bill moves forward. But our support for LD 715 is rooted in an appreciation that this bill provides specific, narrowly targeted relief for a recognized problem to those most in need.

Thank you. I would be happy to try to respond to any questions the Committee may have.

Leading the Way for Maine Retirees

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