

*132nd Legislature*  
***Senate  
of Maine***  
*Senate District 31*

*Senator Donna Bailey*  
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*Testimony of Senator Donna Bailey introducing*  
**LD 580, An Act to Protect Maine Consumers by Prohibiting Fees Charged for Receiving  
Paper Statements from Financial Institutions and Credit Card Issuers**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services*  
**Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

Representative Mathieson, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services, as you know, my name is Donna Bailey, and I proudly represent Senate District 31, which includes Buxton, Old Orchard Beach, and Saco. Today I am pleased to introduce my bill LD 580, “An Act to Protect Maine Consumers by Prohibiting Fees Charged for Receiving Paper Statements from Financial Institutions and Credit Card Issuers.”

Like other bills I am working on, I got this bill idea from a constituent, and I am grateful they contacted me. They made me aware of an issue here in Maine: Some financial institutions and credit card companies charge fees for customers who decline to opt in to paperless statements.

These fees negatively affect older, retired Mainers who live on fixed incomes, as well as Mainers who do not have access to computers or the internet. I am concerned about these fees in Maine, which – as we all know – is a largely rural state with one of the oldest populations in the country. No one should have to pay additional fees for doing their basic banking. As Mainers are working on their household budgets, they should not have to make hard decisions between affording the basics – clothes, food, medicine – and paying fees for paper statements. LD 580 seeks to protect Mainers from these fees.

Nationwide, only two states have banned these fees: New York and Pennsylvania. With LD 580, can make Maine the third. The bill is modeled on the legislation from New York that prohibits financial institutions and credit card companies from charging customers for receiving paper statements. As I worked on drafting the bill, I ensured that it did not also prohibit incentives for bank and credit card customers to switch to paperless statements. Instead, it prohibits fees for customers choosing to receive paper statements in the mail.

Without a federal law that bans this unfair business practice, we have an opportunity to change Maine state law and protect Maine consumers from these fees. It would offer some financial relief at a time when Mainers are facing some difficult financial decisions in their lives. Let us eliminate this unnecessary fee that banks and credit card companies are passing onto their

customers.

I thank the Committee for its time, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Bailey', with a long, sweeping underline.

**Donna Bailey**  
State Senator, Senate District 31  
*Buxton, Old Orchard Beach, and Saco*