



Teresa S. Pierce  
Senator, District 25  
Senate Majority Leader

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

6 Waites Landing Road  
Falmouth, ME 04105

***Testimony of Senate Majority Leader Teresa S. Pierce introducing  
LD 909, An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Survivors  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation  
March 13, 2025***

Chair Grohoski, Chair Cloutier, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Teresa S. Pierce. I serve as the Senate Majority Leader, representing Senate District 25, which includes Falmouth, Cumberland, North Yarmouth, Yarmouth (majority), Gray, and Long Island. I am pleased to be here today to introduce **LD 909, An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Survivors**.

Working with Lieutenant Colonel Richard Flynn of Gray, a retired artillery officer in the U.S. Army for 28 years, and the Gray American Legion Post 86, Gray's oldest non-profit, I am glad to bring this bill forward. An identical version, LD 1737, was held by the Governor at the end of the 131st Legislature, which effectively voided it and the work of this committee.

Our service members are some of the bravest, most selfless people around. Typically at the beginning of their adult life, they make a commitment to our country, setting aside their personal ambitions for the overall defense and security of our freedoms. All who have served have earned an expansion in property tax relief, and I encourage the Committee to work collaboratively to develop a fair and meaningful benefit for our service members.

This bill would expand benefits by clarifying that veterans are no longer required to have served during a federally recognized war period to receive these benefits. It also provides that veterans who are 62 years of age or older receive an exemption of up to \$6,000 of the just value of the property.

Veterans may also receive an exemption of between \$10,000 and \$50,000 based on their United States Department of Veterans Affairs service connected disability rating. Finally, the bill provides that a veteran's unremarried surviving spouse, minor child or parent remains eligible for the benefit that the veteran would be eligible for if the veteran was living.

I appreciate the opportunity to present this bill, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.