



**MAINE MUNICIPAL  
ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936**

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**Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association**

**In Support For**

***LD 154 – An Act to Amend the Transportation Laws***

April 1, 2025

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Sen. Nangle, Rep. Crafts, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Rebecca Graham, and I am submitting testimony in support for LD 154 at the direction of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). Our LPC is made up of individuals from across Maine with municipal officials elected by their peers across Maine's 35 Senate districts representing communities with very different access to available enforcement resources and local capacity.

Section 2 of the bill updates existing law to reflect how local funds received from the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) are currently used and shifts the responsibility for highways back to the department. Maine's municipalities receive a tiny fraction —9 percent of the Department of Transportation budget for roads and bridges which equated to roughly \$21 million in November of 2021. Conversely, municipalities spent a statewide estimated \$358 million in costs on the care and maintenance of roads which includes both winter maintenance and construction and repair in the same budget cycle for 2022. This is less than 5% of what municipal property tax is dedicated to the care and maintenance of roads annually statewide. The amount of money an average municipality receives from the program in many communities will barely replace a single culvert thus officials have little concern about the changes.

To this end, officials ask for careful consideration of modifications to the LRAP program that may result in even lower amounts of funds received from state partners for the task of keeping road infrastructure passable. These funds have remained flat over the past 10 years while the costs for the task have tripled during the same time period. The statewide total average amount received by a municipality from the LRAP program is roughly \$43,500, while the statewide municipal average spend on the care and maintenance of roads is \$14.5 million. The average amongst the lowest population group municipalities below 500 residents (82 municipalities) is \$958,520. This is the context that municipalities hope the committee will understand while you undertake negotiations for future budget allocations and review public policy that may result in increased costs for road maintenance.