



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep Ann Matlack, introducing

LD 1112 Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Requiring Not Less Than 90 Percent State Reimbursement for Residential Real Estate Property Tax Exemptions and to Establish a Minimum Homestead Exemption

Before the Taxation Committee

Good morning, Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and respected colleagues on the Taxation Committee. My name is Ann Matlack and I represent House District 43, which includes the communities of Cushing, Thomaston, South Thomaston, St George and part of Owls Head.

I am here today to present **LD 1112, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Requiring Not Less Than 90 Percent State Reimbursement for Residential Real Estate Property Tax Exemptions and to Establish a Minimum Homestead Exemption.**

This Resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require the Legislature to reimburse municipalities for not less than 90% of the lost property tax revenue associated with residential real estate exemptions extended to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and persons who are legally blind and for qualifying homesteads of permanent residents of this State.

The Resolution also establishes the minimum homestead exemption at \$50,000, which must be adjusted annually by the percentage change in the consumer price index, or similar inflationary index.

In addition, this Resolution provides that, at a minimum, no less than 5% of state sales and income tax revenues must be shared with municipalities and protects future increases in the percentage of state sales and income tax revenues distributed to municipalities.

I ask that you hold your questions for the municipal officials who will be following me. Thank you for allowing me to present this Resolution today.