



RETAIL
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MAINE
Voice of Maine Retail

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April 3, 2025

Senator Glenn “Chip” Curry, Chair

Representative Traci Gere, Chair

Members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee

RE: Testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 1159, An Act to Prohibit Businesses from Refusing to Accept Cash for In-person Payments

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Gere and members of the HED Committee:

My name is Curtis Picard and I am the President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. I am a resident of Topsham. We have more than 350 members statewide and represent retailers of all sizes. Maine’s retailers employ more than 85,000 Mainers. I am here today to testify in opposition to LD 1159.

In my experience, I’ve seen retail businesses that are cash-only and businesses that are credit/debit card only. Most businesses freely accept both cash and credit, but some choose not to and it should be their decision. Ultimately, it is up to the consumer whether or not they want to patronize those businesses, and the business will succeed or fail accordingly.

As you know, I testified before this committee on a similar bills LD 621 in 2023, and LD 1217 in 2021. Both times, the committee voted the both those bills Ought Not to Pass. I continue to hold the same concerns with LD 1159. While this bill includes a \$2,000 transaction limit, it does not address the fundamental issues of government overreach, business operational costs, and potential safety concerns.

Government Overreach: Businesses should have the autonomy to decide their preferred methods of payment. Mandating cash acceptance interferes with their ability to manage costs, streamline operations, and cater to their specific business model.

Operational Costs and Inefficiencies: Accepting cash involves costs such as cash handling, security measures, bank deposits, and potential employee theft. These costs can be particularly

burdensome for small businesses with limited resources. The \$2,000 limit does not negate these costs; it simply caps the transaction amount.

Safety and Security Concerns: Businesses, especially those operating in high-risk environments or with limited staffing, face security risks associated with handling large amounts of cash. Kiosks in malls, food trucks, and outdoor venues are particularly vulnerable. While the \$2,000 limit reduces the risk, it does not eliminate it entirely.

Impact on Innovation and Emerging Payment Technologies: This bill stifles innovation by discouraging businesses from adopting new, efficient, and contactless payment methods.

Unintended Consequences: This bill could create issues with BOPIS (buy online, pick up in store) transactions, vending machines, EV chargers, and other modern retail practices.

Lack of Demonstrated Need: There is no evidence of a widespread problem of businesses refusing cash payments to the detriment of consumers in Maine.

Limiting the bill to transactions of \$2,000 or less does not alleviate these concerns.

I urge the committee to reject this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts with you.

Sincerely,

Curtis Picard, CAE
President and CEO