



# MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936

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## Addendum to the Maine Municipal Association's Testimony

### Amended Version of

### LD 1235, *An Act to Establish Transparency in Opioid Settlement Funds Allocated to Municipalities or Counties*

April 3, 2025

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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Service Committee, my name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting an addendum to MMA's previously submitted testimony on LD 1235 for two reasons.

The first is that the amendment being advanced by the bill's sponsor is a significant departure from the originally printed bill and one that MMA's Legislative Policy Committee has not had an opportunity to review. As indicated in the association's position on LD 110, municipal officials understand the need for transparency and the reporting requirements associated with the use of opioid settlement funds. However, we are not sure how our members would react to the investment and remittance requirements proposed in the amended version of LD 1235.

Second, from a staff perspective, we question the efficacy and reason for requiring municipalities to place funds in interest bearing accounts, only to have the state reap the resulting benefits. If the state feels that these funds should be invested in ways that generate additional income, then at the very least those resulting revenues should be used to support the programs developed locally via use of the settlement funds.

Additionally, there is nothing that would prevent the state from investing and using its revenue as proposed in the amendment.

Thank you for your consideration of the concerns raised in MMA's testimony. Should our policy committee have an opportunity to review the amendment for LD 1235 prior to the bill's work session, we will submit additional testimony for your consideration.