



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Tracy L. Quint

318 Westford Hill Rd.
Hodgdon, ME 04730
Residence: (207) 217-4493
Tracy.Quint@legislature.maine.gov

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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health & Human Services Committee, I am Representative Tracy Quint of House District 8.

Thank you for the opportunity to present LD 1046 *"An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency Requirement for Receiving Municipal General Assistance."*

In Maine, we have a proud heritage of helping our own. We are known for our suppers, whether they be community suppers, senior get-togethers, or fundraising suppers to support a local resident suddenly beset with tragedy. We reach out to support one another.

We are hard-working and generous people. Farming neighbors helping one another rush to get the hay in before the rains come. Neighbors are dropping off meals to someone with a new and frightening medical diagnosis.

This sort of willingness to share, to give, has now put many communities in Maine in financial jeopardy. Not just communities, but our State as a whole. Our generosity is being abused on an enormous scale. Anyone can walk into our state and immediately access the financial resources meant to help our most vulnerable. They can then drift from town to town, taking advantage of our general assistance programs, exhausting these funds until there is nothing left.

I do believe in having a safety net for those who have contributed to our state who fall on hard times and may need assistance to get back on their feet. Life can be so very hard. Tragedies occur. What disturbs me is that there are those who have no intention of contributing, but instead take advantage of what is meant to be a temporary support and have it allowed it to become their lifestyle. They deplete and squander these funds.

This bill seeks to help in one area. It sets a standard of residency to be eligible for general assistance. It seeks to protect our residents and taxpayers who are being taken advantage of. Our state should not be a destination point for those seeking to abuse our kindness and goodwill. No part of the state should be able, through their local unsustainable misappropriation, to plunder state resources in flagrant disregard to the harm caused to the financial stability of our state. Community resources should be secured for the residents and taxpayers of that community not be consumed by an individual entering a community and demanding assistance that they should never be entitled to.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I ask that this committee support establishing a residency requirement be met before general assistance- our tax dollars- are given away.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy L. Quint".

Tracy L. Quint
State Representative