



Stacy Brenner
Senator, District 30

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Stacy Brenner introducing
LD 25, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Wastewater Treatment Facility Planning and Construction of Infrastructure Projects
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

April 10, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. My name is Stacy Brenner and I represent Senate District 30, which includes most of Scarborough and all of Gorham. I am here today to introduce LD 25, "*An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Wastewater Treatment Facility Planning and Construction of Infrastructure Projects*." I've agreed to sponsor this bill on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection.

During my time serving on the Legislature's Environment and Natural Resource Committee, I have seen firsthand how critical wastewater infrastructure is to protecting Maine's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Towns and cities across the state are struggling with outdated systems and the rising costs of upgrades. This bond would provide \$50 million that would be administered by DEP to provide grants to municipal wastewater treatment facilities to plan and construct wastewater sludge management infrastructure. All municipal wastewater treatment facilities generate sludge as a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process. The discovery of PFAS contamination in wastewater sludge a few years ago led to a ban on utilization of sludge via land spreading or composting. Now the only sludge disposal option in Maine is landfilling, and landfill capacity is limited. Also, most sludges are too wet to be directly landfilled without additional bulking material being added. LD 25 allows us to be proactive and to take meaningful action to address these infrastructure challenges.

This bond would be used to fund technologies at municipal wastewater treatment facilities that would dry the sludge so that it can be more easily landfilled and reduce or eliminate the need for additional bulking material to be added. I know that this issue is of great concern to the towns and districts that operate our wastewater treatment facilities. I expect you will be hearing testimony from many of them today.

I urge this committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 25. There's more to this bill, but I will leave the details to Commissioner Loyzim who will follow me, and you will likely want to direct your questions to her. Thank you for your time.

Stacy Brenner
State Senator, District 30