

## Members of the Committee on Educational and Cultural Affairs

I am Lawrence Buggia of Monmouth here to support LD1282 with the condition that Sec. 1 be further amended to add "or Municipal Comprehensive plan."

The referendum question did not state that the historic building had to be on the National Register of Historic Buildings (NRHB). If the question had clearly stated that NRHB status was required, then I would not have voted for it. As a trustee for two buildings on the NRHB, I am well aware of the enormous cost involved in restoring and maintaining these buildings to their requirements. Furthermore they only benefit a small percentage of the population.

Every Maine town has an historic building that probably would not be eligible for the NRHB, but could be preserved and utilized as a community center or government offices for example. Local contractors could be used to bring the building up to code for greater public use. Old libraries, Grange halls, town buildings, schools, mills and stores could be preserved and utilized to benefit the majority of people.

Only about 7% of Maine towns have Historic Preservation Ordinances which would further restrict what towns could apply for these grants. By adding "or Municipal Comprehensive plan" which would identify historic buildings, every Maine town could easily be eligible to apply for these grants. This would seem to be the best outcome for the taxpayers of Maine.