



Dan Shagoury

P.O. Box 202

Hallowell, ME 04347

Phone: 207-242-2169

Dan.Shagoury@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

April 24, 2025

Testimony of Representative Dan Shagoury introducing
**LD 1614, Resolve, to Facilitate the Ability of the Maine State
Museum to Acquire and Preserve Special Collections**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Good afternoon, Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. I am Representative Dan Shagoury, and I represent House District 55 – the communities of Hallowell, Manchester and West Gardiner. I am pleased to introduce **LD 1614, Resolve, to Facilitate the Ability of the Maine State Museum to Acquire and Preserve Special Collections**.

I am submitting this bill on behalf of a constituent, Steve Thompson, who has a truly remarkable collection on Maine-related harness racing memorabilia. He will be speaking after me, and I will leave it to him to describe the collection, but I have seen it and it is very impressive and I feel it is worth keeping intact for future generations of Mainers.

We had discussions with the museum, but one reason they couldn't fully consider it was because they simply didn't have the right space for such a large collection. I find that a real shame. Not just because of this collection in particular, although I do find it be historically significant. I feel that way more because I am sure there are other collections around the state that really do, as they say "belong in a museum."

Now, I am not a professional, so it is not up to me to tell the museum that they have to take this, or any other particular collection. They are the professionals, and that is their call. I put this bill in to give them the option of taking a truly significant collection, should the opportunity come up.

I have heard that the official position is that there is no space available and that new space would have to be built. I certainly don't want that, but I have a hard time believing that there is "no space." What I would really like for this committee to do is to direct DAFS to provide a list of unused space the state has. It can be space that may need a little work, like the old DHHS building or some of the unused buildings at the old AMHI campus, but it would be good to know

if they have a master list of all the unused property and, better still, a master plan for its eventual use or disposition. If not, then one should be developed.

As I said before, it would be a shame if the museum could not preserve historically significant artifacts because they didn't have the space, and it would be especially tragic if the space were really available and just not identified as such.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you will support this bill.