



TESTIMONY OF ALICIA REA, ESQ.  
LD 1410 – Ought to Pass

**An Act to Provide Due Process in Confiscation and Destruction of  
Personal Items of Unhoused Persons**

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
April 28, 2025

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, greetings. My name is Alicia Rea and I am a policy fellow at the ACLU of Maine, a statewide organization committed to advancing and preserving civil liberties guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions. On behalf of our members, I urge you to support LD 1410.

LD 1410 would protect constitutional due process rights for unhoused people. The due process requirements in this bill are needed because local and state government officials routinely confiscate and destroy the personal property of unhoused people.

People experiencing homelessness are increasingly harassed and criminalized for trying to survive in public spaces. But when a person loses their housing, they retain their legal rights and freedoms.

The ACLU of Maine condemns the ongoing, forcible displacement of unhoused residents through the use of encampment sweeps, camping and loitering bans, and other removal. Despite growing momentum for humane and constitutional approaches to homelessness by the public, state and local officials, too often government entities turn to punishment and criminalization to enforce camping and loitering bans. These bans leave unhoused people with no public space in which to exist.

In light of the continued use of forcible displacement to remove unhoused people from public lands, LD 1410 will enshrine some basic protection and due process to those who are caught up in the cycle of sweeps. Enacting this bill is a common-sense, initial step this committee can take to further the protection of fundamental rights of unhoused residents. The procedural due process rights described in LD 1410 are court-recognized constitutional rights.

A number of federal and state courts have recognized that unhoused people retain protected interests in their property and that the due process rights of



Maine

By providing notice and due process to unhoused individuals, Maine can avoid violating these important constitutional principles in future campsite removals and sweeps.

We urge you to support LD 1410.

Thank you for your time and attention.