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**THE MAINE SENATE**  
132nd Legislature

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Augusta, Maine 04333

Senator Joe Baldacci testimony presenting

**LD 1304 "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Limit Property Tax Increases for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older and Shift the Tax Burden to State Gaming Revenues."**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

May 1, 2025

Good morning Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. My name is Joe Baldacci, and I represent Senate District 9, which includes Bangor and Hermon. I am pleased today to introduce **LD 1304, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Limit Property Tax Increases for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older and Shift the Tax Burden to State Gaming Revenues."**

The number one concern of hundreds of thousands of Maine homeowners is the escalating hikes in local property taxes around the state.

In Bangor and around Maine, fairly aggressive property revaluations are underway and we, as legislators, need to address those concerns. Why a tax cap for seniors? That is easy if we review some of the important facts about our state:

1. The average age of the population is the oldest in the United States
2. Maine Seniors earning less than 55K per year — 30% pay rent and a whopping 65% are in their own homes.
3. 26% of all Maine seniors live alone, a relatively high percentage
4. In fact, Maine seniors are more likely to be widowed than in neighboring states like New Hampshire or Vermont.
5. As of 2022, there were 312,000 seniors in Maine, an increase of 37.9% over the previous decade
6. An AARP survey recently found, unsurprisingly, that the overwhelming majority of seniors want to age in place in their own homes and communities. And that is generally a very positive thing.
7. According to national studies, the median household income of seniors who own their own home is \$38,640 and the median home value in 2021 was 268K. A reasonable tax cap makes sense.

It is more than anecdotal. It's based on several important factors that shape the demographics of our state. And it is in the state's long term interests in having people age in their own homes & communities as much as possible.

Maine generates nearly a half billion in lottery sales and in 2024 another half billion in sports betting handle. A 2% service fee or tax should generate approximately \$20m a year in revenue. Additional revenues to help fund the 90% municipal reimbursement.

One final important note is that this is a Constitutional Amendment to make tax relief for seniors permanent. It is well past time to leave people to debate, discuss, and decide — putting the real power on this issue back in the hands of Maine people right where it belongs.

I ask for your help & support in passing and letting Maine voters decide on how we deliver property relief for Maine seniors.