



Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony in Support of
LD 1770, "An Act to Provide Immediate and Long-term Property Tax Relief to Maine
Households"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
May 1, 2025

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23, including Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. I'm pleased to be here today to introduce LD 1770, "An Act to Provide Immediate and Long-term Property Tax Relief to Maine Households."

First, I want to thank Speaker Fecteau for joining me in sponsoring this bill, along with a bipartisan group of colleagues who share a commitment to tackling one of the most persistent concerns we hear from our constituents: the pinch of property taxes.

In listening to Mainers from all corners of the state, one concern rises to the top: the mounting pressure of property taxes. From older Mainers hoping to age in place, to families struggling with rising costs, to young people trying to establish roots—Mainers are calling for relief.

The fact that this Committee is considering more than 25 property tax-related bills this session underscores how widespread the concern truly is. Whether from rural towns, coastal communities, or regional service centers, the message is consistent: property taxes can put a real strain on household budgets.

We have taken meaningful steps in recent years — expanding the Property Tax Fairness Credit and State Property Tax Deferral Program, strengthening the Homestead Exemption, increasing municipal revenue sharing, and seeing the dollars sent to municipalities via revenue sharing increase. I commend the progress we've made and stand by it. But despite these efforts, property taxes remain unaffordable for many Mainers and continue to rise year after year in some parts of the state—leaving people wondering why relief hasn't translated into lower bills.

LD 1770 offers a two-part approach to tackle this challenge:

- First, it increases the maximum benefit under the Property Tax Fairness Credit — because this is one of our most targeted tools to get relief directly to those who need it most. By strengthening this credit now, we can better support low- and middle-income Mainers who are disproportionately impacted by rising property taxes.
- Second, it establishes a Property Tax Relief Task Force — a comprehensive, data-driven effort to examine how to reduce the strain on households. The goal is to examine holistically how the state can support towns with robust, sustainable property tax measures that positively impact the lives of residents. No idea — no matter how big or complex — should be left off the table as we work to deliver real and lasting relief.

We need a clearer, statewide understanding of where the system is falling short — whether in assessment trends, challenges at the municipal level, housing market pressures, or constitutional limitations on the role of state government in this discussion — and what long-term structural changes are needed to ensure relief reaches Maine people.

LD 1770 is about matching the urgency we're all hearing from constituents with both immediate action and long-term strategy. It delivers targeted relief now, and it lays the groundwork for smarter reforms ahead.

I also recognize that many other important proposals this session are tackling different pieces of the property tax puzzle. I welcome the Committee's input in shaping the task force's scope and membership to ensure we are asking the right questions and including all the relevant perspectives. I truly believe this work will be stronger if we build it together.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. I respectfully urge your support and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

President of the Senate, Senate District 23

Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth