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Senator, District 4



1931
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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

LD 1931, "An Act to Annually Reimburse the Town of Charleston for 43 Percent of Property Tax Revenue Lost Due to the Mountain View Correctional Facility's Tax-exempt Status"
Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
May 14, 2025

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:

My name is Stacey Guerin and I have the honor of representing Senate District 4. I'm here to express my strong support for LD 1931, "An Act to Annually Reimburse the Town of Charleston for 43 Percent of Property Tax Revenue Lost Due to the Mountain View Correctional Facility's Tax-exempt Status" which would provide partial reimbursement to the Town of Charleston for property tax revenue lost due to the Mountain View Correctional Facility's tax-exempt status.

Hosting a state correctional facility like Mountain View is no small responsibility. While it brings jobs and a measure of economic activity, it also places real and ongoing demands on local services. Everything from fire and emergency response to road maintenance and infrastructure. Yet, because the facility is exempt from local property taxes, Charleston has had to bear those costs alone.

What LD 1931 proposes is fair and measured. It doesn't ask the state to cover the full loss, but to contribute 43%—a significant but reasonable amount that would help relieve some of the financial pressure on the town's budget. For a small community like Charleston, even partial relief can make a meaningful difference.

Other towns in Maine that host tax-exempt state facilities—such as Warren, home to the Maine State Prison, and South Windham, which hosts the Maine Correctional Center—receive similar support. Charleston deserves to be treated with the same fairness. This bill simply acknowledges that while state institutions benefit all of us, the burden of supporting them shouldn't fall entirely on the shoulders of one small town.

As someone who understands the importance of local government and the strain that budget gaps can create, I believe this bill is a step toward more equitable treatment for rural communities. It recognizes the partnership that needs to exist between state and town, and the importance of making that partnership work for everyone.

I respectfully urge you to support this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.