



Glenn "Chip" Curry
Senator, District 11

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Chip Curry introducing
**LD 1995, "An Act to Require the Maine Office of Community Affairs to Establish
a Technical Assistance Materials Hub"**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
January 8, 2026*

Representative Gere and distinguished colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Chip Curry. I represent Senate District 11, which includes all 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County. Thank you for the opportunity to present LD 1995, "An Act to Require the Maine Office of Community Affairs to Establish a Technical Assistance Materials Hub."

When this committee worked closely with the Administration to create the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA), one of our central goals was to make it easier for communities to find the information and assistance they need to solve local problems. LD 1995 is a natural extension of that collaborative work.

Many Maine communities — especially small, rural towns with limited staff capacity — simply do not have the time or resources to search across multiple agencies, organizations, and websites to locate model ordinances, best-practice guides, examples of successful local solutions, or data that speaks directly to their challenges. Yet those tools already exist, and they are critical to helping communities move projects forward efficiently and in compliance with state law.

The idea behind this bill is straightforward: communities will make better, faster progress when they can access curated, up-to-date technical assistance materials in one place. A well-designed, centralized hub would save time, reduce duplication of effort, and help local leaders focus their energy on implementation rather than research. When communities can find off-the-shelf tools that help them navigate local challenges while also advancing shared state priorities — particularly housing — everyone benefits.

In recent months, the need for technical assistance has been reinforced repeatedly. We have heard it through the housing-related working groups, and we have seen it reflected in legislation passed last session that required the development of technical assistance materials. What we lack today is a central, accessible home for those work products, where community leaders can actually find and use them.

Importantly, this proposal does not ask the state to reinvent the wheel. Hundreds of technical assistance resources already exist, created by state agencies, regional planning organizations, nonprofits, trade groups, and academic institutions. The challenge is that these resources are often hard to locate. State



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government is uniquely positioned to make these materials visible, accessible, and useful to communities across Maine.

Establishing and maintaining a technical assistance materials hub is a role that makes sense for the Maine Office of Community Affairs. It builds directly on MOCA's mission and on the momentum of its early successes. The recent design and rollout of the MOCA Funding Finder provides a strong model for how this work can be done thoughtfully and efficiently.

If this bill is approved, the 133rd Legislature will begin to see results early in its first session. The background work is already underway, and MOCA has committed to rapidly deploying the materials they are developing. LD 1995 gives this effort the structure and seriousness it deserves and helps ensure that the promise we made to communities when we created MOCA continues to be fulfilled.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Chip Curry
State Senator, District 11
Representing the twenty-six rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County