



MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936

60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486

1-800-452-8786 (in state)

(T) 207-623-8428

(F) 207-624-0129

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of

LD 1995 - An Act to Require the Maine Office of Community Affairs to Establish a Technical Assistance Materials Hub

January 8, 2026

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, my name is Tanya Emery, and I am providing testimony in support of LD 1995 at the direction of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). Our LPC is composed of municipal officials from across Maine, elected by their peers to represent member communities. MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization that aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents of Maine.

MMA's member communities have lauded the establishment and early work of the new Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA). MOCA has jumped into its role, partnering with municipalities, regional councils, and countless stakeholders to begin tackling challenging issues. Regular discussions about housing, codes, climate resilience, and more all reveal the necessity of a central technical assistance hub. Municipal and state interests are best served through strong governmental cooperation, which MOCA has already shown a willingness and ability to foster.

While the broad charge of this legislation is appropriate, there is a critical, urgent need to address code enforcement training. As the Division of Building Codes and Standards integrates with the MOCA team, municipalities are struggling with a lack of code enforcement officers and training to onboard new CEOs, let alone maintain existing CEO certifications. As the committee considers LD 1995, we urge consideration of this critical item, in addition to the elements of the hub outlined in the bill language. Code enforcement training is an imperative and one that contributes mightily to Maine's efforts to build our way out of the housing crisis.

MMA looks forward to continuing our partnership with MOCA and we urge the committee to vote in favor of LD 1995. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Tanya L. Emery
Advocacy Manager
Maine Municipal Association
temery@memun.org



WWW.MEMUN.ORG