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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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Testimony of Senator Tim Nangle introducing
LD 2135, "An Act to Provide Funding to Keep Maine Veterans Housed,"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
January 21, 2026

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, I am Senator Tim Nangle. I represent Senate District 26, which includes the communities of Windham, Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and part of Westbrook. Thank you for the opportunity to present LD 2135, "An Act to Provide Funding to Keep Maine Veterans Housed."

As I'm sure this committee knows, too many veterans who have served our country with honor are still struggling to find and keep stable housing. At a time when federal programs are being cut or delayed across the country, it is more important than ever that we strengthen the local partnerships that are already working. This bill is intended to ensure that Maine veterans can continue to count on proven supports that help keep them housed and connected to their communities.

LD 2135 would provide support to the Veterans Flex Fund — an already successful program led by Preble Street and the Maine Homeless Veterans Action Committee, which includes the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Maine Bureau of Veterans Services, Volunteers of America, Vets Inc., Bread of Life Ministries, and others.

The program provides small but critical assistance to help veterans overcome barriers to stable housing, such as covering unexpected rental costs, offering incentives to landlords, and conducting outreach to connect veterans with safe, affordable homes. The Veterans Flex fund is currently supported by a grant that is nearly exhausted. This bill proposes a modest, one-time appropriation to help keep the Flex Fund in place while that broader coalition continues its work. It is a short-term solution, but one with immediate, real-life benefits for veterans who are at risk right now.

More broadly, I hope this bill becomes part of a larger conversation on the role the Legislature should play in supporting flexible, coordinated approaches like this into the future — approaches that have shown results and help ensure that veterans do not lose housing due to gaps we have the power to address.

LD 2135 is a practical step to make sure that veterans do not lose housing simply because a proven tool ran out of funding. It allows work that is already underway to continue and helps ensure that the progress we have made does not slip backward.

Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions. I also understand there are folks here from Preble Street who can answer more specific questions about the program.