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**Testimony of Representative Traci Gere Introducing LD 2097,
An Act to Modify the Law Governing Revocation of a Code Enforcement Officer's
Certification
January 22, 2026**

Good afternoon Senator Curry and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development. I am Representative Traci Gere, and I represent House District 134, which encompasses Kennebunkport and coastal Biddeford and Kennebunk. I am before you today to present LD 2097, which updates the process for dealing with complaints against code enforcement officers, moving to a review committee and away from a more punitive approach.

With the Maine Office of Community Affairs getting its sea legs, code enforcement has moved into its purview. As we have heard in much testimony in this committee, communities across Maine face challenges in hiring, retaining, training, and supporting code enforcement officers. Code enforcement is a complex process that requires specialized expertise and experience, with codes and ordinances that vary across the state. A complaint process that in effect says, "The beatings will continue until morale improves" is not helpful in dealing with this shortage of labor and expertise.

I submitted this bill on behalf of MOCA and in support of updating the complaint process to be clearer, fairer, and promote remedies that help code enforcement officers learn and improve in a supportive environment, while also providing a path for Maine people to raise issues and complaints. This aligns with other strategies that MOCA is implementing to help municipalities better train, staff, and administer code enforcement across the state.

Thank you for your consideration, and I ask you to support LD 2097.

Respectfully,

Traci Gere
State Representative