



SHENNA BELLOWS  
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**TESTIMONY OF  
SHENNA BELLOWS, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
and State and Local Government

February 24, 2026

**L.D. 2212, An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and State and Local Government, my name is Shenna Bellows, and I am the Secretary of State. I am here today to present testimony in support of those items presented in the 2026 Supplemental Budget for the Department of the Secretary of State.

Department information begins on page A - 114 of the **Budget Document**.

**Permanent Commission on the Status of Women Z455**

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women is a government appointed group, created in state statute to improve opportunities and life outcomes for women and girls. The Commission produces biennial reports on the status of women and girls and advises the Governor and members of the Legislature about policy and social issues affecting women across Maine.

There is 1 General Fund initiative:

**Initiative 1** Under program Z455, the first initiative on Page A-114 provides for the transfer of funding for one Public Service Coordinator I position and related All Other costs from the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions (CEC) to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

program within the same funds to align funding with operations. The net request of funding for this initiative is zero.

Currently the position for the Executive Director of the Women's Commission is in the structure of the CEC, as well as the All Other funding for the Commission, even though the work of the Commission is entirely separate from the work of the CEC. Making this transfer would align the funding streams with the reality of the already-separate work functions of these two entities within the Department.

You will notice this initiative corresponds to an inverse initiative on page A-113, which moves the allocated funds from program 0692 to Z455. Passage of both initiatives is necessary to effectuate the transfer successfully.

This concludes my testimony on the items included in the Governor's proposed FY 2026-2027 Supplemental budget.

I would be happy to answer your questions now or at the work session.

Thank you.