



Maine Association of County Clerks, Administrator and Managers

Testimony in Support of LD 2222 – An Act to Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services to Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2026-27

March 3, 2026

Senator Grohoski, Representative Sayre and esteemed members of the Taxation Committee.

My name is Tim Curtis, Somerset County Administrator and President of the Maine Association of County Clerks, Administrators and Managers (MACCAM). I am speaking in support of LD2222.

This bill is essential to the continuation of services to Maine's Unorganized Territories. Ten counties (Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Lincoln, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset and Washington) partner with the state to provide services to the approximately 25,000 property owners in Maine's unorganized townships.

The increases in municipal costs components in LD2222 reflect good stewardship by the state and the counties, with overall state service increases being held to 3.4% and overall county service increases held to 1.14%. However, a significant decrease in the use of Unassigned Fund Balance from last year will result in a property tax increase to the U/T Taxpayer. Last year, \$3.5M of fund balance was used to offset taxes, this year that fund balance use is approximately \$1.5M. Maine's counties would urge the Committee to review the use of fund balance to determine if more can be applied to LD2222.

As you are aware, there was a sweeping revaluation of properties in Maine's Unorganized Territories last year, resulting in significant property tax increases. Assuming valuations remain the same, Somerset County anticipates that LD2222 as it stands would result in a further tax increase of 12%.

Finally, Maine's County Administrators support the transfer of \$640,671 from interest earnings for a one-time prepayment to Washington County, to aid with their efforts to restructure county debt. This effort is aligned with two-thirds of municipalities in Washington County, who have made a similar commitment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tim Curtis
Somerset County Administrator
President, Maine Association of County Clerks, Administrators and Managers