



## **Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association**

### **Neither for nor Against**

#### ***LD 1402 - An Act to Provide an Additional Allocation in the School Funding Formula to Cover Tax-exempt Property or a Large Economically Disadvantaged Student Population***

**April 12, 2023**

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Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert and I am providing testimony neither for nor against LD 1402 on behalf of Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, the LPC provides direction to the advocacy team at MMA and establishes the position on bills of municipal interest.

For municipalities that have a multitude of tax-exempt organizations operating within their borders, LD 1402 would essentially level the playing field, as those communities are unable to tax such organizations to support public education. It would also benefit those communities where at least 50% of the students are economically disadvantaged.

However, this would not benefit all municipalities and as such causes concern that this bill would have the potential to pit communities against each other. Local leaders also expressed concern that the funding mechanism proposed would use funds that are typically carried over thus reducing the strain to raise local dollars.

For these reasons the LPC is neither for nor against LD 1402. Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.

