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## Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

*LD 2030, An Act to Exempt Certain Emergency Activities and Structure Elevation Increases  
in Flood Zones from Permit Requirements Under the Natural Resources Protection Act*

January 24, 2024

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Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and distinguished members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting placeholder testimony on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA), representing the interests of municipal government.

Municipal officials appreciate the accommodation that this bill will provide in a time of emergency, as well as the recognition that municipalities with the capacity to move quickly during a time of need, wish to do so, to mitigate circumstances as they may apply to public health and safety. Local officials raised concerns that these emergency exemptions may not apply to situations on the coastal shoreline as the bill specifies activities “taking place in, on, over or adjacent to a river, stream or brook.” As our most recent coastal storms have shown, the shoreline infrastructure could also benefit from this type of consideration. In addition, questions were posed regarding the need for emergency “fixes” to consider longer-term solutions, for example, emergency culvert replacements that are made in preparation for culvert upgrades so communities can best leverage federal hazard mitigation funds and support the state’s resiliency plans.

This bill provides communities with the ability to assess and repair infrastructure during a time of a flood emergency without the administrative burden that would be necessary under regular circumstances and municipal officials thank the department for this timely update.

If you have any questions regarding MMA’s position on this bill, or other bills with municipal impact, please contact me at [acampbell@memun.org](mailto:acampbell@memun.org)