

Colette Thompson
New Sweden
LD 824

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Chip Curry, Senate Chair
The Honorable Traci Gere, House Chair
Joint Committee on Housing and Economic Development
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Opposes LD 824, An Act Regarding Pet Fees in Rental Housing

To the Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

My name is Colette Thompson and I live in New Sweden, Maine. I am submitting testimony against LD 824, An Act Regarding Pet Fees in Rental Housing. The language in the bill is vague and more clarity is needed specifically around the following areas of this bill's language:

1. "pet" means a dog or cat – There are other types of "pets" that can be of concern including but not limited to birds, reptiles, small animals, ferrets, etc.
2. "rented dwelling unit" – It does not appear that "rented dwelling unit" distinguishes among the various types of rented dwelling units and varying lengths of time of stay in a rented dwelling unit. Renting a place for a week versus renting a place for a home is different. An entity may want to have a daily "pet" fee for a short term "rented dwelling unit".
3. "pet security deposit" and "1% of the monthly rental charge, regardless of the number of pets that are kept in the dwelling unit" – This is limiting to the landlord, agent, contractor, designee or 5 other entity, etc.

I appreciate your time and reconsideration/reexamination of the language in LD 824.

Sincerely,

Colette Thompson