

**Mayor and Council Offices**

Mark Dion

Mayor

February 10, 2026



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Testimony of Mark Dion, Mayor of the City of Portland,  
In Support of  
**LD 2142, An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from the Real  
Estate Transfer Tax**  
*Before the Committee on Housing and Economic Development*

Senator Curry, Representative Gere and Honorable Members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on this important bill.

The City of Portland strongly supports LD 2124, An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax which would provide critical funding to emergency shelters throughout the state.

Emergency shelters are essential lifelines that provide stabilizing services and help individuals and families return to self-sufficiency. Despite the critical role they play in our community, shelters across the state continue to struggle, often operating at a loss with near-constant risk of closure. We have seen that play out over and over again, most recently with the reduction in beds and scope at the York County shelter last spring (May 2025). Unfortunately, the ripple effects of this imperfect system often land on the doorstep of Portland, where nearly 46% of intakes at the Homeless Services Center report a Maine town other than Portland as their last address.

The emergency shelter system is in dire need of support and a more comprehensive state-led approach that would ensure shelter is available to all Maine residents, regardless of zipcode. In the meantime, I urge you to support this measure as an important step in ensuring more consistent resources are available for the shelter system statewide.

With appreciation for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Dion".

Mark Dion

Mayor

City of Portland, Maine