



LD 1318 An Act to Enhance Data Collection Requirements Related to Immigration Status and Asylum Seekers to Safeguard Services for Legal Residents
Testimony Neither for Nor Against
April 7, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Brian Hubbell, Senior Advisor in the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) which staffs and manages the Office of New Americans. Thank you for this opportunity to offer this testimony neither for nor against LD 1318.

Created by the legislature in 2023ⁱ in support of goals set in Maine's Ten-Year Economic Strategy,ⁱⁱ the office, by statute, is charged to identify and address needs, barriers and opportunities in order to support the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State.

Primary activities of the office are:

- strengthening workforce opportunities by providing guidance and promoting improved pathways for professional accreditation and licensure, supporting enhanced career pathways, and engaging with businesses to meet their workforce needs by increasing employment, retention and advancement of immigrant employees;
- improving access to English language learning programs;
- strengthening financial literacy programs, financial education and entrepreneurship supports to assist individuals, immigrant entrepreneurs and small business owners.

LD 1318 seeks to require the Office of New Americans to systematically collect and maintain data on the federal immigration status of individuals benefiting from the activities of the office and to collect and analyze data on the subset of immigrants seeking asylum, including the status and resolution of individual asylum claims.

As immigration is a federally-directed legal process, this is beyond the current scope and capacity of the state Office of New Americans. Setting up and managing such a registry as the bill proposes would require additional staff and resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this legislation and thank you all for your service on this committee.

ⁱ PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF

ⁱⁱ [Maine Economic Development Strategy 2020-2029](#), November 2019