



Maine Credit Union League

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Neither For Nor Against
LD 358: An Act to Increase Fees Paid to Registers of Deeds
Committee on State & Local Government
February 24, 2025

Good Afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the Committee on State & Local Government,

My name is Krista Simonis and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs at the Maine Credit Union League. The Maine Credit Union League is the trade association for Maine's 48 credit unions and over 750,000 members statewide. We respectfully submit the following testimony
Neither for Nor Against LD 358.

Maintaining our registry of deeds is crucial to the integrity of our real estate system. We thank the Registers of Deeds for the work they do in this important part of local government. We have worked well with them in the past to make sure records are clear and that credit unions understand what needs to be submitted so that there are no delays in the system.

Although the fee changes in LD 358 may decrease costs in some instances, some of the proposed changes represent an increase by a factor of ten. We would ask the committee to carefully weigh these changes, knowing that any increase in costs for deed registration will ultimately land on consumers, increasing costs due at closing and contributing to home unaffordability.

The registry of deeds deserves to have funding needed to operate, and there are many pieces of this paper-based system which could use upgrading. It is our hope that any increase in fees will be offset by an increase in service and that the legislature will support modernization efforts the Registrars deem necessary.

Thank you for considering our testimony, please let us know if we can be a resource to this committee.