



60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486
1-800-452-8786 (in state) | (t) 207-623-8428
(f) 207-624-0129

**Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)
In Opposition to**

LD 1274, An Act to Cap State General Assistance Reimbursement to Municipalities

April 7, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1274 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

Local administration of the state mandated General Assistance program is required in all Maine municipalities, from the smallest plantation to the largest metro area. For the program to work at its best capacity, each one of those municipalities must be held to the same standards of service delivery. Likewise, those communities expect equitable reimbursement for 70% of the direct costs of administering the program.

The cap proposed in LD 1274 would indirectly reduce the reimbursement level of any community that should exceed the threshold described in the bill. The requirement to deliver services to eligible applicants would not be removed once the threshold is met. If reimbursement was no longer available for that continued aid, to eligible applicants, that community's overall reimbursement is functionally reduced. The LPC is opposed to this inequitable administration of the program.

Municipal officials acknowledge that the GA program needs review and revision. However, cutting reimbursement amounts, for any reason, for any community, only weakens the state—local partnership and erodes the entire program.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective on this important topic. Please feel free to contact any member of the LPC or the MMA Advocacy team with any questions relating to municipal operations.