

TAKE ACTION: SUPPORT LD 641 TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS IN MAINE!

🔔 Our bill has a public hearing scheduled! 🔔

LD 641 – An Act to Support Diversion Efforts to Address Homelessness in Maine, sponsored by **Rep. Marc Malon**, will be heard on:

📅 **Tuesday, March 18 @ 1:00 PM**

📍 **Housing & Economic Development Committee**

🏛️ **Cross Building, Room 206 (across from the State House)**

We need your voice! The Housing Problem Solving (HPS) program is a cost-effective, proven solution to preventing homelessness before it starts. This bill increases HPS funding to **serve twice as many Mainers**, keeping more people housed and reducing strain on emergency shelters and services.

What is the Housing Problem Solving Program?

The **Housing Problem Solving Program** helps prevent homelessness and quickly rehouses people who have lost their homes. MaineHousing provides grants to agencies that assist individuals facing a housing crisis. These funds cover direct help for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness and support program operations. The goal is to make homelessness **rare, brief, and non-recurring** by solving housing problems as early as possible.

🗣️ How You Can Help:

✅ Submit Testimony

Your story and perspective matter. You can testify **in-person, virtually, or by submitting written testimony**. We've made it easy:

👉 [Use our testimony template](#)

👉 Review our talking points below

👉 Submit your written testimony [here](#)

Best: Testify in person – bring 20 copies of your written testimony.

Better: Testify via Zoom (register 30 minutes before the hearing).

Great: Submit written testimony any time before the hearing.

✔ Spread the Word

The more people who speak up, the stronger our impact. **Share this campaign with your network**—friends, family, coworkers—anyone who cares about housing stability in Maine!

✉ **Forward this campaign to a friend**

📱 **Share this on social media** (*use #SupportLD641*)

📊 Why This Bill Matters

✔ **HPS helps people stay housed for just \$1,131 per person**—far less than costly emergency interventions.

✔ **78% of cases successfully resolved**—keeping people in their homes.

✔ **Doubling HPS funding could help over 1,000 Mainers stay housed each year.**

🗣️ **Let's make sure lawmakers hear us loud and clear: Maine needs LD 641!**

🔗 [Submit your testimony now](#)

Thank you for taking action to prevent homelessness in Maine!

LD 641- TALKING POINTS

BILL SUMMARY:

LD 641 strengthens Maine's response to housing instability by expanding the *Housing Problem Solving (HPS) program*, a cost-effective, proven solution that prevents homelessness before it starts. By increasing HPS funding, this bill will help **twice as many Mainers** stay housed, reducing strain on emergency shelters and public services while promoting long-term stability.

THE ISSUE:

- **Stable housing is the foundation of a stable life.** Without it, people struggle to maintain employment, access health care, and ensure their children can succeed in school.
- **Too many Mainers are on the edge of crisis:**
 - **12%** of Mainers earn below the Federal Poverty Line
 - **30%** of Mainers are ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), earning above the FPL but not enough to afford a basic survival budget.
 - A single emergency – like a car repair or medical bill – can push these families into homelessness.
- **Preventing homelessness is far easier and cheaper than addressing it after it happens.** Once someone loses their home, it becomes significantly harder to regain stability, leading to long-term reliance on shelters and costly emergency interventions.

WHAT IS HOUSING PROBLEM SOLVING?

- HPS provides fast, targeted assistance to prevent homelessness before it starts.
- LD 641 expands funding for Housing Problem Solving (HPS), allowing the program to reach more people at a fraction of the costs of emergency shelter or rapid rehousing.
- **Current Impact:** 663 people were kept housed in 2024 with a budget of just \$750,000.

WHY HPS WORKS?

- **It prevents homelessness before it starts.**
 - 66% of clients were not yet homeless when they received assistance.
- **It provides targeted, cost-effective solutions.**
 - 73% (483) people required financial assistance – a small but crucial investment to keep them housed.
- **It has a high success rate.**
 - 78% of cases (519 people) were successfully resolved in 2024.
- **It saves taxpayer money.**
 - HPS costs just \$1,131 per client – a fraction of the cost for other homelessness interventions:
 - ♣ **Shelter beds:** \$36,000 per year per bed.

- ♣ **Rapid Rehousing:** Over \$7,000 per client and over \$10,000 per resolution in 2023. 1

WHY SUPPORT THIS BILL?

- **This bill doubles HPS funding to \$1.5M**, allowing it to assist **1,326 people annually—twice the current number**.
- **It will prevent homelessness for an estimated 1,038 Mainers each year**, keeping families together, children in school, and workers in their jobs.
- **It's the fiscally responsible solution.** Investing in HPS reduces pressure on shelters, public health systems, and emergency services – saving the state money in the long run.
- **It aligns with Maine's long-term housing goals**, strengthening communities and supporting economic mobility.

Maine has a choice: spend more on emergency responses or invest wisely in prevention. LD 641 is a smart, compassionate solution that deserves your support.