

To: Welfare Directors & GA Administrators
Key Appointed Municipal Officials
Legislative Policy Committee

From: Amanda Campbell, Legislative Advocate

Date: January 17, 2025

Re: **January 23 Public Hearing on GA- Part S of the Supplemental Budget**

Next week, the Appropriations & Financial Affairs (AFA) Committee will host a series of public hearings seeking feedback on Governor Mills' proposed supplemental FY 2025 General Fund budget. The budget proposal has been printed as LD 209, with the details found on the Bureau of the Budget's website at www.maine.gov/budget/home.

Of greatest municipal interest is Part S of the bill, which seeks to amend the General Assistance (GA) statutes by limiting eligibility to three months of housing assistance and 30 days of aid for all other non-housing-related living expenses during a 12-month period. There are exceptions for supporting temporary housing or emergency shelters, as well as for certain hardships, which include applicants with severe or persistent mental or physical conditions and those with pending Social Security Administration applications.

Part S can be viewed [here](#).

The hearing on Part S will take place on Thursday, January 23 at 1 p.m. before the AFA Committee in room 228 on the second floor of the State House. Municipal officials interested in participating in the hearing can do so either in-person, via Zoom, or by submitting written testimony. Please visit the portal found here: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/> to sign up to provide testimony via Zoom or to submit written testimony. Please note that you will need to register specifically for the hearing to take place on the afternoon of January 23, as the hearing is being held over a four-day period.

Because the Legislative Policy Committee will not have established the association's position on the bill before the hearing, MMA will be testifying "neither for nor against" Part S. We will, however, submit additional testimony once our position has been established.

I urge you to review the proposal's impact on your communities and share those findings with members of the AFA Committee. If you have any questions about the proposal or how to register to testify, please do not hesitate to contact me at acampbell@memun.org or 1-800-452-8786.

Thank you.