



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
55 CAPITOL STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

April 26, 2023

Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Chair  
Rep. Melanie Sachs, Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
Attn: Justin Purvis, Clerk  
c/o Office of Fiscal and Program Review  
State House Station 5  
Augusta, ME 04333-0005

Re: LD 912

Dear Sen. Rotundo and Rep. Sachs:

I am writing to provide testimony neither for nor against LD 912.

In 1985, Maine voters approved a \$2 million dollar bond to fund a program of matching State grants to restore historic properties that were listed in the National Register of Historic Places or that were deemed worthy of such listing. The program was administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, and over the course of four years nearly 100 projects in all sixteen counties were awarded grants.

After the Legislature established the New Century Community Program in 1999 under the auspices of the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council, it made general fund appropriations of \$3.2 million dollars (FY 2000), \$500,000 (FY 2001-02), and \$530,000 (FY 2002-03) to support the program. These appropriations were followed by bond issues of \$1 million dollars in 2005 and \$2 million dollars in 2007. In recent years, the New Century Program has been funded with an annual appropriation of about \$40,000 (which is divided equally among the seven member agencies and organizations that comprise the Council). The Maine Historic Preservation Commission's share of the General Fund appropriations and bonds was used for preservation grants.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you and the Committee with this overview of State funding for the preservation and restoration of historic properties in Maine.

Sincerely,

Kirk F. Mohney  
Director  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission