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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

TO: Senator Catherine E. Breen, Senate Chair  
Representative Teresa S. Pierce, House Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Joseph Rafferty, Senate Chair *JR (HAR)*  
Representative Michael Brennan, House Chair *MB (HAR)*  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

DATE: Monday, April 4, 2022

RE: Priorities for Bills on the Special Appropriations Table

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Pursuant to Joint Rule 314 and guidance memo dated March 25, 2022, please accept this memorandum from the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on our priorities on bills and resolves on the Special Appropriations Table and bills and resolves reported out of our committee not yet on the Table, but likely to be placed there. Attached, please find from each caucus a list indicating their respective priorities.

In addition to bills on or going to the Table, both caucuses indicated support for two items included in the Governor's Supplemental Budget Change Package.

From: Senator Joe Rafferty, Representative Michael Brennan

Re: EDU Priorities for the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

Date: March 31, 2022

The Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee has asked members of the Joint Standing Committee on Educational and Cultural Affairs to identify priority bills and issues as you deliberate on bills that are currently assigned to the special appropriations table.

The following is the report from Democrats who serve on the Committee.

Priority policy bills in numerical order:

LD 452, An Act To Require Certain Schools To Provide Menstrual Products (Rep. Tepler)

LD 1716, An Act To Ensure Full Payment of the State's Salary Supplement Obligation to Teachers with National Board Certification (Rep. R Millett)

LD 1727, An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses (President Jackson)


LD 1816, An Act To Promote Labor Education through the University of Maine System (Speaker Fecteau)

LD 1902, Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program To Encourage Climate Education in Maine Public Schools (Rep. Blume)

LD 1924, An Act To Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine through Legal Education (President Jackson)

Furthermore, along with these bills, we support LD 1962, An Act To Increase Learning Potential by Providing High-impact Tutoring Grants (Sen. Rafferty), which is an important new initiative that addresses learning issues related to COVID-19. At this point, we understand that funding for this bill will be provided by the DOE utilizing federal funds. If for some reason that is not possible, we would like to work with you to identify funding options for the bill.

Similar to last year, we do not believe LD 1935, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 60: New School Siting Approval, Portions of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for




Major Capital School Construction Projects and Portions of Chapter 125: Basic School Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units, Major Substantive Rules of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (Rep. Brennan) is an unfunded mandate and should be allowed to move forward.

We also want to express our strong support for two items in the "change package."

- The request for \$3.2 Million in one-time funds for career and technical education material and supplies is warranted and necessary.
- Recently, the University of Maine System received an R1 designation, and this investment of \$3 Million will help further it's research and development capacity.

Finally, there are several bills before you that call for study committees or rulemaking. We want to ensure that you give full consideration to these requests:

- LD 552, An Act To Strengthen the Individualized Education Program Process (Rep. R Millett)
- LD 1775, Resolve, Regarding MaineCare Funding for Maine Schools (Rep. Brennan)
- LD 896, An Act Concerning Mental Health in Public Schools (Rep. S Warren)
- LD 1383, An Act To Limit Homework in Public Schools (Rep. Collings)
- LD 1391, An Act To Enhance the Educational Expertise and Knowledge of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System (Rep. Collings)



Again, thank you for your consideration and support. Please contact either of us if you need additional information or have questions.

Respectfully,

Sen. Rafferty and Rep. Brennan

3/30/22

## Republican EDU Caucus **Appropriation Table** Priority Report

The following LDs or LRs have been ranked in the following manner:

**High** - This means there was unanimous or near unanimous agreement the item is a top priority.

**Medium** - This means that either the entire caucus felt that the item should receive some consideration for funding OR that the caucus was divided on the item; with some feeling that it should receive funding consideration while others do not.

**Low** - members of the caucus were unanimous or near unanimous in not having the item funded

If an item is not listed - it is with the understanding that it is included somewhere else in the budget or has been taken care of in some other manner.

### **High**

LD1716 and LD1775

### **Medium**

LD1679, LD1632, LD1780, LD1924 and LR2686

### **Low**

LD452, LD552, LD896, LD1383, LD 1391, LD 1502, LD 1816, LD 1902, LD 1727,  
LD 1962 and LD 1963

### **Change Package**

The caucus wishes to express **High** support for program code item 308 "one time CTE funding" and **Medium** support for program code item 986 "university R&D"