



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

March 21, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Senate Chair
Representative Brennan, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Distinguished Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

LD 204, An Act to Ensure Safe Access to Schools by Implementing Interlocking Door Controller Technology, would require that school administrative units install interlocking door controller technology in every elementary and secondary school. It further requires the State to provide funds for such.

Nationally accepted standards recognize one public entry point as preferred in order to maximize safety and security. It is also current practice in Maine for new school construction and renovation projects to include a controlled security vestibule at the front entrance of a school. The Maine Department of Education has recommended standards addressing safety and security for schools and many local school districts have implemented safety improvements on their own. There are many security features in the design of a controlled security vestibule including, but not limited to, security glazing, cameras, special door hardware, communication system, panic button, exterior bollards, and high visibility.

The financial impact of LD 204 could be significant due to the cost to implement in over 600+ school buildings. The bill's language is not specific to the extent of development of the front security vestibule and the impact on the facility's other exterior doors. The Department has concerns regarding the cost and feasibility of updating current buildings, many of which are over 60 years old.

The Department will be available to provide additional information on LD 204 and respond to any questions during the upcoming work session.

Sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jonathan Shapiro'.
0B40FA8916BE4BC...
Jonathan Shapiro
Director, Maine School Safety Center

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Brown'.
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Scott Brown
Director of Facilities Programs

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