

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

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L.D. 1588

AN ACT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SECTOR LABOR UNIONS REASONABLE ACCESS TO INFORMATION REGARDING EMPLOYEES

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Committee on Labor and Housing. I am Steven Bailey, executive director of the Maine School Boards Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committee of the Maine School Boards Association, in opposition to L.D. 1588.

We have obligations as employers of school personnel, some of which are spelled out in contracts, others in policy, and still others in statute.

While L.D. 1588 appears to be a revision to prior language, the obligation and the ability to provide this information in a timely manner is at times a hardship on school district central office personnel. This information is often requested at the busiest time of the year, when new personnel are getting their information entered into the district and state software and all appropriate forms correctly signed by these new staff members. We understand this is a requirement for new personnel, and now in this bill the request for all other public employees of the district has been added within this bill. This is one more request that interrupts the flow of efficient management of the schools.

MSBA opposes L.D. 1588 and urges the Labor and Housing Committee to vote ought not to pass.

Phone: 207-622-3473 · 800-660-8484 · Fax: 207-626-2968 · Website: www.msmaweb.com