

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 1185

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A GENERAL FUND BOND ISSUE TO RECAPITALIZE THE SCHOOL REVOLVING RENOVATION FUND

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. I am Steven Bailey, executive director of Maine School Management Association testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Superintendents Association and the Maine School Boards Association, in support of L.D. 1185.

Maine school buildings are getting old, and the waiting list for construction funds is long. The last time applications were accepted, 74 schools applied, but less than a handful made the list. These were new construction projects. Repairs to buildings awaiting replacement could be addressed if there was additional funding in the School Revolving Renovation Fund. We also testified in support of L.D. 193 which also is an attempt to place additional funds in the School Revolving Renovation Fund for the repair of Maine's schools.

L.D. 1185 recognizes the need to address our aging schools, through renovations. It would allow for the issuance of \$100,000,000 in bonds that could be accessed by school administrative units through the School Revolving Renovation Fund application process. These bonds would greatly provide for renovation and capital repairs to the schools. This year alone, 34 projects had approved loans ranging from \$7,548 to \$1,000,000. There were many, many more requests. The greatest average age of Maine's schools is between 60 – 70 years. If you have been in some of our schools recently, you can see why this request is necessary.

The bonds would have to be approved by the voters in a statewide election, therefore it would be known there was majority support of this effort.

MSSA and MSBA both urge the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs an OTP vote on L.D. 1185.