

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1011

AN ACT TO CHANGE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS
FOR STATE FUNDING FOR STUDENT TUITION AT THE
MAINE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

OFFICERS

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Faye Anderson
RSU 22

March 27, 2025

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Joseph Long
MSAD 35/RSU 35

Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan Murphy, and esteemed members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I am Steven Bailey, the executive director of the Maine School Boards Association, testifying on behalf of the MSBA Legislative Committee in opposition to L.D. 1011, An Act to Change the Residency Requirements for State Funding for Student Tuition at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.

VICE PRESIDENT

Roy Gott
RSU 24

Our associations' opposition does not reflect our feelings about the Maine School of Science and Mathematics – for decades, students from districts across the state have attended MSSM and received a challenging alternative education. The magnet school's success is something to be commended, and it is clearly preparing students well for college or a career.

IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT

Jane Osborne
Deer Isle-Stonington CSD

We are aware that MSSM is not able to bring in the same number of international students as was possible in the past – largely as part of a national trend – which has resulted in less revenue and lower enrollment. It is not clear if this bill would solve that challenge. Our members expressed concerns that loosening eligibility requirements could result in more people simply moving to Maine in order to attend the school, without establishing a long-term residence.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Steven W. Bailey

**MAINE COUNCIL OF
SCHOOL BOARD
ATTORNEYS**

This appears to be a complicated solution to a larger funding challenge. If there is a need to encourage attendance at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics, our association believes that the legislature should more directly tackle that issue, rather than broadening the residency requirements for attendance.

Isabel Ekman, Esq., Chair