

TESTIMONY NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

L.D. 1517

AN ACT TO REPLACE PARTICIPATION THRESHOLDS WITH APPROVAL
THRESHOLDS IN CERTAIN SCHOOL, MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY MEASURES

April 17, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and esteemed members of the State and Local Government Committee, I am Steven Bailey, the Executive Director of the Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association neither for nor against L.D. 1517, An Act to Replace Participation Thresholds with Approval Thresholds in Certain School, Municipal and County Measures.

This bill would change the threshold for some measures related to schools, including budget validation and district withdrawal votes. While it is difficult for our associations to understand the full implications of L.D. 1517, we appreciate the effort to promote more active and sincere voting, encouraging voter engagement and participation in local decisions.

We do not expect L.D. 1517 to have a major impact on local elections, and our association is happy to provide more information to your committee, if requested.