

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1571

AN ACT TO MODIFY CERTIFICATION STANDARDS FOR FULL-TIME TEACHERS IN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS AND FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNICIANS

April 25, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan Murphy, and members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I am Eileen King, the Deputy Executive Director of the Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and the Maine School Superintendents Association in opposition to L.D. 1571. While we agree with the principle that teachers in public charter schools should be required to hold a valid teaching certificate, we strongly oppose the provisions in the bill that would create different regulations for educational technicians (Ed Techs) regarding recertification.

We believe that it is crucial for all professional educators, whether administrators, teachers or Ed Techs, to maintain their certifications in accordance with the process established by the Maine Department of Education. The proposal in this bill to exempt educational technicians from the current recertification requirements based on the length of time since the beginning of employment is concerning. Certification requirements should apply equally to all professionals in the education system.

If a professional educator, regardless of their role, allows their certification to lapse, they should be required to adhere to the current regulations for recertification. Educators can renew their credentials if their certificate has not been expired for more than six months.

If an educator's certificate has lapsed for more than six months, they will need to submit an application for new credentials through the Maine Educator Information System (MEIS). Additionally, they will need to complete a new criminal history background check (CHRC) and meet the current renewal requirements, which may include completing professional or academic study or in-service training. [Maine](#)

In summary, while we acknowledge the need for teachers in charter schools to hold certification, we urge the committee to reconsider the provisions in this bill related to educational technicians. We believe that maintaining consistent certification standards for all educators is important and the timeframe and requirements for renewing a certificate (listed below) are very reasonable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Renewal Requirements: https://www.maine.gov/doe/cert/renewals?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Teacher, Specialist, and Administrator Certificates

To renew these certificates, educators must complete one of the following:

- **6 semester hours of professional or academic study**, or
- **90 contact hours of in-service training** designed to improve performance in the field.

If the educator holds certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), the renewal period extends to **10 years**.

Educational Technician Certificates

Educational technicians are required to complete:

- **3 semester hours of professional or academic study**, or
- **45 contact hours of in-service training**.

Renewal Process

Educators can submit their renewal applications online through the Maine Educator Information System (MEIS). The renewal option becomes available **six months prior to the certificate's expiration date**. If a certificate has been expired for more than six months, educators must apply for new credentials.

Fees

Renewal fees vary based on the certificate type:

- **Teacher:** \$100 for all endorsements renewed at once; \$35 for each additional endorsement.
- **Specialist:** \$100.
- **Administrator:** \$200.
- **Educational Technician:** \$25.
- **Fingerprinting (CHRC only):** \$15.

Additional Information

- **Fingerprinting:** Educators must complete a criminal history background check (CHRC) every five years unless continuously employed in a Maine school for that duration. Coaches and substitute teachers must be fingerprinted every five years, regardless of continuous employment.
- **Application Processing:** The Maine Department of Education is currently processing applications received within the last 3-4 weeks.
- **Support Chair Recommendation:** If employed in a Maine public school, educators must work with their Support Chair, who will recommend them for renewal. Districts may have additional expectations beyond state requirements.