



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

February 24, 2026

Senator Rafferty, Senate Chair
Representative Murphy, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Distinguished Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

LD 2175, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (EMERGENCY), represents two years of concerted effort by the Maine State Board of Education to improve and streamline credentialing standards for educators.

The Maine Department of Education (DOE) would like to note three important items for consideration.

First, that the new definition of "Pre-K" in Part I be changed to "Preschool" and that it refer to MRS 20-A, Section 1, Subsection 23-A, as proposed in LD 2114, to be inclusive of 3-year-olds. This will necessitate a replacement of all PreK references in Chapter 115 with Preschool for consistency.

Second, the Maine DOE would like to acknowledge the many voices that, over the years, have advocated for the return of the K-8 grade span in the 020 "Elementary Teacher" endorsement. Prior to the current version of Chapter 115, the grade span had been K-8, until it was changed to Pre-K-6. Although a change in grade span is not included in this proposed rule, the preponderance of feedback from educators around the state is noteworthy.

Lastly, the Maine DOE recommends removing the Emergency preamble from the bill. The Office of Higher Education and Educator Supports will need the 90 days after enactment in order to work with the vendor to make necessary software upgrade and train staff on the new or updated rule provisions.

Notwithstanding these three items, the Maine DOE believes this iteration of Chapter 115 provides educators some clear improvements to the process and requirements that ensure our state has a highly skilled and credentialled teaching force.

The Maine DOE will be available to provide additional information on LD 2175 and respond to any questions during the upcoming work session.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Perry".

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Michael T. Perry

Director, Higher Education & Educator Support Services

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