

TESTIMONY NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

L.D. 519

AN ACT TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM EXPOSURE TO TOXIC CHEMICALS

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, and members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, I am Victoria Wallack, communications and government relations director for Maine School Management Association and am here on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association testifying neither for nor against L.D. 519.

While some school districts have used non-selective herbicides on the school campus our best information is they are used infrequently. The main purpose would be to remove encroaching weeds in cracks on sidewalks or along paths.

The more problematic part of this proposal is the restriction on school grounds, which not only includes land associated with school buildings, but outdoor areas used by our students that is owned by a private entity or municipality.

You will find the definition for "school grounds" in rule Chapter 27 around Integrated Pest Management. There school grounds include:

"any other outdoor area used by students or staff including property owned by a municipality or a private entity that is regularly utilized for school activities by students and staff. School grounds do not include land utilized primarily for non-school activities, such as golf courses and museums." (Chapter 27 Standards for Pesticide Applications and Public Notification in Schools, Section 1, D-2.)

We think regulating these off-school premises would be difficult to monitor and enforce. The fact the ban applies to anything within 75 feet of school property also could be an issue for fields we use but don't own. One can imagine that in certain instances you would be attempting to regulate nearby private property.

Finally, this ban references all "synthetic" herbicides "including, but not limited to glyphosate", with Roundup being the most well known in that category. What other herbicide components would be on this list and how would that list be determined?