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*Testimony of Representative Michael Brennan Introducing*

### **LD 1018, An Act to Increase the Membership of the State Board of Education and Review the Board's Responsibilities, Functions and Staffing**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

Good morning Senator Rafferty and fellow distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Representative Michael Brennan, and I represent District 115, which includes part of the City of Portland. I come before you to introduce **LD 1018, An Act to Increase the Membership of the State Board of Education and Review the Board's Responsibilities, Functions and Staffing**.

This bill has two components. One part of the bill asks the Maine Department of Education to establish a working group of stakeholders to examine the role, responsibilities and functions of the State Board of Education. Equally important, the working group would make recommendations regarding the appropriate staffing resources for the Board.

The State Board of Education has a number of major responsibilities including school construction and certification that are critical to the future of public education in Maine.

It is important for the State Board to have the necessary structure, membership and resources to carry out its mission. The State Board has recently completed a strategic plan, and I think it is timely to have a discussion about the ongoing activities of the State Board.

Lastly, the bill calls for the State Board to appoint an ex officio member who is a former Maine Teacher of the Year to the State Board. Perhaps this item should be defined and reconsidered by the working group.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.