

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1297

AN ACT TO NOTIFY SCHOOL BOARDS AND SELECT BOARDS THAT LOBBYING ASSOCIATIONS ARE NOT GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the State and Local Government Committee. I am Steven Bailey, executive director of Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association, in opposition to L.D. 1297.

This would be a new section of statute for both 20-A and 30-A.

MSSA and MSBA are both opposed to L.D. 1297. Both associations are member service organizations that advocate for their members through the legislative process. The associations are not lobbying associations. MSSA serves superintendents who choose to join the association. MSBA serves 98% of all school boards in the state who choose to join to provide legislative advocacy and to support school boards as requested through information, school board training, and policy assistance for establishing the foundation for school district governance.

Pursuant to 30-A, §5724, sub-§9, Maine School Management Association and Maine School Boards Association are nonprofit advisory organizations and as such are instrumentalities of their member school administrative units, municipalities and quasi-municipal corporations. As such, and as an advisory organization of its members, they serve specifically to provide assistance to its members.

By statute 20-A, §1055, Superintendent, Powers and Duties, the superintendent is the secretary ex officio of the school district.

MSSA and MSBA see L.D. 1297 as unneeded legislation. School boards reach out when assistance is sought from these associations. Training to school boards is provided on an as-needed, voluntary basis. Work is done with school boards to assist in helping school board members remember and uphold the oath they took when they were sworn into office. These services are those sought by school boards and superintendents.