

**Testimony for
The Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
January 11, 2024**

To: Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and other Distinguished Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

From: Kenneth "Bucket" Davis, Representative of House District 10

I am here to explain why LD 808, An Act to Amend Laws Affecting Tuition at State-Approved Schools is so important to my school districts, as well as, school districts in the State of Maine. I will use my home town of East Machias as an example of the issue with student counts. The student counts are taken on October 1 each year and used as a major component in the EPS Funding Formula to create State subsidy for school districts. The problem I have is that if a student arrives in East Machias after October 1 of a school year, the Town has to pay the bill for that student without getting any State subsidy back. If a student comes in after October 1 in our elementary school we will not receive subsidy in the next fiscal year. If a high school student comes in after October 1, we have to upfront the tuition to our area high schools without getting anything back in the upcoming fiscal year. This problem needs to be fixed and LD 808 will do it.

Thank you.

LD 808: An Act To Amend Laws Affecting Tuition At State Approved Schools

School Administrative Units that enroll students after the October 1 count has been reported to the Maine Department of Education will receive a subsidy adjustment for each student based on the EPS rate in the year the subsidy is received by the School Administrative Unit. School Administrative Units that pay tuition to State Approved Schools will also receive a subsidy adjustment for students that enroll after the October 1 deadline. There will be a two year delay in the subsidy adjustment for School Administrative Units that enroll students after the October 1 deadline.