

**TESTIMONY
OF
PENDER MAKIN, COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
And the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Hearing Date: January 22, 2024, 10:00 am

**LD 209 "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from
the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government
and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper
Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025"**

Senators Rotundo and Rafferty, Representatives Gattine and Murphy, and Members of the Joint Standing Committees, my name is Pender Makin and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Education. I am here today to present testimony for those departmental items in the supplemental budget bill.

EDUCATION IN THE UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

The program has **one initiative** that may be found on page **A-15**.

This initiative provides funding to increase one seasonal Education Specialist III position from 48 weeks to 52 weeks. This position provides administrative support and direction for all students receiving special education services through Education in the Unorganized Territory, the educational and programming related support services to school-age children whose parents reside in the unorganized territory of Maine. This position also ensures state and federal compliance related to special education for all students receiving education in the Unorganized Territory.

MAINE CLIMATE CORPS PROGRAM

This program has **one initiative** that may be found on page **A-16**.

This initiative provides funding to support the work of the Maine Climate Corps program. Public Law 2021, chapter 728, An Act To Establish and Fund the Maine Climate Corps Program Pursuant to Recommendations in the Report Required by Resolve 2021, Chapter 25, provided one-time funds to support 4 eligible participants of the Maine Climate Corps Program using funds transferred

from the Office of the Attorney General from settlement funds received for antitrust enforcement and the enforcement of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act. This initiative provides an allocation in fiscal year 2024-25 to allow continued support of the program through existing funds.

The remainder of the initiatives in the supplement for the Department of Education involve approved reclassifications and range changes and allocation adjustments related to the December 1, 2024 Revenue Forecasting Committee report.

That concludes my testimony. Thank you.