

State of Maine  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Testimony of Beth Lambert, Chief Teaching and Learning Officer

In Support of: L.D. 74

An Act to Update the System of Learning Results Review Timeline

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Sponsored by: Representative Brennan

February 27, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Beth Lambert, and I am here today representing the Department speaking in support of L.D. 74, An Act to Update the System of Learning Results Review Timeline.

We have heard clearly that schools are facing significant demands, and many educators and administrators need more time to fully implement the revisions from the last standards review.

Maine's state education standards, the Maine Learning Results, serve as guideposts that define what knowledge, and skills students must achieve to be prepared for school, work, and life after high school graduation. As required by statute, the Department reviews these standards on a five-year rotating cycle, beginning with a review of the social studies and science content standards and continuing through the following content areas: English language arts; mathematics; life and career readiness; visual and performing arts; health, physical education, and wellness; and world languages. The Department has paused this review on occasion, in cases of unusual circumstances, such as the pandemic.

During the most recent cycle, which began in 2023, the Department received extensive feedback from educators and administrators that the current five-year cycle is too short, placing undue burden on SAUs. Specifically, educators noted that there is insufficient time to fully implement revisions, support staff in adapting to changes, and assess the impact before the new review begins. Extending the timeline will provide SAUs with the necessary time to align curricula, support, and evaluate changes before new revisions take place.

If enacted, L.D. 74 would extend the review cycle from five to seven years, ensuring a more sustainable and effective implementation process.

This adjustment requires no changes to existing rule language and has no associated costs.

This proposal reflects our commitment to responding to the realities schools face and supporting educators and students in meaningful, sustainable ways. By allowing for greater stability and focus in classrooms, we believe this change will strengthen education across Maine.

For these reasons, the Department of Education is in support of L.D. 74 An Act to Update the System of Learning Results Review Timeline that was recommended by teachers in schools and districts that you represent. I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have, and I will be available for work sessions on this bill.