



James Libby, Ph.D.
Senator, District 22

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

LD 369, "An Act to Grant or Extend Conditional Teaching Certificates Under Certain Circumstances"

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Public Hearing

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and the esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

My name is Jim Libby, and I am a State Senator representing Senate District 22, comprised of the towns of Naples, Sebago, Baldwin, and Standish in Cumberland County; Hiram and Porter in Oxford County; and, Limington, Limerick, Cornish, Parsonsfield, Newfield, Acton, and Shapleigh, in the County of York.

It is my honor to sponsor L.D. 369, "An Act to Grant or Extend Conditional Teaching Certificates Under Certain Circumstances."

Committee Members, you probably are not surprised to hear me say that we have a shortage of teachers in the state of Maine. A quick look at the Department of Education's website will show seventeen areas where Maine schools are understaffed.¹

One way that we have addressed this issue is through the issuing of conditional teaching certificates. Currently, conditional certificates are issued for those in shortage areas, those who do not yet have all the requirements completed, and for those holding a professional teaching certificate and are transitioning to a new endorsement. These measures all help get people into our teaching work force and address shortages faster.

College professors who are currently teaching, have classroom experience and are teachers. Some professors have taught in PreK-12 schools before, but allowed their certification to expire as they were not using their certification while teaching college students. I have spoken with colleagues of mine who are professors and were looking at moving into primary and secondary education upon retiring but could not. Their certificates were expired and going through the certification process before being able to return to teaching primary and secondary education served as a roadblock to them making this career change.

¹ <https://mainedoenews.net/2024/04/02/teacher-shortage-areas-for-the-2024-2025-school-year/>