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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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**Testimony of the Maine Public Utilities Commission,  
Emergency Services Communication Bureau**

**Neither For Nor Against**

**LD 808, An Act to Require School Boards and Governing Bodies of Approved Private Schools  
to Implement Wearable Panic Alert Systems**

March 13, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs (Committee), my name is Maria Jacques, testifying neither for nor against LD 808, An Act to Require School Boards and Governing Bodies of Approved Private Schools to Implement Wearable Panic Alert Systems on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau (ESCB).

LD 808 requires a school board or a governing body of an approved private school to implement at each school building a wearable panic alert system and to provide each staff person in a school building with such a device. It also requires that the panic alert system is capable of integrating with local PSAP infrastructure.

Like our testimony on LD 168, the ESCB has concerns with this bill as drafted.

1. There are many different panic alert systems on the market. The only ones that could integrate or automatically notify the 9-1-1 system are ones that generate a voice call or text message. We are currently unaware if this type of system is readily available, and if it is available, we are unsure if there would be cost implications to integrate this into the 9-1-1 system.
2. It seems like LD 808 envisions an over-the-top service (a service that goes into the PSAP but does not display on the 911 equipment itself). It is important to note that the boundaries of schools do not align with the boundaries of PSAPs so a PSAP could have several different software programs to purchase, install and monitor. Again, we have concerns about the cost implication this service may have on PSAPs. Ideally, all schools should be required to use the same program or at least utilize a common platform at the PSAPs.
3. False alarms often plague these systems. For PSAPs managing many towns (or schools), this could quickly become overwhelming.

The ESCB is willing to engage in further conversations with the sponsor and stakeholders in order to achieve the goals of this legislation (as well as LD 168) in a manner that minimizes the costs and complications associated with the implementation of LD 808.

I would be happy to answer any questions or provide additional information for the work session.