



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Christina Mitchell introducing
**LD 817, An Act to Remove Restrictions That Prohibit School Administrative
Units from Making Purchases Through Cooperatives**
Before the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

Good afternoon, Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and fellow members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Christina Mitchell, and I represent the communities of Cumberland, Long Island and Chebeague Island. I am here today to introduce **LD 817, An Act to Remove Restrictions That Prohibit School Administrative Units from Making Purchases Through Cooperatives**.

This bill amends current law related to competitive bids and cooperative purchases through the state to allow school administrative units to participate in cooperative purchasing. Specifically, this allows for cooperative purchasing for the purpose of purchasing, repairing or altering nonbuilding real property, including but not limited to an athletic field.

In layman's terms, this would allow school districts to access cooperative pricing to buy, repair or alter turf athletic fields. The need for this bill came about during the Turf Committee meetings under MSAD 51, where it was discovered that MSADs/RSUs are blocked from accessing cooperative pricing.

There is a MSAD 51 school board member here today to further explain why this change is necessary and what it means for this district and others across the state. With that in mind, I would ask that you hold specific questions as they can likely best answer them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.