



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Michael Brennan

49 Wellington Road
Portland, ME 04103
Phone: (207) 939-6462

Michael.Brennan@legislature.maine.gov

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Testimony of Representative Michael Brennan presenting

LD 323, An Act to Fund Staff Support for the State Board of Education

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Good afternoon, Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan Murphy and fellow distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Michael Brennan, and I represent House District 115, which includes a portion of Portland.

Today, I am here to introduce **LD 323, An Act to Fund Staff Support for the State Board of Education**.

This is a very simple bill. LD 323 provides ongoing funds of \$100,000 over the course of two fiscal years for the State Board of Education to contract for staffing services.

The Maine State Board of Education serves in an advisory capacity to the Commissioner of Education regarding our state education laws. Further, the Board makes policy recommendations to the legislative and executive branches.

Additionally, the Board's responsibilities include overseeing approval of school construction projects, administering federal funds awarded to Maine for career and technical education, establishing standards for teacher certification, approving educator preparation programs as well as recommending institutions of higher education for degree-granting authority.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.