



Richard Bradstreet  
Senator, District 15

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**LD 833, “An Act to Expand the Earned Paid Leave Exception”**

**Joint Standing Committee on Labor**

**Public Hearing**

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

10:00am

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor:

My name is Dick Bradstreet, and I am the Senator representing District 15, comprised of Augusta, Belgrade, China, Mount Vernon, Sidney, and Vassalboro.

I am proud to sponsor LD 833, “An Act to Expand the Earned Paid Leave Exception.”

My proposal is designed to help businesses that go above beyond Maine’s Earned Paid Leave Law requirements by granting them an exception to some of the regulations in the Earned Paid Leave Law.

The current law hinders the ability of businesses to carry out their own paid leave program. Members of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce expressed that the current law “creates additional administrative and financial burdens for employers beyond providing paid leave.” To back this claim up, one member of the chamber cited the need for additional tracking qualifying hours for paid leave to make sure the employer is applying the law correctly.

I also submitted this bill to help our schools. Maine School Management will be sharing their testimony with you today, and they want to highlight that schools have robust leave benefits and collective bargaining agreements.

Our schools and many of our businesses have requested this exception to help them better administer their own paid leave programs. Their programs go above and beyond what the state

asks, and yet the state hinders these programs with extra administrative responsibilities. You will hear more from these businesses, schools, and organizations throughout today's hearing.

I urge you to listen to their concerns and vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to take any questions.

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