



Susan Bernard  
Senator, District 1

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**LD 1011, “An Act to Change the Residency Requirements for State Funding for Student Tuition at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics”**

**The Joint Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs**

**March 27, 2025**

**1:00pm**

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

My name is Sue Bernard; I am the State Senator representing District 1, comprised of 37 Communities in Northern Aroostook County.

I am proud to sponsor LD 1011, “An Act to Change the Residency Requirements for State Funding for Student Tuition at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.”

The other day, when I was preparing for this hearing, I noticed that LD 787 looked very similar to my bill. After discussing with Director Constantine, the Executive Director of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics in Limestone, I am asking this committee to consider a sponsor amendment for the work session.

During our discussion, Director Constantine noted a need for clarification in the law governing sending districts and secondary schools. The current law mentions MSSM, but it does not discuss what the sending districts are responsible for in compensating MSSM. Sending districts are those that do not have their own secondary school and send their students to another school or district.

The lack of clarity has led to differences in how sending districts compensate MSSM. This amendment will specify that districts are responsible for the cost of attendance for these students and defines this as “The maximum allowable cost of attendance charge at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics is the actual room and board rate determined by the Maine School of Science and Mathematics Board of Trustees or the state average per public secondary student cost as adjusted, whichever is lower.”

Director Constantine is here today to testify and will explain a little more of the specifics of this amendment.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer questions, but I would encourage you to direct them to Director Constantine.