

Chair Rafferty, Chair Murphy, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Holly Sargent**, and I represent **House District 147**, the town of **York**. I am pleased to submit an amended version of **LD 1327**, *An Act to Strengthen Student Teaching by Compensating Student Teachers*.

The purposes of the original bill addressing student teaching were to:

Bring attention to the importance of quality student teaching experiences in the development of new teachers.

Chronicle the barriers to completion of student teaching due to alternative certification pathways and financial burdens.

Outline a plan for compensating student teachers and cooperating teachers including stipends, expense reimbursement, means of distribution and grounds for repayment.

This bill was subject to a fiscal note of a minimum of \$3M per year in ongoing expense. It also elicited several questions and concerns from education preparation programs (EPP) regarding the suggested mechanisms for distribution of funds and absence of focus on challenges facing rural school districts.

Recognizing that this important bill would likely not be passed and funded in the current session, and after conversations with key stakeholders including public and private EPP's, a decision was made to amend the legislation into a resolve. This resolve **Directs the University of Maine System to Convene/and or consult a Stakeholder Group to Study and Recommend a Student Teacher Compensation Structure.**

This approach has several advantages:

It will be undertaken with NO COST to the taxpayers.

It will include both public AND private postsecondary educator preparation programs.

The discussions will address key questions and concerns:

1. The barriers to student teaching and degree and certification attainment created by the current unpaid student teaching requirements.
2. A proposed compensation structure, inclusive of stipends and reimbursement of expenses like mileage, as well as stipends for cooperating teachers.
3. A proposed structure for administering compensation.
4. Other policy options or innovative models, including apprenticeships and residencies, to provide paid experiences for pre-service teachers and increase pathways into education careers in Maine.

It requires a timely report back.

By November 6, 2025, the UMS team shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs that includes an overview of the stakeholder discussions and recommendations. The committee must provide the System and stakeholders the opportunity to present the report to the Committee and may report out a bill related to the report in the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature in 2026.

I have discussed this amendment with key stakeholders, and they are in agreement that this is a viable way to proceed and achieves important objectives in support of strengthening student teaching in our state.

I hope you will support this resolve and I will answer any questions.

Holly Sargent Representative, House District 147

Amendment to Strike and Replace LD 1327 An Act to Improve and Expand Student Teaching Opportunities in Maine by Compensating Student Teaching

Submitted by Holly Sargent

Resolve, to Direct the University of Maine System to Convene a Stakeholder Group to Study and Recommend a Student Teacher Compensation Structure

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the University of Maine System needs sufficient time to convene stakeholders and conduct the study directed by this legislation and must commence its work as soon as possible; and

Whereas, full-time student teaching experiences are required for traditional teacher certification and student teachers make meaningful contributions to Maine classrooms; and

Whereas, full-time student teaching, and comparable alternative experiences such as residencies and apprenticeships, are generally understood to promote teacher readiness and result in the education of highly-trained, highly-qualified teachers and is therefore to be encouraged; and

Whereas, student teachers are generally not compensated, which creates a financial hardship and limits many aspiring educators from participating, limiting their readiness for the workforce postsecondary education degree completion, and professional certification; and

Whereas, the State is facing a significant shortage of qualified teachers and must urgently strengthen the educator workforce pipeline including by making student teaching more accessible; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Study of the development of a comprehensive system of compensation for student teachers. Resolved: That the University of Maine System, referred to in this resolve as "the System," shall consult multiple stakeholders representing the interests of pre-service and in-service teachers, mentors, school administrators, representatives from public and private postsecondary educator preparation programs, the Maine Education Association, the Maine School Management Association, the Maine Principal's Association, the Maine Municipal Association and others deemed necessary

to conduct a study of matters related to the development of a compensation structure for student teachers. The study must include a review regarding:

1. The barriers to student teaching and degree and certification attainment created by the current unpaid student teaching requirements.
2. A proposed compensation structure, inclusive of stipends and reimbursement of expenses like mileage, as well as stipends for cooperating teachers.
3. A proposed structure for administering compensation
4. Other policy options or innovative models, including apprenticeships and residencies, to provide paid experiences for pre-service teachers and increase pathways into education careers in Maine.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by November 6, 2025, the System shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs that includes an overview of the stakeholder discussions and recommendations pursuant to the duties outlined in section 1. The committee must provide the System and stakeholders the opportunity to present the report to the Committee and may report out a bill related to the report in the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature in 2026.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This amendment strikes the existing language in the bill and directs the University of Maine System to convene stakeholders to study the development of a comprehensive system of compensation for student teachers. The amendment requires the System to submit a report by November 6, 2025 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs that includes an overview of the stakeholder discussions and recommendations. It provides that the committee may report out a bill related to the report in the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature in 2026.