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Testimony of Rep. James Dill

L.D. 933 "An Act to Increase to 100 Percent the State Share of Funding for Special Education Costs of All School Administrative Units"

Before the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Jim Dill, and I represent House District 26 and the communities of Bradley, Old Town and Penobscot Nation Voting District. I am here before you today to present **L.D. 933 "An Act to Increase to 100 Percent the State Share of Funding for Special Education Costs of All School Administrative Units"**

This bill, which I submitted on behalf of MMA, would increase the state's funding of special education from the current 50% to 100%. This would be a huge help to the municipalities and schools for budget planning purposes, by knowing that this funding would come from the State. I realize this would create a large fiscal note, especially since it makes the entire increase for the school year of 2026-2027. It may be more palatable to increase the funding by perhaps 10% per year over the next 5 years.

There will be other people behind me who will be better able to answer questions and give the rationale for the bill. I will try to answer questions, if there are any. Thanks