



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Rep. Marygrace Cimino introducing*  
**L.D. 1586, "An Act to Amend the Regional School Unit Budget  
Validation Referendum Law"**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

April 30, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and honorable members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

My name is Representative Marygrace Cimino, and I represent House District 83, comprised of the beautiful towns of Bridgton, Harrison, and Denmark. I am here today to present **LD 1586, "An Act to Amend the Regional School Unit Budget Validation Referendum Law"**.

This bill is, at its core, a simple transparency bill. It does one straightforward thing: it ensures that when voters are asked to approve a school budget in a budget validation referendum, they are clearly told the actual dollar amount of that budget.

Right now, many voters receive a ballot that asks them to approve the school budget without stating the total amount being proposed. That lack of information undermines the democratic process. When we ask citizens to weigh in on how public funds are spent, we owe them the courtesy—and the responsibility—of giving them the full picture. That includes the bottom-line number.

This bill doesn't change the process for developing or approving budgets. It doesn't interfere with local control. It doesn't alter how school boards or budget committees do their work. It simply ensures that when the public is asked to vote on that budget, they see the full amount printed right on the ballot.

That level of clarity is something we already expect in nearly every other area of public spending. We disclose bond amounts in referendums. We include mill rates in tax assessments. Why should school budgets be any different?

LD 1586 supports informed voting. It respects taxpayers. It builds trust between schools and the communities they serve by providing full and honest information.

Please support this simple but meaningful step toward better transparency in public education finance. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I would be happy to answer any questions.

Marygrace Cimino  
State Representative

District 83 Bridgton, Harrison, Denmark