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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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**Testimony of Sen. Joe Rafferty presenting
LD 1719, "An Act Regarding Superintendent Agreements for Transfer Students."
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs**

Good afternoon Representative Murphy, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Joe Rafferty, and I represent Senate District 34, which includes the towns of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Berwick, north Berwick and Wells. I am here today to introduce LD 1719, "An Act Regarding Superintendent Agreements for Transfer Students."

The bill modifies the existing processes for reviewing transfer request determinations. In current law, a parent may request that the Commissioner of Education review a transfer decision, and the commissioner must review the superintendents' decisions, communicate with the parties and either approve or deny the request. In current law, a parent may also request the commissioner's decision be reviewed by the State Board of Education, which must either approve or deny the transfer request.

The bill establishes different standards of review for a case where a request is denied by only one of the superintendents versus a case where both superintendents have denied the request. The bill specifies that only requests that have been denied by one but not both superintendents may be referred to the state board for an additional review after the commissioner has reviewed the superintendents' determinations. The bill also provides that, for the determinations of the commissioner that may be referred to the state board, the superintendents involved and the student's parents are authorized to request that the state board review the commissioner's decision.

The bill provides additional details concerning the subject matter of the reviews conducted by the commissioner and the state board, the materials that must be reviewed, with whom the commissioner may confer and the effect of the commissioner's and state board's determinations on the status of the transfer request.