

State of Maine  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Testimony of Edmond Morin, Chair of the Career and Technical Education Committee of  
The Maine State Board of Education  
Regarding LD 1764: An Act to Ensure Equitable Staffing Ratios Across the State for Career  
and Technical Education Programs in Areas with Smaller Student Populations

Sponsored by: House Speaker Ryan Fecteau  
Date: May 6, 2025

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

My name is Edmond Morin, Career and Technical Education Chair for the Maine State Board of Education. In addition to facilitating the dispersal of federal Career and Technical Education money, the CTE Committee actively supports Career and Technical Education in Maine which is taught in 27 CTE Centers and Regions across the state as-well-as satellite locations.

On behalf of the State Board of Education I am testifying in support of LD 1764: An Act to Ensure Equitable Staffing Ratios Across the State for Career and Technical Education Programs in Areas with Smaller Student Populations.

As an advocate for access to quality career and technical education, the State Board of Education believes this bill is a crucial step forward in promoting fairness and opportunities for all students across Maine.

In its 5-year Strategic Plan for Career and Technical Education the State Board has as a goal reducing systemic barriers to CTE. We believe LD 1764 addresses one such barrier, the struggle some rural CTE regions and centers have meeting the class size guidelines which can have negative funding repercussions and also negatively impact a CTE school's ability to attract qualified instructors.

Many CTE instructors are individuals who have spent their adult lives mastering important skills and acquiring the knowledge that involves. I've spoken to instructors who have said they had reached a point in their working lives when they were ready to step away from the physical demands of working in their chosen fields and were interested in passing on what they have learned during their careers. This may prove to be impossible if, because of smaller student populations, a CTE school can't offer a potential teacher a full-time position. The potential instructor may simply not be able to afford to walk away from a lucrative job as much as they would like to to take on a position with only part time pay.

The funding distribution provision in this legislation is also something the State Board supports. While it will mean more reporting responsibilities for CTE schools, getting even a modest influx of funding can be significantly helpful, especially for smaller schools.

One concern we do have is the use of the word “employee” in this legislation. We believe the intent of the measure is to make it easier for smaller CTE facilities to attract and hire qualified instructors. Therefore, we would recommend amending the bill to say instructor rather than employee.

Many smaller CTE’s are in rural areas which are crying out for qualified workers to meet the needs of local populations. The State Board of Education truly believes that LD 1764 would go a long way toward improving that situation.

I am happy to try and answer any questions you may have.