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Testimony of Representative Michael Brennan presenting

LD 324, An Act to Increase Reading Proficiency in Public Schools

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Good morning, Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and fellow distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Michael Brennan, and I represent House District 115, which includes a portion of Portland. Today, I am here to introduce **LD 324, An Act to Increase Reading Proficiency in Public Schools**.

This bill proposes to address strategies to increase reading proficiency in public schools, especially by the time students have reached the end of the third grade.

LD 324, as amended, would administer \$5 million in each year of the biennial budget to the Department of Education (DOE) to continue its grant program for Maine's school administrative units (SAUs) to implement best teaching and educational practices for reading and math programs. Additionally, \$1 million would be set aside for summer reading and math programs and a special emphasis would be placed on grade level reading. The DOE will also work with a national foundation to maximize private resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.