

State of Maine
Department of Education

Testimony of Paula Gravelle, Director of School Finance, Maine Department of Education

In Support of: L.D. 1992

An Act to Create a Process for the Residents of a Municipality to Withdraw from a School Union

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Sponsored by: Senator Rafferty

Date: January 20, 2026

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

My name is Paula Gravelle, and I am here today representing the Department speaking in support of L.D. 1992 An Act to Create a Process for the Residents of a Municipality to Withdraw from a School Union.

Maine public schools still operate under six School Union organizational structures which encompass 21 municipalities. Since the FY 2007 reorganization initiative that encouraged the formation of Regional School Units (RSUs), the statutory authority to create new School Unions was repealed. Unfortunately, the ability for a municipality to withdraw from an existing Union was also removed. Because School Unions continue to exist and function, municipalities should likewise retain a legal pathway to withdraw from them when necessary.

For these reasons, the Department of Education is in support of L.D. 1992. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have, and I will be available for work sessions on this bill.