

State of Maine
Department of Education

Testimony of Michael Perry, Director of the Office of Higher Education and Educator Support
Maine Department of Education

In Support of: L.D. 2015

An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Sponsored by: Representative Sargent

Date: January 20, 2026

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

My name is Michael Perry, and I am here today representing the Department speaking in support of L.D. 2015 An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies.

Educator vacancy data is a key missing data set in the Maine Department of Education (DOE) State Longitudinal Data System. A required annual collection of school administrative unit (SAU) classroom teacher and educational technician vacancy data will facilitate an improved understanding of the nature of statewide teacher and educational technician shortages. This additional data will enable the Maine DOE to examine relationships among the four data sets that are currently collected: the annual Prek-12 staffing data, the Chapter 115 endorsement area data, the educational technician credentials data, and the Maine education preparation program enrollment and completion data. This will, in turn, facilitate improved analysis and understanding regarding the nature of Maine SAU teacher and educational technician staffing shortages. With more robust data, the Maine DOE and the Maine Legislature could more accurately evaluate the impact of current workforce initiatives that were designed and implemented to address Maine's educator workforce shortages.

For these reasons, the Department of Education is in support of L.D. 2015 An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have, and I will be available for work sessions on this bill.