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January 22, 2026

Testimony of Representative Holly B. Stover presenting

LD 2111, An Act to Amend the Charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Representative Holly Stover, and I am honored to represent House District 48. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today as the sponsor of **LD 2111, An Act to Amend the Charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District**.

I introduced this charter amendment proposal after conversations with local officials, some of whom have kindly traveled here today to share some brief history and discuss why this bill is important to our community. In short, we are simply seeking to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and the School Committee in order to ensure good governance and stewardship of our local school district, both now and in the future.

Specifically, LD 2111 clarifies that the Board of Trustees is responsible for acting as the governing body overseeing buildings and facilities and provides detail on how the Board and School Committee will work together on budget matters.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have for me; however, the local officials here today can share more details about the proposal and may be best positioned to answer your questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Boothbay - Boothbay Harbor CSD
Board of Trustees and School Committee
Joint Meeting Regarding Potential Charter Amendments 16 December
Language voted on and approved by Board of Trustees (Last vote on 11 December)
Language voted on and approved by CSD School Board (Last vote 16 December)
Language voted on and approved by Boothbay Board of Selectmen (16 December)
Language scheduled to be voted on next week by Boothbay Harbor Selectboard
Updated Charter Language Votes as of 17 December, 2025

Sections 1,2,4,5, 7,8,9 – No Changes Recommended or adopted

Sections 3 and 6 approved to be amended as written below

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. P&SL 2023, c. 12 is amended as follows:

Sec. 1. Organization and continued existence. The Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District, referred to in this Act as "the community school district," is a community school district organized pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 105 and this Act to provide public education in grades prekindergarten or kindergarten to grade 12 for the Town of Boothbay and the Town of Boothbay Harbor. The community school district is governed by Title 20-A, chapter 105 except as provided by this Act.

Sec. 2. Governance transition. The district school committee members and the trustees of the community school district serving as of the effective date of this Act shall continue in their offices for their respective remaining terms.

Sec. 3. Board of trustees; district school committee. Except as provided by this Act, the board of trustees and district school committee have the duties and authority pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 105. The board of trustees shall have authority over capital expenditures and the district's capital reserve fund and shall [1] act as a building and facilities governing committee, including authority over the budget for maintaining, repairing, replacing and improving the community school district's buildings, facilities, and non-instructional capital purchases. Each board has distinct areas of responsibility and or authority as outlined in this charter and statute., However, should issues arise involving overlapping responsibilities the boards shall create joint bylaws or procedures as necessary to further assist them in the understanding of and execution of their duties and responsibilities to the Community School District.

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Section 4 Current Charter/Placeholder – No changes adopted

Sec. 4. Cost sharing; amendment. The community school district shall apportion amounts to each member municipality for the total sum of the annual capital budget, less funds available from other sources to meet the same, and for the total sum of the annual operating budget, less funds available to meet the same, based upon the number of resident pupils in each municipality on the most recent June 1st before the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year of the budget; except that no more than 60% and no less than 40% of such net sum for the annual capital budget may be so apportioned to any town in any year. For the purpose of local cost sharing under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688, subsection 4, the district's cost-sharing formula was established by this Act prior to January 1, 2004, and this formula determines each municipality's local cost of education for purposes of Title 20-A, section 15688. The community school district shall assess and collect school taxes from each member municipality as provided by state law. The community school district shall follow the procedure under state law for amendment of cost-sharing, except that the district school committee shall submit any cost-sharing amendment to voters at a referendum and may determine the amendment to be approved only if each municipality adopts the amendment by a majority of its voters voting and if the total vote cast in each municipality is at least 20% of the number of votes cast in the last gubernatorial election.

Current Charter Section 5 (no changes recommended)

Sec. 5. Borrowing authority; voter authorization. Except as provided by this Act, the board of trustees has the authority to borrow pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 1651, subsection 2, paragraph E. Capital project bonds or notes of the community school district that are general obligations must be approved by the district voters. The board of trustees shall issue a warrant to initiate a district referendum on a general obligation bond issue of \$250,000 or more and a warrant to initiate either a district meeting or district referendum on a general obligation bond issue in an amount of less than \$250,000.

Section 6. Budget Approval. The board of trustees shall prepare the revenues and expenditures for facilities operation and maintenance and the capital portion of the budget as outlined in Section 3 of the charter. The school committee shall prepare the revenues and expenditures for the operating portion of the budget. The school committee shall integrate the capital and operating portions of the school operating budget into cost centers in accordance with the cost center summary budget format and shall submit the school operating budget to the budget meeting and budget validation referendum procedure of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 105, subchapter 3. The board of trustees may prepare other articles related to capital needs, such as capital reserve fund articles, for the budget meeting. The school committee shall include these articles in the warrant for the budget meeting.

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Current Charter – Sections 7,8, and 9 – No changes Recommended

Sec. 7. District meeting procedures. The community school district shall conduct budget meetings and special budget meetings in the manner provided under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 105, subchapter 3. The community school district may conduct other meetings of its voters in the manner provided for budget meetings under state law.

Sec. 8. District referendum procedures. The community school district shall conduct referenda for purposes described in this Act or state law in the manner provided for regional school units under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 103-A.

Sec. 9. Controlling law. If any provision of this Act conflicts with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 105, the provisions of this Act control.