

State of Maine
Department of Education

Testimony of Laura Cyr, Ph.D., Federal and State Legislative Specialist, Maine Department of Education

In Support of: L.D. 2172

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (EMERGENCY)

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Sponsored by: Representative Murphy

Date: February 5, 2026

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

My name is Dr. Laura Cyr, and I am here today representing the Maine Department of Education (DOE) speaking in support of L.D. 2172 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (EMERGENCY). This Resolve proposes two definition updates in the rule, as required by the 132nd Legislature: one to the definition of physical escort and one to the definition of serious physical injury. These changes are required by the passage of last session's LD 1248.

"Physical escort" is proposed to mean the temporary, voluntary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder or back to induce a student to walk to a safe location.

"Serious physical injury" means any impairment of the physical condition of a person, whether self-inflicted or inflicted by someone else, that requires a medical practitioner, including, but not limited to, a school nurse, to evaluate or treat the person.

These are the only changes to Chapter 33 and can be found in Section 2 for Definitions in numbers 14 and 23.

The Maine DOE is in support of L.D. 2172. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have, and I will be available for work sessions on this bill.