



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

Holly T. Sargent

(207) 358-4793

Holly.Sargent@legislature.maine.gov

February 18, 2026

Testimony of Rep. Holly T. Sargent introducing
LD 2098, An Act to Update Certain Higher Education Statutes
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Good morning, Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. I am Holly Sargent, and I represent District 147. I am pleased to call your attention to **LD 2098, An Act to Update Certain Higher Education Statutes**.

This bill allows the Maine DOE to collect initial application fees for out-of-state higher education institutions applying for degree-granting authorization or program approval in Maine. LD 2098 amends current statute to give the Higher Education Administration Fund the authority to receive the fees. This bill also allows the State Board of Education to forgo a duplicate institutional review if that institution has already passed a Maine review in the last five years.

The Maine DOE will present testimony on this bill, and I respectfully request that you defer any specific questions regarding the content to them. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to working with you as we deliberate the bill.