



Craig V. Hickman
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman
Introducing LD 2204, "An Act to Allow Schools to Expel Students for Committing Sexual Assault"
Presented before the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
February 26, 2026

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Craig Hickman. I have the honor and privilege of representing the good people of Senate District 14, comprised of the municipalities of Chelsea, Farmingdale, Gardiner, Hallowell, Manchester, Monmouth, Pittston, Randolph, Readfield, Wayne, West Gardiner and Winthrop.

Late last year, I was contacted by a constituent of mine who informed me that her 6-year-old daughter who is attending Kindergarten had repeatedly been sexually assaulted by one of her classmates, also 6 years old. This had happened several times.

When my constituent and the father of her child were informed of these assaults and inquired as to why this student had not been removed from the school, they were frustrated to learn from the superintendent that current State statute — specifically, Title 20-A §1001 (9) — prevents this student from being expelled from the school. When my office contacted the superintendent of the school, it was confirmed that the school received legal advice that expelling the student would be extremely difficult under current state statute and could invite litigation.

Therefore, to ensure unimaginable incidents like this can be properly dealt with under our statutory landscape, this bill amends current law to require that school boards adopt a policy for expelling a student enrolled in any grade who is determined to have committed sexual assault on school grounds or other school property. This bill also requires that any student who is determined to have committed sexual assault must be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year, unless a school board authorized the superintendent to modify in writing the requirement for expulsion of a student on a case-by-case basis.

The proposed language mirrors language in current statute regarding disciplining students who bring firearms to school.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.