



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Kelly Noonan Murphy introducing*  
**LD 2226, An Act to Amend the Essential Programs and Services School  
Funding Formula**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

Good morning, Sen. Rafferty and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. I am Rep. Kelly Murphy, and I represent District 125, which includes part of Scarborough. Today, I am here to introduce a bill that was referenced back to our committee: **LD 2226, An Act to Amend the Essential Programs and Services School Funding Formula.**

It's fair to say that, over the last several years, the Essential Programs and Services school funding formula (EPS) has not been working well for the majority of Maine's school districts. In recognition of that, in 2024, the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee of this Legislature asked the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) to study how the formula is actually distributing state funds among districts across the state.

MEPRI reported back to the committee in 2025 with their assessment, along with some potential changes that could result in a more equitable EPS formula. The committee asked them to spend the interim modeling some of their suggested changes so we would have a better sense of how districts would be affected.

In order for us to hold a fully noticed public hearing and work session on EPS, we reported out a committee bill that was referred back to us for action. The summary of the bill includes the disclaimer that "the committee has not taken a position on the substance of this bill...the committee is not suggesting and does not intend to suggest that it agrees or disagrees with any aspect of the bill."

Making changes to the EPS funding formula is a huge undertaking, and we, as a committee, are fully committed to listening to suggestions, concerns and all information provided to us today at the public hearing, and in the days to follow. There will be plenty of work sessions and much deliberation before a bill making changes to the formula would be reported out of this committee for a full vote of the Legislature.

Thank you.

District 125: Part of Scarborough