

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 127

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Becky Fles
MSAD 11

RESOLVE, TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTION

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Lucy Richard
MSAD 1

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Steven Bailey, executive director of Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committee of the Maine School Boards Association in support of L.D. 127.

VICE PRESIDENT

Peggy Lembo-Splaine
Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor
CSD

It goes without saying that computer science instruction is a growing and ever-changing field reflecting the evolving nature of the industry itself.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Steven W. Bailey

We found this definition helpful:

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**MAINE COUNCIL OF
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The most important aspect of computer science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. Students study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts. This is not limited to just working with computers, but includes subjects such as robotics and coding.

Hannah King, Esq., Chair

This bill and the grants it proposes would allow flexibility and innovation in professional development to support teachers new to this field. It also encourages hands-on learning by our teachers – an approach we know helps keep students engaged.

We also appreciate that it encourages interaction with outside organizations and business partners, who can help keep the instruction relevant. And, we applaud that grant applications will be judged on how well the proposal supports under-represented student populations.

The concern we have is where is the funding going to come from for these grants and can it be sustained? We hope the industry itself could help support the program, taking the long-term view that public schools are and will be educating their future workforce.