



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

A. PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

March 17, 2021

Senator Matthea Daughtry, Co-chair
Representative Michael Brennan, Co-chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Dear Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Committee,

LD 414, An Act To Create Parity between Private Schools and Public Schools Regarding Career and Technical Education Tuition Rates seeks to remove the statutory provision which states that schools receiving tuition students who are enrolled in regular school day career and technical education (CTE) programs *may* charge a tuition rate up to 2/3 of the maximum tuition rate that is computed under Title 20-A, Section 5805 and/or 5806.

If enacted, this bill would permit *any* school receiving tuition students to charge the full tuition rate for a student concurrently enrolled in CTE programming, despite the student only attending a partial day at the receiving school, with the rest of the student's day spent at the CTE school. For sending schools which are currently paying a reduced tuition rate for their CTE students, this will result in an increase to the school budget. For example, one third of the current year's tuition rate is \$3,714.84. If a school administrative unit (SAU) is sending 500 secondary students to a private school, with 80 of those students also enrolled in CTE programming, the increase to the sending SAU's budget would be \$297,187.20. As the state currently funds 100% of the EPS model for CTE, all school units participate in this cost through the mill expectation. Therefore, to require those units to pay the additional one third of tuition for CTE students is asking those units to pay twice for these costs.

Statute currently affords a school board the ability to vote to pay a higher tuition rate than that which is calculated under Section 5805 and/or Section 5806. For students attending public schools, this language is in Section 5805, subsection 2. In the case of students attending private schools, it is permissible for a school board to vote to pay a higher rate under certain circumstances; that language is in Section 5806, subsection 3.

The Department is happy to answer questions and provide additional information regarding LD 414 during the work session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Allen".

Joanne Allen, Director
School Finance and Operations