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Testimony of Representative Michael Brennan introducing: LD 52, "An Act Regarding Collective Bargaining Negotiations by Public Employers of Teachers"
March 29, 2021

Good Afternoon Senator Rafferty and fellow members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Representative Michael Brennan, and I represent District 36, part of the City of Portland. I am here today to introduce LD 52, "An Act Regarding Collective Bargaining Negotiations by Public Employers of Teachers."

Essentially, this bill addresses two issues. First, it allows the topics of planning and preparation time, as well as teacher transfers, to be part of the collective bargaining process if both the elected school board and the teachers' union mutually agree. Either side has the option to decline to negotiate on one or both of these issues. In short, these two items become permissive items for collective bargaining.

Second, the bill outlines a more robust meet-and-advise process that can be initiated by either the school board or the union when an educational or other relevant policy is proposed.

While the bill is relatively short, it represents a significant step forward in the relationship between local school boards and employees. I want to thank the interested parties involved, including the Department of Education, for their help in reaching this agreement.

Thank you very much for your consideration. I would be glad to answer any questions.