

State of Maine
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Testimony of Wilson G. Hess, Chairman of the State Board of Education

In Support of: L.D. 1072: An Act Regarding Career and Technical Education and Memoranda of Understanding with Community Colleges

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Sponsored by: Senator Pouliot

Date: April 9, 2021

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Wilson Hess. I am the Chair of the State Board of Education and I am here today on behalf of the State Board to speak in support of L.D. 1072: An Act Regarding Career and Technical Education and Memoranda of Understanding with Community Colleges

The State Board of Education (SBE) believes that Maine students should be afforded robust, high quality, and comprehensive educational offerings that lead to careers which may be enhanced by, but do not require, traditional 2 or 4-year advanced degree programs. In high school programs, college readiness receives a lot of attention; career-centered pathways deserve the same. Its 5-year strategic plan for Perkins V federal funds which support career and technical education statewide endorses “better alignment of secondary/post-secondary CTE credit awards” and is currently embodied in a joint SBE, Department of Education, Maine Community College System memorandum of understanding which is reviewed and updated annually. LD 1072 is consistent with this goal.

I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have or to provide additional information for the work session on this bill.