



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

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

April 13, 2021

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

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

LD 651, An Act To Stabilize Student Count in Maine's School Funding Formula proposed originally to have changes the pupil count on page 2 of the ED 279 from a two year average to a three year average, for a school administrative unit (SAU) experiencing a 10% student decline in the most recent year. After careful review with the Department's School Finance team, an amendment was developed for Title 20-A §15674, sub-1 beginning in the 2022-23 school year to allow the following change:

This amendment requires the Department of Education to use a 3-year average for attending pupil counts, if that average is greater than the current 2-year average, when a school administrative unit experiences a decrease of 10% or more of total school administrative unit attending student enrollment in the most recent year.

The Department supports this amendment. We will be available to provide additional information on LD 651 and answer questions during the work session.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Joanne Allen

Joanne Allen

Director of School Finance and Operations

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