

130th Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 12

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Testimony Presenting

LD 1114

An Act To Require the State To Meet the Mandatory 55 Percent Contribution to Schools

Good morning Sen. Rafferty, Rep. Meyer and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.

My name is Dave Miramant, and I proudly represent all of the people of Appleton, Camden, Criehaven, Cushing, Friendship, Hope, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, Muscle Ridge Islands, North Haven, Owl s Head, Rockland, Rockport, South Thomaston, St. George, Thomaston, Union, Vinalhaven and Warren in the Maine Senate.

I am here today to support LD 1114 An Act To Require the State To Meet the Mandatory 55 Percent Contribution to Schools.

Our school districts are struggling with annual budget increases due to inflation, and communities are resistant to meeting those budget increases by raising property taxes.

This situation could be eased if the state was meeting its obligation to fund the 55 percent of Essential Programs and Services (EPS) as was voted upon in a citizen referendum many years ago. Augusta has yet to fully fund the EPS according to the formula and this bill seeks to remedy that.

Money collected through income taxes is a fair way to assure that equality. Property tax increases affect those on low or fixed income disproportionately.

After so many opportunities to meet the state's commitment and ignoring that responsibility in order to fund pet projects, the 130th Legislature needs to draw the line. We need to stop ignoring the law, stop ignoring the Citizen Referendum, and fully fund the formula.

Please help protect both students and property taxpayers by passing this bill. Thanks for your consideration.