

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1379

### AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A LIFETIME SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CERTIFICATION FOR ESTABLISHED AND SUCCESSFUL EDUCATORS

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Steven Bailey, executive director of Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association in opposition to L.D. 1379.

School boards and superintendents are opposed to L.D. 1379 in large part because we don't understand its intention or what it would mean to have a certified substitute.

Short-term substitute teachers are not part of the certification rule, Chapter 115. Long-term substitutes are defined in that rule.

The definition:

#### **Long Term Substitute Personnel**

- A. **Function:** Substitute personnel holding a certification may serve on a long-term basis (greater than six consecutive weeks) in schools to fill vacancies caused by the absence, resignation, inability to employ, or termination of a certified or cleared employee.
- B. A superintendent or headmaster who employs a substitute in violation of this Section shall be subject to the penalties of Section 4.3 of this rule.
- C. **Substitute Teachers and Educational Specialists:** A certified teacher or educational specialist may serve as a substitute with no time limit, provided that the teaching certificate bears an endorsement for the grade and subject being taught, or the educational specialist certificate is appropriate to the employment. A SAU may request a waiver from the Commissioner if finding candidates that meet the eligibility criteria is difficult.
- D. Substitute standards for less than 6 weeks are determined by the SAU and require that the substitute have minimally a high school diploma

We would appreciate the sponsor putting all this in context so we can better evaluate his proposal.