



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

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

February 8, 2022

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 176, An Act To Facilitate a Grade 9 to 16 School Project is a private and special law that would authorize the voters of School Administrative District No. 4, School Administrative District No. 41, and School Administrative District No. 46 to proceed with building a regional secondary school by forming a Community School District (CSD) to support the newly formed secondary school. The bill also authorizes the voters of Regional School Unit No. 64 to join the CSD.

The school construction project referenced in this bill was placed on the State Board of Education's approved projects list on August 11, 2020. It is currently the only active applicant on the list. The project is in the early planning stages of the Department's school construction planning process, and it is imperative that a workable governance structure is developed locally in order to remain in the Department's school construction pipeline.

The portion of statute that permitted the formation of a CSD was repealed more than a decade ago. If this bill is successful, any subsequent changes required by the newly formed CSD will necessitate the successful passage of subsequent private and special laws. LD 1802, An Act to Amend the Requirements of the Reorganization Plan for the Formation of Regional School Unit, may provide a more simplified approach to achieving the intended outcome of LD 176. The bill received unanimous support from this Committee last month, and if passed by the full Legislature later this session, will allow for the formation of a regional school unit responsible for grades 9 through 12, as outlined in Section 2 of LD 176.

The Department supports the bill sponsor's vision for delivering comprehensive regional educational programming for all students. We will be happy to provide additional information on LD 176 and answer questions during the upcoming work session.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Scott Brown

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Scott Brown

Director School Facilities and Transportation

DocuSigned by:

Paula Gravelle

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Paula Gravelle

School Finance and Governance Coordinator

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