

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization*

TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: Neither For Nor Against LD 753: An Act to Allow Retired Teachers and Educational Technicians to be Recertified
DATE: March 28, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dr. Holly Blair, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 800 PreK-12 principals, assistant principals, CTE directors and assistant directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 753. The Committee fully agrees that retired teachers and educational technicians should be able to return to work full time with the same certifications that they held when they retired without penalty. This will help address the education professional shortage issue in the state of Maine.

That being said, we strongly encourage the language to state that the teacher and/or educational technician return to work with the same certification within five years. This stays in line with all other teachers and educational technicians who have not left the field yet need to stay up to date with their professional development to maintain certification.

We also strongly encourage you to add administrators to the list of those who would not be penalized if their certifications run out after retirement and they return to an administrative role.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 753.