

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: Neither For Nor Against LD 335: An Act to Improve Educator Certification Response Times
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 335. We believe the concept of this bill is to lessen the wait time for people to become certified in the State of Maine in order to support the significant need to fill positions in our schools.

We are equally afraid of the unintended consequences of the passing of this bill. Going through the certification process can be complicated. Those who are reading transcripts and deciphering if they match up to the title on the Maine Certification standards is subjective. When a person who calls in to the certification office calls for clarity on why they were denied certification, they may get a different response than what they received in writing. This bill will only add five additional people to the Certification Office who could create an opportunity for five additional – and differing- responses.

In addition to this, we are very concerned with the amount of money that will be taken out of the general fund to pay for what could be more confusion for educators.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 348.