

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Opposition of LD 1284: An Act to Require Personal Finance to be Taught as a Separate Course to Obtain a High School Diploma
DATE: May 10, 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 and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is in opposition of LD 1284. The Committee supports the concept of the bill and agrees that personal finance is an important topic for all students to know and be able to demonstrate.

That being said, as with other diploma standards bills, Maine is a local control state and it is up to the local school boards to determine what standards are necessary for students to demonstrate in addition to the minimum Maine DOE Diploma standards.

For this reason, we urge the Committee vote Ought Not to Pass.