



Maine School Superintendents Association



OFFICERS—2024-25

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 900

AN ACT TO PROTECT STATE RETIREE PENSIONS FROM INFLATION

March 26, 2025

PRESIDENT  
MARIA LIBBY  
MSAD 28/FIVE TOWN CSD  
CAMDEN, 04843

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and esteemed members of the Committee on Labor, I am Eileen King, the executive director of the Maine School Superintendents Association, testifying on behalf of the MSSA Legislative Committee in support of L.D. 900, An Act to Protect Maine Retiree Pensions from Inflation.

PRESIDENT-ELECT  
DR. ANDREW DOLLOFF  
YARMOUTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
YARMOUTH, 04096

Maine's retired educators have been unfairly punished for decades, and L.D. 900 would take a substantial step towards providing them with the benefits they deserve. Nearly 15 years ago, state retirees – including teachers – lost meaningful purchasing power when the state cut the cost-of-living adjustment for these workers' hard-earned retirement benefits and placed a cap on these adjustments.

VICE PRESIDENT  
RHONDA SPERREY  
RSU 64/MSAD 64  
CORINTH, 04427

This has done serious harm to Maine's teaching profession. The state turned its back on promises of economic security for these retired employees, who could no longer keep up with the rising cost-of-living. Many retired educators ended up in precarious economic positions due to no fault of their own.

SECRETARY/TREASURER  
BENJAMIN SIROIS  
VALLEY UNIFIED REGIONAL  
SERVICE CENTER  
FORT KENT, 04743

Passing L.D. 900 would send a clear sign that Maine cares about its state retirees. Our members believe it would help to strengthen our teaching profession. It would demonstrate to aspiring educators that entering this field will provide economic certainty and stability for them and their families. The passage of the Social Security Fairness Act late last year repealed harmful federal provisions that had penalized retired educators, and L.D. 900 would take another meaningful step towards offering assurance and financial stability – something we know our staff deserve.

PAST PRESIDENT  
PATRICIA HOPKINS  
MSAD 11  
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EILEEN E. KING  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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*Leading for equity, excellence and opportunity for all Maine Students*