

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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TO: Committee on Labor and Housing
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Support of LD 703: An Act to Increase the Amount to Which a State Employee or Teacher Retiree's Cost-of-living Adjustment Is Applied from \$20,000 to the Retiree's Actual Retirement Benefit
DATE: April 14, 2021

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and distinguished members of the Committee on Labor and Housing. My name is Dr. Holly Couturier and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. We represent more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee supports LD 703. Currently, as the cost of living increases, state employees can have up to a 3% increase on their retirement wages, but only for the first \$20,000. The cost of living index takes into consideration the overall cost of living – not just a portion. This bill will allow for that increase to cover all of the actual retirement benefits and therefore make the cost of living actually livable, not partially.

The MPA urges the Committee to vote Ought To Pass on LD 703.