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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1509

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT MAINE'S SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester, and members of the Labor and Housing Committee. I am Steven Bailey, executive director of Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association in opposition to L.D. 1509 because we believe it is unnecessary.

Bus drivers who are employees of schools in most cases are members of an association that have collective bargaining agreements. Typically, these agreements include a set number of days that bus drivers work during the school year. Normally this includes days students are in session and also during certain staff development days when bus drivers would engage in training.

Snow days are built into the calendar in most cases and are not paid days for bus drivers. Should the day get made up, the bus drivers would be paid for that day.

School vacations are factored into the work year and are anticipated breaks in the driver's work year.