

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 827

### AN ACT TO ALLOW EMPLOYEES TO REQUEST FLEXIBLE WORK SCHEDULES

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Committee on Labor and Housing, 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. 827.

Our associations oppose this bill because it is impractical and more importantly does not support the needs of students we are obliged to serve as public schools. School days are defined in statute as follows:

#### **Title 20-A, §4801. School days**

The following provisions shall apply to school days.

**Number.** A school administrative unit shall make provision for the maintenance of all of its schools for at least 180 days a year. At least 175 days shall be used for instruction. In meeting the requirement of a 180-day school year, no more than 5 days may be used for in-service education of teachers, administrative meetings, parent-teacher conferences, records' days and similar activities.

- A. The commissioner may reduce or waive the minimum number of days required on application from a school board. The commissioner may authorize an equivalent number of hours to be substituted for days for a limited time period upon application from a school board. The application must be supported in writing with a statement of the reasons for the request. [PL 2009, c. 87, §1 (AMD).]

School leaders work to accommodate the people they employ when it comes to schedules, but our first obligation is to our students. Those schedules are a local decision and that decision must remain a local decision and be in the best interest of the students we serve.