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TESTIMONY REGARDING

L.D. 805

AN ACT TO ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES TO PROHIBIT FIREARMS AT VOTING PLACES

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and member of the State and Local Government Committee, I am Victoria Wallack, director of communications and government relations for Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association.

Maine superintendents supported the bill as a precaution and way to remind the general public who are on school grounds only on Election Day that guns are prohibited.

That reminder also would be helpful to those who have permits to conceal carry to not bring their gun with them to the voting booth.

MSBA was divided on this bill largely because some members on the legislative committee felt the current prohibition on guns on school property already is in place and would apply when schools are used for voting. They also felt regulating municipal property was not their purview.

The prohibition on school property is in Title 20-A §6552, and it prohibits possession of a firearm on school property or the property of an approved private school with very limited exceptions, including law enforcement officers and those with a unloaded firearm locked in their vehicle while attending a hunter's breakfast.

Others MSBA members said it would be good to reinforce with this legislation that guns should not be in voting places, at schools or on municipal property. It also was raised that students are in municipally owned community centers on a regular basis.