

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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TO: Committee on Transportation

FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee

RE: In Support of LD 2159: An Act to Require School Buses to Be Equipped with and to Use School Bus Crossing Arms

DATE: January 29, 2026

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and distinguished members of the Committee on Transportation. My name is Dr. Holly Blair, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 700 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals, CTE Directors and Assistant Directors, and Athletic Directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee, is in strong support of LD 2159. Student safety is of the utmost importance to Maine's school leaders. Each day, thousands of students rely on school transportation, and the moments when students are boarding or exiting a bus are among the most vulnerable times in the school day. LD 2159 addresses this critical safety concern by requiring that all school buses be equipped with a school bus crossing arm and that the crossing arm be used when students are getting on and off the bus.

School bus crossing arms are a proven, common-sense safety measure. By physically directing students to cross several feet in front of the bus, crossing arms increase visibility for both the driver and surrounding traffic, reducing the risk of students being in a blind spot. Mandating both the installation and consistent use of this equipment establishes a clear, uniform standard across the state and reinforces safe practices that protect students in every community.

While the Maine Principals' Association strongly supports the intent of LD 2159 and would like to see this requirement implemented within 90 days of adjournment, we also recognize the practical realities districts face. We respectfully request that schools be provided the next school year to fully comply with this new law. This implementation window would allow districts to plan responsibly, ensure proper installation, and provide any necessary training without disrupting transportation services.

LD 2159 prioritizes student safety while allowing for thoughtful, realistic implementation. For these reasons, the Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee urges the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2159.