



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Brian Hubbell presenting
LD 853: An Act to Allow Secondary Schools to Grant Intermediate Certificates of Academic Proficiency

Senator Langley, Representative Kornfield, esteemed colleagues on the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I am Brian Hubbell, representing House District 135, Bar Harbor, Mount Desert, and Lamoine, and I am before you this morning as the sponsor of **LD 853: An Act to Allow Secondary Schools to Grant Intermediate Certificates of Academic Proficiency**.

This bill seeks simply to establish certification of proficiency in each of the eight content areas of the Maine Learning Results as official academic credentials of student learning and achievement.

These certifications would become part of each student's transcript and would be official credentials for employment and for application to postsecondary enrollment.

In aggregate, they would also be part of the data that the Department of Education collects from schools towards a more meaningful measure of student learning than simple graduation statistics.

This bill offers this concept independent of any policy discussion about what measures of achievement should be appropriately required to receive a Maine high school diploma.

Regardless of whether we decide to maintain, lower, raise, narrow, or broaden the diploma requirements, this bill offers simply a more accurate record of real student achievement and the state's driving aspirations in relation to the Maine Learning Results.

Just as importantly, the bill also reinforces a clear policy around the obligation our schools must uphold to offer sufficient opportunity for all Maine students to reach proficiency by varied pathways for the full range of the state's learning expectations.

Because I hope this approach serves as a clearer and more durable route towards our state's expectations in relation to proficiency-based learning, I urge you to consider this bill on its own merits, separate from other bills which seek to modify diploma requirements.

However, for the committee's consideration, I offer the language below as an alternative:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4722-A, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Certificates of content area proficiency. A school administrative unit may shall award a certificate of content area proficiency to a student who has demonstrated proficiency in each a content area of the system of learning results established under section 6209. A certificate of content area proficiency may must be included in the student's permanent academic transcript, and a student may use a certificate of content area proficiency as an official credential of academic achievement for the purposes of employment and postsecondary education. A school administrative unit may report its issuance of certificates of content area proficiency to the department, and The department may collect and aggregate these data as evidence of intermediate progress towards high school graduation goals.

Thank you. I'm happy to take any questions.