



MAINE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. #431

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS GOVERNING THE WORK PERMIT PROCESS FOR MINORS AND TO CONFORM THE LAWS GOVERNING ALLOWABLE PLACES OF WORK FOR MINORS TO FEDERAL LAW

Senator Patrick, Representative Herbig and members of the Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee, I am Elaine Tomaszewski, associate executive director of Maine School Management Association. I am here to testify on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Superintendents Association and Maine School Boards Association in opposition to L.D. 431.

We believe it is important for the law to continue to require that a superintendent sign off on work permits in the summer because only the school district will be aware of whether a student should be attending summer school. Summer school programs are used to help students earn credits they may have failed to earn in the regular school year, or to prepare them for studies in the upcoming year.

As in the regular school year, the superintendent takes into account a student's academic standing and attendance when approving a summer work permit. The summer work permit can therefore be a good incentive for a student to keep up with their summer school work.

We note that one of the reasons given in the bill to make this change is to expedite the process. Our understanding is the permits are issued in a timely fashion by the superintendents. If there are suggestions on making the system work more efficiently at the school level, we would be happy to consider them for the work session.