

**The Maine Heritage Policy Center  
Testimony to Oppose LD 1638  
“An Act To Provide for Gubernatorial Appointments to  
the Maine Charter School Commission”**

Senator Millett, Representative Kornfield and distinguished members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Adam Crepeau and I am a policy analyst at The Maine Heritage Policy Center. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to LD 1638.

LD 1638 would change the appointing authority for members of the Maine Charter School Commission. Instead of all board members being appointed by the State Board of Education, four of the seven members would be solely chosen by the governor. The Maine Heritage Policy Center is opposed to giving the governor complete appointing authority over the majority of members on the Maine Charter School Commission.

This bill would make the process of appointing members to the Maine Charter School Commission more partisan. Currently, a majority of the nine members on the State Board of Education need to agree on a candidate for appointment.<sup>1</sup> All members on the State Board of Education are currently appointed by the governor -- their candidate selection should be a representation of the governor's views.<sup>2</sup> This bill would centralize the appointing authority to one decision-maker for the majority of the commission's seats. Thus, this bill would favor partisanship and centralization of power over the education of Maine children.

Not to mention, this session has been filled with legislation to prohibit public charters from advertising, to arbitrarily cap enrollment in virtual public charters and to make the cap of ten schools permanent. The Maine Heritage Policy Center is concerned this bill is another attack on public charter schools in Maine. What is the motive to remove the appointing authority from the State Board of Education to the governor? What problem does this proposal solve?

Because this bill would centralize the appointing authority for a majority of the Maine Charter School Commission in the governor's office, The Maine Heritage Policy Center urges the committee to vote, “Ought Not to Pass” on LD 1638. Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec401.html>;

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.