

SENATE

CHRISTOPHER W. RECTOR, DISTRICT 22, CHAIR
THOMAS H. MARTIN, JR., DISTRICT 25
TROY DALE JACKSON, DISTRICT 35

O.F.P.R.

2012 MAR 30 PM



NATALIE L. HAYNES, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
CAROLYN RUSSO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
RHONDA MILLER, COMMITTEE CLERK

HOUSE

KERRI L. PRESCOTT, TOPSHAM, CHAIR
DANA L. DOW, WALDOBORO
MELVIN NEWENDYKE, LITCHFIELD
AMY FERN VOLK, SCARBOROUGH
RAYMOND WALLACE, Dexter
JOHN L. TUTTLE, JR., SANFORD
TIMOTHY E. DRISCOLL, WESTBROOK
PAUL E. GILBERT, JAY
ROERT B. HUNT, BUXTON
ERIN D. HERBIG, BELFAST

STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Richard W. Rosen, Senate Chair
Representative Patrick S. A. Flood, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Christopher W. Rector, Senate Chair *CR*
Representative Kerri L. Prescott, House Chair *KLP*
Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic
Development

DATE: March 29, 2012

RE: **Priorities for bills on Appropriations Table**

Pursuant to Joint Rule 314(7), we are reporting our committee's priorities for final passage of bills reported out of our committee that are now on the Appropriations Table.

The Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development unanimously selected LD 765, *An Act To Address the Documented Educational and Rehabilitation Needs of Person Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired* as its only priority. The committee requests that if 100% of the funds necessary to ensure the needs of the blind and visually impaired cannot be met, that the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs transfer any funds available.

In addition, the language in LD 765, Section 1 (26 MRSA §1418-D, sub-§2) includes a sentence that has raised concern with agencies that work with the blind and visually impaired. The line in question states: "Educational services that are required by federal law to be provided to blind or visually impaired children from birth to 20 years of age must take precedence over services provided to blind and visually impaired adults." This sentence reiterates current federal IDEA law. It is followed by a sentence that further clarifies the Department of Education's responsibility for the education of these children: "Nothing in this section relieves school administrative units from fulfilling their responsibilities under Title 20-A, Part 4, subpart 1."

cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic
Development