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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Representative David Farrington, Legislative Chair, Legislative Youth Advisory Council

FROM: Senator Peter Bowman, Senate Chair; and  
 Representative Jacqueline R. Norton, House Chair  
 Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

SUBJ: Request that the LYAC Review LD 1254, An Act to Modify the Student Code of Conduct

We are writing on behalf of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs to request that the Legislative Youth Advisory Council review the issues raised by LD 1254, *An Act to Modify the Student Code of Conduct*. As you know, the intent of the bill was to allow law enforcement agencies to more readily share information regarding juvenile offenses with a school superintendent or principal. The express purpose of the sharing was to facilitate enforcement of a school's code of conduct. A copy of LD 1254 is attached.

Considerable testimony was received both in support and in opposition to this bill. Ultimately the committee voted "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 1254, but we would like to revisit this issue during the second session. We are asking the Department of Education to review current laws pertaining to the sharing of information on juvenile offenses and alleged offenses. The department is being asked to make recommendations to simplify and possibly broaden the circumstances under which law enforcement personnel can provide information to the schools and clarify how that information may be shared and used within the school. The Department of Education is being asked to include representatives of the Maine School Management Association and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group in its discussions and development of recommendations.

We believe that the LYAC could make a significant contribution to further discussions on how illegal activities outside of school affect the school community as a whole and what responses are appropriate and meaningful to juvenile perpetrators. Jill Ippoliti, the committee analyst assigned to this bill, is prepared to provide you with

copies of testimony and notes from our discussions and a brief legislative history of current provisions of law that restrict information sharing.

You may also want to solicit comments from various interested parties who appeared before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs at the public hearing and during the work sessions on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to reading LYAC's biennial report this coming December, and we hope that the Youth Council can include some recommendations on these issues in that report.

cc: Patrick Norton, Director of OPLA  
Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst, OPLA