

## SPECIAL ALERT E-NEWS from LDA of Maine 1-28-08

Call us toll free 1-877-208-4029 for assistance.

### URGENT HIGH ALERT #2

9 AM Wednesday, January 30, 2008  
ROOM 202 Cross Office Building in Augusta

OUR MAINE LEGISLATORS ARE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU!

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

### Public Hearing Scheduled for Major Bills Effecting Special Education

If you can come to public hearing this Wednesday, 1/30/08, then please do so. Driving directions are at [www.geocities.com/helpkiddos/crossdirections.htm](http://www.geocities.com/helpkiddos/crossdirections.htm)

If you can't come to public hearing then YOU CAN STILL BE HEARD by EMAILING THE 13 MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (see addresses below)

These are the four key special education bills your legislators are hearing:

#### 1. LD 2136 Legislative Review of Chapter 101 (Major Substantive Regulations for Special Education) AMEND LD 2136

- o PLEASE ASK LEGISLATORS TO: ACCEPT THE STAKEHOLDERS FINAL REPORT OF THE ADVERSE EFFECT STAKEHOLDER GROUP (referred to by some as the "Majority Report" where consensus was reached; 16 approved including two special ed teachers and one administrator with only 3 members opposed).
- o PLEASE ASK LEGISLATORS TO: CLARIFY CHAPTER 101 TO VERIFY THAT MINUTES WERE TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE WRITTEN NOTICE, NOT ELIMINATED. Note: Some districts have eliminated minutes even though last session the EDU cmte directed their comments to be included in Written Notice (formerly the Prior Written Notice).

- **PLEASE ASK LEGISLATORS TO: NOT MAKE ANY OTHER CHANGES TO CHAPTER 101** (in particular, keep the 4-year Statute of Limitations for due process hearings).

## **2. LD 1949: An Act to Change the 60 Calendar Day Timeline for Evaluations Back to 45 School Days OPPOSE LD 1949**

- **PLEASE ASK LEGISLATORS TO: NOT TO CHANGE THE 60-CALENDAR-DAY TIMELINE for initial evaluations** (which aligns with federal regulation and is appropriate for Child Development Services (CDS) which operates year-round noting that this rule only applies to the first INITIAL evaluation; if this passes kids referred in the last two months of the school year may need to wait until the fall for their evaluation).

## **3. LD 1973: An Act to Improve the Compliance and Accountability of the Child Development Services System SUPPORT LD 1973.**

- **PLEASE ASK LEGISLATORS TO: ACCEPT THE Subcommittee to Study Early Childhood Special Education's RECOMMENDATION to REQUIRE DOE TO REPORT on CDS sites to assure accountability.**

## **4. LD 2027: An Act to Provide Ombudsman Services to Families of Children with Disabilities**

- **OMBUDSMAN SERVICES FOR FAMILIES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION** (will need the assurance that the staff can attend IEP/IFSP meeting to assist parents).

### **Contact info for the 13 Education Committee members:**

Sen Peter Bowman peterbowman@comcast.net  
Sen Libby Mitchell libmitchell@roadrunner.com  
Sen Peter Mills pmills@mainelegal.net  
Rep Jackie Norton jrnorton@prexar.com  
Rep Ed Finch edfinch@roadrunner.com  
Rep Elaine Makas RepElaine.Makas@legislature.maine.gov  
Rep David Farrington dwfarrington@maine.rr.com  
Rep Charlie Harlow charlow1@maine.rr.com  
Rep Pat Sutherland psutherland@sutherlandweston.com  
Rep Peter Edgecomb pedgecom@maine.rr.com  
Rep Howard McFadden Rep Howard.McFadden@legislature.maine.gov  
Rep Roberta Muse robertamuse@gmail.com  
Rep Meredith Strang Burgess MSBLegislature@burgessadv.com

Note: All Administrative and Informational Letters (with more formatting for ease of reading and printing) are available at the following address:

<http://www.maine.gov/education/edletrs/index.shtml>

The current rule and the Proposed Rule Amendments for Chapter 101-  
Maine Unified Special Education Regulation at:

<http://www.maine.gov/education/rulechanges.htm> .

Hard copies may be obtained from Jaci Holmes by phone at 207/624-6999

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**NOTE: Please check our web site for additional information under  
"Legislative Updates" that may be of interest:**

**Our Professional Advisory Board Member Richard O'Meara's comments of  
December 10, 2007 to the MDOE regarding these Chapter 101 rules which  
LDA of Maine fully endorse.**

**LDA of Maine's comments to the MDOE Chapter 101 SPECIAL ED REGS**

**The Stakeholders Group on Adverse Effect's FINAL REPORT 9-28-07**