

### Abstentions

An abstention is a non-expression and cannot be considered a vote in favor of or against a motion.

Each member of a public body has the duty to express a choice or preference by voting on the issues, but can legally abstain from doing so when there is a statutory or ethical conflict of interest. Not to vote is to abstain.

Abstentions are intended for situations where a member may have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the matter being voted on.

Legal Reference: 30 MRSA § 2605 et seq.

Cross Reference: BCB - School Committee Conflict of Interest  
BEDF - Voting Method

	AVS	HES	LCS
First Reading:	<u>5/31/2012</u>	<u>5/14/2012</u>	<u>5/7/2012</u>
Second Reading and Adoption:	<u>6/18/2012</u>	<u>6/11/2012</u>	<u>6/4/2012</u>