

Comprehensive Tax and Education Funding Reform Bills Printed

The two interrelated bills that together make up the recommendation of the Legislature's Education Funding Reform Committee have been printed. Without question, the package of these two bills represent the most important tax legislation to be submitted since the sales tax was adopted in the early 1950s and the income tax was adopted in the late 1960s.

LD 2086, *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Education Funding Reform Committee*, contains the statutory changes that would implement the Committee's recommendation. At its centerpiece, this bill would limit the property tax mill rate for education funding for all primary residential, commercial-agricultural-industrial, and undeveloped property at 6 mills. The maximum education mill rate that could be applied to secondary residential property (camps, vacation homes) would be 12 mills, which is just about the state average. These changes closely resemble the tax reform that occurred in Michigan in the mid 1990s.

The recommendation of the Education Funding Reform Committee is that these tax code changes be put on the statewide ballot in November of this year so that Maine's voters can have their say. LD 2086 also contains guided direction to the Legislature so that if the voters approve of this plan for property tax relief in November, the Legislature in 2003 would be tasked with amending the state's sales tax code to replace the property tax rev-

enue that would no longer have to be levied to support K-12 education. The actual changeover to the new system would not occur until 2004.

LD 2087, the companion bill, is entitled: *Resolution, Proposing an*

Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow the Legislature to Establish Classes of Property for Purposes of Taxation and to Exempt Per-

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Tax Cap Petition Update

Since October 12, 2001 municipal officials, legislators and taxpayers have been waiting for the Secretary of State to formally announce whether or not the Maine Taxpayers Action Network (MTAN) has collected enough valid signatures on a petition to submit to the Legislature this session a "Proposition 13"-style tax reform proposal. The MTAN proposal would establish 10 mills as the maximum mill rate in every municipality in Maine and limit increases to the assessed values of all properties to the Consumer Price Index.

To accomplish that goal, MTAN had to collect at least 42, 101 valid signatures on its petitions.

Over the last three months many numbers regarding signature collection, verification and validation, deadlines and announcement dates have been mentioned in published reports. To MMA's knowledge, only the following facts are known.

- October 12, 2001 - Three days before the deadline, the MTAN submitted 5,862 petitions with 42,201 signatures validated at the local level.
- October 15, 2001 -MTAN submitted an additional 49 petitions with 126 signatures validated at the local level.
- October 15, 2001 MTAN states that they have collected 42,327 signatures, 226 signatures in excess of the minimum required.
- The Secretary of State has thirty days after January 28, 2002 to verify the signatures and announce the results.

According to Julie Flynn, the Secretary of State's Director of Corporations, Elections and Commissions, it is difficult to determine when her staff will have completed their review of the submitted signatures. Flynn's staff is carefully conducting the many steps in the validation process to ensure that each valid signature is counted. Regardless of the Secretary of State's final determination, that Office expects there to be a court challenge. It could be several weeks before an official announcement is made. (KD)

TAX REFORM (cont'd)

sonal Property from Taxation if there is an Excise Tax on Certain Personal Property. LD 2087 contains the proposed changes to Maine's Constitution that would have to be adopted by the voters in order to apply different education mill rates to different classes of property. This bill also contains a proposed amendment to the Constitution that would phase-in the transformation of personal property taxation to an excise tax system whereby a state-wide uniform and competitively low mill rate schedule would be applied against the original book value of personal property acquired or installed in Maine after April 1, 2003.

MMA's Legislative Policy Committee has given its unanimous support to this package of tax reform, conditional on the recognition that more details regarding this groundbreaking initiative have to be developed in order to fully evaluate the impacts. The LPC believes that with some more development these two bills should be sent to voters because the tax reform package:

- Delivers significant property tax relief to Maine's residents, businesses and farmers;
- Puts the overall demand on the property tax in its proper perspective and reduces the need for government-administered, welfare-style property tax relief or rebate programs;
- More equitably balances the state's three major taxes;
- Would modernize the sales tax code, decrease sales tax volatility and improve revenue dependability;
- Creates perfect taxpayer equity

Legislative Bulletin

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Editorial Staff: Geoffrey Herman, Kate Dufour, Kirsten Hebert, and Laura Veilleux of the State & Federal Relations staff.

with respect to educational funding;

- Compels the full implementation of the *Essential Programs and Services* education funding model that will match taxpayer equity with full student equity;

- Establishes a bright-line local education funding obligation, to be distinguished from the current distribution formula (GPA) which is so complicated as to be practically incomprehensible and widely mistrusted in its application;

- Eliminates the elements of the current education subsidy system that make additions to municipal value a bad thing. The current system supports a perverse public policy that results in the sheltering of taxable value.

- Diminishes sharp animosities within school districts over cost sharing equity;

- Removes structural disincentives to regional collaborations regarding educational services;

- Influences restraint in overall cost of education without eliminating local control;

- Removes the root cause of local resistances to certain types of development;

- Provides a financial incentive to keep undeveloped land undeveloped;

- Without disrupting existing economic development incentives, this legislation establishes within the structure of Maine's tax code a uniform and equitable industrial taxation policy that gradually replaces the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program (BETR). BETR is an annual appropriation that is plagued by perennial political battles and uncertainty;

And this is just the short list of beneficial aspects of this comprehensive tax proposal.

As of this writing, these bills have not been scheduled for public hearing. All municipal officials are encouraged to get their hands on the legislation, read the bills carefully and become familiar with the proposal, think about how the tax reform would help the citizens and businesses of their community if enacted, and talk to their legislators. If you would like to learn more about the legislation or have the bill described more fully at a meeting in your community, please don't hesitate to contact Geoff Herman at 1-800-452-8786 or gberman@memun.org. (GH)

Local Option Bill Goes to Floor

On Friday, January 18th, the Taxation Committee heard the remaining testimony on the local option sales tax bill that is entitled the "Debt Avoidance Act" and is attached to a carryover bill, LD 883.

The details of the Debt Avoidance Act and its public hearing have been provided in the January 11 and January 18 editions of the *Legislative Bulletin*. In summary, the Debt Avoidance Act establishes a narrowly-drawn local option for the voters of a municipality or a group of cooperating municipalities to adopt, at referendum, a local sales tax of up to one penny to pay for specifically identified capital projects that serve regional needs. Once adopted, the local option sales tax would have to be extinguished in 5 years or when the capital project is paid for, whichever first occurs, and once extinguished, the local option tax

could not be reauthorized for three years. The Debt Avoidance Act authorizes the municipality to cap the application of the penny sales tax on certain big-ticket items (cars, mobile homes, etc.) to the first \$5,000 of the sale.

The Regional Service Center Coalition of municipalities, the Bangor Area Chamber of Commerce, the Maine Municipal Association and the Administration of Governor King all support the Debt Avoidance Act. Most organized business groups oppose the measure.

Although MMA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC), which includes ample representation from both rural and service center communities, gave its strong support to the measure, rural vs. urban perspectives seemed to split the Taxation Committee when in voted down the middle last Friday 7-6

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Contract Bid Preference Proposed

On Thursday this week, the Labor Committee held a public hearing on *LD 2034, An Act to Provide Fairness in State Bid Criteria* (Sponsor, Rep. Rod Carr of Lincoln). LD 2034 would require municipalities to award contracts to an in-state bidder even when that proposal is as much as 10% over the bid of an out-of-state company. Rep. Carr testified that the bill was drafted in response to real-life situations that impact the economy of the state. The intent of the bill is to assist Maine workers, reduce Maine unemployment, and to increase and stimulate Maine's economy.

Speaking in support of the bill, a representative from the AFL-CIO testified that Maine previously had a 10% preference that applied to all publicly funded projects. The law was repealed in the 1980s as a result of other states adopting retaliatory legislation which provided that no out-of-state bidder from a state that employed a preference system could bid on projects within the retaliating state. The AFL-CIO would like for all Maine contractors to be on an equal footing with out-of-state contractors. Testimony was provided that many out-of-state contractors do not pay the unemployment taxes, workers' compensation taxes, or the income taxes that are required of Maine contractors.

The Bureau of General Services (BGS) testified in opposition to the bill, commenting that thirty other states have enacted retaliatory legislation that would prohibit Maine contractors from bidding in other states if LD 2034 were enacted. Only five states have preferences similar to the one proposed in the bill, however those states narrow the preference to particular commodities rather than contractors. BGS also stated that LD 2034 could increase the cost of construction projects by 10%.

The Associated Contractors of Maine (ACM) also testified in opposition to the bill, stating that rather than a preference for in-state bidders, contracts should be awarded according to the quality and price of the work. The representative from ACM noted that it

could just be that extra 10% that actually keeps the project from going through.

MMA testified in opposition to LD 2034. From the municipal perspective, the primary interest in awarding construction projects is to secure the lowest responsible bid in an effort to reduce the property tax impact as much as possible. LD 2034 would mandate the award of contracts to more expensive bids solely on the basis of the contractor's state of residence.

A work session on LD 2034 will be held on February 1st at 9 a.m. (KH).

Job Protection for Firefighters

The Labor Committee held a work session Tuesday on *LD 1946, An Act to Safeguard a Volunteer Firefighters' Regular Employment* (Sponsor Rep. Deborah Hutton, Bowdoinham). This legislative proposal would prohibit an employer from firing or laying off an employee who misses work because of his or her firefighting duties.

At the public hearing, Representatives Paul Lessard of Topsham, Bruce Bryant of Dixfield, John Patrick of Rumford and Bob Duplessie of Westbrook all testified in support of the bill while Representative Peter Rines of Wiscasset testified neither for nor against the bill. Rep. Patrick stated that within his district he was aware of two volunteer firefighters that had received a threat of termination if the employees left their employment to respond to any further emergency calls.

When asked by the Committee if either the Department of Labor or the Maine Fire Chiefs Association were aware of any complaints of this nature, representatives of both entities stated that to date there were no complaints filed.

Fire chiefs from Bowdoinham, Freeport and Brunswick testified in support of the concept of the bill indicating that it is very difficult to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. Ac-

ording to the chiefs, departments are having difficulty finding volunteer firemen that are certified and trained in both fire fighting and emergency medical response.

On January 17, 2002, MMA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) voted to support LD 1946. Although recrimination against firefighters by employers is the exception to the general rule by far, the LPC believes that the core concept of the bill could help support volunteer firefighting, which is struggling for its cultural life.

At the same time, the municipalities recognize that the bill needs more work to protect the legitimate interests of employers in keeping their employees at the workplace to meet commitments and maintain required levels of productivity.

During the work session Senator Beth Edmonds (Cumberland Cty.) suggested that the bill be turned into a resolve which would turn the issue over to the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to analyze and report back to the Legislature next session. A second work session on LD 1946 will be held by the Labor Committee on February 5th at 1:30 p.m. (KH)

LOCAL OPTION (cont'd)

that the Debt Avoidance Act "ought not to pass". In contrast to the rural representatives on MMA's LPC, who recognize the difficulties the service center communities face and believe this new option is an appropriate tool, the more rural representatives on the Taxation Committee were not able to overcome their concern that the local option tax would add to the tax burden of their constituents.

The bill should now enter the final gauntlet through the legislative process in the Senate. All Senate Districts contain service center communities that completely understand the undeniable need for sources of revenue, other than the property tax, to pay for regional infrastructure. Please ask your Senators what their alternative solutions are if they intend to vote no on LD 883. (GH)

Pollution Equipment Exemption

The January 4, 2002 edition of the *Legislative Bulletin* provided an overview of a carryover bill important to municipalities in their never-ending quest to make sure property tax exemptions are provided according to objective, quantifiable standards.

The bill, LD 1570, addresses the property tax exemption that is provided for "pollution control equipment". When originally enacted thirty years ago, the pollution control equipment exemption applied to specialty equipment that was installed for the functional purpose of treating or preventing water or air pollution. The interpretation of the statute that provides the exemption has been expanded in recent years to apply to production machinery (rather than pollution control machinery) when the *primary motive* behind installing that machinery on the part of the industrial owner is a pollution reduction or environmental compliance motive rather than a production efficiency or corporate image motive. How people are able to determine the motive is a mystery.

According to documentation provided by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which certifies the eligibility of this equipment for the exemption, 50% of the \$243 million worth of property that has been certified as "pollution control equipment" over the last 5 years is this "dual purpose" property; that is, production equipment allegedly installed for the purpose of pollution reduction in order to meet state and federal environmental standards. The other 50% is exclusive-function pollution control equipment.

The problematic nature of the pollution control equipment law has been recognized by the Legislature for several years but remains unaddressed. The Taxation Committee's 1999 review of all property tax exemptions yielded the following summation in its final report

" The (Taxation) Committee was concerned that the exemption for pollution control facilities, as currently

written, is being used to exempt property that does not fall within the original intent of the law. The exemption is being stretched to cover new types of property because the statutory language has become inadequate to deal with modern environmental technology."

The 1999 Taxation Committee's formal recommendation was that DEP and Maine Revenue Services "work jointly to review the exemption for pollution control facilities and make recommendations to the (Taxation) Committee by March 1, 2000...". However that process might have been conducted, those recommendations were not forthcoming, resulting in the submission of at least two bills on the subject in 2001.

With respect to the one bill that survived, LD 1570, a subcommittee of the Taxation Committee was formed in an effort to fix the element of the law that causes so much controversy and unending legislation; Rep. David Bowles (Sanford) was appointed to chair that subcommittee.

The first meeting of the *ad hoc* subcommittee, held on January 4, was an opportunity for the various interest groups to identify once again their perspectives on this state-administered, locally shouldered environmental tax break. MMA, DEP, and Maine Revenue Services explained from their various perspectives the extreme difficulty in determining eligibility when the qualifying standard is the subjective intention of the owner. The Natural Resources Council of Maine said that as a matter of public policy, mere compliance with environmental laws shouldn't trigger either state or local tax breaks; instead, the tax break should only be provided when companies install beyond-compliance, "clean production" technology that yields very significant reductions in the production of pollutants.

In a united voice, the several paper company lobbyists countered that "the law is definitely not broken", that the subjective intention of a paper mill owner can be proven by the logic of deduction, and that the repeated litigation on the meaning of this law is entirely normal for tax laws and the statute should not be amended by so much

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Rep. David Bowles of Sanford chaired the Taxation subcommittee charged with fixing pollution equipment exemption problem.

(The bill summaries are written by MMA staff and are not necessarily the proposed bill's summary statement or an excerpt of that summary statement. A more comprehensive list of LDs (of municipal interest) that have been put in the Hopper can be found on MMA's website, www.memun.org)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

LD 2080 – An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2002 and June 30, 2003. (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Livermore; cosponsored by Sen. Goldthwait of Hancock County)

This bill is the supplemental budget proposed by Governor King that is designed to bridge a \$272 million gap between revenues and expenditures for the FY 02-03 biennium. A description of the proposed budget was provided in the January 11, 2002 edition of the *Legislative Bulletin*.

Criminal Justice

LD 2065 – An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Committee to Study the Needs of Persons with Mental Illness who are Incarcerated Relating to Diversion from Jails and Prisons. (Reported by Speaker Saxl for the Committee to Study the Needs of Persons with Mental Illness Who Are Incarcerated pursuant to Joint Order 2001, H.P. 1383)

This bill would appropriate \$8.8 million to implement a comprehensive set of initiatives designed to divert people with mental illness from the state's jails and prisons and into mental health programs. Among the elements of this initiative, two state-level positions of "ride-along" intensive case managers would be created to ride with police officers to help in dealing with crisis situations involving persons with mental illness, the positions of a "liaison" would be created in each of the state's 8 prosecutorial districts for the purpose of assisting in the development of alternative plans to avoid the unnecessary incarceration of mentally ill people, and training and awareness programs would be established for trial judges and jail staff.

LD 2068 – An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Committee to Study the Needs of Persons with Mental Illness Who are Incarcerated Relating to Treatment and Aftercare Planning in Prisons and Jails. (Reported by Speaker Saxl for the Committee to Study the Needs of Persons with Mental Illness Who Are Incarcerated pursuant to Joint Order 2001, H.P. 1383)

This bill would appropriate \$133,000 for the purpose of creating the position in the Executive Department of "Ombudsman for Mentally Ill Inmates". The ombudsman would be responsible for providing advisory and advocacy services to mentally ill inmates in state prisons and county jails. This bill would also direct the Department of Human Services to establish procedures to ensure that a person receiving Medicaid prior to incarceration does not lose Medicaid eligibility as a result of incarceration, thus forcing health care costs in the county jail setting on the property tax base.

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POLLUTION (cont'd)

as a punctuation point.

The second meeting of the subcommittee was held on January 18th. At this meeting, the subcommittee began to develop its recommendation.

The subcommittee's discussion focused on the several classifications of "pollution control equipment".

- Equipment that has the *exclusive function* of reducing or mitigating pollution, with no meaningful productive function. This property is unambiguously subject to a property tax exemption.

- Equipment that has a *dual function*; i.e., performs a function in the production process but it is designed to perform that function in a manner that reduces the historical pollution production of the facility. This property is eligible for a property tax exemption because of the open and ambiguous wording of the governing statute.

- "Clean production" equipment; i.e., entire systems of manufacturing technology that are substantially less polluting than traditional manufacturing systems. The eligibility of these entire systems or components of these systems for the property tax exemption is unclear because of the ambiguous and open nature of the governing statute.

In all cases, the state does not financially participate in the tax exemption the Legislature has created and maintained.

After these discussions, the LD 1570 Subcommittee developed its recommendation conceptually, which would provide for the following:

- 1) The true "pollution control equipment" that has a singular function of pollution control shall remain exempt from property taxes with no state financial participation.

- 2) The "dual purpose" equipment that is functionally production equipment but that is allegedly installed for

pollution mitigation purposes (rather than production efficiency) would remain exempt from property taxes, but for the first 12 years of that property's functional life, the state would provide reimbursement for 50% of the local tax losses.

- 3) An income tax break, at the entire expense of the state, would be created for "clean production" investments that actually lead to order-of-magnitude reductions in pollutant production.

The LD 1570 subcommittee recommendation is to be presented to the full Taxation Committee on Friday, January 25th. Full details of the amended LD 1570 should be available after that presentation. Anyone who would like a copy of the Subcommittee's recommendation or the DEP spreadsheet that lists the pollution equipment exemptions over the last 5 years should contact MMA's Laura Veilleux at 1-800-452-8786 or lveilleux@memun.org. (GH)

HOPPER (cont'd)

LD 2075 – An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the committee to Study the Needs of Persons with Mental Illness Who are Incarcerated Relating to Treatment and Aftercare Planning in County Jails.

This bill would appropriate \$600,000 for the purpose of creating a pilot program administered by the Department of Correction that would provide mental illness treatment programs for prisoners in at least three county correctional facilities. This bill would also appropriate \$1.84 million for the purpose of providing mental health caseworkers to all county correctional facilities.

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

LD 2081 – An Act to Implement the Unanimous and the Majority Recommendations of the Commission to Study Equity in the Distribution of Gas Tax Revenues Attributable to Snowmobiles, All-terrain Vehicles and Watercraft. (Reported by Rep. Clark for the Commission to Study Equity in the Distribution of Gas Tax Revenues Attributable to Snowmobiles, All-terrain Vehicles and Watercraft pursuant to Resolve 2001, chapter 68)

This bill would implement the unanimous and the majority recommendations of the legislative task force studying the levels of gas tax revenues that are distributed to the state's support programs for watercraft, snowmobile and ATV recreational programs. Specifically, this bill would increase the percentage of gas tax revenues dedicated to snowmobile programs from .67% to .749% and for ATV programs from .045% to .173%. The percentage dedication for recreational watercraft programs would change from 2% (with a \$2 million limit) to 1.433% (with no limit). The sum of these changes would shift \$1.1 million from highway programs to recreational programs.

Natural Resources

LD 2016 – An Act to Facilitate Compliance with Spill Prevention Requirements and Authorize Reimbursement for Certain Oil Spill Remediation Expenses. (Sponsored by Rep. Crabtree of Hope; cosponsored by Sen. Youngblood of Penobscot County)

This bill would make several amendments to the laws governing above ground oil storage tanks (ASTs). Specifically, this bill would require that on the annual reporting forms that must be submitted under current law by owners of ASTs over a certain size, there shall be included a certification that the underground piping has been installed according to state standards and that a "spill prevention control and countermeasure" plan (SPCC plan) has been prepared and implemented by the owner of the facility if the SPCC plan is already required under federal (EPA) law. This bill would also give Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) the authority to enforce the federal SPCC requirements, except that if the DEP proposes to require an amendment to a facility's SPCC plan that the owner does not believe would be required by EPA, the DEP would be required to consult with the EPA regarding the applicable requirement.

LD 2049 – An Act to Authorize the Transfer of Development

Rights. (Sponsored by Rep. Koffman for the Joint Study Committee to Study Growth Management pursuant to Joint Order 2001, H.P. 1330.)

This bill would amend the Growth Management Act to authorize municipalities to adopt ordinances administering the transfer of development rights (TDR). TDR systems of land development management are designed to reward the conservation of rural lands by requiring developers to purchase the development rights of property located in limited development zones as a condition of creating development in growth areas.

LD 2061 – An Act to Establish a Pilot Project Program to Provide Incentives for Multimunicipal Development. (Reported by Rep. Koffman for the Joint Study Committee to Study Growth Management pursuant to Joint Order 2001, H.P. 1330)

This bill would establish an additional priority or preference system governing the award of grants to municipalities for transportation projects, growth management planning grants, CDBG grants and grants provided through the Municipal Investment Trust Fund. The new preference system would apply to applications from a group of two or more municipalities working jointly on a common project. The multi-municipal projects would have to be reviewed and approved by the Land and Water Resources Council as pilot projects in order to obtain the preference.

LD 2076 – Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Amendments to Chapter 305, Permit by Rule Standard and Chapter 310, Wetland Protection Regarding Cutting and Removal of Vegetation, Major Substantive Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection. (Emergency) (Reported by Rep. Cowger for the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072)

This resolve provides for final legislative review and approval of the amendments to proposed changes to two chapters of the Natural Resource Protection Act rules governing the cutting of vegetation near waterbodies and wetlands. The intent of the rule changes is to harmonize the standards between the NRPA and the Shoreland Zoning Act.

LD 2082 – An Act to Amend the Subdivision Review Criteria for Traffic. (Reported by Rep. Koffman for the Joint Study Committee to Study Growth Management pursuant to Joint Order 2001, H.P. 1330)

This bill would add a review and approval standard for subdivisions that would require the local planning boards to determine that driveway cuts into arterial roadways will not reduce the posted speed limits.

LD 2084 – An Act Regarding Workers' Compensation and Liability Immunity Coverage for Emergency Management Forces. (Reported by Rep. Duplessie for the Commission to Study the Implementation of a Unified Emergency Response for Emergency Releases and Spills of Toxic or Hazardous Materials pursuant to Resolve 2001, chapter 65, section 7)

This bill would provide that any person called and employed by the Maine Emergency Management Agency or any local emergency management organization to assist with emergency management activities is deemed to be an employee of the state for the purposes of immunity from liability for acts causing injury or damage and for workers compensation insurance.

LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS

NOTE: You should check your newspapers for Legal Notices as there may be changes in the hearing schedule. Weekly schedules and supplements are available at the Senate Office at the State House and at the Legislature's web site at <http://janus.state.me.us/legis>. If you would like to be notified by e-mail of updates to the schedule and web page, send your name, e-mail address, and a message that includes "ANPH UPDATE" to the Senate Webmaster at webmaster_senate@state.me.us.

Monday, January 28

Appropriations & Financial Affairs

Room 228, State House

Tel: 287-1635

Supplemental Budget (no LD #) – An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2002 and June 30, 2003. (Emergency) (Submitted by Governor King)

8:30 a.m. with Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

10:00 a.m. with Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice

1:00 p.m. with the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

Natural Resources

Room 437, State House, 1:30 p.m.

Tel: 287-4149

Work Session: LD 1964 – An Act to Amend Certain Laws Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Aroostook County; cosponsored by Rep. Cowger of Hallowell)

Tuesday, January 29

Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Room 206, Cross State Office Building

Tel: 287-1312

1:00 p.m. hearing, **1:30 p.m.** work session

LD 2072 – An Act to Permit Municipalities to Protect their Citizens Against Dangerous Dogs. (After Deadline) (Sponsored by Rep. Murphy of Berwick; additional cosponsors)

Appropriations & Financial Affairs

Room 228, State House

Tel: 287-1635

Supplemental Budget (no LD #) – An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2002 and June 30, 2003. (Emergency) (Submitted by Governor King)

1:00 p.m. with Joint Standing Committee on State & Local Government

Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Room 206, Cross State Office Bldg., 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1312

LD 2072 – An Act to Permit Municipalities to Protect their Citizens Against Dangerous Dogs. (After Deadline) (Sponsored by Rep. Murphy of Berwick; additional cosponsors)

Health & Human Services

Room 202, Cross State Office Bldg., 1:30 p.m.

Tel: 287-1317

LD 2029 – An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Public Health. (Sponsored by Rep. Kane of Saco; additional cosponsors)

Taxation

Room 127, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1552

LD 1966 – An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to Development Districts. (Sponsored by Sen. Gagnon of Kennebec County; additional cosponsors)

Wednesday, January 30

Appropriations & Financial Affairs

Room 228, State House

Tel: 287-1635

Supplemental Budget (no LD #) – An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2002 and June 30, 2003. (Emergency) (Submitted by Governor King)

8:30 a.m. with the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

9:30 a.m. with the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources

11:00 a.m. with the Joint Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance

1:00 p.m. with the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

2:00 p.m. with the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

3:00 p.m. with the Legislative Council

4:00 p.m. with the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

Natural Resources

Room 437, State House, 10:30 a.m.

Tel: 287-4149

WORK SESSION: LD 1849 – An Act Regarding the Deferment of Loan Repayments for Remediation of Waste Oil Sites. (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Aroostook County; cosponsored by Rep. Stanley of Medway)

WORK SESSION: LD 1897 – An Act to Facilitate the Closure of Privately Owned Solid Waste Landfills. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Sawyer of Penobscot County; additional cosponsors)

WORK SESSION: LD 1898 – An Act to Mitigate the Effect of Large Mandatory Environmental Penalties. (Sponsored by Sen. Kilkelly of Lincoln County; additional cosponsors)

WORK SESSION: LD 1974 – An Act to Create and Fund a Household Hazardous Waste Collection System. (Sponsored by Rep. Cowger of Hallowell; additional cosponsors)

WORK SESSION: LD 2005 – An Act to Ensure the Public Benefits of Solid Waste Facilities. (Sponsored by Rep. Cummings of Portland; additional cosponsors)

WORK SESSION: LD 2037 – An Act to Repeal the Retroactive Effect of Changes Made to the Subdivision Laws. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Snowe-Mellow of Poland; additional cosponsors)

1:30 p.m.

LD 2004 – An Act to Phase Out the Availability of Mercury-added Products. (Sponsored by Rep. Cowger of Hallowell; additional cosponsors)

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HEARINGS (cont'd)

Transportation

Room 126, State House, 10:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-4148

LD 2018 – An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Fisher of Brewer)

Thursday, January 31

Health & Human Services

Room 202, Cross State Office Bldg., 9:30 a.m.

Tel: 287-1317

LD 1963 – An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Eligibility for General Assistance. (Sponsored by Rep. Duncan of Presque Isle; additional cosponsors)

Utilities & Energy

Room 209, Cross State Office Bldg., 9:30 a.m.

Tel: 287-4143

LD 2024 – An Act to Improve the Safety Provided by the Underground Facilities Protection Law. (Sponsored by Rep. Savage of Buxton)

LD 2073 – An Act to Amend the Charter of the Portland Water District for the Purpose of Redistricting Trustee Representation to Reflect 2000 Census Data. (After Deadline) (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. McLaughlin of Cape Elizabeth; additional cosponsors)

Friday, February 1

Labor

Room 220, Cross State Office Bldg., 9:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-1333

WORK SESSION: LD 2034 – An Act to Provide Fairness in State

Bid Criteria. (Sponsored by Rep. Carr of Lincoln; additional cosponsors)

Monday, February 4

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Room 206, Cross State Office Bldg., 10:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-1338

LD 1895 – An Act to Clarify the Lines of Effort in a Search and Rescue Operation. (Sponsored by Sen. Cathcart of Penobscot County; additional cosponsors)

Tuesday, February 5

Education & Cultural Affairs

Room 214, Cross State Office Bldg., 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-3125

LD 2074 – An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Calais School District. (After Deadline) (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Shorey of Washington County; cosponsored by Rep. Morrison of Baileyville)

Judiciary

Room 438, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1327

LD 2019 – An Act to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking. (Sponsored by Speaker Saxl of Portland; additional cosponsors)

LD 1904 – An Act to Require Tax-exempt Corporations to File Copies of Federal Internal Revenue Service Form 990 with the Secretary of State. (Sponsored by Pres. Bennett of Oxford County)

LD 2083 – An Act to Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine. (Emergency) (Reported by Rep. LaVerdiere for the Revisor of Statutes pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 94)