

2023 LD List
131st Legislature – First Session

May 22, 2023

[LD 1991](#) *An Act Regarding Gubernatorial Primary Elections* (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor) This bill provides for open primary elections for the Governor’s Office, in which all party enrolled and unenrolled candidates must appear on the same ballot. All qualified voters, regardless of enrollment status, are eligible to vote in open primary elections with votes in an election tabulated using ranked-choice voting, except that the two candidates who receive the most votes are declared the winners. The names of the winners must appear on the ballot for the general election. If one of the candidates who received the most votes at the open primary dies or becomes disqualified before the general election, that candidate's name must remain on the ballot and the voters must be notified that a vote for that candidate will be counted and, if that candidate is declared the winner of the election, a vacancy will be declared at the beginning of the term for which the candidate was elected.

[LD 1989](#) *Resolve, to Modify the Deed for a Parcel of Property in the Town of Carrabassett Valley to Allow for Workforce Housing* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) This bill allows up to five acres of a portion of land owned by the town of Carrabassett Valley to be developed for workforce housing to serve households earning between 60% and 120% of the median income for the area if the development occurs before July 1, 2033.

[LD 1984](#) *An Act to Allow Golf Courses to Obtain a License to Conduct Off-premises Catering* (Sponsored by Sen. President of Aroostook Cty.) This bill allows golf courses to obtain a license to conduct off-premises catering with the same type of liquor that the golf course is licensed to provide.

[LD 1983](#) *An Act to Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act* (Sponsored by Sen. President of Aroostook Cty.) This bill, which excepts counties, municipalities, school entities, Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority, establishes the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act and requires that all contracts for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, improvement or maintenance of a public building or public work made by a state agency, board, commission or institution, contain a provision that any manufactured good valued over \$5,000, including iron, cement and steel, and any article, material or supply acquired for public use used supplied in the performance of the contract or any subcontract to the contract must be manufactured in the United States.

[LD 1982](#) *An Act Regarding Appropriations and Allocations to Support the State of Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. President of Aroostook Cty.) This concept draft bill would appropriate and allocate money to support programs and needs of this State.

[LD 1981](#) *An Act to Extend and Expand the Loring Job Increment Financing Fund* (Sponsored by President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) In part, the bill expands the allowable uses of the Loring Job Increment Financing Fund to include electricity, telecommunications and the maintenance of buildings and facilities and provides that covered municipal services and maintenance and restoration must relate to projects that will create or retain jobs and promote economic development.

[LD 1980](#) *An Act to Improve Election Laws and Notarial Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This bill amends the laws that guide the conduct of elections to: (1) enable a participant in the Address Confidentiality Program to use an assigned code and designated address in the process of registering to vote; (2) by February 1, 2024 require the Secretary of State (SOS) to design an online registration application; (3) authorize municipal communities to hold caucuses remotely; (4) repeal the requirement that the registrar or municipal clerk attend biennial party caucuses; (5) require a candidate who wishes to withdraw from a race to notify the SOS; (6) require the SOS to post election results on its website as soon as the outcomes are certified; (7) require ballots secured for the purpose of a conducting a recount to be retrieved by a sworn law enforcement officer or contracted courier; (8) by February 1, 2024 direct the SOS to design the application allowing voters who are at least 65 years of age to apply for ongoing absentee voter status; (9) allow municipal clerks to provide notice of a rejected ballot request in writing or via email; (10) require the SOS to mail absentee ballots for a statewide election and the clerks to mail ballots for local elections, with each ballot returned to the original sender; (11) amend from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. the time a clerk can begin processing absentee ballots; (12) require the SOS to post the list of municipalities that will process absentee ballots before the day of the election; (13) require individuals electing to inspect absentee process to notify the clerk by 4:00 p.m. the day prior, rather than 9:00 a.m. the day of as currently required; (14) allows uniformed service or overseas voters to register or enroll by noon, rather than 5 p.m., on the day before the election with the registrar or SOS in person, by mail or email; and (15) remove the requirement that petition circulator be a registered Maine resident.

May 18, 2023

[LD 1976](#) *An Act to Update the Growth Management Program Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This bill makes several changes to the Growth Management Act (GMA), including:

1. Defining the terms adjacent neighborhood, affordable housing, high-impact corridor, important natural resources, neighborhood standards, place-type, region, rural crossroad, rural farmstead, village center, working waterfront and workforce housing; amending the definitions

of critical natural resources, downtown, growth area and rural area; and repealing the definitions of cluster development, multi-municipal region, and transitional area

2. Amending the “purpose” section of the GMA to encourage the State to work with regional planning organizations or council of governments to develop multi-municipal growth management programs to address residential and commercial development, transit, habitat protections, and water quality.

3. Amending established GMA goals to: (1) direct new development to growth areas to make more efficient use of public services and infrastructure, protect natural resources and related industries, and prevent sprawl and resulting traffic impacts; (2) plan for, fund and develop efficient public facilities, including public transportation, and understanding the cost associated with various development patterns and ensuring new developments generate the revenues necessary to fund ongoing infrastructure maintenance and replacement expenses; (3) ensure that municipal land use polices and ordinances encourage the siting and construction of affordable housing located near employment and services and that comply with provisions of state law regarding mobile home and mobile park siting and design requirements; (4) protect, maintain, and improve the water quality of each water body subject to state regulation and ensure water quality is protected from long term and cumulative increases in phosphorus in great pond watersheds and nitrogen in coastal waters; and (5) encourage municipalities to develop policies to accommodate older residents with aging in place, including appropriate housing options, transportation access and accessibility and availability of needed services.

4. Authorizes the state to adopt routine and technical rules related to the mandatory provisions of the GMA.

5. Until the inconsistency is resolved, authorizes state review of any proposed development project that is proposed within a municipality that has adopted a rate of growth, zoning or impact fee ordinance that is found inconsistent via court order or during a state completed comprehensive plan review.

6. Requires the municipal committee directed to prepare a growth management plan to: (1) bring together as many people from the community as possible through a series of public events and activities; (2) advertise a full schedule of meetings and opportunities for the community to engage in the process; and (3) share the draft plan broadly with the community, incorporate feedback, issue subsequent drafts and assist with the implementation.

7. In the process of encouraging public participation in the development of the growth management plan, directs the municipality to: (1) assemble and provide key data and insight to the public in an easy to understand format at the beginning of the process to help inform the work; (2) solicit and consider a broad range of public input by holding an initial public workshop priorities from the community; (3) conduct hands-on workshops with the public using maps to understand where residents want to protect critical natural resources and rural areas and how to focus development; (4) prepare illustrative master plans for designated growth areas where significant change is imaged by the community, with multiple alternatives and iterations generated and evaluated in response to public input and feedback, including at least two rounds

of review and revision; and (5) provide multiple opportunities for the public to review and comment on draft plans, proposals and priority actions.

8. Requires municipalities to notify the state and regional planning organizations (RPO) that the comprehensive planning process has been initiated and directs the state and RPOs to work with municipalities to provide mapping for initial public workshops, including Beginning with Habitat maps and supporting resources. The state and RPO are allowed, but not required, to provide municipalities with additional useful data and mapping in response to the big ideas and high priorities identified by the public.

9. Amends the statute encouraging public access by requiring planning committees to advertise meetings through traditional and modern media channels and where possible, use hybrid meeting technology, and record meetings for viewing by individuals unable to attend scheduled meetings.

10. Amends the statutes requiring the planning committee to hold at least one public hearing prior to adopting the plan by requiring the committee to present the draft plan with an interactive portion of the meeting providing the public the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Following the presentation of the plan, the committee must conduct a public comment period, after which the committee must make plan revisions and issue the next drafts. Councils and select boards are required to hold a joint public hearing with the planning board to ensure that all parties agree and to strengthen accountability and townwide ownership of the plan.

11. Requires a copy of the proposed comprehensive plan to be made available on the home page of the municipal website and in hard copies for public inspection.

12. Amends the data that may be analyzed in the process of drafting a comprehensive plan to include supplies of affordable, workforce and market rate housing, socio-economic makeup of the community and available for community networks, programs and support systems to respond to the needs of residents, and data related to the total length of road and other infrastructure liabilities to inform capital plans for the life cycle costs of existing infrastructure projected 30 years out and an understanding of the taxes necessary to pay for additional public services.

13. Requires comprehensive plans to: (1) include a description of the community's desired outcomes for critical natural areas, rural areas and designated growth areas; (2) identify and map conserved land and critical natural resources subject to formal legal protection and rural areas that deserve protection from unrestricted development; (3) identify and map designated growth areas including where development exist, where it should go and the desired pattern of development; (4) use data and maps to guide decisions on how and where to conserve and develop land and include in the comprehensive plan a variety of natural resource based maps; and (5) include an implementation plan consisting of policies and strategies to help the community achieve the plan's goals.

14. Requires adoption of land use policies and strategies that: (1) within designated growth areas reduce minimum lot areas, lots widths and unit sizes; align front and side setbacks with the development characteristics and patterns; allow for a range of multi-unit buildings types; designate use of municipal land for affordable housing; reduce or eliminate on-site parking requirements in downtowns, adjacent neighborhoods, villages and high-impact corridors;

eliminate on-site open space requirements; provide clear and simple rules for accessory dwelling units; consider adoption of form-based development standards; establish timely permitting procedures; and where new growth areas are identified, require neighborhood standard to be adopted in a way that implements the community's vision; (2) support development, including affordable housing by establish programs such as TIF, low-interest revolving loans funds, life safety and façade grants, reduce impact fees in growth areas and establish local or regional land banks or community land trust; (3) create a financial plan for the maintenance and replacement of exiting public infrastructure and services over a 30-year life cycle; and (4) within rural areas discourage incompatible development by establishing a fund for land conservation, increasing minimum lot area to 10 acres, assessing impact fees on subdivisions located outside of growth areas, adopting a rate of growth or cap on building permits issued for development outside of the growth area, allowing farmstands on lots that are five acres or greater, establishing a transfer of development rights program and adopting a policy that prohibits the municipality from assuming public ownership or maintenance of private roads located in rural areas.

15. Repeals comprehensive planning provisions that are either duplicative or in conflict with the standards established in the bill.

16. Clarifies state level review of submitted comprehensive plans must be based on adherence with the mandatory elements of the GMA.

[LD 1975](#) *An Act to Implement a Statewide Public Health Response to Substance Use and Amend the Laws Governing Scheduled Drugs* (Rep. Crafts of Newcastle) In part, this bill establishes the Substance Use, Health and Safety Fund in the Department of Health and Human Services to oversee, approve and provide grants and funding to agencies, organizations and service providers, to increase voluntary access to community care for persons who need services related to substance use. By June 30, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Legislature must appropriate to the fund an amount sufficient to fully fund the services as set forth in the bill.

[LD 1969](#) *An Act to Expand the Use of Funds to Support Land Conservation (Emergency)* (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.) This bill replaces the Land for Maine's Future Fund with the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund charged with managing the investment of revenue to protect Maine waters, waterfront access and working farmland access. The bill also establishes the Conservation and Recreation Fund and the Conservation Land Management Fund to make capital improvements to enhance wildlife habitat protection on permanently conserved state, municipal and private conservation lands.

[LD 1967](#) *An Act to Support Municipal Franchise Agreements* (Sponsored by Rep. Melanie Sachs of Freeport) This bill provides that beginning on January 1, 2024 any new or renewed franchise agreement or contract between a municipality and a video services provider (VSP) that includes payment of a franchise fee must: (1) authorize the municipality to use the fees to offset the costs to regulate the VSP, support provision of public education and governmental (PEG) programs; offset municipal property taxes; and any other purposes identified by the municipality;

(2) require franchise payments to be made no later than 45 days after the end of the each calendar quarter, with failure to do so resulting in the assessment of a 12% interest payment on unpaid fees and enabling the municipality to terminate the agreement or contract for repeated failure to pay fees; and (3) require payments to be accompanied by a financial statement, verified as correct, identifying the total amount of gross annual revenue generated by the activities of the provider and a description of the calculation used to determine the payment, which at the municipality's discretion may be subject to an audit by a qualified third party selected by the municipality. The bill further clarifies that a municipality's acceptance of franchise fee revenue does not constitute agreement that the amount paid is correct unless the municipality has not initiated a process to challenge or audit the paid fee within 36 months of payment, or within 48 months of receipt of payment in cases where a financial statement is not provided. The bill also: (1) prohibits a VSP from offering or providing services within a municipality unless it has entered into a franchise agreement or contract with the municipality to do so; (2) grants the PUC regulatory oversight of VSP; (3) defines the terms facility support transmission equipment and PEG facility equipment program and signal; (4) replaces the term "cable system operator" with "video service providers" throughout the statute which is defined as a person that sells access to video, audio or computer generated or augmented entertainment services and owns or operates facilities located in whole or in part in public rights-of-way; (5) makes a VSP responsible for all cost for PEG equipment reasonably necessary to capture, process and deliver content and further provides that the VSP may not offset cost through the payment of a franchise fee, but provides that the VSP may recover costs from subscribers as permitted by law and negotiated by the municipality; (6) provides that a strand mile of cable is measure from the end of the current cable installation; (7) repeals the authority for municipalities to grant exclusive franchises; (8) requires the PUC to oversee and enforce the provision of the statute; and (9) authorizes the Attorney General to bring action to enforce the provisions of the law. Finally, the bill creates a dispute resolution process, authorizing the municipality or provider to petition the PUC to investigate and resolve the dispute or request binding arbitration by a mutually agreed arbiter from the Maine Association of Mediators.

[LD 1965](#) *An Act to Authorize the Secretary of State to Provide a New General Issue of License Plates* (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor) This bill directs the Secretary of State to provide for a new general issue of registration plates beginning May 1, 2025 with an illustration of the flag design for the State from 1901 to 1909 that has a buff background with a green pine tree and a blue star on the side of the plate.

[LD 1964](#) *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This bill implements a paid family and medical leave benefits program based on the recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program. The program provides up to 12 weeks of family leave and up to 12 weeks of medical leave to eligible covered individuals. An individual is eligible for leave under the program after earning at least six times the state average weekly wage in the preceding four calendar quarters prior to submitting an application or if the individual is self-employed and has elected to be part of the program. The maximum weekly benefit amount is capped at 120% of the state average

weekly wage. The weekly benefit amount is 90% of the covered individual's average weekly wage. Covered individuals are required to file claims for benefits in accordance with rules adopted by the department administering the program and to provide certification that they qualify for family leave or medical leave. The bill establishes the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund to support the program. The funds for administrative costs and payment of benefits come from payroll contributions of no more than 1% of wages shared by employers and employees, except that employers with fewer than 15 employees are not required to make employer contributions to the program. The bill also authorizes employers to provide these benefits through a private plan as long as the benefits for family and medical leave provided to their employees are the same as provided in the program. The bill establishes the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Authority to advise the administrator on the implementation and administration of the program. The bill requires payroll contributions to begin January 1, 2025 and benefit claims to be processed beginning January 1, 2026. The bill authorizes the Department of Economic and Community Development to conduct outreach with businesses about the paid family and medical leave benefits program. The bill requires the program to be reviewed under the State Government Evaluation Act in 2029.

[LD 1962](#) *An Act to Limit Utility Shut-offs* (Sponsored by President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This concept draft bill would limit the ability of utilities to terminate utility services.

[LD 1960](#) *An Act to Support Farming in Maine by Extending the Deadline for Manufacturers of Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Report on Those Products* (President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This concept draft bill would extend the deadline by which manufacturers of products containing PFAS are required to submit information about those products to the Department of Environmental Protection.

[LD 1959](#) *An Act Regarding Open Primary Elections and Ranked-choice Voting* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This bill provides for open primary elections for the office of United States Senator, United States Representative to Congress, Governor, State Senator, and State Representative. All of the candidates for those offices, including unenrolled candidates, must appear on the same open primary ballot and all qualified voters, regardless of enrollment status, are eligible to vote in open primary elections.

[LD 1957](#) *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Maine's Railroad Infrastructure* (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) This bond bill issues \$50 million to be used to expand passenger rail service, prioritizing railroad track corridors that could support passenger and freight intermodal operations and enhance the movement of agricultural products.

[LD 1954](#) *An Act to Address the Recent Mill Closure in the Town of Jay by Providing Funds to Offset Property Tax Loss* (Sponsored by Rep. Lyman of Livermore Falls) This bill provides a

one-time appropriation of \$600,000 to the Town of Jay to help offset a property tax revenue loss from a recent mill closure.

[LD 1952](#) *An Act to Allow On-site Cannabis Consumption* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This bill creates a new business within the adult use cannabis laws providing for the licensing and oversight of “cannabis hospitality establishments,” where cannabis and related products can be sold and consumed at on location. The bill prohibits operators from giving away cannabis product, selling tobacco or alcohol or from selling products via vending machines, drive-through windows, or over the internet. The bill also requires the operator of an establishment to allow public safety officials to enter the facility in cases of an emergency.

May 16, 2023

[LD 1950](#) *An Act to Raise the Debt Limit of the Stonington Water Company* (Emergency)

(Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.) This bill increases from \$1 million to \$10 million the total amount of debt the Stonington Water Company may incur.

[LD 1949](#) *An Act to Establish an Affirmative Defense to the Crime of Criminal Trespass and*

Aggravated Criminal Trespass That the Person Was Unhoused and Seeking Shelter (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross) This bill establishes an affirmative defense to prosecution for the crimes of criminal trespass and certain instances of aggravated criminal trespass when the act is committed by an unhoused person attempting to seek shelter in the dwelling place, structure, place, cemetery or burial ground the person entered or remained in. The bill defines an "unhoused person" as a person who is without shelter or who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. **DEAD**

[LD 1947](#) *An Act to Amend the Maine Food Sovereignty Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of

Winter Harbor) This bill amends the Maine Food Sovereignty Act to: (1) require the State, instead of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, to support policies that encourage food self-sufficiency for its citizens and to further encourage self-reliance, personal responsibility and rural economic development protect and respect, by not interfering with, the right to food; (2) establish food sovereignty principles; (3) prohibit the State from enforcing any law or rule, taking an enforcement action or interfering in any way with the activities authorized by a local food ordinance, except those state laws or rules that involve meat and poultry products inspection, registration and licensing; (4) apply the provisions of the Maine Food Sovereignty Act to all local food ordinances, including those in place before the Act was enacted; and (5) specify that the Maine Food Sovereignty Act does not require the use of specific language or definitions in municipal food ordinances.

[LD 1945](#) *An Act to Provide a Property Tax Exemption to All Veterans Who Are 62 Years of Age or Older and Increase the Current Exemption* (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) This

bill: (1) increases the property tax exemption from \$6,000 to \$12,000 for a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who served during a federally recognized wartime period and is 62 years of age; and (2) provides a \$6,000 exemption for all U.S. veterans.

May 15, 2023

[LD 1940](#) *An Act to Promote Consistent Policies within Growth Management Programs in Order to Increase Food Security and Economic Resiliency in Local Communities* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This bill amends the laws governing planning and land use regulation to encourage municipalities to: (1) ensure charters, policies, codes, regulations, bylaws and fees align with each other and meet the overall intent of the comprehensive plan approved by the legislative body; (2) develop policies that assess community needs and environmental, food security and economic resiliency effects of municipal regulations, lessen the effect of excessive parking requirements for buildings in downtowns and on main streets and provide for alternative approaches for compliance relating to the reuse of upper floors of buildings in downtowns and on main streets; and (3) in the development of affordable housing, to establish policies that assess food security and economic resiliency effects of municipal regulations.

[LD 1938](#) *An Act to Require a Reminder for Vehicle Registration Renewal* (Sponsored by Rep. Soboleski of Phillips) This bill requires the Secretary of State to send a notice of an expiring motor vehicle registration to the holder of the registration.

[LD 1937](#) *An Act to Remove the Confidentiality of the Transportation of Hazardous Materials by Railroad Companies* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill repeals the public exception for records related to the transportation of hazardous materials by a railroad company.

[LD 1935](#) *An Act to Promote Workforce Development by Establishing a Workforce Development Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) This bill requires the Commissioner of Labor to develop and implement a workforce development program to provide services related to language acquisition, housing, job training and education, transportation and health care and case management.

[LD 1934](#) *Resolve, to Improve the Coordination and Delivery of Planning Grants and Technical Assistance to Communities in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This resolve directs the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to review opportunities to improve coordination and implementation of planning grants and technical assistance programs for municipalities and regional planning and development organizations and in the process consult with stakeholders including municipalities and regional planning entities, and coordinate efforts with other state agencies. No later than December 6, 2023, the office must submit its report to the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations & Financial Affairs and State & Local Government.

[LD 1933](#) *An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Limerick Water District (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Rep. Woodsome of Waterboro) This bill increases, from \$1 million to \$2 million the debt limit of the Limerick Water District.

May 11, 2023

[LD 1929](#) *An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Home Building Contractors* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick) This bill establishes licensing requirements for contractors that perform work on residential construction and establishes a board to administer the licensing requirements, which includes two municipal code enforcement officers.

[LD 1927](#) *An Act to Create the Rural Prosperity Council* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) This bill establishes the Rural Prosperity Council as an advisory council within the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to address the social, economic and community well-being and resilience of rural areas in Maine by addressing unique structural challenges experienced by rural communities, including but not limited to housing, education, health care, small business development and job creation.

[LD 1926](#) *An Act to Impose a Moratorium on New Point Source Waste Discharge Licenses on the Lower Presumpscot River* (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth) This bill imposes a moratorium, until January 1, 2028, on the issuance of waste discharge licenses for new discharges to the Presumpscot River from Saccarappa Falls to tidewater.

[LD 1924](#) *An Act to Provide for Enforcement of Snowmobile and All-terrain Vehicle Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Dunphy of Embden) This bill increases registration fees for snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles by \$10 and dedicates the additional revenue to the Snowmobile Enforcement Fund and the ATV Enforcement Fund, respectively.

[LD 1918](#) *An Act to Modernize Maine's Business Incentive Programs by Creating the Dirigo Business Incentives Program and Eliminating Certain Other Tax Incentive Programs* (Sponsored by President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) (Governor' s Bill) This bill creates the Dirigo business incentives program to provide a tax credit to qualified businesses. The bill provides an exemption from the requirement for confidentiality of tax records for information disclosed as part of certain reports to the Department of Economic and Community Development and legislative committees regarding the Dirigo business incentives program. The bill extends the end date of the Pine Tree Development Zone program by one year, eliminates the Pine Tree Recreation Zone program and eliminates the Maine capital investment credit as of January 1, 2025. The bill prohibits issuing a certificate of approval for employment tax increment financing after December 31, 2024 and eliminates the employment tax increment financing benefits as of December 31, 2034.

May 9, 2023

[LD 1917](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Implement Ranked-choice Voting for Governor, State Senator and State Representative* (Sponsored by Sen. Remy of Lincoln Cty.) This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to apply ranked-choice voting to general elections for the offices of Maine governor, senator and representative.

[LD 1914](#) *An Act to Enact the Maine Psilocybin Health Access Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.) This bill creates the Maine Psilocybin Services Act regulating the use, licensure, possession, manufacture, administration, tracking and testing of various species of mushrooms. The bill provides for state level licensing of four related psilocybin activities including: (1) service center, where a client participates in a preparation, administration and integration session; (2) service facilitator; (3) manufacturing facility; and (4) testing facility. Municipal authority to regulate the industry is limited. While communities may adopt an ordinance that imposes reasonable regulations, municipalities may not require a local license, impose a tax or fee or prohibit more than one service center from operating within municipal boundaries, as long as the distance between centers is greater than 1,000 feet. Reasonable regulations are defined as: (1) conditions on the manner in which products are manufactured; (2) conditions on the manner in which centers provide services; (3) limits on the hours of operation; (4) requirements related to public's access; and (5) limits on where licensed premises may be located. In addition, service centers are prohibited from locating: (1) in unorganized territories; (2) in areas zoned exclusively for residential use; or (3) within 1,000 feet of a public or private elementary or secondary school unless there is a physical or geographic barrier preventing students from reaching the premises or the abutting property had not been previously used as an active school.

[LD 1905](#) *An Act to Create a Residential Rental Unit Registry* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor) This bill creates a residential rental unit registry administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development in which all residential property owners must register all residential rental units except for units provided as subsidized housing or registered on a municipal registry. A municipality may receive data from the registry regarding residential rental units in that municipality and, if the municipality maintains a residential rental property registry, is required to provide registry data to the department. A residential landlord may not serve notice to terminate a tenant for nonpayment of rent if the tenant's residential rental unit is not registered as required and may not serve the tenant with a notice to terminate for nonpayment of rent less than 120 days after registering; in either case the owner commits a civil violation for which a fine in the amount of three times the monthly rent of the unit must be adjudged. A housing authority is required to provide residential rental unit and tenant data on housing provided or subsidized by the authority to the department. The department is also required to list the rights of tenants regarding the registry in any pamphlet, publication or publicly accessible website of the department listing or explaining tenants' rights.

[LD 1904](#) *An Act to Enact the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act* (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill establishes the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act, the purpose of which is to ensure that a person is not denied housing based solely on the existence of a history of criminal convictions. This bill prohibits a housing provider from considering an applicant's criminal history until after the housing provider determines that the applicant meets all other qualifications for tenancy. A person who is aggrieved by a violation of the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act by a housing provider may file a grievance with the Maine Human Rights Commission and, if it is a violation by a private housing provider, may bring a civil action in court.

[LD 1899](#) *An Act to Establish a Maine Commercial Driver's License for Use Within State Borders* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill establishes a commercial driver's license (CDL) for use only within the state and prohibits the Secretary of State from denying a person a CDL on the basis of the person's authorized use of cannabis. The bill clarifies that the prohibition on denying a CDL may not be construed as authorizing a person to use cannabis while operating a motor vehicle and further provides that a person may not obtain the CDL for the operation of a school bus.

[LD 1897](#) *An Act to Improve Public Roadways on Unbridged Islands Not Served by the Maine State Ferry Service* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.) This bill establishes the Island Road Maintenance Fund in the Department of Transportation to support public road maintenance for inhabited, unbridged island municipalities that are not served by the Maine State Ferry Service. In making grants from the fund, the department must give preference to projects on islands that have a limited property tax base to support maintenance of public roads and projects that seek or have been granted funds from the Federal Government. The bill appropriates \$2 million to the fund.

May 4, 2023

[LD 1896](#) *An Act to Index Workers' Compensation Benefits to the Rate of Inflation* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.) This bill requires benefits awarded under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 to be annually increased to account for inflation.

[LD 1893](#) *An Act to Allow a Municipality to Impose a Fee on Short-term Rentals for the Benefit of That Municipality* (Sponsored by Rep. Strout of Harrington) This bill allows a municipality to impose, if approved by referendum of the voters in that municipality, a local option fee on short-term rentals of living quarters in any hotel, rooming house or tourist or trailer camp currently subject to the 9% sales tax on lodging, including a short-term accommodation rental rented through a transient rental platform. Long-term rentals currently exempt from sales tax are not subject to the short-term rental fee. The revenue from the local option fee is distributed to the municipality imposing the local option fee.

[LD 1889](#) *An Act to Provide Authorization to Aroostook County to Use the Statewide Radio and Network System* (Sponsored by President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This bill requires the Office of Information Technology to authorize Aroostook County to use the statewide radio and network system and amends the provisions of law governing the Statewide Radio and Network System Reserve Fund to include Aroostook County.

May 3, 2023

[LD 1884](#) *An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development* (Sponsored by Rep. Strout of Harrington) This bill prohibits a state agency, municipality, or other political subdivision of the State from licensing, permitting or otherwise approving or authorizing the siting, construction or operation of, or issuing a lease or granting an easement or other real property interest for, a windmill or wind turbine or tower for an offshore wind power project in state-owned submerged lands, territorial waters or federal waters.

[LD 1881](#) *An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts to Protect Soils and Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat from Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Landry of Farmington) This bill requires developers of solar energy projects to pay a fee or pay for conservation efforts to mitigate the adverse effects on prime agricultural soils or soils of statewide importance and developers of solar energy developments, wind energy developments or high-impact electric transmission lines to pay a compensation fee to fund off-site habitat improvement or preservation projects to mitigate the adverse effects of a development on wildlife and fisheries habitats. The bill also directs the Department of Environmental Protection to establish one or more compensation funds to carry out the projects or to authorize a public, quasi-public or municipal organization or a private, nonprofit organization to administer the funds.

Sponsor's proposed amendment: The amendment changes the term "prime agricultural soils" and "soils of statewide significance" to "high-value agricultural land." This amendment prohibits the construction of solar energy development with ground-mounted panels on high-value agricultural land unless: (1) the fee owner of the high-value agricultural land has filed an Internal Service Revenue Form 1040, Schedule F in each of the 3 calendar years preceding the submission of an application for a permit under the Solar Energy Development Decommissioning Law; (2) the solar energy development occupies 5 or more acres; and (3) the developer has made adequate provision for fitting the development harmoniously into the existing natural environment and that the development will not adversely affect existing uses, scenic character, air quality, water quality or other natural resources in the municipality or neighboring municipalities. The amendment requires the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, calculate the compensation fee for solar

energy development that is located on high-value agricultural land. The amendment directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Inland, Fisheries and Wildlife and the Governor's Energy Office, to define "high-value agricultural land" and "adverse impacts on high-value agricultural land" through rulemaking. The amendment provides that the solar energy compensation fee for impact to high-value agricultural land may be increased by the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, based on the assessed adverse impacts of the proposed developed area. The amendment requires the solar energy compensation fee for impact to high-value agricultural land to be remitted to the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund.

[LD 1880](#) *An Act to Amend the Adult Use Cannabis Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor) Of municipal impact, this bill authorizes social clubs for the on-site consumption of adult use cannabis and products, excluding smoking, which includes vaping. The bill also provides that a cannabis store may deliver in municipalities that have not approved the operation of cannabis stores not only to dwellings but also to businesses or hotels if written consent is given by an authorized employee of the establishment.

May 1, 2023

[LD 1872](#) *An Act to Restore Balanced Emergency Powers* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill clarifies the governor's powers during a state of emergency. Of municipal interest, the bill requires the emergency powers exercised by the governor, a person within the executive branch or a municipal official that bind, curtail, or infringe on the rights of private parties to be narrowly tailored to serve a compelling public health or safety purpose and to be limited in duration, applicability, and scope to reduce any infringement of individual liberty.

[LD 1869](#) *An Act to Prohibit the Private Funding of Elections* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This bill provides that a public official may not solicit, take, or otherwise accept from any person a contribution, donation, or anything else of value for the purpose of conducting state or local elections, a violation of which is a Class C Crime. The bill also requires that all costs and expenses relating to state or local elections be paid for with public funds.

[LD 1868](#) *Resolve, to Name 2 Brooks in the Town of Orient* (Sponsored by Rep. Underwood of Presque Isle) This resolve requires Office of Geographic Information Systems to name two brooks in the town of Orient.

[LD 1867](#) *An Act to Establish the Community Housing and Rural Development Authority* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) This bill establishes the Community Housing and

Rural Development Authority within the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to develop, own, lease and maintain mixed-income, permanently affordable public residential housing in this State.

[LD 1864](#) *An Act to Increase Maine's Housing Supply by Prohibiting Certain Zoning Requirements in Areas Where Public Sewer and Water Infrastructure Are Available and in Designated Growth Areas* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyle of Gorham) This bill restricts municipal ordinance requirements related to minimum lot size in areas where water and sewer infrastructure are available and in areas where water and sewer infrastructure are not available but that are within designated growth areas. For a housing development served by public water and sewer systems located in an area in which dwelling units are allowed, a municipality must allow a dwelling unit on a lot with a minimum size of 5,000 square feet. For a housing development located in a designated growth area that is not served by public water or sewer system, that complies with minimum lot size requirements in accordance existing subdivision law and that is in an area in which dwelling units are allowed, a municipality must allow a dwelling unit on a lot with a minimum size of 20,000 square feet. The bill also provides limits to ordinance provisions relating to lot coverage, road frontage and setback requirements.

[LD 1862](#) *An Act to Restore Balanced Powers During a State of Emergency* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Guilford) This bill clarifies the governor's powers during a state of emergency. Of municipal impact, the bill requires the emergency powers exercised by the governor, a person within the executive branch or a municipal official that bind, curtail, or infringe on the rights of private parties to be narrowly tailored to serve a compelling public health or safety purpose and to be limited in duration, applicability and scope to reduce any infringement of individual liberty.

[LD 1859](#) *An Act to Reimburse Training Costs for Emergency Medical and Public Safety Dispatchers* (Sponsored by Rep. Libby of Auburn) This bill requires the Emergency Medical Services' Board in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau to establish a reimbursement schedule for the cost of training an emergency medical dispatcher or a public safety dispatcher when the dispatcher is hired by another governmental entity as an emergency medical dispatcher or public safety dispatcher within five years of the first governmental entity's incurring expenditures for the training. The bill requires a governmental entity to provide reimbursement for training costs in accordance with the reimbursement schedule.

[LD 1857](#) *An Act to Create the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund to Benefit Public Safety Workers and Volunteers* (Sponsored by Rep. Copeland of Saco) This bill establishes the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund to provide public safety employees, including certain volunteer first responders, with access to a health and wellness program to mitigate the negative physical and mental health effects of their employment. The bill

funds the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund using 5% of the sales tax collected on the sale of adult use cannabis and adult use cannabis products.

April 27, 2023

[LD 1850](#) *An Act Relating to Energy Storage and the State's Energy Goals* (Sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.) This bill: (1) modifies the state goal for energy storage system development to at least 300 megawatts of installed capacity by December 31, 2025 and at least 400 megawatts by December 31, 2030; (2) directs the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), to evaluate designs for and recommend a program to procure commercially available utility-scale energy storage systems connected to the transmission and distribution systems; (3) directs the PUC to evaluate whether the program recommended by the office is reasonably likely to achieve the certain objectives, take steps to implement the program and submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters recommendations for any changes to law needed to allow the commission to fully implement the program; and (4) directs the GEO to study long-duration energy storage.

[LD 1848](#) *Resolve, to Designate the Route 15 Bridge Located in the Town of Kenduskeag the William S. Pullen Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.) (Emergency) This emergency resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2967 on Route 15 in the Town of Kenduskeag the William S. Pullen Bridge.

[LD 1847](#) *An Act to Modify the Visual Impact Standards for Offshore Wind Port Development* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo) (Governor's Bill) This bill: (1) establishes a new type of port development used for fabricating offshore wind turbines; (2) establishes a visual impact standard to evaluate the effect of the development of an offshore wind terminal; (3) provides that offshore wind terminals must receive review under the provisions of law governing site location of development and; (4) amends the provisions of law governing site location of development and the Natural Resources Protection Act to provide that when proposed offshore wind terminals receive review, impacts related to scenic character and existing uses related to scenic character are governed by the new visual impact standard.

[LD 1846](#) *An Act to Amend a Circulator's Oath for Petitions and Nomination Papers by Including the Number of Signatures Collected* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland) This bill amends the laws governing a circulator's oath for a primary petition, nomination petition, people's veto referendum petition or direct initiative of legislation petition to include the total number of signatures on the petition.

[LD 1845](#) *An Act to Regulate Outdoor Lighting* (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono) This bill regulates outdoor lighting fixtures by imposing with some exceptions, certain requirements

related to the installation and use of outdoor lighting fixtures, including: (1) prohibiting a person from placing or installing an outdoor lighting fixture unless the fixture is shielded to direct the light downward; (2) providing that if an outdoor lighting fixture is not shielded it may not be operated between 11 p.m. and sunrise; and (3) prohibiting the installation of outdoor lighting fixtures that use a mercury vapor lamp. The bill also authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances that include the same or more restrictive requirements and provides that where there is no such ordinance the Department of Environmental Protection has authority to enforce the requirements.

[LD 1844](#) *An Act to Support Emergency Housing Facility Construction, Renovation and Acquisition Statewide by Creating a Matching Grant Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Arford of Brunswick) This bill establishes the Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program to award grants at \$10,000 per emergency housing bed up to \$1 million per recipient to program providers to construct, renovate or acquire new or existing buildings to house emergency housing or shelter programs, including emergency housing 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and housing navigation and case management services in the building after occupancy. Recipients must match the grants on a one-to-one basis from a source other than state funding.

[LD 1843](#) *Resolve, to Name a Bridge in the Town of Bremen the Kitty Breskin Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Stover of Boothbay) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 6472 on Waldoboro Road in the Town of Bremen the Kitty Breskin Memorial Bridge.

[LD 1839](#) *An Act to Study a Permitting Process for and Establish a Moratorium on Certain Tall Structures* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill) This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to convene a working group to determine the need for a statewide special permitting requirement for large structures over 700 feet in height. The working group must consider but is not limited to special environmental concerns regarding such structures, impact on the surrounding area and natural landscape, impacts on surrounding communities and infrastructure, navigation and aerial hazards, impact on wildlife, additional safety requirements and decommissioning procedures and by December 31, 2023 report its finding to several joint standing committees of the Legislature. The bill also imposes a moratorium on the building of structures over 700 feet in height until October 1, 2024.

[LD 1832](#) *An Act to Require Reimbursement of Fees for Treatment Rendered by Public and Private Ambulance Services (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Rep. Cyrway of Albion) This emergency bill requires an ambulance service to be reimbursed for the cost of treating a person, regardless of whether the ambulance service transports the person to a hospital.

[LD 1828](#) *An Act Regarding Enhanced 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Sen. LaFountain of Kennebec Cty.) This emergency bill: (1) requires a public

safety answering point (PSAP) to provide the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau notice at least one year prior to discontinuing service to a municipality, unless the bureau authorizes a shorter period for notification; (2) authorizes the bureau to establish an additional PSAP on a determination that an it is necessary to ensure public safety and access to E-9-1-1 services; and (3) requires the bureau to conduct a study assessing whether PSAP can be more efficiently managed to ensure stability of the system.

[LD 1825](#) *An Act to Clarify Licensing Jurisdiction for Manufactured Housing Communities* (Sponsored by Speaker Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This bill requires a municipality to accept a license issued by the Manufactured Housing Board as evidence a manufactured housing community meets all requirements to operate. The bill also provides that a municipality may not charge any additional fees for a manufactured housing community to operate or a fee for any type of permit for manufactured housing if the installation is governed by rules of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Manufactured Housing Board.

[LD 1824](#) *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Constitution of Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This resolve creates the Commission to Study the Constitution of Maine and directs the commission, no later than December 6, 2024, to submit a report and recommendations, including suggested resolutions to amend the constitution, for presentation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over Judiciary matters in 2025.

[LD 1823](#) *An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) Of municipal significance, the bill amends the statutes regulating food and food sovereignty by: (1) applying the provisions of the Maine Food Sovereignty Act to all local food ordinances, including those in place before the Act was enacted; (2) establishes the Maine Vegetable Garden Protection Act to allow a person to cultivate vegetable gardens on the person's own property or with permission on the private property of another and prohibits interference by the State or a political subdivision; (3) provides that local ordinances may be adopted to regulate matters related to the cultivation of vegetable gardens, including height, setback, water use, fertilizer use or the control of invasive or unlawful species, as long as the ordinance does not have the effect of prohibiting the cultivation of vegetable gardens; and (4) authorizes municipalities to develop and implement programs to establish edible landscaping, food forests and community gardens in public spaces, including municipally owned properties, rights-of-way, school grounds, parks and parking lots.

[LD 1822](#) *An Act to Amend the Specialty License Plate Laws and Extend the Moratorium on Approval of Specialty License Plates and Remove the Authority of Municipalities to Issue Driver's Licenses* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This bill: (1) removes language that anticipated that municipal offices would issue driver's licenses and nondriver identification cards; (2) amends the laws regarding specialty license plates regarding

fees, duplicate numbers, the preliminary approval process and mechanisms for limiting the number of specialty license plates issued; and (3) extends the moratorium on the approvals of specialty license plate or recognition license plate until June 30, 2024.

April 25, 2023

[LD 1821](#) *An Act to Validate Certain Proceedings Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds and Notes by the City of Bath* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.) This bill validates the referendum conducted in the City of Bath on November 8, 2022 and authorizes the city to enter into contracts and issue bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed \$13.5 million to finance the construction and equipping of a new fire station.

[LD 1814](#) *An Act to Reduce Mercury in the Environment by Phasing Out Certain Fluorescent Light Bulbs* (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth) This bill prohibits the sale or distribution of certain mercury-added lamps and provides for administrative and civil penalties for violating the prohibition.

[LD 1808](#) *An Act to Amend the State Tax Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor) Part C of the bill amends property tax laws by: (1) simplifying eligibility for the property tax exemption for veterans who served in a federally recognized war period or received an expeditionary medal; (2) simplifying and broadening eligibility for the property tax exemption for veterans with specially adapted housing units; (3) adjusting the personal property factor calculation used to determine state business equipment tax exemption reimbursement rates; (4) clarifying the three approaches to valuation; (5) allowing certain restricted property to be considered comparable to property not so restricted for valuation purposes if the comparison is adjusted for the restriction; and (6) changing the payment due date for the homestead property tax deferral program for senior citizens and changing the date by which an extension must be requested. Part D of the bill amends the statutes guiding the implementation of the senior property tax stabilization program by: (1) clarifying the property tax year for which individuals request stabilization and the form municipalities must use to apply for reimbursement; and (2) authorizing the Maine Revenue Services to audit municipal applications for reimbursement and providing for municipal appeal rights.

[LD 1805](#) *An Act to Increase State Oversight of Election Funding by Requiring Approval by the Legislature* (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.) This bill requires that new federal election funds be approved by the Legislature before they may be accepted or disbursed by a person, group or entity charged by the State to administer an official election occurring within the State unless explicitly required by state or federal law.

[LD 1802](#) *An Act to Add Certain Volunteer Firefighters to the Definition of "Volunteer Firefighter"* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This bill amends the definition of a volunteer firefighter to mean a firefighter that receives up to 20% of the compensation of a municipal firefighter and may belong to a volunteer fire department created by a municipality.

April 24, 2023

[LD 1799](#) *An Act to Expand Maine's High-quality Early Learning and Care for Children by Increasing Public Preschool Opportunities in Communities* (Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.) This bill establishes an annual reporting requirement for the Department of Education to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the expansion of public preschool programs. The bill also requires the department to: (1) establish a timeline, an implementation plan and incentives to expand publicly funded preschool programming to 30 hours per week or the length of the local school day; (2) establish a working group to explore expansion to full-day preschool; (3) contract with consultants with experience in early childhood education to facilitate mixed delivery publicly funded preschool expansion with school administrative units and licensed child care programs; and (4) establish a professional development and certification stakeholder working group. The bill also establishes a commission to study and make recommendations on aligning governance and blending and braiding funding in early care and early childhood education systems. No later than March 1, 2024, the commission is required to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

[LD 1796](#) *An Act to Protect Maine's Transit Employees* (Sponsored by President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This bill makes assault on a transit employee a Class C crime, including expectorating or flinging bodily substances or other fluids on or at a transit worker, and requires transit districts to post in conspicuous places in all facilities, information regarding the penalties for assaulting a transit employee. The bill also requires transit employees to receive de-escalation training annually jointly approved by the labor organization representing a plurality of the transit district employees or a joint labor-management safety committee if it exists.

[LD 1791](#) *An Act to Make the ConnectMaine Authority Responsible for Attachments to and Joint Use of Utility Poles and to Establish Procedures for Broadband Service Infrastructure Crossing Railroad Tracks* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This bill directs that the ConnectMaine Authority be responsible for the management and administration of attachments to and joint use of utility poles. The bill also establishes a procedure by which broadband service providers that need to cross a railroad track with broadband infrastructure may apply to a railroad company, provides for responsibility of costs in the crossing by the broadband service provider and provides for payment of a license fee and reimbursement of expenses to the railroad company. The bill also establishes procedures for either the railroad company or the broadband

service provider to petition the Public Utilities Commission if the railroad company and broadband service provider cannot agree on the terms of the crossing of the railroad track.

[LD 1789](#) *An Act to Remove All Marijuana-related Provisions from the Maine Criminal Code and Expunge All Convictions Involving Marijuana* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This bill amends the Maine Criminal Code by eliminating several marijuana related provisions and directs the Department of Public Safety to review all criminal records possessed by any state criminal justice or law enforcement agency and to expunge all records that relate to criminal convictions and civil violations for conduct involving marijuana or that are otherwise authorized under Maine's adult use cannabis laws.

[LD 1787](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of the State Subdivision Statutes* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison) This resolve requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection, to convene a stakeholder group, including municipal officials, to review and recommend a comprehensive overhaul and modernization of the subdivision laws. The departments must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and on Environment and Natural Resources, which are authorized to report out legislation in 2024.

[LD 1781](#) *An Act to Establish the Homeless Substance Use Disorder Service Program* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Gattine of Westbrook) This bill establishes the Homeless Substance Use Disorder Service Program which must: (1) be made available in at least one urban and one rural area of Maine based on the geographic location of persons with substance use disorders who are experiencing homelessness and have a history of drug overdose; and (2) provide rapid access to low-barrier treatment for substance use disorder and stable housing to support recovery.

[LD 1780](#) *An Act to Regulate the Operation of Micromobility Devices on Public Ways* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This bill applies bicycle-related rules of the road and helmet standards to micromobility devices, which are defined as small, low-speed human- or electric-powered transportation device, including a scooter, skateboard, electric scooter, electric skateboard or other lightweight, wheeled conveyance that has a speed of 28 miles per hour or less.

[LD 1772](#) *An Act to Require Voter Approval of Certain Borrowing by Government-controlled Entities and Utilities and to Provide Voters More Information Regarding That Borrowing* (Citizen Initiative) This initiated bill prohibits a quasi-independent state entity, reporting entity, municipal electric district, consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility, cooperative or rural electrification cooperative from borrowing money, incurring debt, whether general

obligation debt or revenue obligation debt, or issuing bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness that would cause its total debt outstanding at any time to exceed \$1 billion unless approved by the voters at a general election. Exemptions are provided for debt issued by the Public Employees Retirement System, the Finance Authority of Maine, the Maine Health and Higher Education Facilities Authority, the Department of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority, municipalities and counties and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank and for certain education-related programs.

[LD 1764](#) *An Act Regarding the Charge for Research Time by State Agencies for Freedom of Access Act Requests* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.) This bill allows a state agency or official to charge \$25 for the first two hours of staff time responding to a public records request under the Freedom of Access Act and sets the fee at \$25 per hour for staff time after the first two hours. **DEAD**

April 20, 2023

[LD 1758](#) *An Act to Require a Municipality to Pay a Homeless Shelter on a Per Capita Basis for Persons Released or Delivered by the Municipality to the Shelter* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This bill requires a municipality to reimburse a facility providing temporary shelter or housing on a transitional basis to indigent or homeless persons \$100 per day for an indigent or otherwise homeless person whom the municipality has released or delivered to the facility.

[LD 1756](#) *An Act to Protect Employee Freedom of Speech* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This bill prohibits an employer from threatening discharging, disciplining or otherwise penalizing or threatening to discharge, discipline or otherwise penalize or taking any adverse employment action against an employee because the employee declines to attend or participate in an employer-sponsored meeting or declines to receive or listen to a communication from the employer if the meeting or communication is to express the opinion of the employer about religious or political matters. The bill provides an exemption for a religious employer.

[LD 1752](#) *Resolve, to Prepare Preapproved Building Types* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning to contract with an appropriate consultant to establish a set of building types that municipalities may adopt as preapproved building types to reduce the cost and time associated with processing building permit applications. The bill also requires the department to submit a report no later than November 6, 2024 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2025.

[LD 1751](#) *An Act to Maximize Federal Funding in Support of Emergency Medical Services* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) This bill establishes an ambulance service assessment fee on ambulance service providers to maximize federal funding for reimbursement to ambulance service providers under the MaineCare program. It also increases the reimbursement rates under the MaineCare program for ambulance services, neonatal transport, no-transport calls and community paramedicine.

[LD 1750](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Complete a Service Plan and Determine the Scope of Work for Restoration of Rail Use of the Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor from Downtown Portland to Auburn* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to complete a study that includes service and scope of work plans for the section of the Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor between downtown Portland and Auburn for restoration of the rail corridor to a minimum of Class 3 interurban light rail operating conditions. The resolve also requires the Commissioner of Transportation to establish an advisory committee to advise the department in undertaking its responsibilities regarding the service scope of work plans.

[LD 1748](#) *An Act to Reform the School Budget Referendum Process by Limiting the Circumstances in Which Referenda Occur* (Sponsored by Rep. Abdi of Lewiston) This bill provides that a budget validation referendum is only required if a written petition, signed by at least 20% of the number of voters voting in the last gubernatorial election in the municipalities in the school administrative unit, is filed with the unit's school board within 30 days of the approval of the budget at a budget meeting.

[LD 1747](#) *An Act to Return the Sales Tax Rate to 5 Percent* (Sponsored by Rep. Arata of New Gloucester) This bill decreases the general sales tax rate from 5.5% to 5.25% beginning October 1, 2023 and to 5% beginning July 1, 2024. This bill does not change the rate of the sales tax imposed on prepared food, lodging, rental vehicles, liquor, or adult use cannabis.

[LD 1746](#) *An Act to Require Responsible Contracting Practices for Public Construction Projects* (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) Part A of this bill establishes contractor requirements for construction projects that receive state funds for the purpose of ensuring that the work on such contracts is performed by responsible, qualified contractors that maintain the capacity, expertise, personnel and other qualifications and resources necessary to successfully perform public contracts in a timely, reliable and cost-effective manner. Part B of the bill requires the State to use project labor agreements for large-scale construction projects that receive state funds of \$10 million or more. A project labor agreement is a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor unions that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project.

[LD 1744](#) *An Act to Strengthen Accountability in Rulemaking by Providing for Legislative Oversight* (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris) In part, this bill establishes the Legislative Economic Analysis Unit, which is responsible for undertaking impact analysis of major substantive rules and other rules as directed, and whenever it is unclear under applicable law to determine whether a rule is major substantive rule or routine technical.

[LD 1743](#) *An Act to Eliminate the Personal Property Tax* (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris) This bill eliminates the imposition of taxes on personal property, except for excise taxes and sales and use taxes as of April 1, 2024, and repeals the business equipment tax exemption and the business equipment tax reimbursement programs.

[LD 1742](#) *An Act to Enhance the Use of Critical Incident Stress Management Teams and to Require Peer Team Support* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This bill directs the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency to provide critical incident stress management team services and peer team support services to all firefighters and employees or members of a public safety agency, fire department or organization involved in emergency care or response in Maine by supporting the establishment and deployment of critical incident stress management teams and services. The bill also requires public safety agencies, fire departments and organizations involved in emergency care or response to have at least one person who has received critical incident stress management training and to provide education and access to ongoing behavioral health care services related to any post-traumatic stress resulting from a critical incident.

[LD 1739](#) *An Act to Extend Development District Tax Increment Financing Districts* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth) This bill allows a development district that is a tax increment financing district to be extended an additional 30 years if the district uses at least 51% of state tax increment revenue for affordable housing or transit-oriented development. The bill also defines: (1) "affordable housing" as a decent, safe and sanitary dwelling, apartment or other living accommodation for a household whose income does not exceed 120% of the median income for the area; and (2) "transit oriented development" as a type of development that links land use with transit facilities by combining housing with complementary public uses, including jobs, retail or services establishments that are located in transit-served nodes or corridors.

[LD 1737](#) *An Act to Provide up to \$5,000 in Property Tax Relief to Veterans* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo) This bill provides a complete exemption from property taxes for veterans who were disabled during active military service and who are receiving a pension or compensation from the United States Government for total, service-connected disability, except that the dollar amount of the reduction in taxes due because of the exemption is limited to \$5,000 or the amount of taxes actually due for that property tax year, whichever amount is less.

[LD 1734](#) *An Act to Clarify the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Short-term Rentals* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) This bill changes the definition of "short-term rental unit" to include lodging places that are not required to be registered under state statutes to the list of units subjected to related municipal ordinances. **DEAD**

[LD 1733](#) *An Act to Require the Revenue Forecasting Committee to Prepare Economic Impact Statements for Certain Legislation* (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Waterford) This bill requires, at the request of three or more members of a legislative committee, the Revenue Forecasting Committee to prepare an economic impact statement for any legislation that creates a new workforce program or amends employment, labor or taxation laws.

[LD 1732](#) *An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot) This bill changes the municipal general assistance program in the following ways: (1) requires overseers and designated or appointed municipal officials administering the program to complete training within 120 days of election or appointment; (2) requires municipalities to accept applications for general assistance during regular business hours; (3) amends provisions governing the municipality of responsibility to increase the provision of assistance from 30 days to six months when a municipality assists an applicant in relocating to another community and from six months to 12 months when an applicant is residing in a group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home or hospital or in a hotel, motel or other temporary housing; (4) increases from 70% to 90% the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe; (5) provides state reimbursement for additional program costs, including emergency general assistance, temporary housing, interpreter services and administrative expenses; and (6) requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide the services necessary to support municipalities, including education and training for certain state employees, 24-hour technical assistance, written decisions and access to statewide database.

[LD 1723](#) *An Act to Prevent the Automatic Transfer of Permits and Contracts in a Sale of Assets of a Water Export Company Without Review and to Amend the Membership of the Water Resources Planning Committee and the Maine Public Drinking Water Commission* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This bill: (1) prohibits a person who has received income from an entity engaged in the extraction and exporting of Maine water from serving on the Water Resources Planning Committee (WRPC) and the Maine Public Drinking Water Commission; (2) requires the WRPC to include planning for the sustainable use of water resources by encouraging the consolidation and centralization of collected state water resources information within a single state agency; (3) amends the duties of the Maine Agricultural Water Management Board to include recommendations for measures to enhance drought preparedness and resilience by agricultural producers; and (4) establishes the Commission to Study the Role of Water as a Resource in the State of Maine to develop findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to ensure that there is adequate clean, safe and accessible drinking water

for Maine residents and to meet the needs of commercial and business interests now and in the future. **DEAD**

April 18, 2023

[LD 1721](#) *An Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Duson of Cumberland Cty.) This bill creates the Transitional Housing Community Construction Program Fund under MaineHousing to create transitional housing communities, which are clusters of housing dwelling units for homeless individuals and families to provide stability and to allow the individuals and families to transition to permanent housing. The bill directs that transitional housing communities be created throughout the State designed to cover all counties. The bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services, through independent housing services under its administration of assisted housing programs, to coordinate, arrange or provide services including job training and health care services for residents of transitional housing communities. The bill also provides one-time funding to MaineHousing to create transitional housing communities and funding to the department to provide independent housing services to residents of transitional housing.

[LD 1719](#) *An Act to Establish Substance Use Disorder Treatment Centers* (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish two substance use disorder treatment centers with at least 10 beds each, and 40% of the beds available to individuals enrolled in MaineCare. The centers must be open 24 hours per day, seven days each week, offer medically managed withdrawal services, provide access to medication to treat substance use disorders and coordinate after treatment services. No later than February 1, 2025 and annually thereafter, the department must report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the number of people served, services provided and attempts made at community outreach.

[LD 1717](#) *An Act to Provide a Property Tax Exemption for All Veterans over 62 Years of Age* (Sponsored by Rep. Collamore of Pittsfield) This bill amends the veterans exemption law by repealing the requirement that the military service be performed during a federally recognized war period, allowing all veterans who are at least 62 years of age to be eligible for the \$6,000 exemption. **DEAD**

[LD 1714](#) *An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor) This bill establishes the Recovery Community Centers Fund within the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health to fund recovery community centers. The bill requires that 12% of the sales tax revenue received per month on the sale of adult use

cannabis and products and 12% of the excise tax revenue collected on the sale of adult use cannabis be credited to the fund.

[LD 1711](#) *An Act to Provide for Safe Roadway Construction Design Criteria* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford) This bill: (1) adds safety metrics, crash data and local economic significance based on a value per acre analysis as factors in the Department of Transportation classification of state highway priority levels; (2) establishes transportation construction project design controlling criteria subject to department review and establishes a review process, including a review committee, and exemptions; (3) directs the department to establish by rule standards for the controlling criteria based on certain publications of the national transportation organizations; and (4) provides specific direction to the department in adopting by rule standards for pedestrian facilities, which include sidewalks, shared-use paths and side paths, and bicycle facilities. **DEAD**

[LD 1710](#) *An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell) In part, this bill amends the laws governing the municipal general assistance program by: (1) redefining maximum levels of assistance to better reflect the cost of basic necessities; (2) increasing the period of eligibility from one month to six months; (3) requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a comprehensive application form for applicants of general assistance, emergency assistance and rental assistance and provide training to ensure that municipalities comply with the requirements of the program; (4) requiring municipalities to provide culturally appropriate and trauma-informed services when administering the general assistance program; and (5) requiring municipalities to exceed the maximum levels of assistance in order to alleviate an emergency, which is garners 100% state reimbursement for the additional expenditures.

[LD 1707](#) *An Act to Allow Workers to Work Without Having to Pay Labor Organization Service Fees* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner) This bill prohibits requiring an employee who has refrained from joining collective bargaining to pay to the service fee representing the employee's pro rata share of expenditures that are germane to the organization's representational activities.

[LD 1706](#) *An Act to Clarify Statewide Laws Regarding Affordable Housing and Accessory Dwelling Units* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford) This bill makes changes to provisions of law regarding affordable housing and accessory dwelling units by: (1) removing from the definition of "affordable housing development" that the developer designates the development as affordable; (2) clarifying that municipal approval of an affordable housing development for purposes of timing of the execution of a restrictive covenant means granting final approval, including issuing an occupancy permit; (3) clarifying that setback requirements are just one type of dimensional requirements; (4) amending language stating where housing is allowed or permitted to refer to where residential uses, including as a conditional use, are allowed or

permitted; (5) allowing accessory dwelling units on nonconforming lots, including in shoreland zones, if the accessory dwelling units do not further increase the nonconformity; (6) allowing accessory dwelling units built without municipal approval, including accessory dwelling units in shoreland zones, if the accessory dwelling units otherwise meet state and municipal requirements for accessory dwelling units; and (7) allowing municipalities to approve accessory dwelling units through a permitting process that does not require planning board approval.

[LD 1702](#) *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Improve the Educational Experience of People Who Are Resettling in Maine* (Sponsored by Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill creates the 16-member Commission to Improve the Education Experience of People Who Are Resettling in Maine, which includes a municipal General Assistance program administrator. The commission is directed to review current barriers and improve the experience for people who have resettled in Maine, such as asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants in public schools. No later than December 6, 2023 the commission is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2024.

[LD 1701](#) *Resolve, to Reestablish and Continue the Work of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State* (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland) This resolve reestablishes the Blue-Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State, which was previously established in 2022. This 17-member commission, including representatives of municipal government, is charged with examining and making recommendations on the structure, support, and delivery of emergency medical services in Maine. No later than December 6, 2023, the commission is directed to submit a report detailing its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

[LD 1700](#) *An Act to Protect Agricultural Lands by Creating a Permitting Process for Solar Development on Those Lands* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) This bill establishes a process for permitting the location of ground-mounted solar infrastructure on agricultural land; directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry to administer the program; and provides that a permit may only be granted if the value of the solar equipment exceeds the value of the land. The bill also allows a municipality to apply to the department for the authority to issue the permits locally.

[LD 1699](#) *An Act to Amend the Freedom of Access Act and Related Provisions* (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris) Of municipal interest, this bill requires public entities to fully respond to a public records request within 60 calendar days and establishes a process through which the body, agency or official may request that the Public Access Ombudsman grant an extension of the deadline. A written decision by the ombudsman to extend the deadline must be based on good cause shown and may not be appealed. The bill also provides that the total fee charged by an agency or official other than a school administrative unit in response to a single public records

request may not exceed \$500 and that the total fee charged by a school administrative unit in response to all requests for public records submitted by the same person in a single calendar year may not exceed \$100.

[LD 1693](#) *An Act to Amend the Kennebunk Sewer District Charter* (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.) This bill amends the charter of the Kennebunk Sewer District to update the description of the district's territorial limits.

[LD 1692](#) *An Act to Create the Guilford-Sangerville Utilities District (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.) This emergency bill establishes the Guilford-Sangerville Utilities District, pending voter referendum.

[LD 1691](#) *An Act to Provide Parity in State Energy Rate Relief Payments and Tax Exemptions for Maine Cannabis Businesses* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This bill requires that cannabis businesses be paid monetary relief and assistance out of either the Medical Use of Cannabis Fund or the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund in an amount equal to relief that was provided to other businesses in the State, including energy relief for electricity costs provided to businesses in 2022 and 2023. This bill also clarifies that the sales tax exemption for products used in commercial agriculture production also applies to the production of cannabis and waives the annual registration fee for a caregiver if in the prior year the caregiver has been determined compliant with the laws and rules of the medical cannabis provisions upon inspection by the Department of Health and Human Services.

[LD 1690](#) *An Act Regarding Ongoing Absentee Voting and Tracking of Absentee Ballots* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This bill amends the “ongoing absentee voter status” statutes by repealing the provision that a voter must be at least 65 years of age to qualify for the status, thereby extending the privilege to all voters. The bill also amends the list of reasons a person’s ongoing absentee voter statute is terminated to repeal current provisions regarding a failure to return a ballot in a general election and the designation of “inactive” in the central voter registration system. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to establish and maintain an online service allowing a voter who requests an absentee ballot to trace the status of the absentee ballot process.

[LD 1686](#) *An Act to Eliminate Unconstitutional Restrictions on Access to Cannabis by Removing Certain Restrictions on Medical Use and Personal Use and to Recognize Cannabis and Hemp as Food Protected as a Right Under the Constitution of Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill provides that the leaves, stems, flowers and seeds of a cannabis plant are food and therefore protected under the right to food provision in Maine’s constitution adopted in 2021. The bill also removes provisions of state statute that limit the amount of cannabis plants or seedlings a person may: (1) transfer or furnish, without remuneration, to

another person; (2) possess, cultivate or transport; (3) purchase from a nursery cultivation facility or cannabis store and (4) plants that a person may cultivate.

[LD 1685](#) *An Act to Increase Acreage Eligibility and Change Requirements for Filing Plans Under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law* (Sponsored by Rep. Matlack of St. George) This bill amends the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law by increasing the acreage eligibility requirement from 10 to 25 acres of forested land beginning April 1, 2025. The bill authorizes municipal assessors and the State Tax Assessor to retain copies of required forest management and harvest plans and with assistance from the Director of the Bureau of Forestry to determine the sufficiency of a plan to meet the requirements of the law. The bill also specifies that the forest management and harvest plans retained by a municipal assessor or the State Tax Assessor are confidential and not public records.

[LD 1680](#) *An Act to Allow Cannabis Advertising and to Allow Cannabis Delivery* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland) This bill allows adult use cannabis and cannabis product stores, certain cultivators and products manufacturers to operate a delivery service to commercial locations, including locations operated as short-term rental properties, and allows an adult use cannabis and cannabis product licensee to advertise, market and display signs promoting the licensee's business and products in a manner no more restricted than the sale or promotion of alcohol, tobacco products or prescription drugs is restricted. The bill also allows signs for adult use cannabis and products on the exterior of motor vehicles.

[LD 1678](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Study and Report on Soil Carbon Sequestration Incentive Programs* (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono) This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to study and report on soil carbon sequestration incentive programs that can be applied to land, including but not limited to forest, agricultural, and conservation land, as well as wetlands, and determine possible funding sources that may be used to fund the programs. No later than December 6, 2023 the department is required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which is authorized to advance legislation in 2024.

April 13, 2023

[LD 1675](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the General Assistance Program Regarding Eligibility, Housing Assistance and State Reimbursement and to Establish a Working Group* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) This bill amends the law governing the general assistance program to provide that a municipality must calculate housing assistance equivalent to the amount of rental assistance provided for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937. The bill extends the period of eligibility from one month to six months. Beginning July 1, 2023, when a municipality incurs net general assistance costs in excess of 0.008% of that municipality's most recent state valuation relative to the state

fiscal year for which reimbursement is being issued, the Department of Health and Human Services must reimburse the municipality for 90% of the amount in excess of these expenditures. The bill also directs the department to establish a working group to study and make recommendations related to a uniform intake process and the conversion of the general assistance program into a housing assistance program.

[LD 1674](#) *An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation Construction Projects* (Sponsored by Rep. Lee of Auburn) This bill requires state-financed transportation projects designed on or after January 1, 2024 which cost \$500,000 or more, to: (1) identify locations on state highways and state aid highways with a lack of facilities for or designs creating unsafe conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists and other users not in a motor vehicle; (2) consult with municipalities about active or planned transportation connections, public transportation facilities and management of posted speed limits to reduce motor vehicle crash exposure and severity; (3) adjust posted speed limits within the construction project to minimize motor vehicle crashes, particularly in locations experiencing a higher probability of crashes; and (4) plan, design and construct facilities providing context-sensitive solutions that contribute to transportation system connectivity and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, other users not in a motor vehicle and persons accessing public transportation. The bill also requires the Department of Transportation to prioritize funding for projects that: (1) provide street access to all transportation users; (2) encourage mixed land uses and infill development; (3) facilitate access to affordable or dense housing, encourage walkable neighborhoods and preserve open space, wetlands, parks, farms and woodlands; and (4) encourage robust community and public participation.

[LD 1673](#) *An Act to Encourage Affordable Housing and Mixed-use Development by Establishing a Thriving Corridors Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport) This bill establishes the Thriving Corridors Program within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services in order to assist municipalities with technical support and funding to redevelop high-impact corridors near downtowns, village centers or crossroads into mixed-use, mixed-income, walkable neighborhoods by infilling and redeveloping underutilized land.

[LD 1672](#) *An Act to Establish an Affordable Housing Permitting Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport) This bill creates the seven-member Affordable Housing Development Review Board, which includes a representative of municipal government, tasked with reviewing proposed affordable and workforce housing developments, effectively circumventing the local processes. In the review process, the board is authorized to preempt any municipal ordinances in the process of determining whether to grant or deny the application for a permit. The bill also creates the process by which a housing development may apply for a permit, in lieu of applying for a local permit, provided the development is in a designated growth area or area served by public water or sewer and 50% of the building's square footage is for affordable or workforce housing. The bill also provides that the development is authorized in an area where a municipal

ordinance is not consistent with a comprehensive plan and provides that inconsistent ordinances including provisions that require a minimum lot size of more than 5,000 square feet, density restriction, more than two parking spaces per three dwelling units, more than 50 feet of street frontage, and more than 10 feet of front setback, to name a few. The bill also prescribes the procedures the review board must employ, which requires that notice of a hearing be provided to the applicant and the impacted local board. The bill extends appeal rights to the applicant and provides that municipal fees may not be assessed except to connect to utilities and apply for building permits. Finally, the application fee for the special permitting process is \$5,000 per application.

[LD 1669](#) *An Act to Require That Copies of Deeds and Survey Plans Be Provided to Municipal Assessors* (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville) This bill provides that a grantee in a deed must provide a copy of the deed to the municipal assessor of the municipality in which the real estate is located and that a surveyor who completes a survey plan of real estate must provide a copy of the survey plan to the municipal assessor of the municipality in which the real estate is located.

[LD 1664](#) *An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.) (Emergency) As of July 1, 2023, this emergency bill increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe.

[LD 1660](#) *An Act to Provide That Advanced Recycling Facilities Are Subject to Solid Waste Regulation and That Advanced Recycling Does Not Constitute Recycling* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) This bill redefines recycling as the series of activities by which material is collected, transported, sorted, and processed for use as an industrial feedstock in place of raw materials to manufacture new products with minimal loss of material quality and quantity. The definition further provides that excluded from the definition recycling is energy recovery or energy generation by any means, including, but not limited to, advanced recycling, combustion, gasification, incineration, pyrolysis, solvolysis, hydrolysis, thermal desorption, waste-to-energy, waste-to-fuel or any other chemical or molecular conversion process.

[LD 1653](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow Persons Under Guardianship for Mental Illness to Be Electors and to Protect All Electors from Harassment and Intimidation* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow persons under guardianship to be electors for Governor, Senators and Representatives and to exempt all electors from harassment or intimidation on the days of election during their attendance at, going to or returning from voting.

[LD 1650](#) *An Act to Create a Tiered Senior Resident Homestead Exemption* (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham) This bill replaces the property tax stabilization for senior citizens program and provides that qualifying seniors earning less than 80% of the regional median family income qualify for an additional \$25,000 homestead exemption and those earning more than 80% but less than 100% of the regional median family income qualify for an additional \$15,000 exemption. The bill also requires the State to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the property tax loss under the senior resident homestead exemption. **DEAD**

[LD 1649](#) *An Act to Support Local Governments in Responding to Freedom of Access Act Requests* (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham) This bill amends the State's freedom of access laws to increase the fee for a public records request from \$25 to \$40 per hour spent retrieving the public record. It provides that an agency or official may charge a fee for the first hour of staff time per request when the person making the public records request of that agency or official has previously made a request during the same calendar year. It requires that school personnel who are the subject of public records requests be notified and allowed to inspect records before they are released. If a school district believes a request is frivolous or designed to intimidate or harass, the school district is authorized to seek the opinion of the Public Access Ombudsman within the Department of the Attorney General regarding the request. If the Public Access Ombudsman determines that the request is part of a series of contemporaneous requests, or a pattern of requests, that are frivolous or designed to intimidate or harass and that the requests are not intended for the broad dissemination of information to the public about actual or alleged government activity, the Public Access Ombudsman is authorized to relieve the agency or official of the obligation to provide the records sought. If the requestor disagrees with the denial of a request based on these standards, the requestor may appeal to the Superior Court. It also directs the Public Access Ombudsman to create a simple, short form for public records requests. A school district may require the use of this form for any public records request.

[LD 1648](#) *An Act to Make Changes to the Farm and Open Space Tax Law* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyle of Gorham) This bill establishes a new method for the valuation for property enrolled in the farm and open space program by extending eligibility for a reduced valuation to land managed under a carbon conservation management plan. The plan, a written agreement between the landowner and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, must describe the strategies used on a parcel of land at least 10 acres in size to increase carbon storage or improve carbon conservation and include specific strategies for compliance, be sworn to and complied with by the landowner, and renewed at least once every 10 years. The bill also requires the state to reimburse municipalities for lost property tax revenue in a manner similar to the method of reimbursement provided under the tree growth program. Finally, the bill repeals the statute limiting to no more than 15,000 acres the amount of land that a landowner may enroll in the farm and open space program.

April 12, 2023

[LD 1647](#) *An Act to Prohibit Discrimination Against Cannabis Establishment Owners and Employees and Cannabis Users* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland) This bill provides protections for a person engaged in authorized activities involving or using adult use cannabis or products from being denied any right or privilege or being subject to arrest, prosecution or disciplinary action by a business or governmental entity, including regarding a driver's license or professional or business license, being discriminated against by a school, employer or landlord, being denied parental rights and responsibilities, being determined unsuitable for an anatomical gift, having cannabis seized or retained by a law enforcement officer or being denied any right or privilege by reason of not possessing or exhibiting good moral character, solely for engaging in authorized adult use cannabis or products activities or for the presence of cannabinoids or cannabinoid metabolites in the person's system. This bill exempts from these provisions certain employment policies and violations of the laws prohibiting hunting or operating a motor vehicle, watercraft, ATV, or snowmobile while under the influence. The bill also prohibits using the odor of cannabis or burnt cannabis, the possession of cannabis or currency in proximity to cannabis or the planting, cultivating, or processing of cannabis as probable cause or reasonable suspicion except, in some cases, during an investigation by a law enforcement officer of an operating under the influence offense. **DEAD**

[LD 1646](#) *An Act to Vacate or Adjust Sentences and Expunge Arrests, Convictions and Adjudications for Cannabis-related Offenses* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland) This bill provides that all arrests, convictions and adjudications for crimes or civil violations for possession of cannabis are vacated and requires the records of those arrests, convictions and adjudications to be expunged. The bill also allows for an individual who has been convicted of a cannabis-related offense and who is still serving a sentence, including incarceration or supervised release, probation, or administrative release, for that crime to petition the original sentencing court to resentence that individual. The bill defines "cannabis-related offense" as a conviction or adjudication for a crime or civil violation involving the sale, use or possession of cannabis or paraphernalia related to cannabis or that, but for the presence of cannabis, would not have been a crime or civil violation.

[LD 1645](#) *An Act to Reduce Plastic Packaging Waste* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This bill provides that, beginning January 1, 2025, a person may not sell, offer for sale or distribute for sale in Maine a product using prohibited plastic packaging, which is also defined in the bill and generally includes packaging that contains nondetectable pigments and plastic bottles that are composed wholly or partially of polyvinyl chloride and polyethylene terephthalate. The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt major substantive plastic packaging satisfying statutorily specified criteria for prohibition.

[LD 1644](#) *An Act to Permit the Expenditure of Accumulated Tax Increment Revenues* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook) This bill governs the process for the use of tax increment funds that remain after the term of a development district expires, including: (1) payment of debt on

service bonds and notes used to fund district-related projects; (2) payment of approved costs described in the development program for up to three years after the expiration date; or (3) a revenue transfer to the general fund with a corresponding adjustment to the municipality's assessed value.

[LD 1641](#) *Resolve, to Further Study the Role of Water as a Resource* (Sponsored by Rep. Sayer of Kennebunk) This bill creates a 17-member commission, including a member representing the interest of municipal water utilities, to develop findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to ensure that there is adequate clean, safe and accessible drinking water for Maine residents and to meet the needs of commercial and business interests now and in the future. No later than December 15, 2023, the commission must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, which is authorized to advance legislation in 2024.

[LD 1640](#) *An Act to Require Industry Training and Certification for Persons Undertaking Corrosion Prevention and Mitigation for Bridges* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This bill requires the adoption of rules by the Department of Transportation governing projects costing \$50,000 or more consisting of corrosion prevention and mitigation for bridge infrastructure. Rules adopted pursuant to this legislation must include establishing a process for ensuring that corrosion prevention and mitigation activities are performed in accordance with established standards, requiring the use of personnel who are industry-trained and industry-certified in corrosion prevention and mitigation methods and requiring plans to prevent environmental degradation that might result from corrosion prevention and mitigation activities.

[LD 1636](#) *An Act to Ensure the Right to Work Without Payment of Dues or Fees to a Labor Union* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill prohibits a person, either in the public or private sector, from being required to join a labor organization or pay any labor organization dues or fees as a condition of employment or continuation of employment, notwithstanding any state law to the contrary. A violation is a Class D crime and is also subject to civil damages and injunctive relief.

[LD 1634](#) *An Act to Grant Municipalities the Authority to Set Certain Lower Motor Vehicle Speed Limits Without a Department of Transportation Speed Study* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This bill authorizes municipalities to change a speed limit on a single road or section of road without assuming responsibility for setting or managing speed limits on all roads within the municipality and reduce posted speed limits by up to 10 miles per hour in business, residential, compact and growth areas to no lower than 20 miles per hour and to make physical changes to a road in those areas to promote better compliance with posted speed limits. The bill also requires a municipality that has changed a speed limit to review any safety deficiencies, seek public input and report to the Legislature for a period of five years data on before and after motor vehicle speeds, pedestrian counts, and bicycle counts.

[LD 1632](#) *An Act to Require Proper Storage of Forensic Exam Evidence* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.) This bill directs a law enforcement agency to collect and transport anonymously collected forensic evidence from strangulation exams. The bill also changes the required time that a law enforcement agency must store a forensic examination kit for sexual assault from eight years to 12 years and requires that a law enforcement agency store a forensic examination kit involving only strangulation for six years.

[LD 1630](#) *An Act Regarding Campaign Finance and Lobbying Disclosure and Enforcement of Income Source Reporting Requirements* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) In part, this bill increases the penalties by \$50 per report when a lobbyist repeatedly files monthly reports late during a lobbying year.

[LD 1629](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Recognize the Right to Personal Privacy* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to recognize the people's natural, inherent, and unalienable right to personal privacy.

[LD 1627](#) *An Act to Improve Disclosure of Lobbyist Activities* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This bill requires a lobbyist to file the following reports with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices: (1) within 48 hours of entering into an agreement with another person for the purpose of lobbying for that person, a report disclosing the employment agreement; (2) no later than noon each Friday when the Legislature is in session, a report detailing each legislative instrument or action on which the lobbyist spent any time lobbying; and (3) no later than noon each Friday, a report detailing each issue before a state agency on which the lobbyist spent any time lobbying.

[LD 1623](#) *An Act to Prohibit All State Subsidies for Electric Vehicles* (Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield) This bill provides that state funds may not be used to provide a rebate, incentive or other subsidy to purchase or lease an electric vehicle.

[LD 1622](#) *Resolve, to Reestablish the Criminal Records Review Committee* (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill creates the 28-member Criminal Records Review Committee, which includes the president or designee of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. The committee is directed, in part, to review activities in other states that address the expungement, sealing, vacating of and otherwise limiting public access to criminal records. No later than December 6, 2023, the committee must submit a report with recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, which is authorized to advance legislation in 2024.

[LD 1621](#) *An Act Regarding Environmental Justice* (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill enacts a provision that requires fair and equitable access to Department of Environmental Protection decision-making processes for environmental justice populations and

frontline communities, which are defined as people and communities who disproportionately experience the negative consequences of climate change.

[LD 1620](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Mi'kmaq Nation* (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland) This concept draft bill would amend the laws regarding the Mi'kmaq Nation.

April 11, 2023

[LD 1613](#) *An Act to Prohibit Profiling and to Strengthen Civil Rights in Maine* (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill requires law enforcement agencies to: (1) select, assign, and train civil rights officers; (2) keep the Attorney General informed of the identity of the civil rights officer; and (3) make contact information for their civil rights officers publicly available. The bill also prohibits profiling by a law enforcement officer or agency based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, physical or mental disability or national origin. The bill changes from January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2024 the date by which the Attorney General must adopt rules for the recording, retention and reporting of information regarding traffic infractions and from January 15, 2024 to January 31, 2025 the date by which the Attorney General must begin submitting the information to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters and criminal justice and public safety matters.

[LD 1611](#) *An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit, Customer-owned Utility* (Citizen Initiative) This citizen initiated bill creates the Pine Tree Power Company, a privately operated, nonprofit, consumer-owned utility controlled by a board the majority of the members of which are elected, which is created to provide its customer-owners reliable, affordable electric transmission and distribution services and to help the State meet climate, energy and connectivity goals in the most rapid and affordable manner possible.

[LD 1610](#) *An Act to Prohibit Campaign Spending by Foreign Governments and Promote an Anticorruption Amendment to the United States Constitution* (Citizen Initiative) In part, this citizen initiated bill prohibits a foreign government-influenced entity from donating or disbursing funds to influence the nomination or election of a candidate or the initiation or approval of a referendum.

[LD 1603](#) *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Committee To Ensure Constitutionally Adequate Contact with Counsel* (Reported by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) In part, this bill directs the Attorney General by January 1, 2024 to: (1) adopt policies and procedures to protect and ensure the confidentiality of attorney-client communications and processes to be followed in the event that there is a breach of attorney-client confidentiality; and

(2) develop a training program for state, county and municipal law enforcement officers who, as part of a criminal investigation, inadvertently hear confidential attorney-client communications. The bill also requires the Commissioner of Corrections by January 1, 2024 to establish for all county jails, holding facilities, short-term detention areas and correctional facilities: (1) mandatory standards protecting and ensuring the confidentiality of attorney-client communications and processes to be followed in the event that there is a breach of attorney-client confidentiality; and (2) designate space within the facility for attorney-client meetings and the exchange of case materials.

[LD 1602](#) *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group Convened by the Emergency Medical Services' Board on Financial Health of Ambulance Services* (Reported by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.) This bill proposes statutory changes based on an Emergency Medical Services' Board stakeholder group report, which: (1) removes the repeal date related to the rate of reimbursement health insurance carriers are required to pay for covered emergency services provided by an ambulance service provider; (2) removes the limitation that carriers are only required to reimburse for covered emergency services provided by an ambulance services provider; (3) requires health insurance carriers to reimburse ambulance service providers for non-transporting services at the same reimbursement rates for covered emergency services; and (4) prohibits health insurance carriers from requiring an ambulance services provider to obtain prior authorization before transporting an enrollee to a hospital, between hospitals or from a hospital to a nursing home or other health care facility and requires carriers to reimburse for those services.

[LD 1600](#) *An Act to Improve Property Tax Relief for Certain Disabled Veterans* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This bill changes the property tax exemption for disabled veterans by extending it to all disabled veterans and setting the exemption for each disabled veteran at the amount calculated by multiplying the value of the property by the veteran's percentage of disability as rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill also requires the state to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the lost property tax revenues.

DEAD

[LD 1595](#) *An Act to Exempt the Estates of Veterans Who Were Disabled in the Line of Duty from Property Taxes* (Sponsored by President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This bill provides a complete exemption from property taxes for veterans who were disabled during active military service and who are receiving a pension or compensation from the United States Government for total service-connected disability.

[LD 1593](#) *An Act to Increase Affordable Housing Development* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This bill repeals: (1) minimum lot size requirements for any multiple unit housing; (2) dwelling unit density requirements for single-family or multifamily housing development; and (3) minimum size requirements for accessory dwelling units outside of the

Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. The bill also prohibits a municipality from adopting or enforcing any zoning restriction that: (1) prohibits residential housing in any zoning district; (2) prohibits any existing allowed structure to be used as or converted for use to residential housing; or (3) imposes a unit size requirement for residential housing. **DEAD**

[LD 1588](#) *An Act to Provide Public Sector Labor Unions Reasonable Access to Information Regarding Employees* (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast) Under existing statutes, public employers must provide the bargaining agent of a labor union personal information (e.g., name, job title, workplace location, home address, telephone numbers, email addresses, etc.) about employees 30 calendar days after the date of hire. This bill requires public employers to provide personal information 30 calendar days after the date of request by a labor union representative.

[LD 1582](#) *An Act to Clarify What Constitutes a Homestead for the Homestead Property Tax Exemption* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) This bill provides that a homestead, for purposes of qualifying for the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption must: (1) meet all relevant state and local codes; (2) be located in Maine; (3) be assessed as real property owned by an applicant or held in a revocable living trust; and (4) be occupied by the applicant as a cooperative housing corporation and occupied by a resident who is a qualifying shareholder. The bill further clarifies that a homestead does not include real property used solely for commercial purposes.

April 6, 2023

[LD 1572](#) *An Act to Ensure Proper Funding of the Highway Fund by Imposing a Surcharge on Electric Vehicle Registration* (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville) This bill authorizes the Secretary of State to require the owner of an electric vehicle to pay an electric vehicle registration surcharge of \$72 per year. The money collected from the surcharge must be transmitted to the Treasurer of State to be credited to the Highway Fund.

[LD 1571](#) *An Act to Provide Meaningful Public Participation at Local School Board Meetings* (Sponsored by Rep. Lyman of Livermore Falls) This bill requires school boards to provide an opportunity for the public to provide meaningful comment on school and education matters at a school board meeting and prohibits time limits and conduct standards established by the school board from limiting meaningful public comment and participation.

[LD 1570](#) *An Act to Create the Storm Water Infrastructure Repair and Replacement Fund* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) This bill establishes the Storm Water Infrastructure Repair and Replacement Fund in the Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of issuing grants to municipalities to repair or replace storm water infrastructure. It provides funding for grants and one Environmental Engineer position and requires the department to explore alternative stable funding sources for the fund and to submit recommendations to the

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2024. **DEAD**

[LD 1569](#) *An Act to Exempt Certain Disabled Veterans from Property Taxes in Accordance with Their Disability Ratings* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick) This bill provides a property tax exemption for the estates of certain veterans for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2024. Like current exemptions for the estates of veterans, the exemption is also made available to an eligible survivor, who may be a widow or widower, a minor child, or a parent of an eligible disabled veteran, following the death of the eligible disabled veteran. The calculation of the exemption is changed to provide a flat exemption amount that increases from \$3,000 to \$10,000 based on the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability. The bill also requires state reimbursement to municipalities for 100% of the property tax revenue lost as a result of the exemptions.

[LD 1568](#) *An Act to Protect Access to Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick) This bill provides that a person who knowingly blocks or attempts to block access to a secured absentee ballot drop box commits a Class E crime. The bill also prohibits the display or distribution of advertising material intended to influence a voter's decision for the 45 days preceding an election when the clerk's office is receiving absentee ballots in a secured drop box.

[LD 1566](#) *Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Recommend Strategies to Achieve the Goal of Eliminating Traffic Fatalities and Serious Injuries* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) This bill creates 22-member task force, including representation from municipal law enforcement, transportation engineers, economic developers and planners, that is directed to study, examine and review all aspects of traffic safety, with a particular focus on access, equity and mobility for all road users using the safe system approach, and to advise the Governor, the Legislature, the Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority regarding policies, programs, research and priorities to help achieve the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries. No later than December 6, 2023, the task force is further directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2024. **DEAD**

[LD 1559](#) *An Act to Advance the State's Public Transit Systems by Reinvigorating the Public Transit Advisory Council and Increasing Funding* (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco) In part, this bill directs the Public Transit Advisory Council to prepare a transit plan that includes: (1) standards for adequate mobility that address social and economic equity, economic impact and environmental impact; (2) an assessment of exiting public transportation services; (3) strategies for reaching statewide mobility goals; and (4) a full accounting of state and federal funds distributed by the Department of Transportation to support multimodal transportation. The bill

further directs the council to prepare a statewide mobility management program in coordination with planning organizations, municipalities and public transport systems.

[LD 1557](#) *An Act to Increase and Enhance School Safety by Allowing Individuals with Concealed Carry Permits to Possess Handguns on School Property* (Sponsored by Rep. Paul of Winterport) This bill allows a person with a permit to carry concealed handguns to possess a firearm on public school property or the property of an approved private school.

[LD 1553](#) *An Act to Mitigate So-called Forever Chemicals in Decommissioned Schools by Establishing a Fund for Mitigation Projects* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill creates the Decommissioned Schools Contamination Mitigation Fund under the custody of the Maine Municipal Bond Bank for the purpose of providing financing to school administrative units for mitigating the contamination of decommissioned school buildings and land by PFAS.

[LD 1551](#) *An Act to Increase Bicycle Safety by Allowing Cyclists to Treat Stop Signs as Yield Signs and Red Lights as Stop Signs* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) This bill allows a person operating a bicycle or roller skis to yield at a stop sign and, at a red light, to stop and then proceed if clear.

[LD 1543](#) *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Recommend Cost-effective, Safe, Administrable and Healthful Programs to Reduce Violence in Prisons and Jails* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Moonen of Portland) This resolve creates a 15-member commission tasked with examining violence in Maine prisons and jails, including violence involving residents, inmates, or staff. The committee is further required to submit a report, including findings and suggested legislation, for consideration in 2024.

[LD 1542](#) *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Study the Use of Micromobility Devices* (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor) This resolve directs the Departments of Transportation, Public Safety and Secretary of State, to collaborate on a study of the use of low-speed human or electric-assist micromobility devices (e.g., human and electric powered bicycles, scooters, and skateboards, etc.) and in particular the safety, impact on other users or on public ways, infrastructure needs, equity considerations and gaps in regulatory policy regarding these devices. **DEAD**

April 5, 2023

[LD 1538](#) *An Act to Provide Tax Benefits to Persons Constructing Accessory Dwelling Units* (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.) This bill allows for reimbursement by the State for up to years of a percentage of property taxes paid due to an increase in the taxes because of

the construction of an accessory dwelling unit, which is defined as an attached or detached unit on the same lot or parcel as an existing or proposed single-family or multifamily residence that allows for independent living for one or more persons and contains kitchen and bathroom facilities and sleeping accommodations.

[LD 1537](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to the Prevention of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution and to Provide Additional Funding* (Sponsored by Sen. Ingwersen of York Cty.) This bill extends the deadline for reporting the use of PFAS, in products for sale until October 1, 2023 and allows the amount of PFAS to be reported based on information provided by a supplier rather than testing. The bill clarifies the packaging exemption and exempts manufacturers with less than \$20 million in annual national sales from the PFAS reporting requirements but not from any sales prohibitions. It requires the Department of Environmental Protection, not later than January 1, 2025 and every year thereafter until December 31, 2029, to adopt a rule identifying at least one product category or use that may not be sold, offered for sale or distributed in this State if it contains intentionally added PFAS. It prohibits the department prior to January 1, 2028 from providing an exemption for products in which the use of PFAS is a currently unavoidable use unless the department has adopted rules that identify a relevant related product category or use for a sales prohibition. The bill includes an appropriations and allocations section to provide funding for two positions and expenditures related to the implementation of the laws governing products containing PFAS.

[LD 1534](#) *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) This bill increases the fees for original or renewal certificates of number with two validation stickers that are required for all resident motorboats and personal watercraft, and the fees for lake and river protection stickers for all motorboats and personal watercraft not registered in the State and seaplanes, operating on inland waters. Beginning January 1, 2024, the fees are increased by \$10. It also directs the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species to review the Department of Environmental Protection 2006 Rapid Response Plan For Invasive Aquatic Plants, Fish, and Other Fauna to further expedite the process for controlling invasive aquatic plant infestations.

[LD 1531](#) *Resolve, to Implement a 4-year Moratorium on Solar Energy Subsidies and Direct the Department of Environmental Protection to Study the Economic Impact of Industrial Solar Energy Projects* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) This resolve implements a four-year moratorium on solar energy subsidies provided or disbursed by the State to a private person and directs the Department of Environmental Protection to study the economic impact of industrial solar energy projects in the Maine and report the results of the study to the Legislature.

[LD 1530](#) *An Act to Support Patients by Permitting On-site Consumption of Medical Cannabis and Medical Cannabis Products* (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor) This bill allows for the

on-site consumption of harvested cannabis for medical use by a qualifying patient in a caregiver retail store, in a registered dispensary or with a registered caregiver. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services must establish, by major substantive rule, the process for issuing permits for on-site consumption and the permit fee, which may not exceed the administrative cost of issuing the permit.

[LD 1528](#) *Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program and Convene a Work Group Regarding the Provision of Services by the Child Development Services System* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) This resolve requires the Department of Education to establish a pilot program for school administrative units to deliver and administer the services provided by the Child Development Services System including child find activities for children from birth to under six years of age, ensuring the provision of early intervention services for eligible children from birth to under three years of age and ensuring a free, appropriate public education for eligible children at least three years of age and under six years of age.

[LD 1524](#) *An Act to Eliminate the Excise Tax on Recreational Vehicles and Permit Municipal Adoption of Fees to Cover the Cost of Municipal Services to Campgrounds and Recreational Vehicle Parks* (Sponsored by Rep. Sampson of Alfred) This bill provides an exemption from the motor vehicle excise tax for recreational vehicles that have electrical systems of at least 30 amps, water storage and graywater and blackwater holding tanks and permits municipalities to impose fees on exempt recreational vehicles and campgrounds or parks that host those recreational vehicles. The fees must be calculated to produce annual revenues that would offset the revenue lost by the municipality due to the excise tax exemption. The bill also authorizes municipalities to impose a fee on campgrounds for permission to construct or to lease land to another person or entity to use docks, floats, piers, boat lifts and riprap that occupy space that is within 100 feet from the shoreline of a great pond.

[LD 1517](#) *An Act to Create Equity in the State's Cannabis Industry* (Sponsored by Rep. Tabor Ross of Portland) This bill directs the Finance Authority of Maine to establish and administer a cannabis business equity program designed to encourage eligible individuals to apply for registration under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act or for licensure under the Cannabis Legalization Act and to provide related support services to such individuals. Services provided under the program include assistance with regulatory compliance, real estate and other contracting, safety and security consulting and business and financial planning. The also bill directs the State Controller to transfer \$2 million by June 30, 2024 from the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund to capitalize the cannabis business equity program.

[LD 1515](#) *An Act to Fund Delivery of Emergency Medical Services* (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill provides General Fund appropriations of \$45 million in FY 2024 and \$70 million in FY 2025 to the Department of Public Safety to support existing transportation

costs of emergency medical services, provides that the amount of funding must be reduced to the maximum extent possible through the use of public and private Medicaid match programs.

[LD 1514](#) *An Act to Provide Safe, Short-term Housing to Individuals Recently Released from Correctional Facilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill directs the Department of Corrections to administer a program to provide transitional housing to recently released indigent inmates, establishes a fund to capitalize the program and further requires MaineHousing to study long-term solutions for transitional housing for recently released indigent client inmates.

[LD 1507](#) *An Act to Ensure the Accuracy of Vital Records with Respect to Gender* (Sponsored by Rep. Sheehan of Biddeford) This bill directs the State Registrar of Vital Statistics to amend a marriage certificate to reflect a change of gender and to provide a new sex identifier when the state registrar receives an appropriate application, which must include a gender field that includes options for male, female and X and provides that a certificate of death must also include a gender field that includes options for male, female and X.

[LD 1505](#) *An Act to Amend the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston) This bill amends the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act to include group equity cooperatives and provides that a housing assistance program must be made reasonably available to residents those cooperatives.

[LD 1500](#) *An Act to Strengthen Maine's Elections by Requiring Video Monitoring of Drop Boxes and Amending the Laws Regarding Voter Rolls and Absentee Voting Envelopes* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland) This bill requires registrar of voters, when conducting maintenance of voter information, to cancel the registration record of a voter who is determined to have moved out of the community or who is deceased. The bill also requires video monitoring and recording of ballot drop boxes during the absentee voting period and requires municipalities to retain the video for one year. **DEAD**

[LD 1493](#) *An Act to Increase Affordable Housing by Expanding Tax Increment Financing* (Sponsored by rep. LaRochelle of Augusta) This bill authorizes the creation of Pine Tree Housing Zones to allow retained value resulting from a tax increment financing district in a municipality to be used anywhere in the municipality for the purposes of the purchase, rehabilitation, or establishment of affordable and workforce housing in the municipality. The bill also provides for a sales tax exemption for the associated purchasing of goods and services and electricity for a qualified project in a Pine Tree Housing Zone.

[LD 1486](#) *An Act to Exempt Tractor Trailer Trucks from the Excise Tax* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This bill exempts trucks and truck tractors registered for more than 26,000 pounds from the excise tax.

[LD 1479](#) *Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Convene a Stakeholder Group Regarding Liquefied Propane Gas Systems and the So-called Dig Safe Law* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to convene a stakeholder group to discuss the provisions in law requiring an underground facility damage prevention system, commonly called the "Dig Safe Law," for liquefied propane gas systems that have an underground tank or pipe and directs the commission to submit a report summarizing the stakeholder group's discussion and any recommended legislation in 2024.

[LD 1477](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Align the Proceedings for Circulating Written Petitions for People's Vetoes and Direct Initiatives with Federal Law* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to remove the requirement that a circulator of a citizen's initiative or people's veto petition be a resident and registered voter in Maine.

[LD 1473](#) *An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill provides that lots or portions of lots that are within the watershed of a water source that has received a waiver from filtration pursuant to federal regulations as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services are exempt from certain restrictions related to affordable housing density, the allowed number of dwelling units and accessory dwelling units.

[LD 1467](#) *An Act to Establish the Maine Cannabis Research Committee and Facilitate Research into Alternative Therapeutics* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill establishes the Maine Cannabis Research Committee, which is directed to create a grant application and review process for awarding medical cannabis funds, including a process for data collection and reporting, the implementation of an annual third-party-administered survey for patients, providers and caregivers that provides data to the public, and the review of potential applications of other complementary alternative medicines, including psilocybin. **DEAD**

March 30, 2023

[LD 1457](#) *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for a Jail in Caribou* (Sponsored by President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This bond bill issues \$3 million to fund a jail in Caribou.

[LD 1456](#) *An Act to Facilitate the Expansion of Broadband* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.) This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules establishing a process by which joint use rates are required to be reduced or capped and attachment time frames are regulated by the commission to encourage community broadband systems. The bill also requires the commission, in consultation with the Maine Connectivity Authority, to study the methods of promoting municipal broadband expansion, either through public networks or public-

private partnerships, through a limited-period reduction in utility pole attachment rates for broadband providers that agree to deliver new high speed Internet service at affordable rates. The study must also include an examination of wait times for new pole attachments, an assessment regarding the preservation of common space on utility poles and an assessment of the effectiveness of the commission's enforcement practices related to the relocation or removal of utility poles. The bill requires the commission to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by December 6, 2023 and the joint standing committee is authorized to report out legislation related in 2024.

[LD 1451](#) *An Act to Prohibit State and Local Enforcement of Federal Firearms Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill prohibits all state and local government entities, the employees of these entities and all other state and local government officials from: (1) enforcing or assisting federal agencies in the enforcement of federal laws that restrict a person's right to own, possess and purchase a firearm or firearm ammunition or obtain a related firearms certification without prohibiting these state and local government officials from enforcing state laws that do the same; (2) restricting, revoking, suspending or otherwise infringing on a person's right to own, purchase or possess a firearm or firearm ammunition or to obtain any related firearms certification based on the person's purchase, possession or use of cannabis; and (3) providing information to a federal agency or official of a federal agency relating to a person's ownership, possession or purchase of a firearm or firearm ammunition or the person's obtaining of any related firearms certification based solely on the person's purchase, possession or use of cannabis.

[LD 1450](#) *An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This bill provides a one-time appropriation for the replacement of the tracks on the 28 miles of the rail corridor between the towns of Fryeburg and Standish per the recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council.

[LD 1446](#) *Resolve, to Establish the Task Force on Cannabis Hospitality Establishments* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty) This bill establishes the 17-member Cannabis Hospitality Establishment task force, which includes a member representing the interest of municipal governments. The task force is directed to review how other states regulate related industries, including qualifications for licensing; purchase and consumption limitations; prevention of disturbances; exemptions from clean indoor air requirements; and impact on local control, including whether municipalities need to opt in or opt out of allowing these industries to operate within community boundaries and the extent to which municipalities can regulation operations. No later than December 6, 2023, the task force must submit a report that includes its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2024. **DEAD**

[LD 1443](#) *An Act to Establish a Recall Process for Public School Board Members* (Sponsored by Rep. Sayre of Kennebunk) This bill provides that public school board members may only be recalled for specified behavior or misconduct and may not be recalled for the discretionary performance of a lawful act or prescribed duty of the school board member. The petition to recall the school board member must be signed by 25% of the voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election in the municipality or, if applicable, the school administrative unit, from which the school board member was elected and must be approved by a majority of voters in an election in which the total vote is at least 25% of the number of votes cast in the municipality or, if applicable, the school administrative unit, in the last gubernatorial election.

[LD 1441](#) *An Act to Enhance State Oversight of Water Use and Water Resources* (Sponsored by Rep. Sayre of Kennebunk) This bill amends the duties of the Water Resources Planning Committee within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to include developing measures for the consolidation and centralization of collected state water resources information within a single state agency, ensuring public access to that information, identifying opportunities and resources to enhance or supplement the collection of state water resources information and enhancing or supplementing the State's monitoring of and data collection regarding water use and water resources. It also requires the committee, beginning January 15, 2024, to annually submit a report to the department and to the joint standing committees of the legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation, and forestry matters; environment and natural resources matters; energy and utilities matters; and health and human services matters. The report must include a summary of the committee's activities during the prior calendar year and any findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, and each joint standing committee may report out legislation to implement any of the recommendations included in the report.

[LD 1438](#) *An Act to Require Standard Procedures to Protect Stalking Victims and Access to Certain Criminal Complaints* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) This bill creates a right entitling a person who files a complaint with a criminal justice agency to receive one copy of that report at no charge. The bill also requires all law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies regarding standard procedures to ensure protection from stalkers.

[LD 1435](#) *An Act to Reduce Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (Sponsored by Rep. Reckitt of South Portland) This bill: (1) eliminates the crime of engaging in prostitution; (2) renames to commercial sexual exploitation the crime of engaging a prostitute or patronizing prostitution of a minor or a person with a mental disability; (3) changes from Class D to Class C the crime of commercial sexual exploitation of a child and solicitation of a child for commercial sexual exploitation; (4) replaces the terms "engage a prostitute" and "prostitution" with "commercial sexual exploitation"; (5) allows as a defense to conspiracy to commit commercial sexual exploitation that the person's participation is to conspire to engage a patron to engage in sex with

the person; (6) allows as a defense to sex trafficking that the actor was soliciting a patron to engage in sex only with the actor; (7) replaces prostitution with commercial sexual exploitation in the list of circumstances in a child's family background that would qualify the child as a special needs child under the adoption assistance program; and (8) directs the Department of Public Safety to adopt a protocol for law enforcement agencies to treat a person who is experiencing or has experienced human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation.

[LD 1434](#) *An Act to Abolish the Maine Income Tax and Establish a Zero-based Budget* (Sponsored by Rep. Libby of Auburn) This bill eliminates the Maine income tax beginning January 1, 2026 and requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to review provisions of law that refer to income tax and submit a report in 2024 identifying necessary changes to implement the elimination. The bill also requires the development of a new budgeting system in which agencies would be subject to zero-based budgeting every eight years and in the interim years be subject to review and alternative budget requirements.

[LD 1432](#) *An Act to Amend the Law Governing Racial Impact Statements* (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland) This concept draft bill would amend the law regarding the preparation of racial impact statements for certain legislation to include statements assessing the impact on socioeconomic status.

[LD 1431](#) *An Act Requiring the Public Utilities Commission to Adopt Rules Promoting Renewable Energy* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules to incentivize participation by competitive electricity providers and others in energy transformation projects, to adopt rules implementing a reliable system of electrical attribute trading, to promote the use of distributed energy resources and to consider the social cost of carbon in ratemaking and adopting rules.

[LD 1426](#) *An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance* (Sponsored by Rep. Mathieson of Kittery) This bill: (1) requires an overseer, no later than the 120th day following appointment or election, to complete training on the requirements of the municipal general assistance program; (2) replaces, for determining the maximum level of assistance, the fair market value determination with setting the assistance at the equivalent amount of rental assistance provided for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 except that the benefit level may not be less than the difference between the applicant's income and 110% of the area's fair market rent; (3) provides that if general assistance is being used to pay rent for an applicant whose rent is subject to a lease an overseer may redetermine the applicant's eligibility annually; (4) increases from 70% to 90% the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by a municipality and each Indian tribe; (5) directs the Department of Health and Human Services to: (a) reimburse each municipality for 5% of the direct costs of paying benefits incurred through its general assistance program; (b) establish and provide

overseers with access to a statewide database for tracking applicants for the general assistance program and expenses relating to the program; (c) provide assistance to municipalities with regard to processing applications for the general assistance program; (d) establish a hotline that is available 24 hours per day in order to provide consistent, accurate advice to overseers; and (e) respond to requests for assistance within 24 hours.

[LD 1425](#) *An Act to Strengthen Freedom of Access Protections by Allowing Remote Meetings to Be Recorded* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft) This bill provides that a public body must allow for remote recording of a public meeting by members of the public on the same platform that is used to conduct the meeting as long as additional costs are not incurred by the public body.

[LD 1422](#) *An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless by Establishing a Housing Voucher Program and Providing Site-based Housing Services* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) This bill establishes a housing voucher program for homeless students under the authority of the MaineHousing and appropriates one-time funding of \$2 million in fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The bill further directs MaineHousing to identify locations in Maine to be used for a site-based housing program and appropriates one-time funding of \$3.5 million in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to the Department of Health and Human Services to support the program.

[LD 1420](#) *An Act to Strengthen Maine's Elementary and Secondary Education System by Clarifying Purposes and Procedures for Reviews of Schools* (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth) This bill adds compliance with the Maine Human Rights Act to the standard of review of public and private schools, and adds investigation of a complaint to the purposes for inspecting a private school and provides for a comprehensive review of public schools and school administrative units and private schools approved for tuition purposes.

[LD 1419](#) *An Act to Inform Fair Minimum Rates of Wages and Benefits in Bids for Public Contracts Using State and Federal Data* (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth) This bill requires that, in addition to other determinations, the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards investigate and determine the prevailing hourly wage and benefits rate paid in the construction industry in the State by collecting a third set of data for the job classification under the federal Davis-Bacon Act.

[LD 1418](#) *An Act Concerning Single-use Disposable Water Bottles and Water Refill Stations* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) Of note, this bill provides that beginning January 1, 2024, each facility or function of state or local government that is open to the public or that is regularly used by employees must include a reasonably accessible water refill station. The bill also limits the sale of single-use water bottles that are less than liter at a facility or

function of the State or a political subdivision, and further prohibits state and local governments from purchasing bottles of water that are less than one liter in size.

[LD 1416](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Increase the Percentage of the Population Required to Submit a State Referendum Question* (Sponsored by Rep. Graham of North Yarmouth) This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to increase the number of signatures required on petitions for the people's veto and the direct initiative of legislation from 10% to 25% of the total vote for Governor cast in the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of the petitions.

[LD 1413](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Establishing a Property Tax Stabilization Program for Senior Citizens* (Sponsored by Rep. Russell of Verona Island) This bill establishes an income eligibility requirement for the senior property tax stabilization program and provides for annual indexing of the income thresholds. The bill also requires certification of eligibility by the State Tax Assessor and repeals the provision in current law that eligibility for the program may be transferred to a different municipality if an eligible individual changes homesteads. **DEAD**

[LD 1412](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law* (Sponsored by Rep. Reckitt of South Portland) This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to prohibit the denial or abridgment by the State or any political subdivision of the State of equal rights based on the actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental disability, ancestry or national origin of an individual.

[LD 1409](#) *An Act to Require Reimbursement When a Municipality Hires First Responders Whose Training Costs Were Incurred by Another Municipality* (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond) This bill establishes a formula to reimburse municipalities for the costs for training full-time first responders if the first responder is hired by another municipality within five years of the first municipality's initial incurrence of training costs.

[LD 1408](#) *An Act to Reduce Maine's Dependence on Fossil Fuels and Carbon Footprint for Energy Production Using Waste Wood Fuel* (Sponsored by Rep. Theriault of Fort Kent) This bill increases the limit on the net generating capacity of a combined heat and power program participant from 10 megawatts to 20 megawatts and increases the maximum total net generating capacity of all program participants from 20 megawatts to 40 megawatts.

[LD 1403](#) *An Act to Promote Minimum Wage Consistency by Limiting the Authority of Municipalities Regarding Minimum Hourly Pay* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner) This bill prohibits a municipality or other political subdivision of the state from enacting an ordinance regulating the minimum hourly wage that an employer must pay an employee.

[LD 1402](#) *An Act to Provide an Additional Allocation in the School Funding Formula to Cover Tax-exempt Property or a Large Economically Disadvantaged Student Population (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) This bill provides for an additional allocation of school funding for a school administrative unit in which at least 15% of the school administrative unit has tax-exempt property that cannot be levied to support public education in the school administrative unit or for a school administrative unit in which at least 50% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The adjustment is funded through any unencumbered balances that otherwise would be carried forward into the next fiscal year in the Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program, General Fund account. To qualify for an adjustment, the school administrative unit is required to submit a plan for how the funds will be used to increase academic and social success of economically disadvantaged students. The amount of the adjustment must be based on a per-pupil rate calculated using the number of economically disadvantaged students and limited by the amount of funds available.

[LD 1398](#) *An Act to Increase Teacher Salaries* (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) This bill incrementally increases minimum teacher salaries from \$42,500 to \$60,000 in FY 2032, after which the minimum salary must be increased by a cost-of-living adjustment. The bill also provides that federal funds, if available, will be used to fund increases, otherwise state funds will be appropriated until 2032 and afterwards municipal revenues will be used to pay for the cost of the annual increases. **DEAD**

[LD 1397](#) *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Records of Disciplinary Actions Against Public Employees.* (Reported by Rep. Moonen of Portland for the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary) This bill provides that, notwithstanding any collective bargaining agreement or other employment contract entered into on or after January 1, 2024, to the contrary, local government records may not be disposed of except in accordance with record retention schedules established by the State Archivist. The bill amends the statutes governing state, municipal and county employee personnel records to require that, in response to Freedom of Access Act requests for final written decisions, the responding public body provide the records in its possession or custody regardless of the specific file location in which the final written decision is located. The bill directs the State Archivist to revise the record retention schedules applicable to state and local government personnel records to require that final written decisions relating to disciplinary action be maintained for a period of 20 years or a lesser period depending on the severity of the conduct or disciplinary action. The State Archivist may increase the retention period beyond 20 years for final written decisions relating to law enforcement employee disciplinary actions that could be used to impeach the credibility of the law enforcement officer if the law enforcement officer is a witness in a criminal case.

[LD 1396](#) *An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding Delegating Authority for Services Performed by Emergency Medical Services Personnel or Others as Medical Assistant.* (Reported by Sen.

Bailey of York for the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services) This bill, in part, clarifies that a licensed emergency medical services person may not simultaneously act as an assistant performing medical services delegated by a physician or physician assistant. **Passed to be Engrossed**

[LD 1393](#) *Resolve, To Establish the Commission to Examine Programs and Policies Regarding Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.* (Sponsored by Sen. Reny of Lincoln Cty.) This resolve establishes a commission represented by the Departments of Environmental Protection, Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Marine Resources, as well as the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to review natural resources programs and functions throughout state government, including interactions with federal agencies, municipalities, counties and nongovernmental organizations. The commission is further required to submit findings and recommendations to the governor and legislature no later than November 6, 2024. **DEAD**

March 27, 2023

[LD 1386](#) *An Act to Require That a Completed Form for the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Be Provided to a Person Purchasing a Home* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot) This bill requires the settlement agent for the conveyance of residential real property to provide the buyer with a completed application for the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption. If the buyer signs the application, the settlement agent is required to submit it to the municipal assessor for the residential real property being conveyed.

[LD 1381](#) *An Act to Create Fairness in Maine's Motor Vehicle Excise Tax by Basing the Tax on the Sale Price* (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.) This bill requires the excise tax for all motor vehicles, special mobile equipment and camper trailers be based upon the purchase price of the vehicle, and requires the State to reimburse a municipality for the difference in the amount of excise tax that would have been collected by the municipality on each motor vehicle using the manufacturer's suggested retail price instead of the actual purchase price.

[LD 1380](#) *An Act to Fund Municipal Administrative Costs Associated with the Senior Property Tax Stabilization Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This bill requires the State to compensate municipalities for 100% of the cost of administering the senior property tax stabilization program. **DEAD**

[LD 1376](#) *An Act to Create a Livable Wage by Increasing the Minimum Hourly Wage* (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) This bill increases the minimum hourly wage to \$15 per hour starting January 1, 2024. Beginning January 1, 2025 to and including January 1, 2033, the minimum hourly wage is increased by \$1 per hour or by the increase in the cost of living,

whichever is greater. On January 1, 2034 and every year thereafter, the minimum wage increases by the increase, if any, in the cost of living.

[LD 1370](#) *An Act to Simplify the School Budget Validation Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Mastraccio of Sanford) This bill requires that a vote on the question of whether to continue an annual regional school unit budget validation referendum process take place on the next general election date in November of the third year following the previous vote on that question. The bill raises the number of voters required on a petition for an article to consider reinstatement of a budget validation referendum process from 10% to 25% of the number of voters voting in the last gubernatorial election. A vote on a budget validation referendum may not be considered valid unless the number of voters voting on the referendum is equal to or greater than 25% of the total number of voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election in the area covered by the regional school unit seeking the budget validation. If the number of voters voting on the referendum is less than 25%, the budget is considered to be approved.

[LD 1365](#) *An Act to Require Photograph Identification for Voting* (Sponsored by Rep. Paul of Winterport) This bill requires the presentation of proof of identity in the form of a photograph identification when voting in person or by absentee ballot. Acceptable photograph identification is a valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued in this State, a U.S. passport, a military identification or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued in this State if that permit includes a photograph. An identification issued by a college or university in this State may not be accepted for voter identification when voting or when registering to vote. The bill also allows a person who does not possess a photograph identification document to request a free special voter photograph identification card from the Secretary of State.

[LD 1364](#) *An Act to Prevent Opioid Overdose Deaths by Establishing Safe Consumption Sites* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) This bill authorizes municipalities to approve safe consumption sites for individuals to self-administer previously obtained drugs. The bill requires the sites to satisfy certain requirements, including providing hygienic facilities, providing safe disposal of hypodermic apparatuses, providing naloxone hydrochloride as needed and making referrals to medical and social services. The bill provides immunity from arrest or prosecution for clients and staff members acting in accordance with the provisions of the bill. The bill requires municipalities that approve safe consumption sites to participate in a peer reviewed study and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit reports related to the studies to the Legislature and the Governor's office.

[LD 1358](#) *An Act to Clarify Density Requirements for Affordable Housing Developments* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth) This bill changes the definition of "affordable housing development" in the laws governing affordable housing density to provide that an affordable housing development is a development in which a household whose income does not exceed

certain levels can afford a majority of the units in the development without spending more than 30% of the household's monthly income on housing costs. **DEAD**

[LD 1356](#) *An Act to Improve the Local Referendum Process by Increasing the Percentage of the Population Required to Submit a Local Referendum Question* (Sponsored by Rep. Graham of North Yarmouth) This bill increases the number of voters required on a written petition for a municipal referendum from 10% to 25% of votes cast in the municipality at the last gubernatorial election.

[LD 1353](#) *An Act to Establish a Model Residential Ventilation Design and Installation Standard* (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland) This bill prohibits a municipality from adopting standards for the design and installation of residential mechanical ventilation systems, beyond what may be specified in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, other than the Canadian Standards Association's Standard for Residential Mechanical Ventilation Systems F326-M91.

[LD 1351](#) *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Create a Program to Promote Transit and Transportation Research and Funding* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to develop and implement a statewide program to undertake and promote transit and transportation-related research and to maximize funds available to entities in the State that undertake transit and transportation-related research. **DEAD**

[LD 1350](#) *An Act Regarding the Composition of the Budget Advisory Committee and the Finality of the Budget in the Franklin County Budget Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Landry of Farmington) On November 5, 2024, current law changes the number of commissioner districts in Franklin County from three districts to five districts. This bill changes the composition of the budget advisory committee to reflect the change in commissioner districts.

[LD 1349](#) *An Act to Review State Lands and Waterways That Have Sacred, Traditional or Other Significance to the Wabanaki People* (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) This bill establishes the Commission to Review State-owned Lands and Waterways to identify which state-owned lands or waterways have sacred, traditional or other significance and to develop a process to return lands and waterways to the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians or Mi'kmaq Nation. The commission must hold public meetings and hearings throughout the State and accept testimony and written comments in a manner determined by the commission. The commission must invite the participation of stakeholders as determined by the commission and also invite the participation of large private landowners, land trusts and conservation organizations. Beginning in 2024, the commission must submit a report no later than November 15 of each year to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over conservation matters, inland fisheries and wildlife matters, marine resources matters, which may report out legislation.

[LD 1345](#) *An Act to Permit Municipalities to Establish by Ordinance a Program for Partial Deferral of Property Taxes for Seniors* (Sponsored by Rep. Moriarty of Cumberland) This bill permits municipalities to establish a program by ordinance for seniors that provides for partial stabilization of property taxes accompanied by deferral of the amount of taxes due in excess of the stabilized amount. Residents of a municipality that adopts such a program may not participate in the State's property tax deferral or stabilization programs.

[LD 1343](#) *An Act to Protect the Reproductive Freedom of Maine People by Preempting the Field of Abortion Regulation* (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor) This bill provides that the entire field of legislation concerning abortion is occupied and preempted by the State.

[LD 1342](#) *An Act to Increase Funding for the Prevention and Control of Invasive Aquatic Species* (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison) This bill increases the fees for original or renewal certificates of number with two validation stickers that are required for all resident motorboats and personal watercraft, and the fees for lake and river protection stickers for all motorboats and personal watercraft not registered in the State and seaplanes, operating on inland waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2024, the fee is increased by \$10 and, beginning January 1, 2026 and each January biennially thereafter, the fee is increased by \$2.

[LD 1339](#) *Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study Forming the Maine Commission on Disabilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This resolve, established the 14-member Task Force to Study Forming the Maine Commission on Disabilities, which includes a code enforcement officer and a representative of MMA. The task force shall determine what services are currently provided by state agencies, including but not limited to the Departments of Health and Human Services, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Labor, the Maine State Library and the State Workforce Board, and how a commission on disabilities model is used in other states to. No later the December 6, 2023, the bill also requires the task force to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, which is authorized to introduce legislation in 2024.

[LD 1336](#) *An Act to Increase Transparency in Municipal Ballot Referenda Expenditures* (Sponsored by Rep. Matlack of St. George) This bill requires organizations that qualify as ballot question committees and spend more than \$5,000 to influence a municipal referendum campaign in a town or city with a population of less than 15,000 to file registrations and reports with the municipal clerk. This requirement currently applies in municipalities with populations of 15,000 or more.

[LD 1335](#) *An Act to Amend the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Law* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland) This bill proposed to amend the Property Tax Stabilization law by providing that: (1) eligible individuals who are married to each other may not receive property

tax stabilization for more than one homestead; (2) homesteads held in trust qualify for stabilization; and (3) each application after the initial application must contain information indicating any additions or improvements that have been made to the eligible homestead since the previous application.

[LD 1330](#) *Resolve, to Ensure Compliance by the State with an Agreement Regarding the Operation of the Landfill in Old Town* (Sponsored by Rep. Dill of Old Town) This resolve requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to investigate and determine whether the State is providing the owner of the paper mill in Old Town the benefits as required by the agreement adopted in Resolve 2003, chapter 93. The resolve requires the department to report the results of its investigation to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources within 30 days of the effective date of the resolve and to report again by January 15, 2024 regarding any action the department needs to take to ensure receipt of the benefits by the owner of the paper mill.

[LD 1329](#) *An Act to Allow Delivery of Maine Craft Beer* (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris) This bill allows a small brewery or a third-party contractor of a small brewery to deliver containers of malt liquor produced by the brewery to a customer 21 years of age or older who provides acceptable identification.

March 23, 2023

[LD 1322](#) *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation* (Reported by Rep. Moonen of Portland) This bill implements the Right To Know Advisory Committee's remote meeting law recommendations, which seek to: (1) reinforce the authority of a public body to allow both members of the public body and public to participate in a proceedings via remote methods; and (2) clarify that the county commissioners, municipal officers or the officers of a regional or other political subdivision may adopt one remote participation policy that applies to all public bodies within their respective jurisdictions, or authorize an individual public body within that county, municipality or regional or other political subdivision to adopt its own policy.

[LD 1320](#) *An Act to Improve Signature Requirements for Candidates by Allowing Unenrolled Voters to Sign Petitions for Party Candidates* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This bill allows a primary petition for a candidate for election to be signed by voters who are enrolled in the party named in the petition and unenrolled voters. **DEAD**

[LD 1310](#) *An Act to Establish a State Emergency Rental Assistance Program* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) This bill establishes the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to supplement or create emergency rental assistance in order to mitigate the end of the federally funded emergency rental assistance programs. **DEAD**

[LD 1308](#) *An Act to Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services to Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2023-24 (Emergency)* (Reported by Rep. Perry of Bangor) This bill establishes the municipal cost components for state and county services provided to the unorganized territory (UT), which forms the basis of the property tax assessment. After computing all the appropriations and accounting for the general revenue and educational revenue deductions, the total UT tax assessment for FY 2024 is \$28.7 million.

[LD 1302](#) *An Act to Create a Rebuttable Presumption Under the Workers' Compensation Law for Line Workers Diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder* (Sponsored by Rep. O'Connell of Brewer) This bill adds line workers of a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility or an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to the list of employees for whom there is a rebuttable presumption under the laws governing workers' compensation that when the employee is diagnosed by a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist as having post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from work stress that was extraordinary and unusual, the post-traumatic stress disorder is presumed to have arisen out of and in the course of the worker's employment.

[LD 1301](#) *An Act Regarding Transition Coordination, Prisoner Attendance at Funerals, Furloughs, Visitation, Education and Discretionary Accounts at County Jails* (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) This bill requires county jails to employ a transition coordinator who is responsible for creating a transition plan for each inmate scheduled for release. The bill requires county jails to have a written policy regarding prisoner leave for funerals, to provide all prisoners with a copy of the rules of the jail applicable to furloughs and to have a written policy regarding once-per-week visitation for prisoners and requires a county jail that maintains prisoner accounts containing money to be used within the county jail for optional items and services to create a fund to provide money in accounts for indigent prisoners. The bill requires the State to pay for certain prisoner education programs.

[LD 1300](#) *An Act to Give the Governing Board of a Municipality Input into the Budget Developed by a School Board* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) This bill provides that a school budget must be jointly approved by the municipal officers of each municipality that is a part of that school district prior to being submitted to the voters for approval. The municipal officers may propose amendments to the proposed budget. A school budget must be approved by a majority vote of all members of the school board and municipal officers present and voting at the joint meeting.

[LD 1298](#) *An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing* (Sponsored by Rep. Skold of Portland) This bill allows a municipality to impose a local option sales tax of 1% on short-term lodging that is subject to the state sales and use tax if approved by referendum of the voters in that municipality. The revenue from the sales tax must be distributed to the municipality imposing the tax and used for municipal programs that support

affordable housing development in that municipality, including rental assistance for lower income households or moderate-income households.

[LD 1297](#) *An Act to Notify School Boards and Select Boards That Lobbying Associations Are Not Governmental Agencies* (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris) This bill requires nongovernmental agencies or organizations or other private entities that have as their mission or purpose or as part of their activities the influencing of school boards, select boards, school board directors, elected municipal officials or school board or municipal affairs to register with the secretary of the school board or municipal clerk prior to having contact with, submitting information to or engaging in an official capacity the school board, select board, school board directors or elected municipal officials. School board directors and elected municipal officials are required to sign forms acknowledging that nongovernmental entities on the list are not governmental agencies, have no governmental authority and are private entities that have as their mission or purpose or as part of their activities the influencing of school boards, select boards, school board directors, elected municipal officials or school board or municipal affairs.

[LD 1296](#) *An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Allow Firefighters to Have Increased Lighting on Their Personal Vehicles* (Sponsored by Rep. Ness of Fryeburg) Currently, state law allows an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department to place one red light bar no more than eight inches in length on the roof of their vehicles. This bill changes the length of the red light bar from no more than 10 inches in length up to the width between the tops of the doors on the roof of the vehicle.

[LD 1295](#) *An Act Regarding Penalties for Maintaining Drug-involved Premises* (Sponsored by Rep. Costain of Plymouth) This bill makes permanently or temporarily maintaining a place for the purpose of manufacturing, storing, distributing or using a controlled substance a Class D crime.

[LD 1294](#) *An Act to Implement Certain Recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport) This concept draft bill would implement certain recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals.

[LD 1293](#) *An Act to End Chronic Homelessness by Creating the Housing First Fund* (Sponsored by Rep. Gattine of Westbrook) This bill establishes the Housing First Program within the Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate the delivery of stabilization and support services to residents of properties established or developed to provide permanent housing to persons who have been chronically homeless and to fund technical assistance, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, for the development of housing consistent with the program.

The program is funded from the real estate transfer tax by depositing half of the funds that would otherwise be deposited into the General Fund into the Housing First Fund created by the bill.

[LD 1290](#) *An Act to End the Maine Information and Analysis Center Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.) This bill terminates the Maine Information and Analysis Center, a cooperative effort between the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, which is directed to collect, analyze, and appropriately share intelligence between the federal government and the state of Maine.

[LD 1288](#) *An Act to Create a 2-year Motor Vehicle Registration* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) This bill allows a person registering a motor vehicle to choose a two-year registration for a fee in an amount that is 2% more than the fee for a one-year registration or \$20, whichever is less. The bill also provides that the excise tax for the entire two-year period is due at the time of registration. **DEAD**

[LD 1285](#) *An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) This bill appropriates \$1 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Land for Maine's Future program.

[LD 1282](#) *An Act to Streamline Income Verification Requests for Income Supplementation and Assistance Programs* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate and facilitate access to income records of recipients of the department's income supplementation and assistance programs requested by state and local housing authorities. Records may be used only in accordance with federal and state law, and these authorities are responsible for the protection and security of personally identifiable information contained in the records.

[LD 1281](#) *An Act to Protect Economic Competitiveness in Maine by Extending the End Date for Pine Tree Development Zone Benefits* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This bill changes the date after which a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business in a tier 1 location may not be certified from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2025. It also changes the date on which all Pine Tree Development Zone benefits are terminated from December 31, 2033 to December 31, 2035 and makes corresponding changes in several sections of law.

[LD 1280](#) *An Act to Invest in Maine's Fire Service Training Facilities* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo) This bill appropriates \$1 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 to provide funding for fire service training facilities.

[LD 1273](#) *An Act to Exempt Some Businesses from Certain Laws Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Accordance with the Size of the Business* (Sponsored by Sen.

Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This bill exempts businesses that have fewer than 10 employees or earn less than \$1 million annually from the requirement to test products for PFAS. The bill also exempts packaging, including food packaging, from the testing requirements.

[LD 1268](#) *An Act to Provide for a Local Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Qualifying Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) This bill allows a municipality to provide an excise tax exemption for one vehicle owned, separately or jointly, by a resident of that municipality who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer emergency medical services person, as long as the vehicle is used to perform those volunteer duties. The bill also authorizes municipalities to impose additional eligibility criteria, including, but not limited to, duration of service, minimum call response, and training requirements. **DEAD**

[LD 1265](#) *An Act to Make Adjustments to Affordable Housing Requirements* (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison) This concept draft bill would make adjustments to affordable housing requirements.

March 20, 2023

[LD 1258](#) *An Act to Increase the Personal Property Tax Exemption for Farm Machinery* (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham) This bill increases the personal property tax exemption on farm machinery from \$10,000 to \$45,000 as of April 1, 2024, and further requires the state to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the lost property tax revenue.

[LD 1257](#) *An Act to Increase Housing Capacity and Protect the Municipal Tax Base and Working Lands* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle) This bill adds to the list of subdivision review exceptions projects that yield three but no more than 18 dwelling units on a single or parcel of land located in a designated growth area within a municipality, provided the project is subject to municipal site plan review. The bill also defines "administrative reviewing authority," as a municipal employee or other designee of a municipality, and "municipal site plan review," which must include criteria regarding storm water management, sewage disposal, water supply and vehicular access. Finally, the bill requires the reviewing authority, when reviewing an application for subdivision approval, to determine that the proposed subdivision is not located in an area identified and designated in the municipality's comprehensive plan as a rural area, unless the area is a designated growth area or an area for which the municipality has adopted a plan governing the approval of subdivisions.

[LD 1255](#) *An Act to Improve the Security of Voting Places* (Sponsored by Rep. Arford of Brunswick) This bill prohibits the carrying or discharging of a dangerous weapon: (1) while at the polls or on public property within 250 of a voting place, when the polling place is open; (2) at a location where absentee voting is taking place in the presence of the clerk or on public property

within 250 feet of that location; or (3) at a ballot drop box or on public property within 250 of that location. The bill also exempts from the prohibition a law enforcement officer acting in their official capacity or a weapon that remains in a locked motor vehicle. **DEAD**

[LD 1251](#) *An Act to Clarify Immunity from Liability for Municipalities Engaged in Recycling Activities* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) This bill clarifies that municipalities are immune from liability for personal injury, property damage or death, including a member of the public, caused by recycling activities of the municipality on property owned by the municipality or on the premises of another person.

[LD 1247](#) *Resolve, to Study Training in Racial Issues, Racial Justice and Social Issues at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and Study Additional Requirements for Law Enforcement Officers and Candidates* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This resolve establishes the 17-member Law Enforcement Training and Qualifications Study Committee, which includes representation from a statewide association of municipal police chiefs, county sheriffs and municipalities. The committee is directed to review: (1) the history and purpose of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy (MCJA); (2) any job task analysis completed by the Department of Public Safety that examine the role of rural and urban law enforcement, need for additional training resources, and the impacts different models have on policing outcomes and quality of life for residents and visitors; (3) strategies to enhance recruitment of law enforcement officers from underrepresented communities; and (4) the working relationships between MCJA and institutions of higher education. The committee is also directed to seek input from municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies regarding training at MCJA, compile recommendations for improving the training of law enforcement officers via community and education partnerships, and no later than January 3, 2024, submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, which is authorized to submit legislation for consideration in 2024.

[LD 1246](#) *An Act to Include Endangered and Threatened Species Habitat in the Definition of "Significant Wildlife Habitat" Under the Natural Resources Protection Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This bill amends the Natural Resources Protection Act by adding to the definition of "significant wildlife habitat" the habitat of species appearing on the official state endangered and threatened species lists. This bill also requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to define "habitat for state endangered and state threatened species" by major substantive rules.

[LD 1242](#) *An Act to Eliminate Certain Motor Vehicle Inspections* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft) This bill repeals statutory provisions requiring inspections for motor vehicles registered in the State, except for the inspection of commercial motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, fire trucks, and transporters.

[LD 1239](#) *An Act to Make General Election Day a State Holiday and to Allow Certain Employees an Opportunity to Vote* (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) This bill designates the November election taking place in an even-numbered year a state holiday. This bill also requires employers to provide employees with three consecutive hours in which to vote on the day of the general election, and if the employee's working hours do not allow for three consecutive hours in which to vote, the employer must provide the employee paid time off sufficient to allow the employee three consecutive hours in which to vote. It also requires that an employer, at least 10 days before each general election, post notice of these requirements in the workplace in a manner likely to be seen by all employees.

[LD 1233](#) *An Act Regarding the Maine State Cemetery Preservation Commission* (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales) This bill expands the duties of the Maine State Cemetery Preservation Commission to include investigation of violations of the laws governing burying grounds and cemeteries reported to the commission by municipalities, state and local law enforcement agencies and statewide associations dedicated to the preservation or the maintenance of cemeteries. The bill also expands the commission's powers, to include the authority to hire staff, create a website, prepare educational materials for distribution to municipalities and associations dedicated to the preservation of cemeteries, establish a grant program to provide funds for the restoration of burying grounds and cemeteries, and to submit annually to the Legislature proposals for the appropriate care, protection, preservation and access to cemeteries. The bill increases the burial-transit permit fee by \$5 to fund the commission's operations. Finally, the bill directs the commission to submit a report to the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over state and local government matters related to the grant program and authorized the committee to report out implementing legislation in 2025.

[LD 1232](#) *An Act to Increase Adoption of Solar Power in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Skold of Portland) This bill requires new buildings of at least 25,000 square feet to reserve 40% of applicable roof space for future installation of a solar energy system. This bill also requires the Public Utilities Commission to amend its interconnection rules to allow small electric power generators of up to a 100-kilowatt power rating to interconnect to a transmission and distribution utility under the commission's current level 1 screening criteria and process.

[LD 1227](#) *An Act to Balance Renewable Energy Development with Natural and Working Lands Conservation* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) This bill directs the Governor's Energy Office to create and maintain a publicly accessible database of fully permitted or constructed energy facilities using renewable resources that may be used to identify land use trends. The bill also requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in collaboration with the Governor's Energy Office and the Public Utilities Commission and other state agencies, stakeholders and research institutions, to develop a plan to implement a dual-use energy pilot program and requires the department to submit a report with a plan for implementing a pilot program to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture,

conservation and forestry matters; energy and utilities matters; and environment and natural resources matters no later than February 1, 2025.

[LD 1225](#) *An Act to Protect Housing by Increasing the Property Tax Fairness Credit* (Sponsored by Rep. O’Neil of Saco) For income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, this bill increases the maximum property tax fairness credit from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for residents under 65 years of age and from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for residents 65 years of age or older.

[LD 1223](#) *An Act to Clarify Cost Allocations and Insurance in the Joint Use of Public Utility Equipment* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.) This bill clarifies that an owner of a utility pole is responsible for costs associated with accommodating an attachment to the pole except for costs associated with municipal attachments, costs of a modification of an attachment to comply with safety, or engineering or construction codes or standards or the cost of insurance of the attaching entity. This bill also clarifies that a pole owner may require an attaching entity or a contractor of the attaching entity to carry insurance but the pole owner or attaching entity may not dictate the terms, type, or level of the insurance of another attaching entity or contractor.

[LD 1216](#) *An Act to Create the Animal Cruelty Task Force* (Sponsored by Sen. Harrington of York Cty.) This bill establishes the 12-member Animal Cruelty Task Force, which includes an animal control officer, a police chief, and a representative of MMA. Of interest to municipalities, the task force is charged with: (1) providing municipalities with guidance and support for animal cruelty cases that involve a large number of animals; (2) identifying ways to assist municipalities in identifying and handling cases; (3) recommending measures to streamline the reporting of cases to local law enforcement agencies for immediate documentation and assessment. The bill also directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to call the first meeting of the task force by December 31, 2023. **DEAD**

[LD 1215](#) *An Act to End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products* (Sponsored by Sen. Duson of Cumberland Cty.) This bill prohibits the sale and distribution of flavored tobacco products, including flavored cigars and electronic smoking devices.

[LD 1214](#) *An Act to Clarify the Laws to Combat Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This bill amends the laws governing products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances by: (1) defining "intentionally added PFAS" and "perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" as a group of substance that contain at least two sequential fully fluorinated carbon atoms, except for polymer, gases and volatile liquid; (2) changing the date for the requirement that a manufacturer of a product for sale in the State that contains intentionally added PFAS submit a written notification to the Department of Environmental Protection from January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2024; and (3) removing the provision of law that provides that, effective January 1, 2030, a person may not sell, offer for sale or distribute for sale in this State any product that contains intentionally added

PFAS, unless the department has determined by rule that the use of PFAS in the product is a currently unavoidable use.

March 16, 2023

[LD 1210](#) *An Act to Establish a Maine Highway Capital Fund to Provide Consistent Funding for the Construction and Repair of Maine's Roads and Bridges* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison) This bill establishes the Capital Fund within the Department of Transportation to fund the construction or repair of highways or bridges, which is capitalized with: (1) any highway construction or repair revenue remaining at the end of the fiscal year that would otherwise be transferred into the General Fund; (2) 20% of the unappropriated General Fund surplus at the end of each fiscal year; and (3) any other funds the department directs be deposited into the fund.

[LD 1208](#) *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Time Estimates for Responding to Public Records Requests* (Reported by Rep. Moonen of Portland) This bill clarifies that an agency or official must specify the estimated time frame within which the entity will comply with a request for public records, and increases the cost threshold for when an agency or official must inform a requester of the estimated cost before proceeding with a request from \$30 to \$50.

March 14, 2023

[LD 1206](#) *An Act to Create a Grant Program for Workplace Health and Safety Improvements* (Rep. O'Connell of Brewer) This bill requires the Department of Labor to administer a grant program to provide up to \$5,000 for employers to pay for health and safety improvements at workplaces with 15 or fewer full-time employees and to provide resources to obtain health related and safety-related equipment and training. **DEAD**

[LD 1204](#) *An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Closing Coverage Gaps in the MaineCare Program for Incarcerated Persons* (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to enter into a memorandum of understanding with counties to provide incarcerated individuals assistance in applying for MaineCare services.

[LD 1203](#) *An Act to Clarify Deadlines in the Freedom of Access Act and Disclosure Provisions in the Intelligence and Investigative Record Information Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland) This bill amends the Freedom of Access Act to: (1) require public entities to respond to a public records request within 30 days of receipt; (2) authorize the public access officer to give priority to a records request from a Maine resident or a journalist acting in the capacity of gathering information to disseminate to the public; and (3) amend the invasion of personal privacy

provisions to allow the disclosure of information upon consent of the individual or if deceased, incapacitated or a minor by a family member, who is the subject of the record. **DEAD**

[LD 1202](#) *An Act to Increase the Homestead Exemption to \$50,000* (Sponsored by Rep. Theriault of Fort Kent) This bill increases the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000 as of April 1, 2024, and replaces the current law requiring the state to increase reimbursement for lost property tax revenues by 3% annually, with a flat 85% reimbursement rate. **DEAD**

[LD 1198](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to Convene a Working Group to Improve the State's 10-year Economic Development Strategy* (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Waterford) This resolve directs the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to establish a working group to improve the State's 10-year economic development strategy in order to develop a diverse and sustainable economy. The commissioner must also submit proposed improvements to the strategy to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business by December 6, 2023, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2024.

[LD 1193](#) *An Act to Allow Residents of Low-income Housing to Keep Pets* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This bill directs the Maine State Housing Authority, a municipal housing authority or other entity in control of public housing to allow a resident of public housing to own and maintain one or more common household pets.

March 13, 2023

[LD 1188](#) *An Act to Establish a Public Health Response to Substance Use* (Sponsored by Sen. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.) This concept draft bill would provide resources for substance use prevention and early intervention, harm reduction, substance use disorder treatment and sustained recovery from substance use disorder, as well as decriminalize the possession of certain scheduled drugs. **DEAD**

[LD 1185](#) *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund* (Sponsored by Sen. Ingwersen of York Cty.) This bond bill issues \$100 million to recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund for the purpose of providing funds to public schools for renovation and capital repairs.

[LD 1182](#) *An Act to Make Revisions to the Tax Increment Financing and Development District Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook) This bill amends the laws governing tax increment financing by removing the requirement that the Departments Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and Transportation review proposals for the designation of downtown tax increment financing districts. The bill also clarifies the approval condition related to a property being suitable for commercial or arts district uses.

[LD 1181](#) *An Act to Allow for the Recall of an Elected Municipal Official for Any Reason* (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris) This bill allows a municipality to use the statutory procedure or a provision of the municipality's ordinances or charter for recalling an elected official from office and removes the provision requiring that an elected official may only be recalled if the official is convicted of a crime.

[LD 1177](#) *An Act to Assess a Slip Fee on Megayachts Registered in Overseas Tax Havens* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) This bill requires a megayacht registered in an overseas tax haven to be charged a fee of \$10 per foot per day that the megayacht is secured to a slip in a municipal harbor. The first 100 feet of overall length of the megayacht is excluded from the calculation of the total fee, which is assessed and collected by the municipality that has jurisdiction over the waters in which the megayacht is secured. The collecting municipality is authorized to retain 10% of the revenue, with the remaining funds deposited in the newly established the Megayacht Fund. Of the deposited revenue, 50% is distributed to MaineHousing for use in programs providing emergency rental assistance and homelessness diversion programs, 25% to the Department of Marine Resources and 25% to the Department of Transportation for use in public transit programs.

[LD 1176](#) *An Act to Create Municipal Cannabis Revenue Sharing* (Sponsored by Rep. Adams of Lebanon) This bill directs that 20% of the money credited to the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund be provided to municipalities that opted to permit some or all adult use cannabis establishments. **DEAD**

[LD 1174](#) *An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products* (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor) This bill prohibits the sale and distribution of flavored tobacco products, including flavored cigars and electronic smoking devices.

[LD 1172](#) *An Act to Reestablish Annual Reporting on Solid Waste in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth) This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to annually, rather than biennially, submit reports to the Legislature and Governor regarding the statewide generation of solid waste, recycling rates and the capacity for disposing the generated waste. The bill also requires municipalities to submit recycling progress reports to the department on an annual, rather than biennial, basis.

[LD 1171](#) *An Act to Raise Funding to Support Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Composting in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth) This bill increases from \$2 per ton to \$7 per ton the fee imposed on the disposal of municipal solid waste, municipal solid waste ash, construction and demolition debris and residue from the processing of construction and demolition debris. The bill also provides that \$5 per ton of that fee must be distributed to municipalities to support the solid waste management hierarchy priorities of reduction of waste

generated at the source, reuse of waste, recycling of waste and composting of biodegradable waste. **DEAD**

[LD 1170](#) *Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters* (Sponsored by Rep. O’Neil of Saco) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, to conduct a study to evaluate improvements to the passenger rail service between Brunswick and Boston.

[LD 1168](#) *An Act to Adjust Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Rates* (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor) This bill changes the excise tax on motor vehicles and camper trailers from a six-year phase-down of the tax from 24 mils to 4 mils to a 10-year phase-down of the tax from 35 mils to 10 mils and exempts from taxation the first \$15,000 of the vehicle's value that is used to calculate the tax. **DEAD**

[LD 1162](#) *An Act to Protect the Environment by Funding Ash Tree Management* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) This bill appropriates \$500,000 in each year of the FY 2024 – FY 2025 biennium to provide grants to municipalities to address ash tree disease and expand tree replacement efforts.

[LD 1160](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Conduct a Study on the Equity of the State Education Subsidy Formula* (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland) This resolve directs the Department of Education to contract with a third party to study the equity of the state education subsidy formula.

[LD 1159](#) *An Act to Establish a Pilot Project Regarding Harm Reduction Health Centers* (Sponsored by Rep Osher of Orono) This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to create a two-year pilot project establishing and operating a harm reduction health center to provide counseling and health service referrals and a place to use previously obtained controlled substances for clients of the center. The harm reduction health center must be approved by the municipality in which it is located, and the bill provides immunity to the State, the municipality or employees and clients of the center from criminal or civil liability. The bill also creates an advisory board to provide guidance to the department and requires the department to report to the 132nd Legislature on the effectiveness of the project.

[LD 1156](#) *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation* (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond) This bond bill issues \$30 million to provide funds to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands for the design, development and maintenance of nonmotorized, motorized and multi-use trails statewide.

[LD 1154](#) *An Act Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units and Municipal Zoning Ordinances* (Sponsored by Rep. Woodsome of Waterboro) This bill provides that municipal zoning ordinances may provide for at least one accessory dwelling unit on a lot where a single-family unit is the principal structure, and clarifies that the lot is ineligible for any additional density increases, except as provided by municipal ordinance. **DEAD**

[LD 1153](#) *An Act to Allow Municipalities to Tax Personal Solar Energy Equipment Under 5 Megawatts* (Sponsored by Rep. Woodsome of Waterboro) This bill repeals the personal property tax exemption for solar energy equipment that generates heat or electricity if all of the energy is used on the site where the property is located or the energy is transmitted through the facilities of a transmission and distribution utility, and a utility customer or customers receive a utility bill credit for the energy generated by the equipment.

[LD 1152](#) *An Act to Make Long-term Disability Insurance Coverage Available to Public Employees* (Sponsored by Sen. Ingwersen of York Cty.) This bill requires the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to offer long-term disability insurance coverage and employers to provide the coverage at employer expense to members of the system who participate in the system's defined contribution plan or provide substantially equivalent coverage obtained from another source.

[LD 1149](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Strengthen the Due Process Rights of Persons Accused by Requiring Notification of Those Rights* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to establish an accused person's right to be notified of the person's rights before a custodial interrogation in a criminal investigation.

[LD 1145](#) *An Act to Create the Southern Maine Coastal Waters Commission* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.) This concept draft bill would create the Southern Maine Coastal Waters Commission to oversee the Southern Maine Dredge Authority. Membership on the commission would be open to a representative from each coastal municipality from South Portland to Kittery and would include a representative from the Departments Environmental Protection, Transportation, and Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

[LD 1142](#) *An Act to Eliminate Motor Vehicle Registration Fees for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Emergency Medical Services Providers* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) In part, this bill exempts a volunteer firefighter and a volunteer emergency medical services provider from paying registration fees for a vehicle that is the primary means of transportation. The bill directs the Secretary of State to define "volunteer firefighter" and "volunteer emergency medical services provider." The bill provides for the Secretary of State to adopt rules related to this exemption. **DEAD**

[LD 1141](#) *An Act to Improve Access and System Preservation by Providing Shoulders and Bicycle Lanes on State Roadways Leading to State Parks and Other Significant Destinations* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.) This bill establishes a program to construct wide shoulders and separated bicycle lanes on certain state and state aid highways near state parks and other destinations of statewide or regional significance and a fund for the administration of the program. **DEAD**

[LD 1140](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Allow All-terrain Vehicle Traffic on a Section of Trail in the City of Caribou* (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to allow all-terrain vehicle traffic on a three-mile section of the Aroostook Valley Trail in the City of Caribou extending from the point where Fort Fairfield Road becomes Fort Street, at the bridge crossing the Aroostook River, and running along the Aroostook River. **DEAD**

[LD 1135](#) *An Act to Ensure that Carbon Credits Can Be Sold on Forest Land Enrolled in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyle of Gorham) This concept draft bill would allow a person that owns wooded property enrolled in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law to sell carbon credits for that property and stay enrolled in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law as long as timber harvesting was not prohibited under the carbon credit agreement. **DEAD**

[LD 1134](#) *An Act to Improve Housing Affordability by Amending the Definition of "Subdivision" Under the Site Location of Development Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyle of Gorham) This bill amends the site location of development laws to provide that the term "subdivision" includes the division of a parcel of land into 20 or more lots to be offered for sale or lease to the general public within any three-year period if the aggregate land area includes more than 50 acres and when all the lots are for single-family, detached, residential housing, common areas or open space.

[LD 1133](#) *An Act Regarding Emergency Management Funding for Municipal Shelters* (Sponsored by Rep. Adams of Lebanon) This concept draft bill would enact provisions regarding emergency management funding for municipal shelters. **DEAD**

March 9, 2023

[LD 1126](#) *Resolve, to Increase Community Action Grants* (Sen. Reny of Lincoln Cty.) This resolve directs the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to increase to \$100,000 the maximum community action grant amount a single community may receive to support projects that reduce energy use and costs or make the community more resilient to climate change effects. **DEAD**

[LD 1124](#) *An Act Regarding Certification Credentials for the Office of Sheriff* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.) This bill allows a person to be a candidate for sheriff who has not been certified as a law enforcement officer provided the person is enrolled in the Department of Public Safety's preservice law enforcement training and meets all required in-service law enforcement training standards within one year of taking office. This bill also requires that a new sheriff under this provision enroll in a jail administration certification program administered by the Commissioner of Corrections and obtain certification from the program within six months of taking office. **DEAD**

[LD 1123](#) *An Act to Create a Presumption That a Cardiovascular Injury or Disease or Pulmonary Disease Suffered by Certain Law Enforcement Officers Is in the Course of Employment* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.) This bill establishes that a law enforcement officer's cardiovascular injury or disease or pulmonary disease is a rebuttable presumption of a: (1) disability under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System; and (2) workplace injury under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992.

[LD 1122](#) *Resolve, to Rename Bridges in the Town of Cornish* (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3859 over the Little River in the Town of Cornish the Harriet Tubman Memorial Bridge, Bridge 3024 over Douglas Brook in the Town of Cornish the 9/11 Memorial Bridge and Bridge 3025 over the Saco River in the Town of Cornish the Veterans Memorial Bridge. **DEAD**

[LD 1121](#) *An Act to Change Responsibility for Animal Control Officer Training to the Department of Public Safety* (Sponsored by Sen. Harrington of York Cty.) This bill provides that the Commissioner of Public Safety rather than the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry develop programs to train and certify animal control officers who successfully complete the training programs. **DEAD**

[LD 1119](#) *An Act to Clarify the Criminal Statutes with Regard to Assaults on Emergency Medical Services Persons* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This bill extends the provision of statute that making the assault of an emergency medical care provider, while administering care, a Class C crime to persons licensed under the Medical Services Act of 1982, as well as to a person employed or contracted by a hospital when the assault occurs in the emergency room.

[LD 1118](#) *An Act to Reduce the Sales Tax on Automobiles* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This bill exempts from the sales and use tax the first \$7,500 of the maker's list price of an automobile, including a pickup truck or van, purchased on or after January 1, 2024. **DEAD**

[LD 1116](#) *An Act to Provide Rural Sober Living Housing for Mothers* (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor) This bill directs MaineHousing to contract for the construction of at least 10 housing

units in certified recovery residences that provide services to mothers recovering from substance use disorder and their minor children, which must be located in counties with a county seat of no more than 35,000 residents and located within proximity to public transportation. The bill also prescribes the services that must be provided by the operators of the residences and requires staff to be paid a livable wage, as defined in labor laws.

[LD 1115](#) *An Act Regarding Economic Development Funds for Federally Recognized Indian Tribes* (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) This bill directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to dedicate 10% of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) revenue for distribution to federally recognized Indian tribes. **DEAD**

[LD 1113](#) *An Act to Require Transparency Regarding School Construction Spending* (Sponsored by Rep. Adams of Lebanon) This bill requires a school administrative unit to produce and make available to the public an annual accounting of the use of school construction bond proceeds and return to each municipality responsible for the debt the amount of any bond proceeds not used to complete the project.

[LD 1112](#) *An Act to Provide Workers' Compensation for Temporary Employees* (Sponsored by Rep. Adams of Lebanon) This bill provides that, for the purposes of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992, a person who works on a project or temporary basis for an employer pursuant to a contract with a temporary employment agency is an employee of the temporary employment agency and not an independent contractor. **DEAD**

[LD 1111](#) *An Act Concerning Contracts and Agreement for Large-scale Water Extraction* (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco) This bill requires contracts for the extraction and transportation of water to be approved by a vote of the legislative body of each municipality and township located within the watershed from which water is to be extracted and limits the term of these contracts to no more than three years.

[LD 1110](#) *An Act Regarding Calibration Requirements for Certain Testing and Measurement Equipment* (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco) This bill requires the State, a municipal or quasi-municipal water utility or a publicly owned treatment works to ensure that the testing and measurement equipment used and subjected to the Maine Weights and Measures Law is calibrated by an accredited laboratory and the calibration meets standards published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. **DEAD**

[LD 1109](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Create Consistent Election Dates for Citizen-initiated Referenda in Even-numbered Election Years* (Sponsored by Rep. Bradstreet of Vassalboro) This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require that all direct initiatives of legislation appear on an election ballot for the election to be held in November of even-numbered years. **DEAD**

[LD 1103](#) *An Act to Allow Persons Who Lawfully Use or Possess Cannabis to Own or Possess Firearms or Ammunition* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland) This bill exempts persons who use or possess cannabis pursuant to the Cannabis Legalization Act or the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act from the prohibition on the possession of a firearm provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 15, section 393. It also prohibits a state employee or municipal official from assisting a federal agency or federal official with locating, apprehending, arresting or charging a person alleged to have violated 2818 United States Code, Section 922(g)(3) because the person possesses or uses cannabis pursuant to Title 22, chapter 558-C or Title 28-B.

[LD 1102](#) *An Act to Authorize a Recall Election for a School Board Member* (Sponsored by Rep. Bagshaw of Windham.) This bill authorizes a municipality to hold a recall election for a member of a school board elected from that municipality. Only a person registered to vote in the municipality that elected the school board member may initiate, circulate, or sign a recall petition. A school board member may be recalled for any reason.

[LD 1097](#) *An Act to Replace Participation Thresholds in Municipal Referenda with Lower Approval Thresholds* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta) This bill reduces from 30% to 15% of the total votes cast in the municipality in the last gubernatorial election as the minimum necessary to authorize a new municipal charter or charter revision, modification or amendment.

[LD 1094](#) *An Act Regarding the Allocation of Funds Awarded to Maine Due to the Opioid Settlement* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) This bill transfers funds from the Maine Recovery Fund to the Departments of Health and Human Services, Corrections and Education for substance use and mental health intervention and treatment programs for specific individuals served by those departments. **DEAD**

[LD 1093](#) *An Act to Create a Seasonal Gas Tax Exemption and Rate* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) This bill removes the imposition of the excise tax on internal combustion engine fuel, except for fuel bought or used for the purposes of propelling jet or turbojet engine aircraft, from Thanksgiving Day until the following May 1st, annually. The bill raises the excise tax on such fuel, except that used for jet or turbojet aircraft, to 40¢ per gallon at all other times. The excise tax on jet or turbojet aircraft remains at 3.4¢ per gallon. **DEAD**

[LD 1092](#) *An Act to Expand Services for Women Who Experience Gender-based Trauma and Violence* (Sponsored by Rep. Stover of Boothbay) This concept draft bill would amend the law affecting the intergovernmental response to gender-based violence against women and trauma experienced by women by expanding specific community-based services.

[LD 1087](#) *An Act to Remove Restrictions in the Provisions of Law Relating to No-knock Warrants* (Sponsored by Rep. Cyrway of Albion) This bill amends the laws regarding no-knock warrants

by: (1) removing the provision stating that any warrant is a no-knock warrant if it is executed without waiting 20 seconds after announcement of authority; (2) adding preventing the destruction of evidence to death and bodily harm in the exceptions to the requirements of no-knock warrants; (3) changing the clothing required to identify law enforcement while executing a no-knock warrant from a uniform to an article of clothing that clearly identifies an officer executing the warrant as a law enforcement officer; (4) requiring law enforcement officers executing a no-knock warrant to follow the policy of the lead law enforcement agency executing the warrant as opposed to an individual officer's law enforcement agency; and (5) allowing an untrained officer to use a stun grenade, stun, distraction or other similar device during the execution of a no-knock warrant in exigent circumstances.

[LD 1081](#) *An Act to Impose a Fee on Commercial Water Withdrawn from Lakes and Ponds to Fund Conservation Efforts and Prohibit a Fee on the Sale of Water Withdrawn from a Lake or Pond* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This bill prohibits a person from charging a fee for water withdrawn from a lake or pond in the State and allows a delivery fee for that water. The bill also requires the Department of Environmental Protection to impose a production fee on water withdrawn from a lake or pond for commercial purposes and directs the department to use the money collected to give grants to lake associations for conservation efforts.

[LD 1078](#) *An Act to Increase the Number of Recovery Beds in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.) This concept draft bill would increase the number of recovery beds in Maine available for persons making the transition from addiction to recovery. **DEAD**

[LD 1076](#) *An Act to Expand the Use of Traffic Cameras for School and Work Zones* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This bill expands the authorized use of traffic surveillance cameras to school zones and portions of a public way under construction. The bill also makes the data confidential and restricts the dissemination of the data to only the purposes of investigation or prosecution of a violation of the law. **DEAD**

[LD 1074](#) *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-income Households* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This bond bill issues \$100 million to build new affordable housing for low-income households through the construction of new and adaptive reuse of existing structures.

[LD 1072](#) *An Act Regarding the Bureau of Motor Vehicles* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This bill amends the motor vehicle laws to: (1) authorize the Secretary of State to waive a penalty or fee associated with a motor vehicle or traffic violation, provided the circumstances justify the waiver; (2) with the exception for law enforcement officers, prohibit firearms and dangerous weapons from being carried into any bureau office; (3) provide access to vehicle and driver's licenses data as permitted under the Federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994; (4) extend from 14 to 30 days the expiration date of a temporary registration plate; (5)

issue veterans registration motor vehicle and motorcycle plates to any person who has served a minimum of 20 years in the National Guard and has been honorably discharged; (6) direct the secretary to revoke, without hearing, the commercial driver's license of a person convicted for human trafficking in which a commercial motor vehicle was used; (7) repeal the honorary consul license plate; and (8) allow the secretary to accept an application for a driver's license for a minor if it is accompanied by evidence that the minor is an unaccompanied noncitizen minor under federal immigration law and otherwise meets the legal status criteria under state and federal law.

[LD 1071](#) *An Act to Allow Political Candidates to Be Nominated by Multiple Parties for the Same Office* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill provides that a political party, qualified to participate in a primary election, may nominate a candidate who has been nominated for the same office by a different political party, provide the parties notify the Secretary of State of that decision no later than February 1 of an election year. **DEAD**

[LD 1070](#) *An Act to Increase Ballot Transparency with Blockchain Technology* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill requires all electronic tabulating devices to be able to scan and extract vote data from the official ballot and create a blockchain transaction for every ballot, which, state elections, the Secretary of State shall maintain and make publicly accessible on a blockchain. The bill also defines "blockchain" as an open distributed ledger that records a transaction between two or more parties efficiently and in a verifiable and permanent manner and "blockchain transaction" as digital records linked together using cryptography that is resistant to modification of the data in the records, creating a blockchain. It also establishes that the blockchain transaction created from the vote data on the official ballot and available on a publicly accessible blockchain is a public record. **DEAD**

[LD 1069](#) *An Act Requiring a Referendum to Restore the Former Maine Flag* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This referendum asks Maine voters whether to make the former state flag, commonly known as the Pine Tree Flag, the official flag of the State and to designate the current official flag as the Maine State Seal Flag. **DEAD**

March 7, 2023

[LD 1067](#) *Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study the Operations of the Maine Legislature (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This bill creates a 12-member commission to study the operations of the Maine State Legislature, including the number of terms, members and bills introduced each session; roles and responsibilities of leadership; rules for providing testimony; and the process for adopting the budget, to name a few. The commission is represented by members of the legislature, labor unions, a statewide organization that advocates for job creation and preservation, and two public members who represent the interest of small businesses. No later than December 6, 2023, the commission must submit its

findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation in 2024.

[LD 1060](#) *An Act to Support Municipal Public Safety by Increasing State Municipal Revenue Sharing to 7 Percent* (Sponsored by President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This bill increases from 5% to 7% the amount of state sales and income tax revenue distributed to municipalities under the revenue sharing program and requires the revenues generated by the 2% increase to be used for the employment, training, and provision of emergency fire and medical services and law enforcement.

[LD 1056](#) *An Act Restricting State Assistance in Federal Collection of Personal Electronic Data and Metadata* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill prohibits a state department, agency or political subdivision from participating in or providing support or resource enabling a federal agency to collect or use a person's electronic communications unless: (1) informed consent is provided; (2) the collection of data or metadata is subject to a warrant; or (3) in accordance with a legally recognized exception to the federal warrant requirements.

[LD 1055](#) *An Act to Prohibit the Use of Ballot Drop Boxes* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill prohibits the use of ballot drop boxes. **DEAD**

[LD 1050](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor to Request a Federal Waiver to Allow Presumptive Work Eligibility for Asylum Seekers* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This resolve directs the Commissioner of Labor to request a waiver from the United States Department of Homeland Security to allow an asylum seeker who has applied for asylum to work during the six-month period immediately after applying for asylum while awaiting a final determination and for the time period while an asylum seeker's work permit has expired and is pending renewal by the Federal Government. **Finally Passed; Resolves 2023, c. 14**

[LD 1048](#) *An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) The bill requires municipal timber harvesting ordinances to be certified by the Bureau of Forestry and consistent with an adopted comprehensive plan. The bill also requires municipal clerks to provide the bureau with notice and a copy of the ordinance either: (1) by April 1, 2024 in communities that have adopted a timber harvesting ordinance as of January 1, 2024; and (2) for ordinances adopted after January 1, 2024, at least seven days before the meeting of the legislative body or public hearing at which the adoption of the ordinance is considered.

[LD 1038](#) *An Act to Reinstate Plurality Voting by Repealing the Ranked-choice Voting Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Polewarczyk of Wiscasset) This bill repeals the laws governing ranked-choice voting. **DEAD**

[LD 1036](#) *An Act to Require All Police Officers to Carry Naloxone Hydrochloride When on Duty* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill) This bill amends requires law enforcement officers to obtain medical training in the dispensing of naloxone hydrochloride and to carry naloxone hydrochloride at all times when on duty.

[LD 1034](#) *An Act to Require That Service of a Temporary Protection Order Be Attempted Within 48 Hours from the Issuance of the Order* (Sponsored by Rep. Smith of Palermo) This bill requires a law enforcement agency to attempt to issue a temporary protection from abuse order within 48 hour of receipt.

[LD 1032](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Specify the Qualifications of Electors* (Sponsored by Rep. Ardell of Monticello) This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to specify that only a person who is a citizen of the United States may vote in a state, county or municipal or other local election. **DEAD**

[LD 1030](#) *An Act Relating to Requirements for School Bus Drivers* (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford) This bill: (1) provides that school bus driver endorsement is contingent on the applicant meeting certain federal requirements only if there is no waiver of those requirements in place; (2) directs the Secretary of State to seek all available waivers; and (3) clarifies that the requirement that an applicant pass an examination to operate a bus does not include the ability to operate a truck tractor with semitrailer.

[LD 1029](#) *Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States* (Sponsored by Rep. Paulhus of Bath) This resolve establishes a commission, which includes a representative of local government, to develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States through educational and historical events, activities, and programs throughout the Maine.

[LD 1027](#) *An Act to Prohibit Local Sales Taxes* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft) This bill prohibits a municipality from imposing a local sales tax.

[LD 1025](#) *An Act to Improve Maine's Economy by Changing the Hours of Operation for Oversize Loads (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Rep. Underwood of Presque Isle) This bill provides that the overlimit permits issued by the state, municipal and county for travel over state, local and county roads must allow for travel to occur 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:00 p.m., including holidays, other than a Sunday. **DEAD**

[LD 1022](#) *An Act to Allow School Budget Referenda on the Same Day as Primary Elections* (Sponsored by Rep. Arata of New Gloucester) This bill allows participating municipalities of a regional school unit beginning January 1, 2024 to limit the time period in which a regional school unit budget meeting or referendum may be held to at least 45 days prior to the date of a

statewide primary or referendum election in June or the second Tuesday in June if a statewide primary or referendum election is not held in June of that year.

[LD 1019](#) *An Act Regarding Water Testing Related to Salt and Sand Storage Facilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) This bill includes salt and sand storage facilities in the law governing the contamination of private water supplies adjacent to state or state aid highways. It requires the Department of Transportation to arrange for and pay the cost of testing the private water supplies every two years for any contaminants that may derive from the salt and sand storage facilities. It also provides that if an owner of land adjacent to a salt and sand storage facility shows the owner's water supply is contaminated by any contaminants that may derive from the salt and sand storage facility, the contamination is presumed to have been caused by that storage facility, and the department is required to offer a settlement to remedy the situation unless the department can demonstrate that the contamination was not caused by the salt and sand storage facility.

[LD 1017](#) *Resolve, to Increase Commercial Driver's License Examiner Capacity* (Sponsored by Rep. Blier of Buxton) This resolve requires the Secretary of State to conduct a pilot program to hire three full time equivalent examination proctors to work from May 1 to September 30 in the calendar years 2024 and 2025 to allow permanent commercial driver's license examiner staff to conduct road evaluations. **DEAD**

[LD 1015](#) *Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study the Foreclosure Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme) This resolve establishes the seven-member Commission to Study the Foreclosure Process, which is represented by members of the legislature, credit unions, Maine Bankers Association and MaineHousing. The commission is directed to consider the laws and state agency rules governing the foreclosure process, the various timelines of specific procedures in the foreclosure process and how those timelines affect the availability of foreclosed properties for affordable housing; the effect on the foreclosure process of mortgages sold in the secondary mortgage market by large financial institutions and the ability of small financial institutions in the State to work to keep property owners out of foreclosure and to make foreclosed property available for sale quickly; and how problems in the foreclosure process can be mitigated without losing existing consumer protections. The commission is required to submit a report no later than December 6, 2023 to the Joint Select Committee on Housing, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2024.

[LD 1011](#) *An Act Requiring the Reporting of Stolen Firearms* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) This bill requires the owner of a firearm, except an antique firearm, to report the loss or theft of the firearm to a local law enforcement agency.

[LD 1009](#) *An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste* (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville) This bill sets goals for the reduction of the disposal of food scraps by

establishing the reduction of waste at the point of generation as the first priority and directs the diversion of rescued food first for consumption by humans, then for agricultural use, including for consumption by animals, then subjecting the food scraps to composting or anaerobic digestion with subsequent soil application and finally subjecting the food scraps to anaerobic digestion not followed by soil application. Requirements are placed on producers to separate the food scraps from other solid waste at the point of generation, with these requirements phased in over a five-year period. Commercial entities engaged in the transportation of municipal solid waste are required to collect food scraps from customers except for customers in municipalities with solid waste management ordinances that cover the collection of food scraps and that are consistent with the State's food recovery policy. Beginning on January 1, 2027, the bill also requires food scraps containers to be placed next to any solid waste containers provided in public buildings and on public land.

[LD 1006](#) *An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) This bill requires the Department of Health and Human to provide free testing for PFAS in household well water to low-income residents through contracts with qualified laboratories. The department is also required to conduct educational outreach to make qualifying residents aware of the availability of free testing and eligibility for grants from MaineHousing to pay for water treatment systems. The bill clarifies that homeowners served by well water that exceeds state PFAS standards are also eligible for the grants.

[LD 1000](#) *Resolve, to Convene a Firearm Range Safety Working Group Within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick) This resolve directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene a firearm range safety working group, including municipal officials from municipalities where firearm ranges are located, to study whether firearm ranges have access to the most current standards regarding and information on ensuring the safe operation of firearm ranges and any possible improvements to firearm range safety statewide. The department is further directed to report findings, including any recommended legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife no later than December 6, 2023.

[LD 999](#) *An Act to Support Family Caregivers by Expanding Family Medical Leave* (Sponsored by Rep. Murphy of Scarborough) This bill adds grandparents and great-grandparents with a serious health condition to the list of persons related to an employee for whom family medical leave may be taken. It also provides that an employee may take family medical leave for any of the persons listed with a serious health condition who are related to the employee by blood, adoption, legal custody, marriage, or domestic partnership.

[LD 996](#) *An Act to Allow a Municipality to Establish a Local Option Sales Tax* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This bill allows municipalities to impose a local tax on the

sale of any good or service subjected to the state sales tax provided the authority is approved by vote of the legislative body or municipal referendum. The related article or question must describe what the revenue will be used for and can be applied on a seasonal or year-round basis.

March 2, 2023

[LD 984](#) *An Act to Expand Access to the Homestead Property Tax Exemption* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This bill provides that property is eligible for the homestead property tax exemption if the property is owned by a limited liability company and occupied as a permanent residence by a member of the limited liability company.

[LD 981](#) *An Act to Require All Emergency Medical Services Persons to Be Trained in the Dispensing of Naloxone Hydrochloride* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This bill requires an emergency medical services person to be trained to dispense naloxone hydrochloride.

[LD 978](#) *An Act to Maintain Legislative Oversight of the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program by Requiring Major Substantive Rulemaking* (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor) This bill removes the provision of law that repeals the requirement that major substantive provisionally adopted rules relating to the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and submitted for legislative review may not be finally adopted by the department unless legislation authorizing final adoption of those rules is enacted into law.

[LD 975](#) *An Act to Align Maine's Elevator Safety Laws with Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Standards* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Crockett of Portland) This bill requires that, for newly constructed buildings or for new additions that extend beyond the exterior wall of an existing building, passenger elevators conform to the International Building Code standard, as adopted in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, regarding elevator car accommodations for an ambulance stretcher.

[LD 972](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Evaluate Strategies for Improving the Returnable Beverage Container Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to convene a stakeholder group to develop recommendations amending the provisions of law governing the recycling of returnable beverage containers and to submit those recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which is authorized to report out legislation.

[LD 966](#) *An Act to Align the Automobile Title Requirements with Those of Antique Automobiles* (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales) Current law provides that vehicles with a model year

prior to 1995 are not required to have a certificate of title. This bill includes under this exemption all vehicles more than 25 years old, which is the same standard as antique automobiles.

[LD 965](#) *An Act to Subsidize Hydroelectric Power* (Sponsored by Rep. Adams of Lebanon) This concept draft bill would establish a program to subsidize and incentivize hydroelectric power.

DEAD

[LD 964](#) *An Act to Eliminate the Paint Stewardship Assessment Paid by Consumers* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Underwood of Presque Isle) This bill eliminates the paint stewardship assessment, which is the amount added to the purchase price of architectural paint sold in the State to cover the cost of collecting, transporting and processing post-consumer paint under a paint stewardship program, and instead requires the State to pay the costs. It also changes from 120 days to 90 days the time within which the Commissioner of Environmental Protection must determine whether to approve a plan to establish a paint stewardship program. **DEAD**

[LD 962](#) *An Act to Lower the Amount of Seized Currency in a Criminal Asset Forfeiture over Which the Currency May Be Transferred to the Federal Government* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) This bill decreases from \$100,000 to \$15,000 the amount of seized currency over which a state governmental agency, county or municipality may enter into an agreement to transfer or refer to a federal agency seized property of an owner convicted of a crime.

[LD 961](#) *An Act Regarding the Right to Request Flexible Working Arrangements for Employees* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) This bill allows employees to request a flexible working arrangement from an employer up to twice per year. An employer must consider a request and discuss the flexible working arrangement with the employee in good faith. The employee and employer may discuss alternative arrangements to the flexible working arrangement. The employer is not required to grant the employee's request for a flexible working arrangement.

[LD 960](#) *An Act Regarding the Limits on Civil Remedies Available Under the Maine Human Rights Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Bradstreet of Vassalboro) This bill provides that in cases of intentional employment discrimination with respondents who have more than 14 employees, the sum of compensatory damages awarded under certain provisions of the Maine Human Rights Act or any other provision of law for future pecuniary losses, emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of enjoyment of life, other nonpecuniary losses and the amount of punitive damages awarded under certain provisions of the act and any other provision of law may not exceed specified limits. **DEAD**

[LD 959](#) *An Act to Prohibit Food Waste by Grocery Stores* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill) This bill provides that, beginning January 1, 2024, a grocery store may not dispose of food

waste or surplus food at a waste-to-energy facility or landfill. Instead, the bill requires that a grocery store ensure that such food waste or surplus food is donated to food banks, soup kitchens, shelters, and other entities for feeding people; diverted for use as animal feed; or delivered to a composting facility for energy recovery through digestion, as input for other waste utilization technologies or for the creation of soil amendments through composting. **DEAD**

[LD 957](#) *An Act Requiring Water Bottle Filling Stations in New and Renovated Public Schools* (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth) This bill requires new public schools and public schools undergoing renovations to be equipped with water bottle filling stations and authorizes students to possess refillable water bottles.

[LD 951](#) *An Act to Amend the State Education Funding Formula to Create Equity Between Municipalities by Adding Median Income to the Formula* (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland) This bill amends the calculation of the property fiscal capacity used in determining a municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 so that the land valuation and median income of a municipality are given equal weight. **DEAD**

[LD 949](#) *An Act to Protect Workers from Employer Surveillance* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor) This bill prohibits employer surveillance unless the surveillance is strictly necessary for employee health and safety or the security of the employer, with certain limitations. It requires employers to provide, upon a verifiable request by an employee, data collected on the employee and certain information regarding that data. It specifies that an employer must provide notice to its employees prior to beginning employer surveillance. It provides that an employee has a private right of action.

[LD 941](#) *An Act Facilitating the Efforts of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority and the Town of Brunswick to Design and Carry Out Improvements to the Storm Water System and Other Infrastructure at the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) This concept draft bill would direct the State to establish a plan to replace, repair and upgrade critical conventional and environmental infrastructure throughout the former Brunswick Naval Air Station for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations and the former naval air station's flora and fauna. The bill proposes to identify and establish a state-level funding stream to facilitate the execution of the State's plan, as well as provide the Town of Brunswick and the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority any resources and legal authority necessary to facilitate the execution of any planning efforts.

[LD 936](#) *An Act to Require Disclosure of Pay Ranges and Record Keeping of Pay History* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor) This bill requires employers that have more than 10 employees to include the range of pay on any employment posting and requires employers with less than 10 employees to disclose the range of pay upon request. The bill also requires employers upon request to disclose the range of pay to an existing employee and to retain the

payment history of each employee for the duration of employment and for three years after termination of employment.

[LD 933](#) *An Act Requiring Proof of a Motorcycle License Endorsement or Learner's Permit in Order to Register a Motorcycle* (Sponsored by Rep. Paul of Winterport) This bill prohibits a person from registering a motorcycle without proof that the person has been issued a license or learner's permit specifically for the operation of a motorcycle. **DEAD**

[LD 931](#) *An Act to Expand the State's Workforce by Supporting the Transition from Incarceration to Employment* (Sponsored by Rep. Sayre of Kennebunk Cty.) This concept draft bill would direct the State Workforce Board to prepare a plan expanding the State's current workforce development programming for incarcerated persons and persons reentering the community after incarceration in consultation with the Department of Corrections and the Department of Labor in calendar year 2023. The responsibility for execution of this plan would rest with those departments beginning January 1, 2024.

[LD 928](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment* (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco) This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to grant the people of the State a right to a clean and healthy environment and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, and healthful qualities of the environment.

[LD 925](#) *An Act to Allow the Baileyville Utilities District to Disconnect Water Service for a Customer's Failure to Pay for Sewer Service Provided by the Town of Baileyville* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.) This bill allows the Baileyville Utilities District to disconnect water service for a customer's failure to pay for sewer service provided by the Town of Baileyville.

[LD 922](#) *An Act to Clarify Required Disclosure of Personally Identifying Information for Certain Nominating Petitions* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin) This bill requires a candidate to provide a municipality of residence and removes the requirement to provide a place of residence on primary petitions and nonparty nomination petitions for a federal office. The bill also provides that the candidate consent for primary and nonparty candidates must redact the place of residence of a candidate for a federal office when that consent is made available as a public record.

[LD 919](#) *An Act to Facilitate Employment in the Field of Emergency Medical Services* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.) This concept draft bill would facilitate employment in the field of emergency medical services.

[LD 918](#) *An Act to Decrease the Minimum Age to Operate a School Bus* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This bill changes from 21 years of age to 18 years the age at which a person may be issued a school bus operator endorsement. **DEAD**

[LD 917](#) *An Act to Validate Certain Proceedings Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds and Notes by the City of Rockland (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland) This bill validates the referendum conducted in the City of Rockland on November 8, 2022, which authorizes the city to issue bonds or notes of the city in an amount not to exceed \$32.4 million to finance roads, sidewalks and storm water improvements and projects, and to permanently close the city landfill.

February 28, 2023

[LD 913](#) *An Act to Support First Responders* (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham) This concept draft bill would support first responders.

[LD 912](#) *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Restore Historic Community Buildings* (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Waterford) This bond bill issues \$25 million to restore historic community buildings, with funds being issued contingent on a 50% local match requirement from either private or nonprofit sources and administered by the Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

[LD 911](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Certain Law Enforcement Interactions and Tools for Determining Residency During Conflict Resolution* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford) This concept draft bill would amend the law governing law enforcement interactions when the participants in a dispute reside in the same place and provide for additional tools to law enforcement for determining residency during conflict resolution.

[LD 910](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws of Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham) This concept draft bill would amend the laws of Maine.

[LD 905](#) *An Act to Expand Energy Choice Through Municipal Utilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland) This bill limits the approval by the Public Utilities Commission of a municipal power district's or a rural electrification cooperative's proposal to furnish service in a municipality in which an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility is already furnishing service to the a determination that there is no proven net harm to other ratepayers in the utility losing customers and the municipal power district or cooperative was created in conformance with applicable law. The bill also specifies that a utility furnishing service in communities where a municipal power district or cooperative is created and approved must facilitate the transfer of property and be provided just compensation, as determined by the commission, for that property. **DEAD**

[LD 894](#) *An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor* (Sponsored by Sen. Harrington of York Cty.) This bill prohibits municipalities from barring an individual or entity from installing a heating or energy system or engaging the services of an energy distributor of choice unless the prohibition is otherwise authorized by statute.

[LD 892](#) *An Act to Improve School Safety and Preparedness Through Comprehensive Health and Safety and Emergency Management Planning* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This bill amends existing law by requiring that a school comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan approved by a school board meet nationally recognized practices and be developed collaboratively with appropriate stakeholders. It also requires that any steering committee formed by the school board as part of the plan update and approval process include a school employee designated by that employee's school as having oversight regarding school safety.

[LD 891](#) *An Act to Protect Due Process for Certain Public Sector Employees* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This bill requires state agencies, including the University of Maine System, to provide written notice prior to suspending an employee without pay or dismissing an employee. The bill also provides the employee an opportunity to meet with the employer prior to suspension or dismissal.

February 24, 2023

[LD 886](#) *An Act to Allow Clerks to Issue Absentee Ballots After the 3rd Business Day Before Election Day to Voters Who Have a Nonphysical Disability and Voters Who Support a Person with a Disability* (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono) This bill expands the list of persons who may receive an absentee ballot after the third business day before election day to include persons with any disability, rather than persons with a physical disability as current law provides, and to include persons providing volunteer or uncompensated care to a person with a disability.

[LD 880](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Initiate a Service Development Plan for Commuter and Passenger Train Service Between Portland and the Lewiston and Auburn Area* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to initiate a service development plan for commuter and passenger train service between Portland and the Lewiston and Auburn area. The plan must indicate the locations of railway stations in towns along the corridor route and include an environmental impact statement for each station site. The bill also directs the department to submit a progress report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by January 15, 2024. **DEAD**

[LD 879](#) *An Act to Place Restrictions on Candidate Speech and Clothing, Buttons and Other Items at Voting Places* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill clarifies that

a candidate or a candidate's representative may greet voters at the polling place, provided neither states the name of the office being sought or wears a button or apparel or carries a sign displaying the candidate's name and office. The bill further clarifies that persons at the polling place for the sole purpose of voting may wear clothing that displays the name of a candidate or campaign message, provided the apparel does not directly advocate for passage or defeat of a candidate or ballot initiative.

[LD 875](#) *An Act to Allow Mini-trucks to Be Operated on Roads in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This bill allows mini-trucks to be operated on public ways. The mini-truck, a 4-wheeled motor vehicle with a maximum speed of 60 miles per hour and a maximum weight of 2,000 pounds, must be registered and meet the same inspection standards as other motor vehicles to operate on a public way.

[LD 866](#) *An Act to Improve Visibility and Restore the Beauty of Maine's Roadways by Limiting Signs in the Public Right-of-way* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.) This bill replaces statewide requirements for the placement and duration of installation of temporary signs within the public right-of-way with a provision that imposes the requirements only if signs are allowed by an ordinance or rule adopted by a municipality or land use planning committee.

DEAD

[LD 862](#) *An Act to Move Jurisdiction over Railroad Lines from the Department of Transportation to an Independent Rail Authority* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This concept draft bill would move jurisdiction over railroad lines from the Department of Transportation to an independent rail authority.

[LD 861](#) *An Act to Identify the Canadian Pacific Railway Railroad Lines from Hermon Station Through Brownville and Jackman to Quebec and Montreal as a Major Corridor and to Fund a Feasibility Study* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This concept draft bill would identify the Canadian Pacific Railway railroad lines from Hermon Station through Brownville and Jackman to Quebec City and Montreal in the Province of Quebec, Canada as a major corridor and fund a feasibility study.

[LD 860](#) *An Act to Identify the Railroad Lines from Portland to Bangor as a Major Corridor and to Fund a Feasibility Study* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This concept draft bill would identify the railroad lines from Portland to Bangor as a major corridor and fund a feasibility study.

February 21, 2023

[LD 856](#) *An Act to Reduce Recurring Workplace Harassment and Provide Consequences for Serial Offenders* (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono) This concept draft bill would reduce recurring workplace harassment and provide consequences for serial offenders.

[LD 853](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to Housing* (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to declare that all individuals have a natural, inherent, and unalienable right to housing.

[LD 851](#) *An Act to Clarify That Maine Holds Title to Its Intertidal Lands* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) This bill clarifies that the State owns title to intertidal land not already filled to facilitate marine commerce. **DEAD**

[LD 847](#) *An Act to Support Law Enforcement in Interactions with Individuals with Histories of Trauma* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement a program to provide law enforcement officers with trauma-informed training and to work with municipalities to implement a program to employ clinical social workers embedded within municipal police departments.

[LD 842](#) *An Act to Strengthen the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority by Inviting Participation on the Board of Directors by and Negotiating for Funding from the State of New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) This bill allows the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to negotiate with New Hampshire and Massachusetts over funding for the operation of the Amtrak Downeaster passenger rail service.

[LD 839](#) *An Act to Allow On-premises Consumption of Adult Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Products on the Premises of Cannabis Store Licensees* (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor) This bill authorizes the on-premises consumption of adult use cannabis and products in a separate area within the retail sales building, provided that: (1) the municipality and the state both approve the on-premises consumption; (2) products meet applicable packaging, labeling and health and safety requirements; and (3) age restrictions and security requirements are met.

[LD 835](#) *An Act to Phase Out the Income Tax* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland) This bill phases out the income tax over five years beginning in 2024 and requires state department budgets be reduced proportionally. **DEAD**

[LD 832](#) *An Act to Sustain the Medical Use of Cannabis Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland) This concept draft bill would sustain the State's program for the medical use of cannabis.

[LD 827](#) *An Act to Allow Employees to Request Flexible Work Schedules* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor) This bill provides that an employee of state government or a private employer may request a flexible work schedule for up to six months at a time and that the employer may not discipline an employee who requests a flexible work schedule. The bill provides that the flexible work schedule continues in six-month increments unless the employer provides written notice to the employee.

[LD 826](#) *An Act to Prohibit the Disposal of Certain Solar Panels in the State and to Require Bonds to Cover Disposal Costs* (Sponsored by Rep. Lemelin of Chelsea) This bill amends the laws regulating the decommissioning of solar energy developments to include the recycling or disposal of the solar panels and a requires individuals responsible for decommissioning to demonstrate financial assurance in the form of a performance or surety bond. The bill also prohibits the disposal of heavy metal-containing commercial solar panels in the State by burial, incineration, deposit or dumping.

[LD 823](#) *An Act to Reimburse the Town of Charleston for Expenses Related to the Mountain View Correctional Facility* (Sponsored by Rep. Foster of Dexter) This concept draft bill would enact measures to reimburse the town of Charleston for expenses related to the state-owned Mountain View Correctional Facility

[LD 819](#) *An Act to Reduce the Penalty for Operating a Motor Vehicle Under a Suspended License in Certain Situations* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) This bill makes the default penalty for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended or revoked license a traffic infraction unless the license was suspended as a result of an OUI.

[LD 818](#) *An Act to Establish an Emergency Fuel Reserve* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo) This concept draft bill would establish an emergency fuel reserve for up to 90 days of fuel that the State could use in an emergency event, such as when the cost of heating oil for state residents is excessive.

[LD 813](#) *Resolve, to Study Methods to Increase Access to Medication-assisted Treatment for Substance Use Disorder* (Sponsored by Rep. Eaton of Deer Isle) This resolve directs the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to convene a working group to study the feasibility of and barriers to establishing a mobile methadone clinic in the State and other methods to increase local access to medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorder. It requires the office to submit a report related to the study, including recommendations and any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 6, 2023, which is authorized submit legislation in 2024. **DEAD**

[LD 812](#) *An Act to Assist Clerks in Facilitating Elections and to Improve Access to In-person Absentee Voting for Working People by Increasing Time for Absentee Ballot Processing and In-*

person Voting (Sponsored by Rep. Skold of Portland) This bill requires municipalities with populations greater than 7,000 to provide for in-person absentee voting for eight hours on a Saturday and Sunday 18 days before the election. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to develop the rules necessary to provide grants to fund the expansion of hours of up to \$50,000. Municipalities with populations under the population threshold may provide for Saturday and Sunday in-person voting and qualify for grants of up to \$40,000. The bill also requires members of the public to make a written request to inspect absentee ballots prior to processing no later than 5 p.m. the day before the processing is scheduled to begin. Under current statutes, notice must be provided by 9 a.m. on the day of the processing. **DEAD**

[LD 809](#) *An Act to Allow Regional School Units with School Choice to Opt Out of School Choice* (Sponsored by Rep. Dill of Old Town) This bill allows a regional school unit whose reorganization plan includes school choice for grade levels that had school choice in the prior school administrative units to hold a community referendum to amend the reorganization plan to opt out of the school choice provisions. The amended plan must include a transition period for students who are exercising the school choice option at the time of the referendum.

[LD 808](#) *An Act to Amend Laws Affecting Tuition at State-approved Schools* (Sponsored by Rep. Davis of East Machias) This concept draft bill would create a fund to reimburse school administrative units that pay tuition to state-approved schools after the October student counts are taken by the Department of Education.

[LD 807](#) *An Act to Create the Small Communities Tourism Fund* (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Calais) This bill creates the Small Communities Tourism Fund, within the Office of Tourism to issue grants to small communities to promote tourism and events. The program is to be funded by appropriations, allocations and contributions from private and public sources. The office is directed to adopt the rules necessary to implement the program. **DEAD**

[LD 803](#) *An Act Regarding Taxation* (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor) This concept draft bill would make changes to the laws governing taxation.

[LD 801](#) *An Act to Require Municipalities to Obtain Housing Units for Residents Experiencing Homelessness* (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor) This bill requires the municipal officers or the officers' designee of a municipality to obtain or arrange for and maintain at least one housing unit within the municipality for every 1,000 residents of the municipality to provide living spaces for persons experiencing homelessness. **DEAD**

[LD 799](#) *An Act to Fund Patrol Positions for the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office* (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor) The bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$1.2 million beginning in fiscal year 2024 to the Department of Public Safety for the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office to hire six new patrol positions.

[LD 797](#) *Resolve, to Authorize the Conveyance of Real Property to the Capitol Area Recreation Association* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridge of Augusta) This resolve directs the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey by quitclaim deed to the Capitol Area Recreation Association for \$1 on July 1, 2024 all of the State's interest in a parcel comprising playing fields and other community recreation areas along Piggery Road.

[LD 793](#) *An Act to Support Municipal Services with Revenue Sharing* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill provides that municipalities may elect to receive state-municipal revenue sharing in an amount equal to 10% of the sales or use tax collected within the municipality. **DEAD**

[LD 791](#) *An Act to Support the Maintenance of Historic Fort George in Castine* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.) This bill provides \$1 million in General Fund appropriations in FY 2024 to the town of Castine to fund the ongoing maintenance, preservation and promotion of the Fort George historic site.

[LD 787](#) *An Act to Create the New Maine Resident Service Coordination Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This bill establishes within the Department of Economic and Community Development the New Maine Resident Service Coordination Program, to serve as a centralized resource to coordinate municipal efforts to connect persons who have recently moved to the State with housing and job opportunities.

[LD 784](#) *An Act to Establish Welfare Work Requirements for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill requires able-bodied adults without dependents enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the MaineCare program or a municipal general assistance program for longer than three months to either: (1) work an average of 20 or more hours per week; (2) participate in an employment or training program or conduct a job search for an average of 20 hours or more per week; or (3) participate in a placement with public or private sector employers, including as a volunteer.

[LD 783](#) *An Act to Protect Certain Private Emergency Services Personnel from Liability Under the Maine Tort Claims Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.) This bill specifies that a person who is a private firefighter, a private emergency medical services employee or an employee of another private service that provides an emergency response is an employee for purposes of the Maine Tort Claims Act only under certain conditions.

[LD 776](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish the Right to Bodily Autonomy* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This resolution

proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine by declaring that every person has a natural, inherent, and inalienable right to bodily autonomy.

[LD 775](#) *An Act to Require and Standardize Labeling of Water Treatment Equipment* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This bill requires water treatment company employees to place a label on installed equipment, which includes the name of the company, employee installing the equipment, date of installation, plumbing permit number, condition of water to be treated, any safety precaution or warnings, and documentation of subsequent service-related calls.

[LD 772](#) *An Act to Establish a Process to Vest Rights for Land Use Permit Applicants* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This bill gives an applicant for a land use permit the right to have a municipality or the Maine Land Use Planning Commission review the application solely based on any orders, regulations, ordinances, rules, expiration dates, fees or other requirements in effect at the time the original application for the land use permit is filed for review.

[LD 770](#) *An Act to Prohibit Ballot Harvesting by Preventing a 3rd Person from Returning More than 2 Absentee Ballots per Day* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill prohibits a third person from returning to a municipal clerk's office more than two absentee ballots per day. **DEAD**

[LD 768](#) *An Act to Authorize State Political Parties to Opt Out of Ranked-choice Voting for Primary Elections* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill allows a political party to opt out of ranked-choice voting for the party's primary election if the determination to opt out is made by a vote of the party's convention and incorporated into the party's rules. **DEAD**

[LD 766](#) *An Act Regarding the Residence of Incarcerated Persons for Voting Purposes* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) For voting registration purposes, this bill allows the residence of an incarcerated person to be the municipality where that person is incarcerated, provided the individual has been in the correctional facility for at least six months prior to the election. **DEAD**

February 16, 2023

[LD 762](#) *An Act to Authorize Burials with Biodegradable Containers, Including Tree Pods* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill authorizes the burial of biodegradable containers, such as a casket or an urn, containing human remains or cremated remains, including tree pods, which are containers buried directly underneath the roots of a tree. **DEAD**

[LD 756](#) *An Act to Provide Funding for Positions in the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office* (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.) The bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$500,000 beginning in fiscal year 2023-24 to the Department of Public Safety for the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office to hire five new patrol positions.

[LD 754](#) *Resolve, Directing the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission to Examine Restoring Passenger Rail from Boston to Montreal* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This resolve directs the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission to examine restoring passenger rail from Boston, Massachusetts to Montreal, Quebec, Canada and to submit a report with their findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by December 6, 2023.

[LD 750](#) *An Act to Eliminate the Limits on Candidates' Speech at the Polls* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) Under current law, candidates for office are allowed at polling places to communicate with voters, provided the candidate does not attempt to influence a voter, state the name of the office being sought, or ask for a person's vote. This bill removes those limitations. **DEAD**

[LD 748](#) *An Act to Strengthen the Due Process Rights of Persons in Law Enforcement Custody* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This bill amends the Maine Civil Rights Act to provide that a person who is placed under arrest, in custody, under interrogation or temporarily detained by a law enforcement officer and who is not warned by the law enforcement officer of the person's privilege against self-incrimination and the person's right to the assistance of legal counsel may institute and prosecute in the person's name and on the person's behalf a civil action for legal or equitable relief against the law enforcement officer for failure to provide such warnings.

[LD 738](#) *An Act to Establish a Paid Family and Medical Leave System* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would require the development and implementation of a paid family and medical leave system.

[LD 735](#) *An Act to Require the State to Hold a Public Hearing in a Municipality Before the State Constructs a Solar Project in That Municipality* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This bill requires the State to hold a public hearing in a municipality where a solar energy project on property owned by the State is planned to be located prior to commencing construction on the project.

[LD 734](#) *An Act to Authorize the Treasurer of State and Municipalities to Invest in Gold, Silver and Other Precious Metals* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill allows

the investment in gold, silver or other precious metals by the Treasurer of State and by municipalities as part of investments lawfully allowed by municipalities.

[LD 733](#) *An Act to Require an Annual Itemized Statement of Benefits for Public Employees and Retirees* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This bill requires public employers to provide current and retired employees with an annual statement including: (1) employee benefits accrued or received; (2) all pension benefits accrued or received; (3) total amount of employer contributions made from funds appropriated by the Legislature to the retirement system; and (4) the total amount of employer contributions made from funds appropriated by the Legislature to the applicable health insurance plan. Additionally, the Maine Public Employees Retirement System is directed to provide public employers with pension information. **DEAD**

[LD 729](#) *Resolve, Regarding Traffic Lights in Turner* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to install a traffic light at the intersection of Route 4 and Weston Road in the Town of Turner and conduct a study one year after the installation to determine if a traffic light is needed. **DEAD**

[LD 727](#) *An Act Regarding Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders Injured in the Line of Duty* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.) This bill amends the Maine Workers' Compensation law to provide that if an employee who is employed as a first responder is injured and is also employed at an additional place of employment, the employee's average weekly wages are computed by combining the wages, earnings or salary received by the employee from each place of employment. **DEAD**

[LD 721](#) *An Act to Preserve Historic Buildings and Promote Affordable Housing* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would preserve historic buildings and promote affordable housing.

[LD 718](#) *An Act to Increase the Beneficial Reuse of Construction and Demolition Debris* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) This concept draft bill would enact measures to increase the beneficial reuse of construction and demolition debris. The bill proposes to clarify definitions used in the laws governing the beneficial reuse of construction and demolition debris and to amend compliance standards.

[LD 714](#) *An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) This bill amends Maine's Good Samaritan laws concerning drug-related medical assistance by adding possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, unlawful trafficking in scheduled drugs and unlawfully furnishing scheduled drugs to the list of crimes that do not qualify for immunity under those laws.

[LD 709](#) *An Act to Support Home Share Programming for Seniors* (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco) This concept draft bill would support home share programming for seniors.

[LD 689](#) *An Act to Study the Construction of a Nuclear Power Facility in the State* (Sponsored by Rep. Walker of Naples) This concept draft bill would establish a working group to study and report on the opportunity for and the benefits of and barriers to the construction of a nuclear power facility in Maine to provide a source of clean and reliable energy. **DEAD**

[LD 685](#) *An Act to Codify That Freedom of Access Act and Freedom of Information Act Requests Are Not Hate Crimes* (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris) This bill clarifies that a request for public records under the Freedom of Access Act or the federal Freedom of Information Act is not a violation of the law prohibiting interference with constitutional and civil rights, commonly known as hate crimes. **DEAD**

[LD 679](#) *An Act Regarding Animals Abandoned by Tenants* (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast) This bill requires a tenant to designate an authorized person to retrieve an animal from the tenant's rental unit in the event of the tenant's death or incapacitation or abandonment of the animal. The bill also requires the landlord to surrender the animal to an animal shelter, an animal control officer, or a police officer if the authorized person fails to retrieve the animal.

[LD 675](#) *An Act to Improve the Convenience of Public Restrooms* (Sponsored by Rep. Zager of Portland) This bill requires that a newly constructed public venue or a venue undergoing major renovations that has a capacity of over 100 individuals to include restroom facilities at a ratio of at least 55% women's occupancy, no more than 35% men's occupancy and at least 10% any gender occupancy.

[LD 673](#) *An Act to Direct the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a Nonresidential Law Enforcement Training Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Lajoie of Lewiston) This bill requires the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to develop and implement a nonresidential law enforcement training program.

[LD 671](#) *An Act to Factor Conservative Projections of Sea Level Rise into State Planning on Climate Change* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) This bill requires the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to ensure that state planning processes, including the development of public infrastructure, and resources made available to the public by the State that reference sea level rise in regard to climate change use a conservative sea level rise projection based on data released by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or based on another science-based and peer reviewed analysis of sea level change modeling. **DEAD**

[LD 670](#) *An Act to Protect Birds and Wildlife in the Construction and Maintenance of Public Buildings* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) This bill requires, by December 31, 2024,

the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to develop guidance regarding integration of bird and wildlife risk management into public improvements. The requirement does not apply to public buildings and sites or infrastructure determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

[LD 668](#) *An Act to Protect Maine Taxpayers by Requiring a Person to Be a United States Citizen to Receive General Assistance Benefits and to Ensure Municipal Compliance with Federal Immigration Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales) This bill requires a person to be a U.S. citizen to receive general assistance benefits. This bill also makes a municipality ineligible to receive general purpose aid for local schools, municipal general assistance and state-municipal revenue sharing if that municipality prohibits or restricts, formally or informally, the exchange of information with federal immigration authorities or any other federal, state or local government entity regarding the immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual or the maintenance of such information. **DEAD**

[LD 667](#) *An Act to Impose a Tax Surcharge on Certain Incomes* (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) This bill establishes an income tax surcharge of 3% on taxable income in excess of \$1million and 6% on taxable income in excess of \$10 million and requires that the revenue collected from the surcharge must be spent on public kindergarten to grade 12 education and rural economic development. **DEAD**

[LD 665](#) *An Act to Extend the Date by Which Compliance is Required for Affordable Housing Development, Increased Numbers of Dwelling Units and Accessory Dwelling Units* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich) This bill amends, from July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2025, the date by which laws must be implemented regarding affordable housing development, increased numbers of dwelling units and accessory dwelling units enacted by Public Law 2021, chapter 672. **DEAD**

[LD 662](#) *An Act to Prohibit Municipal Flavored Tobacco Product Bans on State-licensed Tobacco Retailers* (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor) This bill prohibits a municipality from adopting or enforcing an ordinance prohibiting a tobacco retailer from selling flavored tobacco products.

[LD 660](#) *Resolve, Naming a Pond in the Town of New Gloucester as MacDonald Pond* (Sponsored by Rep. Graham of North Yarmouth) This resolve names a pond in the Town of New Gloucester MacDonald Pond. **Finally Passed**

February 14, 2023

[LD 654](#) *Resolve, Directing the Finance Authority of Maine to Establish a Pilot Program to Encourage the Development of Accessory Dwelling Units* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This resolve directs the Finance Authority of Maine to establish a two-year pilot

program to encourage the development of accessory dwelling units in Maine. The program must buy down interest rates to levels below market rates for up to 100 community bank loans for accessory dwelling units until the program ends. The authority must submit annual reports to the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters regarding the usage of the program, the first such report to be made no later than November 6, 2024.

[LD 652](#) *An Act to Allow the Reinstatement of Certain Commercial Driver's Licenses* (Sponsored by President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This bill allows that a person whose commercial driver's license has been permanently suspended due to a second or subsequent failure to submit to a drug or alcohol test may after 10 years petition the Secretary of State for a review and reinstatement of that license for good cause shown.

[LD 651](#) *An Act to Amend the Standards for Manufactured Housing to Comply with United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Standards* (Sponsored by President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This bill amends the definition of "newer mobile homes" within the definition of "manufactured housing" to comply with United States Department of Housing and Urban Development standards for manufactured housing. **Passed to be Enacted**

[LD 648](#) *An Act to Address Staffing Shortages in Critical Public Safety Jobs Through Economic Incentives* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This bill appropriates \$10 million in FY 2024, to be equally split between a student loan forgiveness program and no-interest home mortgage program for local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services persons, dispatchers and public health workers. **DEAD**

[LD 646](#) *An Act to Provide Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This placeholder bill would make appropriations and allocations for the operations of state government.

[LD 645](#) *An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This placeholder bill would make supplemental appropriations and allocations for the expenditures of state government.

[LD 644](#) *An Act to Include Cats in the Laws Governing Animal Trespass* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) This bill amends the laws governing animal trespass to include trespass by cats. **DEAD**

[LD 640](#) *An Act to Update the Charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority* (Sponsored by Rep. Craven of Lewiston) This bill amends the charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority to reflect position changes, remove obsolete language, clarify

language regarding board members and make other changes to reflect the current operations of the authority.

[LD 638](#) *Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority to Study Strategies for Improving Abandoned Properties and Developing Housing Infrastructure* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford) This resolve directs the MaineHousing to study strategies for improving abandoned properties and recommend strategies for municipalities and regional organizations to create incentives for land improvements and to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business by December 1, 2024. **DEAD**

[LD 630](#) *An Act to Ensure Rural Law Enforcement Services in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Graham of North Yarmouth) This concept draft bill establishes measures to ensure that residents in the rural parts of the state receive adequate law enforcement services, including services provided through the Maine State Police and county sheriffs.

[LD 629](#) *An Act to Improve, Protect and Defend the Individual Civil Right to Bear Arms Through Exemption of Firearms and Ammunition from Taxation* (Sponsored by Rep. Ardell of Monticello) In part, this bill prohibits a municipality or a county officer from assessing a tax or fee on any firearms or ammunition sold or possessed in Maine.

[LD 627](#) *An Act to Promote Clean and Affordable Maine-sourced Bioenergy by Amending the Law Regarding Outdoor Wood Boilers and Outdoor Pellet Boilers* (Sponsored by Rep. Ardell of Monticello) This bill allows an outdoor wood boiler meeting a particulate matter emission limit of 0.32 24 pounds per million British Thermal Units heat output to be exempt from property setback requirements as long as it meets applicable stack height requirements under Department of Environmental Protection rules and prohibits the department from adopting rules that prohibit the emission of a smoke plume from an outdoor wood boiler. **DEAD**

[LD 624](#) *An Act to Prohibit Government Officials from Maintaining Records Related to Firearms Owners* (Sponsored by Rep. Ardell of Monticello) This bill prohibits the state and local governments from maintaining a comprehensive firearms registry, record or database that retains sufficient information to connect an individual to a firearm, including the name and address of the individual and the make, model, caliber or serial number of a firearm.

[LD 620](#) *An Act to Promote Free Trade by Preventing Municipalities from Prohibiting the Sale of Legal Goods* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft) This bill prevents a municipality from prohibiting a business, entity or individual from selling any product or offering any service that is otherwise permitted under state law and also prohibits a municipality from restricting the operation or licensure of a business or entity within that municipality based on the type of products or services that the business or entity plans to provide unless municipalities are provided with the authority to restrict that type of business or entity under state law. **DEAD**

[LD 611](#) *An Act to Create the Whole Home Repairs Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford) This concept draft bill would establish the Whole Home Repairs Program at MaineHousing to provide grants of up to \$15,000 to homeowners and forgivable loans of up to \$25,000 to certain landlords for the purpose of repairing homes and rental units, respectively, in order to make those homes and rental units eligible for weatherization programs.

[LD 609](#) *An Act to Ensure an Incarcerated Individual's Right to Make Free Telephone Calls Protected by Attorney-Client Privilege* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) This bill requires the Department of Corrections and county and municipal detention facilities to provide residents in detention facilities and jails free access to telephone calls protected by the attorney-client privilege during regular business hours and directs the chief administrative officer of each facility to draft, publish and implement guidelines governing access to free telephone calls.

[LD 607](#) *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Examine the Feasibility of Extending Interstate 95 to the St. John Valley* (Sponsored by Rep. Albert of Madawaska) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of extending Interstate 95 to the St. John Valley and report findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no later than December 6, 2023.

[LD 605](#) *An Act to Enhance Commuter-oriented Rail Service* (Sponsored by Rep. Skold of Portland) This concept draft bill would require the development and implementation of a program to enhance commuter-oriented service on rail lines.

[LD 602](#) *An Act to Provide Regional Support to Deliver State and Federal Programs to Cities and Towns in the State* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport) This concept draft bill would clarify and enhance the relationship between state agencies and regional planning commissions by providing: (1) direct resources to regional planning commissions for the development of municipal ordinances and the examination of regional suitability for new housing developments; (2) technical assistance through the existing regional planning commission structure to provide cities and towns access to federal and state programs for housing, land use and economic development; and (3) improved mapping and geographic information system support to accomplish state and regional goals.

[LD 601](#) *An Act to Reduce the Shortage of Municipal Emergency Medical Services Personnel by Removing Certain Vaccination Requirements* (Sponsored by Rep. Moriarty of Cumberland) This bill allows emergency medical services persons to provide treatment within the scope of their licenses without having been vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus or the influenza virus.

[LD 600](#) *An Act to Expand Availability of Naloxone Hydrochloride* (Sponsored by Rep. Craven of Lewiston) This bill allows an overdose prevention program, with the express consent of a

municipality, to provide and maintain naloxone hydrochloride in a visible and publicly accessible wall-mounted box or other container in municipal places to be used by a member of the public in response to an opioid-related drug overdose. The bill also provides immunity from criminal and civil liability to municipalities and overdose prevention programs for providing or maintaining the naloxone hydrochloride containers. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 71**

[LD 599](#) *An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) This bill provides \$1.2 million annually to fund support services for a transitional housing program in Portland.

[LD 598](#) *An Act to Require a Vehicle Operator to Notify an Owner or Law Enforcement Officer of an Accident Involving a Dog, a Cat or Livestock* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich) This bill makes it a civil violation for an operator of a motor vehicle to fail to report an accident with a cat, a dog or livestock to a law enforcement officer or to the owner or custodian of the animal by the quickest means available. The bill also provides that three or more violations within the previous five-year period is a Class E crime.

[LD 596](#) *An Act to Exempt Certain Conservation Lots from Municipal Subdivision Review* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.) This bill amends the laws governing subdivisions to provide that, unless the intent of a transferor is to avoid the objectives of those laws, the division of a tract or parcel of land accomplished by the transfer of any interest in the land to a holder does not create a lot or lots provided the transferred interest, as expressed by conservation easement, binding agreement, declaration of trust or otherwise, is to be permanently held for conservation purposes, including: (1) retaining or protecting the natural, scenic or open space; (2) ensuring the availability of the land for agricultural, forest, recreational or open space use; (3) protecting natural resources; or (4) maintaining or enhancing air quality or water quality. Under the terms of the bill, a "holder" means a governmental body empowered to hold an interest in real property or a nonprofit corporation or charitable trust with related natural resources protection purposes or powers. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 79**

[LD 588](#) *An Act to Promote Public Safety and Retain Essential First Responders by Funding the Maine Length of Service Award Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) This bill provides \$2.5 million annually to the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to provide length of service awards to eligible volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel. **On Appropriations Table**

[LD 584](#) *An Act to Permit the Conduct of Open Air Cremation at Designated Sites* (Sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.) This bill allows a nonprofit corporation to conduct open air cremations, provided certain conditions are met, including receiving approval from the municipality where the cremations will take place, as well as providing fire truck access to the pyre. **DEAD**

[LD 583](#) *An Act to Provide for Municipalities to Allow Grocery Stores up to 10,000 Square Feet to Open on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas* (Sponsored by Sen. Lyford of Penobscot Cty.) This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances allowing grocery stores with no more than 10,000 square feet of interior customer selling space to be open on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. **DEAD**

[LD 581](#) *An Act to Assist Municipal Shellfish Conservation Programs* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This bill provides that a municipal shellfish management committee may not be assessed an application fee for a limited-purpose aquaculture license.

[LD 577](#) *An Act to Increase Availability of Election Information on Local Government Websites* (Sponsored by Sen. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.) This bill requires the Secretary of State to develop and maintain a web page on its publicly accessible website containing general information on state and local elections, including links to related municipal websites and webpages.

[LD 572](#) *An Act to Remove the 5 Cent Fee for Bags in Retail Stores* (Sponsored by Rep. Lemelin of Chelsea) This bill removes the 5¢ fee currently required when a retail establishment provides a recycled paper bag, or a reusable bag made of plastic to bag products at the point of sale. **DEAD**

[LD 571](#) *An Act to Develop Maine's Entry-level Workforce* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison) This concept draft bill would amend statutes and relevant rules that inhibit or prevent individuals who are 16 or 17 years of age from entering the workforce. **DEAD**

February 9, 2023

[LD 563](#) *An Act to Assert State Sovereignty over Ocean Waters up to 12 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill provides that the state of Maine owns and may exercise jurisdiction over and control all waters, and all submerged lands lying under those waters, within the rise and fall of the tide seaward 12 nautical miles. **DEAD**

[LD 560](#) *An Act Regarding County Sheriff Vehicle Registration Plates* (Sponsored by Rep. Costain of Plymouth) This bill shifts from the Secretary of State to the county sheriff the authority to design county law enforcement registration plates. **DEAD**

[LD 556](#) *An Act Concerning Bureau of Motor Vehicles Fees, Fines and Driver's License Reinstatement* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor) This concept draft bill would exempt certain

individuals from the payment motor vehicle fees and fines, provided the Secretary of State determined that the amount assessed created an excessive financial hardship.

[LD 555](#) *An Act to Increase the Number of Mature Plants Allowed for the Home Cultivation of Cannabis* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland) This bill increases from three to six the number of mature cannabis plants allowed for home cultivation under the adult use program.

[LD 554](#) *An Act to Continue the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Shagoury of Hallowell) This bill provides \$10 million in FY 2024 to continue the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program. **DEAD**

[LD 551](#) *An Act to Strengthen Maine Citizens' Second Amendment Rights by Allowing the Discharge of Firearms on Private Property That Is Within 500 Feet of School Property in Certain Circumstances* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner) This bill amends the law prohibiting the discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of public school property to provide an exception for the discharge of a firearm by a person residing on private property for the purposes of self-defense or in order to protect the person's residence.

[LD 548](#) *An Act to Amend the Duties of County Sheriffs* (Sponsored by Rep. Costain of Plymouth) This bill describes the law enforcement, corrections and court related responsibilities of county sheriffs. **DEAD**

[LD 536](#) *An Act to Provide Natural Organic Reduction Facilities for Maine Residents for the Conversion of Human Remains to Soil* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) This bill provides for the treatment of human remains by natural organic reduction as an alternative to burial in a casket or cremation.

[LD 534](#) *An Act to Allow Commercial Driver's License Holders Who Are 18 to 20 Years of Age to Haul Hazardous Materials Intrastate* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Guilford) This bill allows a person who is 18 years of age or older and holds a valid commercial driver's license to obtain a hazardous materials endorsement to haul hazardous materials intrastate. **DEAD**

[LD 530](#) *An Act to Facilitate the Installation of Safe Haven Baby Boxes at Hospitals, Law Enforcement Facilities and Fire Departments* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Waterville) This bill repeals the rule-making requirement for the provision of law regarding the safe design, installation and use of safe haven baby boxes.

[LD 529](#) *An Act to Remove the Annual Filing Requirement in the Property Tax Stabilization Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan) This bill repeals the annual application provision in the property tax stabilization law and requires an individual to reapply for the benefit when establishing a new homestead and to notify the municipality of a change of homestead. **DEAD**

[LD 528](#) *An Act to Improve Road Safety for Waste and Recycling Collection Employees* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Waterville) This bill adds business vehicles used to transport refuse, garbage, compost, recycling or trash to the law requiring individuals attempting to pass certain vehicles to do so in a nonadjacent lane when possible or at a careful and prudent speed if the vehicles are using their authorized lights. The bill also clarifies that business vehicles used to transport compost or recycling may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber light. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 68**

[LD 527](#) *An Act to Allow Municipalities to Create Bicycle and Pedestrian Zones with Reduced Speed Limits* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) This bill would allow municipalities to create bicycle and pedestrian zones in which the speed limit is 25 miles per hour.

[LD 526](#) *An Act to Provide Funding to Emergency Medical Services Organizations* (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$25 million in FY 2024 to the Department of Public Safety targeting emergency medical services organizations at immediate risk of failing and leaving their service areas without access to adequate emergency medical services.

[LD 524](#) *An Act Requiring the Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in New Commercial and Multifamily Parking Lot Construction* (Sponsored by Rep. Runte of York) This concept draft bill would require: (1) all new multifamily housing of more than five units to have at least 15% of off-street parking spaces wired for electric vehicle charging; and (2) all other new construction, except for single-family homes and retailers that have fewer than 25 parking spaces, to have at least 5% of parking spaces wired for electric vehicle charging

[LD 522](#) *An Act to Require That Motor Vehicles Be Clear of Snow When Operated on Public Ways* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Waterville) This bill prohibits a person from operating on a public way a vehicle with unsecured or naturally accumulated snow on top of the vehicle, except that a driver may not be cited for a violation during a snowstorm and the 48-hour period after the snowstorm that took place in the area.

[LD 519](#) *Resolve, to Conduct a Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project Using Electric School Buses* (Sponsored by Rep. Runte of York) This resolve requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to design and operate a two-year vehicle-to-grid pilot project to use electric school buses to store energy from the grid during times of low demand and discharge the stored energy to the grid during times of high demand. The pilot project must be operated at the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District and use the electric school buses acquired by the district through a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Efficiency Maine Trust is required to report on the results, including benefits to the climate and the potential for revenue.

[LD 518](#) *An Act to Allow Armed Security in Schools* (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews) This bill allows a school board to employ or engage by contract a school resource officer, private contractor or volunteer with applicable background and experience to provide armed security at a school within the school board's school administrative unit.

[LD 517](#) *An Act to Allow Maine Families to Deduct Vehicle Excise Taxes on State Income Tax Returns* (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris) This bill provides that a resident individual who claims as a dependent a child who has not attained 18 years of age is allowed to deduct the amount of excise tax paid for a motor vehicle on state income tax returns. **DEAD**

[LD 516](#) *An Act to Reduce Cancer Among Firefighters by Providing Grants for Safety Equipment* (Sponsored by Rep. Landry of Farmington) This bill creates the Firefighter Safety Equipment Fund and directs the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to provide grants to fire departments for the purchase and installation of diesel vehicle exhaust systems and heavy-duty extractor washing machines.

[LD 514](#) *Resolve, Directing the Office of the State Auditor to Report on Taxpayer Money Funding Maine Nonprofits* (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris) This resolve directs the State Auditor to compile a report that shows the amount of state revenues distributed to nonprofit corporations for the past 20 years, presented in five-year increments and ranked from highest to lowest and the percentage of the state budget that was disbursed to nonprofit corporations. **DEAD**

[LD 513](#) *An Act Regarding Overtime Protections for Certain Maine Workers* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) This bill annually raises the minimum salary used to determine whether an employee who works in an executive, administrative or professional is ineligible for overtime pay, which is currently 3,000 times the minimum hourly wages. As proposed, the minimum incrementally increases from 3,500 times the minimum wage in 2024 to 4,500 times the minimum wage in 2026. The bill also exempts nonprofit corporations that meet compensatory time agreements from the proposed provisions and directs the Department of Labor to adopt routine technical rules, including rules regarding compensatory time for employees of nonprofit corporations.

[LD 510](#) *An Act to Protect the Public Health by Allowing the Appointment of Associate Health Officers* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This bill allows the municipal officers to appoint one or more associate health officers tasked with assisting the local health officer (LHO) during an actual or threatened epidemic or other public health threat. The bill further provides that the associate works under the direct supervision of the LHO and must have knowledge of the community and appropriate education, training, or experience, as prescribed by the LHO. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 46**

[LD 508](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Review Its Environmental Permitting Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.) This resolve requires the Department of Environmental Protection to review its environmental permitting authority, including the laws governing site location of development and the Natural Resources Protection Act, to consider whether changes are necessary to better consider climate change, habitat connectivity, ecological resilience, and the coastal marine environment. It further directs the department to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources by December 6, 2023, which is authorized report out legislation.

February 7, 2023

[LD 502](#) *Resolve, Designating the Desert of Maine Overpass the Matthew MacMillan Overpass* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 5741 on Desert Road in the Town of Freeport the Matthew MacMillan Overpass. **Finally Passed; Resolves 2023, c. 1**

February 6, 2023

[LD 499](#) *An Act to Change Maine's Tax Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would change Maine's tax laws.

[LD 497](#) *An Act to Prohibit the Use of Personal Watercraft on Keyes Pond and Stearns Pond in the Town of Sweden* (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Waterford) This bill adds Keyes Pond and Stearns Pond in Sweden to the list of water bodies on which the operation of personal watercraft is prohibited.

[LD 496](#) *An Act to Address Solar Energy Development Decommissioning* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyle of Gorham) This concept draft bill would extend the decommissioning plan requirements for solar energy developments regulated under Title 35-A, chapter 34-D to similarly sized developments that began construction prior to October 1, 2021.

[LD 493](#) *An Act to Establish a Statewide Relinquished Firearms Inventory* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle) This concept draft bill would require the Department of Public Safety to establish and maintain a statewide inventory of firearms that are relinquished to law enforcement agencies in civil cases, with exception to the firearms stored as evidence in criminal cases.

DEAD

[LD 492](#) *An Act to Repurpose Vacant Shopping Mall and Retail Space to Mixed-use Housing and Retail* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) This concept draft bill would enact measures regarding the repurposing of vacant shopping malls and retail spaces into mixed-use housing and retail.

[LD 491](#) *Resolve, to Require the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Develop a Plan for Communication Regarding Certain Municipal Regulation* (Sponsored by Rep. Wood of Greene) This resolve directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to develop a plan to inform municipalities of the limits on the local regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping and the operation of watercraft, snowmobiles and ATVs and to coordinate with a statewide organization representing municipalities on a plan for disseminating the information. The department is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by January 1, 2024, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2024. **Passed to be Engrossed**

[LD 487](#) *An Act to Establish Coastal Waters and Submerged Lands Regional Planning Commissions* (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor) This bill establishes a coastal waters and submerged lands regional planning commission directed to: (1) develop and update a long-term water use plan for areas surrounding large bays or other coastal regions; (2) develop planning ordinances describing the allowable uses of bays or coastal regions, including resource protection, residential, maritime activities, fisheries, and small and medium industrial commercial developments; (3) support necessary research; and (4) monitor and enforce the provisions of the planning ordinance. The bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt applicable rules by July 1, 2024, and no later than one year after the adoption of the rules requires each municipality in areas surrounding large bays and other coastal regions to collaborate with similarly impacted communities to form a coastal waters and submerged lands regional commission. The bill also directs the department to adopt the required planning ordinance for use in that region if a regional commission fails to do so. **DEAD**

[LD 486](#) *An Act to Encourage Economic Development Through the Manufacture and Use of Marine Nuclear Power Modules* (Sponsored by Rep Campbell of Orrington) This concept draft bill would extend to manufacturers of nuclear power modules, also known as small modular reactors, the subsidies provided to solar and wind energy developers. **DEAD**

[LD 480](#) *An Act to Clarify Laws Regarding the Placement of Signs on Public Ways* (Sponsored by Rep. Newman of Belgrade) This bill requires that when the department or a municipality removes a sign located within the public way that is not temporary in nature to notify the owner that the sign has been removed and the reason for the removal. If a temporary sign is removed, the notice must also include instructions on how to install the sign in a manner that complies with the law. The bill also defines: (1) “noncommercial message” to include a sign that does not include a business name or logo, but may include a symbol pertaining to a product or service; (2) “control-of-access areas” as areas where an abutting property owner does not have direct access and to which all access is controlled by the Department of Transportation; and (3) “public safety hazard” as a sign placed or constructed in a manner that causes a danger of injury to the public traveling by vehicle. **DEAD**

[LD 478](#) *An Act to Improve Coastal Sand Dune Restoration Projects* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This bill amends the Natural Resources Protection Act to allow the Department of Environmental Protection to authorize through permit by rule a coastal sand dune system restoration project that uses allowable biodegradable materials as a stabilization cover for the planting of native dune vegetation as long as the project meets all other applicable requirements for a permit by rule.

[LD 477](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Education, Maine School Safety Center to Convene a Stakeholder Group to Develop Best Practices for Lockdown Drills and Allowing Parents to Opt Out of Lockdown Drills for Their Children* (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth) This resolve directs the Department of Education to convene a stakeholder group which includes a representatives of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, to develop best practices for lockdown drills to minimize the stress placed on students. The department is further directed to provide a status report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to report out related legislation in 2024.

[LD 474](#) *An Act to Improve Collaboration Between Mandatory Reporters and Law Enforcement in the Investigation of Alleged Child Abuse and Neglect* (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot) This bill requires that a person in charge of or member of the staff of a public or private medical institution, agency or facility who are mandatory reporters to disclose the same information reported to the Department of Health and Human Services to a law enforcement officer upon request of the officer. The bill also provides immunity for a person who makes a report of suspected abuse or neglect and who is participating in good faith in a law enforcement investigation or criminal justice proceeding relating to suspected abuse or neglect.

[LD 471](#) *An Act to Make Necessary Changes to State Law* (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham) This concept draft bill would make necessary changes to state law.

[LD 470](#) *An Act to Support Lead Abatement in Older Residential Properties* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston) This bill provides for an ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$1 million for MaineHousing's lead abatement program.

[LD 467](#) *An Act to Require Accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Stations* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This concept draft bill would require accessible electric vehicle charging stations to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

[LD 466](#) *An Act to Develop and Enforce Mandatory Recycling of All Solar and Wind Projects* (Sponsored by Rep. Woodsome of Waterboro) This concept draft bill would require the development and implementation of a mandatory program to recycle material from solar and wind power projects.

[LD 465](#) *An Act to Provide for an Electronic Permit for the Disposition of Human Remains* (Sponsored by Rep. Thorne of Carmel) This bill authorizes a funeral director or authorized person present at a burial or crematory in this State to electronically affirm the disposition of human remains. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 67**

[LD 462](#) *An Act to Assist Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Areas of High Rent by Seeking a Waiver from the Federal Government* (Sponsored by Rep. Madigan of Waterville) This bill provides that if the fair market rent for existing housing is greater than the fair market rent calculated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the MaineHousing is required to seek a temporary waiver of the requirements of the so-called Section 8 housing program or other federal housing assistance program to permit additional funds to cover the cost of the actual fair market rent for a person who is homeless. The temporary waiver is terminated when the HUD calculated fair market rent is equal to or greater than the actual fair market rent for existing housing in the area. **DEAD**

[LD 461](#) *An Act Regarding Private Roads* (Sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.) This bill requires municipalities to establish minimum standards for the construction of private roads, which includes an inspection of the road base by the municipality prior to construction. The ordinance must be adopted by November 1, 2025 and developed with guidance from a Maine Department of Transportation model ordinance that is based on provisions found in the Woolwich Subdivision Ordinance. The bill also requires each municipality to develop or update inventories of all known town ways, private ways and private roads within its borders and to share those inventories with the department by November 1, 2023. County commissioners, landowners, road associations, surveyors, and other interested parties are authorized to share relevant information with municipalities. No later than January 1, 2024, the department is directed to provide the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government with an update on the status of municipal road inventories. The bill also: (1) amends the definition of “private way” to mean a way with a public easement; and (2) defines a “private road” as a privately owned and maintained road over which passage may be restricted.

[LD 457](#) *An Act to Amend Maine’s Tax Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would amend Maine’s tax laws.

[LD 456](#) *An Act to Support the Use of Bicycles* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would enact measures to support the use of bicycles in this State.

[LD 454](#) *An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency Requirement for Municipal General Assistance* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill establishes a 180-day state residency requirement for applicants for municipal general assistance.

February 2, 2023

[LD 444](#) *An Act to Designate First Responders and Other Public Safety Professionals as a Special Risk Population for the Purposes of Improving Insurance Coverage for the Effects of Trauma* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.) This concept draft would designate public safety professionals and first responders as a special risk population for the purposes of improving insurance coverage to detect and provide preventive care for the cumulative physical and mental health effects of exposure to consistent negative events and trauma.

[LD 443](#) *An Act to Prohibit Marriage of Any Person Under 18 Years of Age* (Sponsored by Rep. O'Connell of Brewer) This bill increases the legal age of marriage from 16 to 18 years of age.

[LD 442](#) *An Act Regarding Renewable Energy Projects* (Sponsored by Rep. Bradstreet of Vassalboro) This concept draft bill would place a moratorium on the approval of renewable energy projects until after the State has developed a comprehensive energy plan and the Public Utilities Commission has conducted a complete economic analysis of that plan.

[LD 439](#) *An Act to Allow Death by Suicide to Be Considered a Death While in the Line of Duty* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook) This bill requires the applicable authority, when determining whether a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical services person or corrections officer has died while in the line of duty, to evaluate whether an individual who died by suicide has died while in the line of duty.

[LD 437](#) *An Act to Eliminate the Repeal Provision on Waste-to-energy Renewable Energy Credits* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) This bill removes the repeal clause from a provision of statute which adds a 300% multiplier to the output of licensed power generators fueled by municipal solid waste in conjunction with recycling for the purposes of meeting portfolio requirements for Class II resources. **DEAD**

[LD 429](#) *An Act to Reclassify Certain Offenses Under the Motor Vehicle Laws and Increase the Efficiency of the Criminal Justice System* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) This bill clarifies that the unlawful reproduction of license plates is a Class D crime, for which a term of imprisonment may not be imposed. The bill also the reduces certain crimes to traffic infractions, including violation of laws related to: (1) motor vehicle registration certificates and plates and drivers' licenses; (2) removal of a vehicle without the consent of the owner; (3) unlawful ownership or display of a revoked, fictitious or fraudulently altered driver's license or identification card; (4) unlawful use of a driver's license or an identification card; (5) improper use of registration plates; and (6) operating a motor vehicle with a suspended or revoked registration or license. The bill explicitly provides that evidence obtained pursuant to an unlawful search and seizure is not admissible in any civil violation proceeding and permits a law

enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe that a violation of the law has taken place or is taking place to make application for a search warrant. Finally, all provisions of the bill take effect on January 1, 2024.

[LD 427](#) *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Research, Development and Commercialization in Maine's Marine Technology and Aquaculture Sector* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook) This bond bill issues \$25 million for research, development and commercialization in the State's marine technology and aquaculture sector to be used for infrastructure, equipment and technology upgrades to enable organizations to gain and hold market share and to expand employment or preserve jobs.

[LD 425](#) *An Act to Lower the Environmental Impact of Consumers, Increase Food Safety and Strengthen Consumer Choice by Ending the Ban on Single-use Plastic Shopping Bags* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft) This bill repeals the law restricting the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags by retail stores and instead allows a retailer to use plastic bags at the point of retail sale if the retailer provides a receptacle for collecting any used plastic bags and ensures that the plastic bags collected are recycled or delivered to a person engaged in recycling plastics. **DEAD**

[LD 424](#) *An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This placeholder bill would make unified appropriations and allocations for the expenditures of State Government from the General Fund... for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

[LD 423](#) *An Act Making Certain Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This placeholder bill would make supplemental appropriations and allocations from the General Fund.

[LD 422](#) *An Act to Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities Provide Public Notice in Newspapers* (Sponsored by Rep. Newman of Belgrade) This bill provides that the municipalities may meet the requirement to place of notice in a newspaper by posting the required notice on its publicly accessible website. **DEAD**

[LD 419](#) *An Act to Ensure Polling Place Security* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook) This concept draft bill would require the Department of the Secretary of State to develop and implement practices that enhance secure voting and election activities at polling places.

[LD 416](#) *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and Commercialization* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.) This bond bill issues \$100

million for technological innovation leading to commercialization in the targeted sectors of life sciences and biomedical technology, environmental and renewable energy technology, information technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, aquaculture and marine technology, composites and advanced materials and precision manufacturing.

[LD 413](#) *An Act to Require the Department of Transportation to Upgrade Route 1 from Fort Kent to Van Buren* (Sponsored by President Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This concept draft bill would require the Department of Transportation to upgrade Route 1 from Fort Kent to Van Buren.

[LD 410](#) *An Act Regarding the Nuisance of Cannabis Plants and Smoke in Residential Areas* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.) This bill defines “offensive cannabis odor” as an odor emitted from the growth or use of cannabis, including cannabis smoke, which persistently and adversely affects or unreasonably interferes with a person’s use and enjoyment of real property located within 100 yards of the source of the odor. The bill also classifies the cannabis odor as a public nuisance that is subject to fine of \$50 for the first violation, \$125 for a second violation, and \$250 for the third and sequent violation occurring in any 30-day period. **DEAD**

[LD 409](#) *An Act to Improve Pedestrian Safety* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would improve pedestrian safety in the State.

[LD 408](#) *An Act to Expand Bus Service* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would enact measures designed to expand bus service in the State.

[LD 407](#) *An Act to Support Recreational Trails* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would support recreational trails in the State.

[LD 406](#) *An Act to Expand Passenger Rail Service* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would expand passenger rail service in the State.

[LD 405](#) *An Act to Prevent False Reporting Leading to Evacuation, Shutdown or Lockdown* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) This bill amends the crime of false public alarm by including making a false public alarm or report to the enhanced 9-1-1 services and by making the offense a Class C crime if the violation causes the evacuation, shutdown or lockdown of a building, school, public square or park, place of assembly or public transportation facility or generates an emergency response from a law enforcement officer or agency, a firefighter or firefighting agency or any other emergency services personnel.

[LD 404](#) *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, subject to available funding resources, permitting and municipal agreements, to remove miles of state-owned inactive existing railroad

track in the town of Standish and Fryeburg and replace the track with an interim 10-foot-wide bicycle and pedestrian trail, surfaced with either pavement or stone dust on the existing rail bed.

[LD 402](#) *An Act to Change Maine's Transportation Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would change transportation laws in the State.

[LD 401](#) *An Act to Improve Transportation in Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would improve transportation in the State.

[LD 400](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Examine Setback Requirements for Outdoor Wood Boilers* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to review the laws governing outdoor wood boilers and rules to determine if existing setback requirements for new installations of outdoor wood boilers should be amended, taking into consideration the emission standards of the most recent models of outdoor wood boilers. The bill also directs the department to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which may submit legislation in 2024.

[LD 399](#) *An Act to Amend the Portfolio Requirements for Class II Resources* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyle of Gorham) This bill removes the repeal clause from a provision of statute which adds a 300% multiplier to the output of licensed power generators fueled by municipal solid waste in conjunction with recycling for the purposes of meeting portfolio requirements for Class II resources.

[LD 397](#) *An Act to Allow Sponsorship Signs at Outdoor Athletic Facilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook) This bill allows an owner or operator of a public or private athletic facility to erect and maintain an advertising sign visible from a public way if the content of the sign is directly related to a contribution for the construction, maintenance, operation or programming of the athletic facility and the sign is oriented inward to persons visiting or using the facility.

[LD 392](#) *Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 305: Natural Resources Protection Act - Permit by Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection* (Reported by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 305: Natural Resources Protection Act - Permit by Rule, a major substantive rule of the Department of Environmental Protection. **Finally Passed; Resolves 2023, c. 8**

January 31, 2023

[LD 388](#) *An Act to Require the State and Municipalities to Reimburse Landlords for Unpaid Rent During Eviction Moratoriums* (Sponsored by Rep. Blier of Buxton) This bill requires the State or

a municipality to reimburse a landlord for losses in rental income when the government entity either enacts a law or ordinance imposing a moratorium on evictions of tenants for nonpayment of rent.

[LD 387](#) *An Act to Promote Affordable Housing by Providing a Tax Exemption for Housing Choice Vouchers* (Sponsored by Rep. Blier of Buxton) This bill provides an income tax deduction for income received by a landlord in the form of Section 8 housing choice vouchers administered by the Maine State Housing Authority.

[LD 386](#) *An Act to Assist Schools with Heating and Transportation Fuel Costs During the School Year* (Sponsored by Rep. Davis of East Machias) This bill provides one-time funds to public elementary and secondary schools for heating and transportation related fuel costs incurred during the 2022-2023 school year. The funds distributed to each Maine school must be equal to \$100 per student and based on the most recent enrollment totals. **DEAD**

[LD 385](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Examine Alternative Metrics for Determining the Disadvantaged Student Factor in the School Funding Formula* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) This resolve directs the Department of Education to convene a working group of stakeholders to examine alternative metrics related to disadvantaged students to use in distributing funds in the school funding formula and to submit a report by January 1, 2024 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. **DEAD**

[LD 383](#) *An Act to Restore Legislative Oversight of Rulemaking* (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris) This bill requires all rules adopted pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to be major substantive rules.

[LD 382](#) *Resolve, Naming Portions of a Highway in St. George* (Sponsored by Rep. Matlack of St. George) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to name portions of Route 131 in the Town of St. George for Deputy Sheriff Frank J. Buzynski and Deputy Sheriff Frank E. Ross, Jr.

[LD 381](#) *An Act to Increase School Bus Safety by Requiring Monitors* (Sponsored by Rep. Ness of Fryeburg) This concept draft bill would put monitors on school buses to allow bus drivers to focus on driving. **DEAD**

[LD 380](#) *An Act Regarding Monhegan Plantation* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle) This concept draft bill would support Monhegan Plantation in addressing any needs arising throughout 2023-2024 legislative session.

[LD 379](#) *An Act to Responsibly Regulate Recreational Boats on Maine Lakes* (Sponsored by Rep. Landry of Farmington) This concept draft bill would responsibly regulate recreational boats on Maine lakes.

[LD 376](#) *An Act to Repeal the Law Regarding the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison) This bill repeals the law establishing the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program.

[LD 373](#) *An Act to Improve Labor Conditions for Maine Workers* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) This concept draft bill would enact measures designed to improve labor conditions for Maine workers by applying best practices and the latest research.

[LD 372](#) *An Act to Increase Enforcement and Accountability for Wage and Hour Violations* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) This concept draft bill would increase enforcement and accountability for wage and hour violations.

[LD 371](#) *An Act to Address Certain Local Zoning Ordinances* (Sponsored by Sen. Timberland of Androscoggin Cty.) This concept draft bill would address certain local zoning ordinances.

Sponsor's proposed amendment: This amendment replaces the bill which is a concept draft. It prevents the city of Auburn from enacting, enforcing or imposing a charter provision, ordinance or other requirement on certain uses within zoning districts established by the City.

[LD 369](#) *An Act to Allow Repurposed Military Vehicles to Be Registered and Operated on Maine Roads* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) This bill allows demilitarized vehicles to be registered and operated on Maine roads provided the required registration fees and excise taxes are paid. The bill also establishes a weight limit not to exceed 10,000 pounds and subjects demilitarized vehicles to current inspection requirements, unless exempted by the Chief of the State Police.

[LD 367](#) *An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues to Improve Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway Modes of Transportation* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.) This bond bill issues a total of \$200 million for transportation purposes, with \$100 million to be put out to referendum on November 7, 2023 and the remaining amount to referendum on November 5, 2024. In both cases, \$85 million is dedicated for improvements to roads and bridges and \$15 million for non-highway modes of transportation.

[LD 366](#) *An Act to Promote Workforce Development* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) This concept draft bill would promote workforce development in Maine. **DEAD**

[LD 365](#) *An Act to Support Compliance and Establish Graduated Sanctions Under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) This bill directs

the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to adopt major substantive rules to develop a graduated enforcement plan for violations of the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act or rules, to include a stakeholder process in the adoption of those rules, and to make the enforcement plan publicly available. **DEAD**

[LD 364](#) *An Act to Prohibit the Use of General Assistance as a Replacement for Available Resources* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill makes a general assistance applicant who voluntarily abandons or refuses to use an available resource without just cause ineligible to receive general assistance to replace the abandoned resource for a period of 120 days from the date the applicant abandons the resource. The bill also makes an applicant who forfeits receipt of or causes a reduction in benefits from an available resource due to fraud, misrepresentation or intentional violation or refusal to comply with rules without just cause, ineligible to receive general assistance to replace the forfeited or reduced benefits for the duration of the sanction imposed on the applicant for violation of a rule or 120 days, whichever is greater. The bill identifies circumstances relating to use of available resources under which just cause must be found to include an unreasonable requirement, discrimination, risk to applicant health or safety, or an inability to access available resources due to a lack of public or private transportation.

[LD 362](#) *An Act to Clarify Coverage for Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Under the State Employer Group Health Plan* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This bill clarifies that a retired county or municipal law enforcement officer or retired municipal firefighter is eligible to enroll in the group health plan offered to state employees if the officer or firefighter meets the requirements for the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 20**

[LD 360](#) *An Act to Amend the Androscoggin County Charter* (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.) This concept draft bill would address the Androscoggin County charter. **Sponsor's proposed amendment:** This amendment replaces the bill which is a concept draft. This private and special law permits the Androscoggin County commissioners to change the county seat from the City of Auburn to the City of Lewiston by majority vote at a regularly scheduled meeting held in accordance with the county charter.

[LD 359](#) *An Act to Address Department of Health and Human Services Assistance Call Wait Times* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) This concept draft bill would enact measures to address assistance call wait times at the Department of Health and Human Services for Medicaid and other public assistance programs. **DEAD**

[LD 356](#) *An Act to Invest in Construction Industry Workforce Development* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This concept draft bill would enact measures to fund an investment

of state resources for the expansion of construction workforce development programs and the marketing of those programs, based on the recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals. **DEAD**

[LD 355](#) *An Act to Refocus the Purpose and Duties of the Cannabis Advisory Commission* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This concept draft bill would enact measures to streamline the membership of the Cannabis Advisory Commission and amend its purpose and duties.

[LD 354](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Use of Engineers on Public Works Projects over \$100,000* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.) This concept draft bill would amend the laws governing the use of engineers on public works projects when the contemplated expenditure for the completed project exceeds \$100,000.

[LD 353](#) *An Act Concerning Substance Use Disorder, Treatment, Recovery, Prevention and Education* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.) This concept draft bill would improve and expand treatment and recovery services for persons with substance use disorder, strengthen prevention efforts and modernize education requirements for clinicians.

[LD 347](#) *An Act Regarding In-court Appearance Requirements for Persons Authorized to Serve Eviction Notices and the Process for Serving a Writ of Possession* (Sponsored by Rep. Cyrway of Albion) This bill provides that if a sheriff, deputy or constable serves a notice in connection with an eviction, the officer does not need to be present at the court hearing to testify to the service of the notice. It also provides that after one good faith effort, rather than the current three attempts, has been made to serve the defendant with a writ of possession, service may be accomplished by both mailing the notice by first-class mail to the defendant's last known address and leaving the writ of possession at the defendant's last and usual place of abode.

January 30, 2023

[LD 341](#) *An Act to Amend the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law to Encourage Housing Construction* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison) This bill reduces the penalty for withdrawal of land from classification under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law if the land is used for the construction of single-family residential housing and the conditions required for building construction are met within two years of withdrawal.

[LD 338](#) *An Act to Allow Education Funding to Follow the Student* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) This concept draft bill would require the state share of education funding for a student to follow the student to a charter school, private school or homeschool instruction program. **DEAD**

[LD 337](#) *An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell) This concept draft bill would amend the regulation of manufactured housing to increase the amount of affordable housing.

[LD 336](#) *An Act Regarding State Recognition of Native American Tribes* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan) This concept draft bill would establish a council to consider Native American tribes for state recognition

[LD 334](#) *An Act to Ensure the Full Value of the Balance of Registration Fees Is Retained by the Seller of Used Motor Vehicles* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) This bill allows a person who transfers ownership of one or more vehicles to receive credits for the vehicle registration fee or fees to pay the registration fee of another vehicle in the same registration year.

DEAD

[LD 332](#) *An Act to Amend the State's Election Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This concept draft bill would make changes to the laws governing elections.

[LD 331](#) *Resolve, to Name a Bridge in the Town of Canaan After Staff Sergeant Richard Gerald Salsbury* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 6116 on Moores Mills Road in the Town of Canaan the Staff Sergeant Richard Gerald Salsbury Memorial Bridge. **Finally Passed; Resolves 2023, c. 2**

[LD 326](#) *An Act to Improve Recruitment and Retention of First Responders* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) This concept draft bill would ensure free training for emergency medical responders and emergency medical technicians and make changes to provisions of law to increase recruitment and retention of first responders in rural areas.

[LD 324](#) *An Act to Prevent the Wrongful Firing of Maine Workers* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) This concept draft bill would enact the Secure Jobs Act, which establishes a framework for employee discipline and discharge, prohibits the unjust discharge of an employee, requires employers to use progressive discipline measures, limits the use of electronic monitoring, provides for severance pay, provides remedies for wrongfully discharged employees, and authorizes the recovery of damages.

[LD 322](#) *An Act to Improve the Unemployment Insurance System* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) This concept draft bill would improve the unemployment insurance system.

[LD 321](#) *An Act to Create a Bill of Rights for Temporary Workers* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) This concept draft bill would create a bill of rights for temporary workers.

[LD 319](#) *An Act to Amend Maine's Underground Oil Storage Tank Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.) Under current law, upon the expiration date of a manufacturer's warranty for certain underground oil storage tanks, the tank and its associated piping must be removed from service and properly abandoned, except that a double-walled underground oil storage tank may continue in service up to years beyond the expiration of the warranty if certain testing is conducted to verify the integrity of the tank. This bill removes the 10-year limitation, thereby allowing such double-walled tanks to continue in service indefinitely provided the same testing requirements are satisfied. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 16**

[LD 318](#) *Resolve, to Designate the Route 170 Bridge Located in Webster Plantation the Gary "Swampy" Worster Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 5116 on Route 170 in Webster Plantation the Gary "Swampy" Worster Memorial Bridge. **Finally Passed; Resolves 2023, c. 3**

[LD 317](#) *An Act Regarding Safe Schools* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This concept draft bill would implement changes designed to result in safer schools.

[LD 314](#) *An Act to Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This concept draft bill would establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine. The commission would be a quasi-independent agency funded through the Department of Economic and Community Development. Members of the commission would include housing advocates and organizations, policy makers, housing developers, housing experts, landlords and tenants. The commission would identify the hurdles to developing more housing units and recommend solutions to each branch of government.

[LD 313](#) *An Act to Ensure Consistency in Retirement Plans for Certain Law Enforcement Officers* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This concept draft bill would align provisions governing the retirement plans of certain law enforcement officers, including forest rangers, game wardens and marine patrol officers.

January 27, 2023

[LD 310](#) *An Act to Increase the Workforce in the State* (Sponsored by Rep. Collamore of Pittsfield) This concept draft bill would increase the workforce in the State. **DEAD**

[LD 306](#) *An Act Related to Water* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This concept draft bill would amend the laws related to water.

[LD 304](#) *An Act to Establish Statewide Standards for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo) This concept draft bill would establish

statewide standards for testing and acceptable levels of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. **DEAD**

[LD 301](#) *An Act to Exempt Employers from Providing Earned Paid Leave for Certain Employees* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan) This bill exempts substitute teachers, other substitute employees, coaches and temporary employees in school administrative units and part-time or temporary employees in a retail trade or a service-related industry from being covered by the law that requires employers to offer earned paid leave to employees. **DEAD**

[LD 298](#) *An Act to Study the Shared Use of the Public Right of Way* (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor) This concept draft bill would establish a working group to study the shared use of the public right of way by competing utilities, new modes of transportation, solar generation and new and developing modes of electricity distribution. The working group would be required to consider expanding the uses of the public right of way as valuable real estate, improving the appearance of transmission poles and lines and how to maximize revenues from leased usage of the right of way.

[LD 296](#) *An Act to Ensure Municipalities Receive a Higher Percentage of All-terrain Vehicle Registration Fees to Cover Increased Expenses* (Sponsored by Rep. Newman of Belgrade) This concept draft bill would ensure municipalities receive a higher percentage of income from all-terrain vehicle registration fees to cover increased expenses.

[LD 295](#) *An Act Regarding Plastic Pollution* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This concept draft bill would address plastic pollution in the State.

[LD 293](#) *An Act to Revise the School Funding Formula* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison) This concept draft bill would revise the school funding formula. **DEAD**

[LD 288](#) *An Act Concerning Housing and Support Services for At-risk Youth and Youth Who Have Committed Juvenile Crimes* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) This concept draft bill would require the development and implementation of a program to provide housing and community-based support services for at-risk youth and youth who have committed juvenile crimes.

[LD 286](#) *An Act to Authorize the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Constructing or Renovating Municipal Offices and Other Municipal Buildings* (Sponsored by Rep. Carlow of Buxton) This bill allows tax increment financing (TIF) district revenue to be used for the construction or renovation of municipal offices or other municipal buildings when the legislative body of the municipality determines that conditions exist that impair the proper functioning of government or hinder economic vitality. The bill provides that the costs may not exceed the lesser of 10% of the assessed value of the district or \$3 million during a 20-year period in a TIF district.

[LD 284](#) *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick) This concept draft bill would implement the recommendations of the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute.

[LD 283](#) *An Act to Make Technical Changes to the Maine Tax Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Matlack of St. George) This bill makes the following technical changes to the property tax laws: (1) allows disclosure of confidential information to the State Board of Property Tax Review; (2) clarifies that a municipality's equalized tax rate is the equalized full value tax rate when calculating qualification for sudden and severe disruption assistance; (3) removes the requirement that updates to the property tax assessment manual be made by the State Tax Assessor by rule; (4) clarifies that the fixed-dollar parsonage and personal property exemptions for houses of religious worship are based on just value; (5) removes gender-specific terms in the veterans exemption statutes; (6) facilitates the repeal of the circuitbreaker program by moving definitions from that program to current provisions; and (7) clarifies that the income and asset limitations of the state property tax deferral program apply to all owners of the property.

[LD 280](#) *An Act to Make Maine Schools Safer and Healthier by Increasing the Maximum Debt Service Limit* (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth) This bill changes the maximum debt service limit for school capital improvements for fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2027 from \$150 million to \$250 million.

[LD 279](#) *An Act to Protect Against Discrimination by Public Entities* (Sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland) This bill creates a new section in the Maine Human Rights Act that states it is unlawful discrimination for a public entity to discriminate against, exclude from participation in a service, program or activity, or otherwise deny the benefits of a service, program or activity as a result of an individual's race or color, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin.

[LD 277](#) *An Act Regarding Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances* (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond) This concept draft would amend the laws regarding perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

[LD 276](#) *An Act to Assist Municipalities in Preventing Damage from Storm Water* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) For the purpose of protecting or restoring a great pond, current state law authorizes municipalities, subject to certain conditions, to appropriate funds to repair a private road, way, or bridge to prevent storm water runoff pollution from reaching the great pond. This bill expands that authority to include repairs necessary to protect a threatened natural resource, including coastal bluffs, sand dune systems and wetlands, significant wildlife habitat, fragile mountain areas, freshwater wetlands, community public water system primary protection areas, and great ponds, rivers, streams and brooks.

[LD 274](#) *An Act Regarding Municipal Costs for Water Used for Firefighting* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) This bill requires a property insurance policy to include a provision for the indemnification of a municipality for the actual costs for water service, not to exceed \$3,000, incurred by the municipality for the water used in connection with extinguishing a fire. The bill also prohibits a municipality from seeking reimbursement from a resident for costs for water service incurred by the municipality for the water used in connection with extinguishing a fire at a property owned or rented by the resident. **DEAD**

[LD 270](#) *An Act to Help Retired Federal Employees* (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill would help retired federal employees. **DEAD**

[LD 268](#) *An Act to Establish a 45-day Municipal Residency Requirement for General Assistance Programs* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill establishes a 45-day residency requirement for municipal general assistance applicants.

January 26, 2023

[LD 266](#) *An Act to Increase Consumer Choice and Reduce Motor Vehicle Emissions in Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty). This concept draft bill would enhance consumers' ability to choose zero-emission motor vehicles. **DEAD**

[LD 262](#) *An Act to Strengthen Maine's Workforce* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick) This concept draft bill would enact measures to strengthen Maine's workforce.

January 24, 2023

[LD 259](#) *An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, Highway Fund...for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025* (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This is Governor Mills' FY 24 – FY 25 biennial Highway Fund budget proposal. Of direct municipal interest, the bill appropriates \$24.2 million in FY 24 and \$25.5 million in FY 25 for distribution to municipalities under the Local Road Assistance Program.

[LD 258](#) *An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund...for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025* (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This is Governor Mills' FY 24 – FY 25 biennial General Fund budget proposal. Of municipal interest, the bill:

- **K-12 Education (Part C).** For FY 2024, calculates the total cost of K-12 education as \$2.54 billion, appropriates \$1.40 billion (55%) as the state's share, and sets the minimum mil rate expectation at 7.29.
- **GA Maximum for Temporary Housing (Part VV).** Limits General Assistance hotel or motel housing aid to the federal per diem reimbursement rate, which is currently \$98 for lodging, and to no more than 30 days, except that municipalities may extend temporary housing assistance if individuals are receiving services that will lead to attainment of permanent housing.
- **Highway Fund Transfers (Part RRR).** In FY 24 and FY 25, transfers \$100 in unappropriated General Fund surpluses to the Highway fund, of which \$80 million is used for highway and bridge capital improvements and \$20 million for investment in multimodal programs.

- **Homestead Exemption (A-28).** Increases state reimbursement to municipalities under the homestead exemption program to 76% for the April 1, 2023 property tax year and to 79% for the 2024 property tax year. Total reimbursement in FY 24 is \$103.5 million and \$108.5 million in FY 25.
- **Property Tax Stabilization Reimbursement (A-38).** Appropriates \$15 million in FY 24 and \$31 million in FY 25 to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the property tax revenue lost due to the senior property tax stabilization program.
- **Property Tax Stabilization Mandate Reimbursement (A-38).** Appropriates \$500,000 in FY 24 and \$550,000 million in FY 25 to reimburse municipalities for the cost related to implementing the senior property tax stabilization program.
- **Revenue Sharing (A-638 & A-641).** Honors the commitment to distribute 5% of state sales and income tax revenue to municipalities via the revenue sharing program, which in FY 24 is \$252 million and \$259 million in FY 25.

January 20, 2023

[LD 250](#) *An Act to Improve Housing by Increasing Housing Options* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This concept draft bill would require the development and implementation of a program to increase housing options. **DEAD**

[LD 248](#) *An Act to Amend the State's Liquor Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This concept draft bill proposes to amend the liquor laws.

[LD 247](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing elections.

[LD 246](#) *An Act to Amend the Campaign Finance Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This concept draft bill proposes to amend the campaign finance laws.

[LD 245](#) *An Act to Require a Person Receiving Unemployment Benefits to Attend Scheduled Interviews to Fulfill the Work Search Requirement* (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.) This bill amends the Employment Security Law to provide that an individual who refuses to appear for an employment interview scheduled with an employer for a suitable job opportunity is disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits. The bill also requires the Department of Labor to establish an online portal for employers to report individuals who refuse to appear for scheduled interviews. **DEAD**

[LD 244](#) *Resolve, Directing Maine Emergency Medical Services to Convene a Stakeholder Group to Explore Emergency Medical Services Career Pathways and Educational Opportunities in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services to convene a stakeholder group, including providers of EMS services and representatives from the Maine University and Community College

systems, to explore career pathways and educational opportunities for emergency medical services providers in Maine and to submit a report to the legislature.

[LD 242](#) *An Act to Clarify That Animal Health Products Are Exempt from the Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Reporting Law* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This bill provides that certain health products intended for animals that are regulated by federal law are exempt from the notification requirements that generally apply to products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. **DEAD**

[LD 241](#) *An Act to Reform Education* (Sponsored by Rep. Bagshaw of Windham) This concept draft bill would reform education. **DEAD**

[LD 240](#) *An Act to Increase Public Access to Utilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville) This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to increase public access to utilities.

[LD 237](#) *An Act to Require a Registered Voter to Update the Registration* (Sponsored by Rep. Griffin of Levant) This bill requires a person who has registered to vote to submit a voter registration update form every four years. **DEAD**

[LD 236](#) *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Support the Economic Development of the Fishing Industry and the Portland Harbor Dredging Project* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) The bond bill issues \$10 million to support the economic development of the fishing industry and the Portland harbor dredging project.

[LD 235](#) *An Act to Promote Economic Development in the Fishing Industry by Funding a Dredging Project in Portland Harbor* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) This bill provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$10 million in FY 2024 to the Department of Transportation for a dredging project in Portland Harbor.

[LD 232](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Bonding Restrictions for School Administrative Units* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick) This bill extends the term of bonds issued by school administrative districts and regional school units from 25 to 30 years.

[LD 230](#) *Resolve, to Require the Maine National Guard to Sell Certain Property in Hallowell* (Sponsored by Rep. Shagoury of Hallowell) This resolve amends Resolve 2021, chapter 136 to require the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard to sell a parcel of land to specify that the sale price may not exceed \$1.

[LD 229](#) *An Act to Compensate Tribal Governments for Basic Training for a Law Enforcement Officer Hired by Another Government Agency* (Sponsored by Rep. Dill of Old Town) This bill includes tribal governments and full-time law enforcement officers trained at the Indian police academy at the federal law enforcement training center in the laws that provide that whenever a full-time law enforcement officer trained at a police academy at the expense of a particular governmental entity is subsequently hired by another governmental entity as a full-time law enforcement officer within five years of graduation from the academy, that governmental entity must reimburse the first governmental entity according to a specified formula.

[LD 226](#) *An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis* (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth) This bill provides \$100 million in one-time funds to MaineHousing in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 to increase affordable housing stock in Maine.

[LD 221](#) *An Act Regarding Airboat Noise* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich) This bill extends the repeal date of the law governing airboat noise limits to September 7, 2025.

[LD 219](#) *An Act to Promote Equity in the Permitting Appeals Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Bradstreet of Vassalboro) This concept draft bill would align the deadlines for permits related to development and the appeals of decisions on those permits and would further provide that during an appeal the permit's expiration date is tolled.

[LD 217](#) *An Act to Support Manufacturers Whose Products Contain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) This concept draft bill would require the development and implementation of a program to support manufacturers whose products contain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

[LD 216](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Storm Water Management to Provide an Exemption for Trails for Hiking and Other Similar Activities* (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth) This bill exempts from the storm water control requirements under the pollution control laws subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Environmental Protection trails intended, constructed, and managed for use by persons walking, snowshoeing, skiing, or hiking. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 8**

[LD 215](#) *Resolve, to Require the Commissioner of Public Safety to Conduct a Study Regarding Cadet Law Enforcement Officers Who Are Injured and Law Enforcement Officers Who Leave the Sponsoring Agency* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft) This resolve directs the Commissioner of Public Safety to conduct a study regarding the number of: (1) cadet law enforcement officer injuries that resulted in lost training time, workers' compensation claims, or temporary or permanent disability claims; and (2) law enforcement officers who had their training costs paid by a sponsoring agency but left that agency within one year of completion of the basic law enforcement training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. The bill further directs the commissioner to submit a report to the legislature by December 6, 2023. **DEAD**

[LD 214](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Zoning and Land Use Restrictions to Limit Certain Requirements to Municipalities with a Population of More than 10,000* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) This bills makes certain provisions enacted in the 2022 housing bill (LD 2003) applicable only to municipalities with populations over 10,000, including requirements allowing up to four dwelling units per lot on lots that are either empty or served by a public water or sewer; and (2) allowing for an accessory dwelling unit on the same lot as a single-family dwelling in areas in which housing is permitted.

[LD 212](#) *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade Municipal Culverts at Stream Crossings* (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond) This bond bill issues \$50 million to fund a competitive grant program that matches local funding for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings in order to enhance and restore rivers, streams and fish and wildlife habitats and to allow communities to better prepare for extreme storms and floods.

[LD 211](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Water Supply Protection Funds* (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond) This bill allows a water supply protection fund established by a consumer-owned water utility to be used by the holder of a conservation easement, as well as for the acquisition of third-party rights of enforcement of a conservation easement.

[LD 210](#) *An Act to Expand the List of Persons Exempt from the Real Estate Transfer Tax* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) This bill adds siblings, stepchildren and step-grandchildren to the list of family members whose deeds are exempt from the real estate transfer tax.

[LD 209](#) *An Act to Authorize an Interim Use Trail on the Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor* (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth) This concept draft bill would authorize interim use of a recreational trail on the Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor.

[LD 207](#) *An Act to Transfer Responsibility for Administering the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code from the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshall to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner) This bill moves responsibility for the adoption and administration of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code from the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

January 17, 2023

[LD 206](#) *An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund...for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023* (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) This is Governor Mills' FY 23 supplemental General Fund budget proposal. Of municipal interest, the bill adjusts FY 23 revenue sharing distributions by \$16 million to reflect above projection state sales and income tax revenue collections.

[LD 204](#) *An Act to Ensure Safe Access to Schools by Implementing Interlocking Door Controller Technology* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This bill requires the state to provide funding for installing interlocking door controller technology in every elementary school and secondary school in Maine.

[LD 202](#) *An Act to Clarify the Requirements for Off-premises Sales by Cannabis Store Licensees* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.) This bill amends the laws authorizing the off-premises sales of adult use cannabis to: (1) clarify that a special event at which sales can take place is limited to no more than 10 consecutive days or 10 occurrences for a specified event per calendar year; (2) require the permit application to include descriptions of: (a) where sales will take place; and (b) the security measures implemented to prevent unauthorized access to cannabis products, including how individuals under the age of 21 will be prevented from accessing areas where sales take place; and (3) authorize the state to revoke an event permit if a municipality revokes a permit issued for off-premises sales or a property owner revokes written consent to use the property for the sales.

January 13, 2023

[LD 193](#) *An Act to Provide Excess General Fund Revenue to the School Revolving Renovation Fund and the Education Stabilization Fund* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.) This bill amends the cascade, which describes how any General Fund unappropriated surplus at the close of a fiscal year is to be distributed, by reducing from 80% to 40% the amount distributed to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, and distributing 20% to the School Revolving Renovation Fund and 20% to the Education Stabilization Fund.

[LD 191](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Certain Business Equipment Tax Benefits* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This bill excludes from eligibility for the business equipment tax exemption and the business equipment tax reimbursement a person that, based on third-party certifications, bans, boycotts or otherwise restricts or prevents the sale or distribution of any product that is legally produced, harvested, or grown in Maine.

[LD 188](#) *An Act to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Pay for Certain Water Tests for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) This bill amends the waste discharge licensing laws to provide that, if the Department of Environmental Protection requires a person licensed to discharge wastewater to sample the effluent discharged for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, all costs associated with the sampling and testing must be paid by the department. **DEAD**

[LD 183](#) *An Act to Incorporate Time Limits on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program into Municipal General Assistance Programs* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill provides that a person who has exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program benefits is ineligible general assistance, except for individuals who either: (1) have been ineligible for TANF for five or more years; or (2) in the process of seeking an extension of TANF benefits.

[LD 182](#) *An Act to Create a 9-month Time Limit on General Assistance Benefits for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents* (Sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin Cty.) This bill limits general assistance program benefits to 275 days every five years to individuals who do not have dependents and who can work.

[LD 179](#) *An Act to Provide Support for Restorative Justice Practices in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.) This concept draft bill would support restorative justice practices in Maine.

[LD 178](#) *An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community* (Sponsored by Sen. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.) This concept draft bill would support an individual's reentry and reintegration into the community.

[LD 175](#) *An Act to Increase the Use of Municipal Waste-to-energy Processes as a Source of Renewable Energy* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) This bill amends the solid waste management hierarchy to add the incineration of waste to generate electricity to the State's solid waste management priorities. The bill also amends the definition of "renewable capacity

resource" to include a source of electrical generation that relies on generators fueled by municipal solid waste in conjunction with recycling. **DEAD**

[LD 171](#) *An Act to Provide That All Rules Regarding Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Are Major Substantive Rules* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) This bill requires rules related to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances to be major substantive rules. **DEAD**

[LD 169](#) *An Act to Amend and Clarify the Laws Governing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Other Harmful Chemicals* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) This concept draft bill would revise the definition of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to align with federal law by: (1) requiring downstream notification and allow for a safe harbor; (2) implementing a process for banning harmful chemicals that include exemptions for de minimis concentrations and replacement parts; (3) requiring the consideration of limiting access to areas contaminated by PFAS; and (4) prohibiting certain bulk chemicals, components and parts containing PFAS. **DEAD**

[LD 167](#) *An Act Regarding Eligibility for the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption* (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth) This bill extends the homestead exemption to a person holding a life lease on a permanent resident, which by contact allows an individual to live in a home owned by another until death, provided the resident: (1) pays property taxes and utility costs; (2) carries comprehensive homeowner's insurance on the property; and (3) pays for home maintenance and repair costs. **DEAD**

[LD 166](#) *An Act to Provide Revenue for Property Tax Relief and Capital Infrastructure Projects* (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor) This bill allows the revenue collected from parking meters to be used to provide property tax relief and to pay the costs of constructing, maintaining, and operating capital infrastructure projects. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 14**

[LD 159](#) *An Act to Facilitate the Construction of a Firehouse by Sinclair Township* (Sponsored by Rep. Albert of Madawaska) This concept draft bill would allow Sinclair Township to acquire land and construct a new firehouse. **DEAD**

January 12, 2023

[LD 154](#) *An Act Regarding Special Education Funding for So-called Minimum Receiver School Administration Units* (Sponsored by Rep. Mathieson of Kittery) This bill provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2023, the minimum state share of a school administrative unit's special education costs under the essential programs and services school funding formula must be 55%. The bill also requires the Department of Education to: (1) examine the methodologies used to determine when a school administrative unit is a minimum receiver; and (2) examine the trends in the units identified as minimum receivers and determine the factors that have caused any increases in the number units, the issues created for these units and methods by which those issues may be reduced or resolved. The department is further directed to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 2, 2024, which is authorized to report out legislation for consideration in 2024.

[LD 153](#) *An Act to Allow Electronic Distribution of Certain Documents to Municipalities and Electronic Acknowledgment of Receipt of Certain Documents as Acceptable Communications* (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast) This bill adds electronic mail to the list of options for notifying the clerk of each municipality of the annual estimates of proposed county taxes and the dates of public hearings on the proposed county taxes, and for the clerk to provide evidence of receipt via electronic means. The bill also repeals the requirement that mailed notices be sent by registered or certified mail.

January 10, 2023

[LD 149](#) *An Act to Amend the Definition of "Homestead" Under the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.) Under current law, one of the qualifications for the homestead property tax exemption is that real property held in trust must be in a revocable living trust. This bill removes the requirement that the living trust be revocable.
DEAD

[LD 145](#) *An Act to Increase the Penalties for Operation of a Motor Vehicle While Using a Handheld Electronic Device or Mobile Telephone* (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville) This bill increases the penalty for using a handheld electronic device or mobile telephone while operating a motor vehicle from \$50 to \$500 for a first offense and from \$250 to \$1,000 for a second offense and adds revocation of the driver's license for a third or subsequent offense.
DEAD

[LD 144](#) *An Act Regarding the Monitoring of Municipal Abandoned Property* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) Under current law, a municipality that certifies abandoned property is required to submit the address and parcel data to the Maine State Housing Authority for use in determining opportunities for redevelopment, programs supporting first-time home buyers and similar programs and data analysis. This bill instead requires the municipality to submit such data to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority for use in determining opportunities for redevelopment. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 26**

[LD 143](#) *An Act to Support Rural Service Programming and Promote Volunteerism* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook) This bill appropriates an average of \$600,000 annually to compensate 15 individuals participating in the Maine Service Fellows Program.

[LD 142](#) *An Act to Fund Climate-related Service Work* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook) This bill provides ongoing funds to support four Maine Climate Corps Program leadership positions and 50 eligible participants of the Maine Climate Corps Program.

[LD 138](#) *An Act Regarding the Terms of Trustees of the Phippsburg Cemetery District* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich) This bill reduces the term of the trustees of the Phippsburg Cemetery District from five years to three years.

[LD 135](#) *An Act to Require Manure Bags for Horse-drawn Vehicles* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This bill requires a horse-drawn vehicle operated on a public way to be equipped with manure bags of sufficient capacity to hold the amount of manure produced by

each horse in one day. It prohibits the operator of a horse-drawn vehicle from emptying a manure bag at a location other than the location where the horse is stabled. **DEAD**

[LD 134](#) *An Act to Increase the Handling Fee for Beverage Containers Reimbursed to Dealers and Redemption Centers* (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) This bill increases the reimbursement to a dealer or redemption center for the cost of handling beverage containers by 1/2¢ to 5¢ beginning January 1, 2024.

[LD 133](#) *An Act to Include a Representative of Newspaper and Other Press Interests on the Archives Advisory Board* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) This bill adds to the membership of the Archives Advisory Board one member representing newspaper and other press interests.

[LD 130](#) *An Act to Eliminate Senior Citizen Property Tax Stabilization and Expand the Homestead Property Tax Exemption* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) As of April 1, 2024, this bill repeals the property tax stabilization program and extends a \$75,000 homestead to a permanent resident of Maine who is 65 year of age or older and who has resided in the homestead for at least 10 years.

[LD 128](#) *An Act to Increase the Limit on Sets of Special Veterans Registration Plates from 3 Sets to 4 Sets* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) This bill increases from three to four the number of motor vehicles and the number of motorcycles for which a veteran may request special veterans' registration plates.

January 9, 2023

[LD 127](#) *An Act to Eliminate Television Recycling Fees for Charitable Entities* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) This bill prohibits a municipality or consolidator that accepts electronic waste for recycling from charging a television recycling fee to a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation that employs 100 or fewer individuals. **DEAD**

[LD 124](#) *An Act to Ensure the Maintenance of Circular Intersections on State and State Aid Highways* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) This bill requires the Department of Transportation to maintain the right-of-way of rotaries, roundabouts and traffic circles including the center traffic island and the perimeter of the circular intersections on all state and state aid highways. **DEAD**

[LD 122](#) *An Act to Authorize the Efficiency Maine Trust to Establish a Program to Support the Uptake of Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicles by Maine Businesses and to Establish a Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project* (Sponsored by Sen. Ingwersen of York Cty.) This concept draft bill authorizes the Efficiency Maine Trust to: (1) establish a incentive program using federal or other funding sources to support the uptake of medium-duty and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles by businesses in the Maine; and (2) establish a vehicle-to-grid pilot project to evaluate the benefits of using battery electric medium-duty and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles, such as electric school buses and freight trucks, as energy storage resources that can deliver electricity to the grid when the vehicles are not being used for their primary purpose.

[LD 119](#) *An Act to Clarify the Boundary Between Waldo and Knox Counties in Penobscot Bay* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) This bill clarifies and describes a portion of the common boundary between Waldo County and Knox County in Penobscot Bay to address a discrepancy between recent maps and the legislative history of the boundary line. **Enacted; P&SL 2023, c. 1**

[LD 109](#) *An Act to Improve Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residences* (Sponsored by Rep. Landry of Farmington) Current law provides that a certified substance use disorder recovery residence is treated as a family residence for the purposes of life safety code requirements, regardless of its size, layout, or number of residents. This bill repeals that provision to require such recovery residences to meet the life safety code requirements for similarly situated buildings and housing establishments.

[LD 108](#) *An Act to Establish a Logger Relations Advocate Within the Maine Forest Service* (Sponsored by Rep. Landry of Farmington) This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry to establish a logger relations advocate to serve as a liaison to the public. **DEAD**

[LD 107](#) *An Act Regarding Municipal Efforts to Avert Evictions and Heating Shut offs During Winter* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) This bill requires the state to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the expenses incurred December 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023 that was associated with preventing an eviction or the shut off of a utility service. **DEAD**

[LD 104](#) *An Act to Make It a Crime Not to Report a Death* (Sponsored by Rep. Babin of Fort Fairfield) This concept draft bill would make it a crime not to report a death. **DEAD**

[LD 103](#) *An Act to Provide Incentives to Employers to Provide On-site Child Care* (Sponsored by Rep. Jauch of Topsham). This concept draft bill would provide incentives, including grants, to large employers that have a base in this State to provide subsidized, on-site childcare for employees. The bill would require large employers that receive tax credits or other state money to provide on-site childcare for employees to continue receiving the tax credit or state money. The bill would allow smaller employers to participate in the on-site childcare paid for by the incentives by means of a sharing agreement. The bill would also make the incentives available to a large employer that is unable to provide on-site childcare that pays at least 50% of the cost of its employees' expenses for childcare obtained from a childcare center in the community.

[LD 102](#) *An Act to Increase the Length of Registration for Antique Autos* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich) This bill increases the registration period for antique automobiles from one year to two years and the registration fee from \$30 to \$60. **DEAD**

[LD 101](#) *An Act to Return to the Former Owner Any Excess Funds Remaining After the Sale of Foreclosed Property* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft) This bill requires municipalities to provide notice of the availability of the excess funds associated the disposal or retention of foreclosed property. If within 180 days of the foreclosure the municipality sells the property, the excess is calculated by subtracting from the revenue generated by the sale: (1) all taxes and interest owed on the property and the amount of taxes and interest that would have

been assessed had the property not been acquired by the municipality; (2) the cost of the lien and foreclosure process; (3) the cost of maintaining and disposing of the property; (4) unpaid sewer, water or other charges and fees imposed by the municipality or a quasi-governmental authority; and (5) cost of mailing notices regarding the property. If the property is not sold within 180 days, the excess is calculated by subtracting from the fair market value of the property the expenses listed above. Within 30 days of the sale of the property or 180 days after the foreclosure, the municipality must notify via certified mail the owner, including an itemized statement showing the revenues owed, as well as instructions on how to redeem the funds, which must be kept in a segregated escrow account. If the former owner fails to claim the excess funds in person within 90 days after receipt of the notice, the municipality is allowed to retain the excess funds. If the former owner or the former owner's representative notifies the municipality within 90 days after receipt of the notice, the municipality must negotiate with the former owner over the return of the excess funds. If the former owner is dissatisfied with the municipality's offer, the former owner may seek binding arbitration for resolution of the matter.

[LD 98](#) *An Act to Update the Special Education Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) This bill clarifies that providing equal opportunities for education for children with disabilities means providing equal opportunities for an appropriate education. The bill changes the age of eligibility for special education and for participation in career and technical education courses by adults who are enrolled in special education from under 20 to under 22. The bill replaces the term "pupil evaluation team" with "individualized education program team" and updates references to deafness and blindness.

[LD 96](#) *An Act to Ensure Release of Relevant Background Investigation Material to Current Employers of Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers.* (Sponsored by Rep. Cyrway of Albion) This bill requires a law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail that performs a background investigation on a law enforcement officer or corrections officer to notify the head of the agency, facility or jail that employs the officer if the results indicate probable cause to believe that the officer is or has been involved in criminal activity.

[LD 93](#) *An Act to Ensure Access for All Caregivers to Diaper Changing Stations in Public Restrooms.* (Sponsored by Rep. Collamore of Pittsfield) With some exceptions, this bill requires all public restrooms to be equipped with a safe, sanitary and appropriate diaper changing station that is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Exemptions include public restrooms that: (1) have conspicuous signage providing directions to another restroom on the same floor with a changing station; or (2) would require construction to install the station and at a cost that is not feasible. The Department of Health and Human Services is directed to adopt the routine technical rules necessary to implement the mandate.

[LD 92](#) *An Act to Minimize the Propagation of Invasive Aquatic Plants.* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison) This bill requires a person when removing a vessel from an inland water body to drain the vessel and other equipment and to remove or open drain plugs, bailers, valves, and other devices to drain the water before that vessel is transported. Emergency response vessels are exempted from these requirements.

[LD 91](#) *An Act to Adopt the National 2022 Amendments to the Uniform Commercial Code.* (Sponsored by Rep. Moriarty of Cumberland) This concept draft bill seeks to update the Uniform

Commercial Code with the national 2022 revisions by: (1) creating a new Uniform Commercial Code Article on Controllable Electronic Records; (2) updating Article 9 to allow perfection of security interests in digital assets; (3) promoting new rules for mixed transactions involving both goods and services; (4) updating rules for electronic negotiable instruments; and (5) updating terminology to account for electronic signatures and documents.

[LD 89](#) *An Act to Clarify Eligibility for Property Tax Stabilization for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older.* (Sponsored by Rep. Moriarty of Cumberland) For property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2024, this bill expands eligibility for the property tax stabilization program to the surviving spouse of an eligible individual provided as they were married for at least 10 years before the eligible individual's death. **DEAD**

[LD 88](#) *An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax Revenues.* (Sponsored by Rep. Paulhus of Bath) This bill allocates 12% of the gross sales and excise tax revenue generated by adult use cannabis establishments in Maine to the municipalities where the revenue was generated.

[LD 86](#) *An Act to Restore the Former State of Maine Flag.* (Sponsored by Rep. Paulhus of Bath) This bill replaces the current State of Maine flag with the version in use before 1909.

January 4, 2023

[LD 85](#) *Resolve, Directing the Maine Turnpike Authority to Study Adding Exits off the Maine Turnpike to Aid Economic Development.* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) This resolve directs the Maine Turnpike Authority to conduct a study to evaluate the potential economic development effects of adding exits to the Maine Turnpike. The authority is required to submit a report based on its evaluation by December 6, 2023 for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. **DEAD**

[LD 81](#) *An Act to Address Recovery Residence Participation in the Municipal General Assistance Program.* (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot) This bill requires a municipality to issue a general assistance housing assistance payment to the operator of a certified recovery residence upon request by an eligible person rather than to a landlord, including a property owner.

[LD 79](#) *An Act to Ensure a High-quality Education for Students with Disabilities by Clarifying the Definition of "State Agency Client" and Who Provides Special Education Programs and Services.* (Sponsored by Rep Crafts of Newcastle) This bill clarifies the definition of "state agency client" for purposes of special education to include a child with a disability between the ages of three and 22 who requires an individualized education program to access a free and appropriate public education and who is either: (1) in the care or custody, or both, of the Department of Health and Human Services; or (2) in the custody or under the supervision of the Department of Corrections. The bill also authorizes the state to withhold finance assistance from a school administrative unit, intermediate educational unit, public school, or other public entity that fails to comply with an order to provide appropriate educational services.

[LD 76](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Width of Road Shoulders.* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) This resolve directs the Department

of Transportation to convene a study group including members representing the department and other interested parties to examine the width of road shoulders on state roads and how they may be made consistent across the state. The department is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no later than December 6, 2023 that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation. **DEAD**

[LD 75](#) *An Act to Establish Maximum Contaminant Levels Under the State's Drinking Water Rules to Prohibit Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) This bill amends the law authorizing the adoption of state drinking water rules that establish a maximum contaminant level equivalent to zero nanograms per liter for certain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

[LD 71](#) *Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 171: Control of Petroleum Storage Facilities, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection.* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) This resolve provides for legislative review of Chapter 171: Control of Petroleum Storage Facilities, a major substantive rule of the Department of Environmental Protection. **Finally Passed**

[LD 63](#) *An Act to Clarify That Certain Imported Motor Vehicles Are Not Off-road Vehicles.* (Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield) This bill stipulates that the definition of "off-road vehicle" in the motor vehicle laws does not include an imported motor vehicle this is at least 25 years old.

[LD 62](#) *An Act to Require Antipinch Sensors on School Bus Doors.* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell) This bill requires school buses to be equipped with the technology necessary to prevent a school bus door from closing on a person's limb.

[LD 60](#) *An Act to Require a 72-hour Waiting Period After the Sale of a Firearm.* (Sponsored by Rep. Craven of Lewiston) This bill requires a 72-hour waiting period between the sale of a firearm and its delivery to the purchaser and makes violation of the waiting period a civil violation with a \$200 to \$500 fine for the first offense and a \$500 to \$1,000 fine for a subsequent violation. The bill also provides an exemption for the sale of a firearm to a law enforcement officer that is known by the seller.

[LD 54](#) *An Act to Require Compliance with Natural or Agricultural Resource Protection Ordinances.* (Sponsored by Rep. Lee of Auburn) This bill requires that a housing structure allowed under municipal zoning ordinances due to the enactment of PL 2021, c. 672 (LD 2003) and built after October 1, 2023, comply with municipal ordinances adopted before April 27, 2022, and designed to protect natural and agricultural resources.

[LD 53](#) *An Act to Ensure Accountability for Workplace Harassment and Assault by Removing Intentional Acts and Omissions from Workers' Compensation Exemptions.* (Sponsored by Rep. Lee of Auburn) This bill removes intentional acts and omissions from the exemptions from civil action related to damages sustained by an employee when an employer has secured payment of workers' compensation.

[LD 52](#) *An Act to Allow Certain School Employees to Carry Firearms on School Property.* (Sponsored by Rep. Foster of Dexter) This bill exempts a school employee from the prohibition on possessing a firearm on or discharging a firearm within 500 feet of the property of a public school or an approved private school provided the employee: (1) has successfully completed certification and training prescribed by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy; and (2) is authorized by the school board to possess or discharge a firearm for the purpose of enhancing the safety and security of the school and in defense of students, staff and members of the public on the school premises. The bill also: (1) provides that the school employee is not authorized to exercise law enforcement powers; (2) allows a school board to establish a certification standard and a training program to arm and supervise certain school employees in a manner and according to protocols as the school board determines necessary; and (3) specifies that a school board may not arm a school employee without the employee's voluntary consent and a school employee may not be censured or discriminated against for an unwillingness or refusal to carry a firearm.

[LD 51](#) *An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements.* (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford) This bill reinstates the religious and philosophical exemptions from immunization for students in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools and employees of nursery schools and certain health care facilities.

DEAD

[LD 49](#) *An Act to Authorize the Deorganization of Drew Plantation.* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Steward of Aroostook Cty.) This bill provides for the deorganization of Drew Plantation in Penobscot County, subject to approval at a local special election, and includes a \$70,000 appropriation for the Education in the Unorganized Territories program to fund the cost of educating students currently residing in the plantation. **Emergency Enacted; P&SL 2023, c. 2 (4/10/23)**

[LD 47](#) *An Act to Amend the Law Governing Licensing Actions of the Emergency Medical Services' Board.* (Sponsored by Sen. LaFountain of Kennebec Cty.) This bill amends the law governing licensing actions of the Emergency Medical Services' Board to remove a reference to the revocation of a license.

[LD 45](#) *An Act to Prevent Retaliatory Evictions.* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) This bill amends the rebuttable presumption of retaliation against a tenant under the forcible entry and detainer statutes to include violations of notice of rent increases and limits on increases in rents of units in violation of the warranties of habitability in state statutes, as well as a municipal ordinance limiting rent increases. The bill also provides that in the process of rebutting the presumption, the owner must show by a preponderance of evidence that the reason is provided for under the existing termination of tenancy of statutes (e.g., substantial damage to the rent unit, in arrears on the payment of rent, domestic violence, unauthorized occupant, etc.) or if a violation of a lease provision is a substantial reason for bringing the action.

[LD 44](#) *Resolve, to Rename the Bridge Between Bingham and Concord Township on Route 16 the Jason Dore Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3236 on Route 16 between the Town of Bingham and Concord Township the Jason Dore Memorial Bridge. **Finally Passed; Resolves 2023, c. 4**

[LD 40](#) An Act to Amend the Cannabis Laws. (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) This concept draft bill amends the cannabis laws.

[LD 39](#) No municipal impact.

December 30, 2022

[LD 38](#) *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Freeport the Matthew MacMillan Memorial Bridge.* (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 5720 on Desert Road in the Town of Freeport the Matthew MacMillan Memorial Bridge. **DEAD**

[LD 37](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens to Eliminate the Requirement for an Annual Application.* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This bill amends the laws governing property tax stabilization for senior citizens to eliminate the requirement for annual application and instead provides that a new application is required when an individual establishes a new homestead in the state.

[LD 35](#) *An Act to Establish Adult Protective Services Training Requirements for Professionals Mandated to Report Suspected Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation to Enhance Protection of Incapacitated and Dependent Adults.* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.) This bill requires mandatory reporters of abuse or exploitation of incapacitated and dependent adults, including law enforcement officers and emergency medical service providers, to complete related training once every four years. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 36**

[LD 34](#) *An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting.* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This bill requires a resident who elects to vote at the polling place to provide photograph identification prior to being issued a ballot. Acceptable forms of identification including a current and valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued in this State, a United States passport, a military identification, or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued in this Maine, if that permit includes a photograph. Identification issued by a Maine college or university may not be accepted for voter identification. The bill also allows a person who does not possess photographic identification to request a free voter card from the Secretary of State.

[LD 33](#) *An Act to Expand Access to Career and Technical Education Opportunities for Middle School Students.* (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.) This bill allows ongoing investment of state funding for career and technical education exploration programs for middle school students. **DEAD**

[LD 31](#) *An Act to Allow the Commissioner of Transportation to Reduce Speed Limits at Construction Sites with Input from Municipalities and Utilities.* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.) With guidance from a municipality or utility engaged in a construction project on a public way where construction workers are present, this bill allows the Commissioner of Transportation to temporarily reduce the posted speed limit and requires the adoption of routine

technical rules, including the criteria that must be met before posted speed limit is reduced.

Enacted; PL 2023, c. 19

[LD 29](#) *An Act to Reduce Air Emissions at Petroleum Storage Facilities.* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) This concept draft bill proposes to reduce air emissions at petroleum storage facilities.

[LD 28](#) *An Act to Streamline Rulemaking for Revisions to Screening Levels for the Solid Waste Beneficial Use Program.* (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.) This bill provides that rules of the Board of Environmental Protection relating to the beneficial use of solid waste are major substantive rules, except for certain rules amending screening levels for beneficial use, which the bill specifies are routine technical rules.

[LD 27](#) *An Act to Align Maine's Lead Abatement Law with Federal Definitions and to Clarify Lead Abatement Licensing and Certification Requirements.* (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) This bill amends the types of residential dwellings currently exempt from the lead abatement laws by *excluding*: (1) areas not used for living, sleeping, eating, cooking or sanitation, such as an unfinished basement that is not readily accessible to children under the age of six; and (2) zero-bedroom dwelling units where the living area is not separated from the sleeping area, such as hotel or other seasonal or temporary lodging facilities, if a child under six years of age regularly resides in the unit. The bill further amends the exemption to clarify that unoccupied dwelling units are exempt from the lead abatement laws only if the unoccupied building is inhabitable and posted as a lead hazard until demolished. The bill also removes the exemption that provides that a person 18 years of age or older who owns and personally occupies a dwelling unit in which a resident child has been identified as lead-poisoned need not obtain licensing and certification to perform abatement activities within that dwelling unit, as long as the person completes training required by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Enacted; PL 2023, c. 28

[LD 26](#) *An Act to Provide Postage Prepaid Return Envelopes to Voters Who Send Absentee Ballots by Mail.* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) This bill requires the Secretary of State to furnish each municipality with prepaid return envelopes for voters sending absentee ballots by mail. **DEAD**

[LD 24](#) *An Act to Prohibit Open Burning Under a Red Flag Warning and Regulate Recreational Campfires.* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) This bill prohibits open burning, including recreational campfires, whether the open burning is permitted or not, during periods in which a red flag warning is in effect. The bill also limits the size of recreational campfires, including those that do not require a permit, to three feet in height and three feet in diameter.

[LD 23](#) *An Act to Limit Public Access to or Dissemination of Electronic Citation Information.* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) This bill provides that information contained within the electronic citation database maintained, administered, or contributed to by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police is confidential.

[LD 22](#) *An Act to Impede the Transfer of Firearms to Prohibited Persons.* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) This bill prohibits the unknowing or intentional transfer or sale of a firearm to a person prohibited from possessing the firearm, violation of which is a Class D crime.

[LD 21](#) *Resolve, Designating Maine Turnpike Approach Road in South Portland as Samantha Smith Way.* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Maine Turnpike Approach Road from Route 1 in the City of South Portland to the Maine Turnpike the Samantha Smith Way. **Finally Passed; Resolves 2023, c. 5**

[LD 20](#) *An Act to Further Protect Survivors of Economic Abuse.* (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond) This concept draft bill proposed to further protect survivors of economic abuse.

[LD 15](#) *An Act to Amend the Law Governing the State Grant Program Administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.* (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast) This bill changes the term “historic structure” to “historic property” in the law governing the state grant program administered by the director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 9**

[LD 12](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Severance Pay to Cover More Types of Employers and Include More Workers.* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor) Current law regarding the provision of severance pay due to the closing, substantial shutdown or relocation of a covered establishment applies only to industrial and commercial facilities. This bill removes that limitation, thereby making the severance pay requirements applicable to all sectors employing 100 or more employees. The bill also repeals a provision in existing law requiring issuance of severance pay only to individuals who have been employed for at least three years.

[LD 11](#) *An Act To Strengthen Temporary Protections for Children Living in Dwellings with Identified Lead Hazards.* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston) This bill authorizes of the Department of Health and Human Services to order and enforce the implementation of lead exposure reduction actions in dwellings and childcare facilities until lead hazards are abated or individuals, families and children are relocated to lead-safe facilities. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 82**

[LD 10](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Invasive Aquatic Plants* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) This bill adds to the definition of "invasive aquatic plant" all Myriophyllum species that are nonindigenous to Maine, all Trapa species, all Cabomba species and the plants water soldier, giant salvinia, swollen bladderwort and starry stonewort. The bill further prohibits the sale of any indigenous plant of the genus Myriophyllum in Maine. **Enacted; PL 2023, c. 5**

[LD 9](#) *An Act To Establish Processing Time Limits for Permit by Rule Applications Under the Site Location of Development Laws.* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyle of Gorham) Under current law, the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection is afforded 20 days to decide whether an application meets the permit by rule provision. This bill exempts applications for site location of development from the 20-day determination deadline and instead requires the determination to be made within the applicable time period established annually by the commissioner pursuant to Title 38, section 344-B.

[LD 8](#) *An Act to Increase Support for the Modernization of the Board of Pesticides Control by Increasing the Annual Pesticide Registration Fee.* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) This bill increases the fee to register a pesticide with the Board of Pesticides Control from \$160 to \$200, annually.

[LD 4](#) *An Act to Update Provisions of the Department of Corrections Laws Regarding Operation and Administration of Jails, Women's Services and Juvenile Detention* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren.) This bill: (1) repeals the County and Municipal Detention Facility Advisory Committee and reassigns the tasks of advising the commissioner of the Department of Corrections (DOC) on jail related matters to the County Corrections Professional Standards Council; (2) authorizes the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to reduce lottery winnings by the amount owed to a victim via court order; (3) repeals and replaces language regarding the accreditation of correctional and detention facilities by requiring operations to be reviewed at least once every three years by a nationally recognized best practices reviewing body; (4) authorizes the DOC commissioner to appoint a director of women's services as the chief administrative officer in any adult correction facility that houses women; (5) renames the chief administrative officers of the Mountain View Correctional Facility and the Downeast Correctional Facility as wardens; and (6) repeals provisions of existing law referring to the Mountain View Correctional Facility as a juvenile facility.

December 20, 2022

[LD 3](#) *An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program.* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross for Portland.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2023, c. 1 (1/4/23)**

This emergency bill transfers \$71 million from unappropriated General Fund surplus revenue to Maine Housing of which: (1) \$40 million supplements the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); (2) \$10 million provides up to \$800 in emergency heating assistance to households that are either ineligible for or have exhausted LIHEAP benefits; and (3) \$21 million addresses emergency housing needs occurring between December 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023.

The bill also transfers \$398 million from unappropriated General Fund surplus revenue to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for the implementation of the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program providing one-time \$450 relief payments to eligible recipients. Eligible individuals must have: (1) filed a Maine income tax return as a full-year resident by October 31, 2022; (2) had federal adjusted gross income in the 2021 tax year of less than (a) \$200,000 for married individuals filing jointly; (b) \$150,000 for heads of households; and (c) \$100,000 for single individuals or married individuals filing separately; and (3) have not been claimed as a dependent on another taxpayer's return. Payments will be made no later than March 15, 2023 and are not considered income for Maine income tax purposes.

The bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection, without hearing, to suspend the sulfur content requirements for liquid and solid fossil fuels if expected availability of the fuel

complying with the requirements is inadequate to meet the needs of residential, commercial, or industrial users and specify in writing the period during which the suspension is in play.

Finally, for the duration of FY 2023 the bill temporarily suspends the law requiring certain General Fund revenue and resources be transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund.

December 08, 2022

[LD 2](#) *An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis.* (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland). This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws to address Maine's housing crisis. Through adoption of joint order H.P. 3, this bill establishes the 13-member Joint Select Committee on Housing directed to hold public hearings, conduct work sessions and take votes on housing-related legislation for consideration by the entire Legislature. The committee is further authorized to submit legislation to the House and to seek information from experts on housing matters. Unless extended by joint order, the committee is terminated upon the adjournment of the second session of the 131st Legislature in 2024.

December 07, 2022

[LD 1](#) *An Act to Provide Funding for Winter Emergency Energy Relief and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment.* (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook County.) This emergency bill transfers \$71 million from unappropriated General Fund surplus revenue to Maine Housing of which: (1) \$40 million supplements the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); (2) \$10 million provides up to \$800 in emergency heating assistance to households that are either ineligible for or have exhausted LIHEAP benefits; and (3) \$21 million addresses emergency housing needs occurring between December 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023.

The bill also transfers \$398 million from unappropriated General Fund surplus revenue to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for the implementation of the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program providing one-time \$450 relief payments to eligible recipients. Eligible individuals must have: (1) filed a Maine income tax return as a full-year resident by October 31, 2022; (2) had federal adjusted gross income in the 2021 tax year of less than (a) \$200,000 for married individuals filing jointly; (b) \$150,000 for heads of households; and (c) \$100,000 for single individuals or married individuals filing separately; and (3) have not been claimed as a dependent on another taxpayer's return. Payments will be made no later than March 31, 2023 and are not considered income for Maine income tax purposes.

The bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection, without hearing, to suspend the sulfur content requirements for liquid and solid fossil fuels if expected availability of the fuel complying with the requirements is inadequate to meet the needs of residential, commercial, or industrial users and specify in writing the period during which the suspension is in play.

Finally, for the duration of FY 2023 the bill temporarily suspends the law requiring certain General Fund revenue and resources be transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund.

DEAD

Bills Without LD Numbers

No LD #8 *An Act to Make Changes to the Farm and Open Space Tax Law* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyle of Gorham) This bill establishes a new method for the valuation for property enrolled in farm and open space program, by extending eligibility for a reduced valuation to land managed under a carbon conservation management plan. The plan, a written agreement between the landowner and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, must describe the strategies used on a parcel of land at least 10 acres in size to increase carbon storage or improve carbon conservation and include specific strategies for compliance, be sworn to and complied with by the landowner, and renewed at least once every 10 years. The bill also requires the state to reimburse municipalities for lost property tax revenue in a manner similar to the method of reimbursement provided under the tree growth program. Finally, the bill repeals the statute limiting to no more than 15,000 acres the amount of land that a landowner may enroll in the farm and open space program.

No LD #7 [LR 2113](#) *An Act To Empower Municipalities and Increase Affordable Housing by Authorizing a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-Term Lodging* (Sponsored by Rep. Skold of Portland) This bill authorizes municipalities to impose a local option sales tax of 1% on short-term lodging that is currently subject to the sales tax, provided the authority is approved by referendum at which the total number of votes is equal to or exceeds 20% of the total votes cast in the most recent gubernatorial election. The revenue generated from the local option sales tax is: (1) collected by the State Tax Assessor; (2) distributed quarterly to the municipality imposing the tax; and (3) restricted for use in programs that support the development of affordable housing. As defined in the bill, qualifying projects include developments that are wholly or partly subsidized by municipal funds for which at least 50% of units are affordable housing units. Pursuant to the bill, affordable housing is defined as a decent, safe and sanitary unit for low- and moderate-income households.

[No LD #2](#). *An Act To Support Municipal Franchise Agreements* (Sponsored by Rep. Melanie Sachs of Freeport) This bill provides that beginning on January 1, 2024 any new or renewed franchise agreement or contract between a municipality and a video services provider (VSP) that includes payment of a franchise fee must: (1) authorize the municipality to use the fees to offset the costs to regulate the VSP, support provision of public education and governmental (PEG) programs; offset municipal property taxes; and any other purposes identified by the municipality; (2) require franchise payments to be made no later than 45 days after the end of the each calendar quarter, with failure to do so resulting in the assessment of a 12% interest payment on unpaid fees and enabling the municipality to terminate the agreement or contract for repeated failure to pay fees; and (3) require payments to be accompanied by a financial statement, verified as correct, identifying the total amount of gross annual revenue generated by the activities of the provider and a description of the calculation used to determine the payment, which at the municipality's discretion may be subject to an audit by a qualified third party selected by the

municipality. The bill further clarifies that a municipality's acceptance of franchise fee revenue does not constitute agreement that the amount paid is correct unless the municipality has not initiated a process to challenge or audit the paid fee within 36 months of payment, or within 48 months of receipt of payment in cases where a financial statement is not provided. The bill also: (1) prohibits a VSP from offering or providing services within a municipality unless it has entered into a franchise agreement or contract with the municipality to do so; (2) grants the PUC regulatory oversight of VSP; (3) defines the terms facility support transmission equipment and PEG facility equipment program and signal; (3) replaces the term "cable system operator" with "video service providers" throughout the statute which is defined as a person that sells access to video, audio or computer generated or augmented entertainment services and owns or operates facilities located in whole or in part in public rights-of-way; (4) makes a VSP responsible for all cost for PEG equipment reasonably necessary to capture, process and deliver content and further provides that the VSP may not offset cost through the payment of a franchise fee, but provides that the VSP may recover costs from subscribers as permitted by law and negotiated by the municipality; (5) provides that a strand mile of cable is measure from the end of the current cable installation; (6) repeals the authority for municipalities to grant exclusive franchises; (7) requires the PUC to oversee and enforce the provision of the statute; and (8) authorizes the Attorney General to bring action to enforce the provisions of the law. Finally, the bill creates a dispute resolution process, authorizing the municipality or provider to petition the PUC to investigate and resolve the dispute or request binding arbitration by a mutually agreed arbiter from the Maine Association of Mediators.

No LD #1. *An Act To Amend the Growth Management Law* (Sponsored by Rep. Melanie Sachs of Freeport) This bill makes several changes to the Growth Management Act (GMA), including:

1. Defining the terms adjacent neighborhood, affordable housing, high-impact corridor, important natural resources, neighborhood standards, place-type, region, rural crossroad, rural farmstead, village center, working waterfront and workforce housing; amending the definitions of critical natural resources, downtown, growth area and rural area; and repealing the definitions of cluster development, multi-municipal region, and transitional area. (A summary of new and amended terms are included on the last page of the LD List.)

2. Amending the "purpose" section of the GMA to encourage the State to work with regional planning organizations or council of governments to develop multi-municipal growth management programs to address residential and commercial development, transit, habitat protections, and water quality.

3. Amending established GMA goals to: (1) direct new development to growth areas to make more efficient use of public services and infrastructure, protect natural resources and related industries, and prevent sprawl and resulting traffic impacts; (2) plan for, fund and develop efficient public facilities, including public transportation, and understanding the cost associated with various development patterns and ensuring new developments generate the revenues necessary to fund ongoing infrastructure maintenance and replacement expenses; (3) ensure that municipal land use polices and ordinances encourage the siting and construction of affordable housing located near employment and services and that comply with provisions of state law regarding mobile home and mobile park siting and design requirements; (4) protect, maintain,

and improve the water quality of each water body subject to state regulation and ensure water quality is protected from long term and cumulative increases in phosphorus in great pond watersheds and nitrogen in coastal waters; and (5) encourage municipalities to develop policies to accommodate older residents with aging in place, including appropriate housing options, transportation access and accessibility and availability of needed services.

4. Authorizes the state to adopt routine and technical rules related to the mandatory provisions of the GMA.

5. Until the inconsistency is resolved, authorizes state review of any proposed development project that is proposed within a municipality that has adopted a rate of growth, zoning or impact fee ordinance that is found inconsistent via court order or during a state completed comprehensive plan review.

6. Requires the municipal committee directed to prepare a growth management plan to: (1) create and implement a dynamic engagement strategy to bring together as many people from the community as possible through a series of public events and activities; (2) advertise a full schedule of meetings and opportunities for the community to engage in the process; and (3) share the draft plan broadly with the community, incorporate feedback, issue subsequent drafts and assist with and help champion implementation.

7. In the process of encouraging public participation in the development of the growth management plan, directs the municipality to: (1) assemble and provide key data and insight to the public in an easy to understand format at the beginning of the process to help inform the work; (2) solicit and consider a broad range of public input by holding an initial public workshop to gather big ideas and high priorities from the community; (3) conduct hands-on workshops with the public using maps to understand where residents want to protect critical natural resources and rural areas and how to focus development; (4) prepare illustrative master plans for designated growth areas where significant change is imagined by the community, with multiple alternatives and iterations generated and evaluated in response to public input and feedback, including at least two rounds of review and revision; and (5) provide multiple opportunities for the public to review and comment on draft plans, proposals and priority actions.

8. Requires municipalities to notify the state and regional planning organizations (RPO) that the comprehensive planning process has been initiated and directs the state and RPOs to work with municipalities to provide mapping for initial public workshops, including Beginning with Habitat maps and supporting resources. The state and RPO are allowed, but not required, to provide municipalities with additional useful data and mapping in response to the big ideas and high priorities identified by the public.

9. Amends the statute encouraging public access by requiring planning committees to advertise meetings through traditional and modern media channels and where possible, use hybrid meeting technology, and record meetings for viewing by individuals unable to attend scheduled meetings.

10. Amends the statutes requiring the planning committee to hold at least one public hearing prior to adopting the plan by requiring the committee to present the draft plan with an interactive portion of the meeting providing the public the opportunity to ask questions and provide

feedback. Following the presentation of the plan, the committee must conduct a public comment period, after which the committee must make plan revisions and issue the next drafts. Councils and select boards are required to hold a joint public hearing with the planning board to ensure that all parties agree and to strengthen accountability and townwide ownership of the plan.

11. Requires a copy of the proposed comprehensive plan to be made available on the home page of the municipal website and in hard copies for public inspection.

12. Amends the data that may be analyzed in the process of drafting a comprehensive plan to include supplies of affordable, workforce and market rate housing, socio-economic makeup of the community and available for community networks, programs and support systems to respond to the needs of residents, and data related to the total length of road and other infrastructure liabilities to inform capital plans for the life cycle costs of existing infrastructure projected 30 years out and an understanding of the taxes necessary to pay for additional public services.

13. Requires comprehensive plans to: (1) include a description of the community's desired outcomes for critical natural areas, rural areas and designated growth areas; (2) identify and map conserved land and critical natural resources subject to formal legal protection and rural areas that deserve protection from unrestricted development; (3) identify and map designated growth areas including where development exist, where it should go and the desired pattern of development; (4) use data and maps to guide decisions on how and where to conserve and develop land and include in the comprehensive plan a variety of natural resource based maps; and (5) include an implementation plan consisting of policies and strategies to help the community achieve the plan's goals.

14. Requires adoption of land use policies and strategies that: (1) within designated growth areas reduce minimum lot areas, lots widths and unit sizes; align front and side setbacks with the development characteristics and patterns; allow for a range of multi-unit buildings types; designate use of municipal land for affordable housing; reduce or eliminate on-site parking requirements in downtowns, adjacent neighborhoods, villages and high-impact corridors; eliminate on-site open space requirements; provide clear and simple rules for accessory dwelling units; consider adoption of form-based development standards; establish timely permitting procedures; and where new growth areas are identified, require neighborhood standard to be adopted in a way that implements the community's vision; (2) support development, including affordable housing by establish programs such as TIF, low-interest revolving loans funds, life safety and façade grants, reduce impact fees in growth areas and establish local or regional land banks or community land trust; (3) create a financial plan for the maintenance and replacement of exiting public infrastructure and services over a 30-year life cycle; and (4) with rural areas discourage incompatible development by establishing a fund for land conservation, increasing minimum lot area to 10 acres, assessing impact fees on subdivisions located outside of growth areas, adopting a rate of growth or cap on building permits issued for development outside of the growth area, allowing farmstands on lots that are five acres or greater, establishing a transfer of development rights program and adopting a policy that prohibits the municipality from assuming public ownership or maintenance of private roads located in rural areas.

15. Repeals comprehensive planning provisions that are either duplicative or in conflict with the standards established in the bill.
16. Clarifies state level review of submitted comprehensive plans must be based on adherence with the mandatory elements of the GMA.

New & Amended Definitions in An Act To Amend the Growth Management Law

New Definitions

Adjacent neighborhoods. Areas planned, built, and used for predominately residential activities prior to 1940 that are located within walking distance to the downtown or a high-impact corridor, include a mix of housing (single family, duplex, small apartment buildings, etc.) and are often of historical or architectural significance.

Affordable housing. Decent, safe and sanitary dwellings where the cost is no more than 30% of the family's household income and intended for households with incomes below 80% AMI for rental units and 120% for owned units.

High-impact corridor. A linear collection of contiguous parcels along a regional road that connects a downtown to outlying areas, offering potential for increases in economic activity, housing, street safety, alternative transportation options and improved quality of life.

Important natural resources. Areas important for conservation planning purposes, such as those of statewide ecological – also referred to as Beginning with Habitat – that usually contain rich concentrations of at-risk species and habitats but are not defined as critical natural resources.

Neighborhood standards. Local land use tools that support a pattern of development that is walkable and mixed-income and use that includes standards for low-speed street designs, pedestrian and bicycle connections, proximity to accessible civic spaces, orientation of buildings toward the street and setbacks that bring buildings close to the front of the lot, to name a few.

Place-type. Developed geographic areas which including buildings, streets and other elements that are familiar in Maine, defined in existing laws and proposed in the bill as downtowns, village centers, rural crossroads, high-impact corridors, adjacent neighborhoods, rural farmsteads and working waterfronts.

Region. Two or more municipalities that work collaboratively to establish a joint growth management program or independent programs that direct new development to growth areas to make efficient use of public services and infrastructure.

Rural crossroads. An area with a contiguous grouping of two or more buildings of historic or architectural significance that have formed a center of community.

Rural farmstead. A parcel of land that serves or has the potential to serve as a resource-based economic center of activity in a rural area.

Village center. An area with a loose grouping of predominantly continuous mixed-use parcels that contains multi-story buildings.

Working waterfront. An area of land that serves or has the potential to serve as a resource-based economic center of activity for commercial industries dependent on access to deep water and tidal areas, whether adjacent to a downtown or located within a rural area.

Workforce housing. Decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings where the cost is no more than 30% of the family's household income and intended for household with incomes below 120%.

Amended Definitions.

Critical natural resource. Includes wetlands, animal species, plant species, sand dunes, fragile mountain areas and natural landmarks protected under federal or state laws (e.g., Shoreland Zoning Act, Natural Protection Resources Act, Maine Natural Areas Program, Wetland and Waterbodies Protection Rules, etc.).

Downtown. Areas planned, built, and used for mixed uses prior to 1940 which include multi-story buildings, and often include structures of historical or architectural significance which are typically close together, may be attached and often adjacent to the sidewalk without a front setback.

Growth area. Place-types, identified locally as limited or intended in nature, that are common and recognized settlement patterns and are demonstrated to produce return on municipal investment including downtowns, village centers, rural crossroads, high-impact corridors, adjacent neighborhoods, rural farmsteads and working waterfronts.

Rural area. Includes public water supplies, scarce or vulnerable natural resources and open lands needed to support a vibrant rural economy to the list of areas deserving of regulatory protection from unrestricted development.