

02/14/2025 - LPC LD List
132nd Legislature – First Session

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

[LD 477](#) *An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Rural Counties by Providing State Police Patrol and Policing Services* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

This bill provides funding for 15 state trooper positions, and nine State Police Corporal positions to enhance public safety to support county sheriff department efforts in Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin and Somerset counties.

ENERGY, UTILITIES & TECHNOLOGY

[LD 481](#) *An Act to Allow a Water District Created by Special Act of the Legislature to Borrow Money and Issue a Warrant Prior to a Default* (Sponsored by Rep. Beck of South Portland)

This bill provides that if a water district, prior to a default in the payment on a note, bond or other evidence of indebtedness, makes a determination that the district's anticipated revenues from the normal payment of water charges will not be sufficient to pay the district's anticipated operating expenses, the water district may borrow money to pay the principal and interest and other transaction costs related to the borrowing and may issue the district's warrant immediately to those portions of the municipality or municipalities that constitute the district to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest.

ENVIRONMENT & NATRUAL RESOURCES

[LD 502](#) *An Act to Promote Clean and Affordable Maine-sourced Bioenergy by Amending the Law Regarding Outdoor Wood Boilers and Outdoor Pellet Boilers* (Rep. Ardell of Monticello)

This bill amends the laws regulating outdoor wood boilers, including pellet boilers by: (1) allowing an outdoor wood boiler meeting a particulate matter emission limit of 0.32 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 (2) prohibiting the adoption of department rules that ban the emission of a smoke plume from an outdoor wood boiler, regardless of whether emissions remain on the property of the owner of the outdoor wood boiler or crosses onto any adjacent land or buildings not owned by the owner.

HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[LD 546](#) *Resolve, to Require the Preparation of Preapproved Building Types* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This resolve directs the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry to contract with an appropriate consultant to: (1) establish between five and eight building types that municipalities may adopt

as preapproved building types to reduce the time associated with processing permit applications; (2) develop preapproved building types with units that can be rented at 30% of the county's area median income; (3) ensure public engagement in developing the building types; (4) work with the Office of the State Marshal to determine compliance with life safety codes; and (5) create a catalog of preapproved building types. No later than November 4, 2026, the bill directs the bureau to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters with findings, which must include recommended legislation to ensure that when a municipality adopts preapproved building types, applications for permits must be deemed administratively approved when the development is located along existing streets or within designated growth areas served by public water and sewer.

JUDICIARY

[LD 549](#) *An Act to Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System and Update Certain Requirements Regarding Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kits (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett Oxford Cty.)

This emergency bill: (1) directs the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish, operate and maintain a sexual assault forensic examination kit tracking system; (2) requires law enforcement agencies that receive, maintain, store or preserve sexual assault forensic examination kits to complete an inventory of all kits in its possession and report its findings to DPS; (3) allows a victim who has not reported an alleged offense to a law enforcement agency to request that a completed kit be transported to the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory to be processed by signing a consent form, and the results of the analysis must be kept anonymous; and (4) requires that, beginning January 1, 2027, and every five years thereafter, all completed kits that identify an alleged victim and are being stored by a law enforcement agency be transported to the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory and processed on a rolling basis, beginning with kits most recently stored.

LABOR

[LD 539](#) *An Act to Repeal the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield)

Retroactive to October 25, 2023, this emergency bill repeals the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act; directs the Department of Labor to refund employers for contributions made to the fund; and requires employers to return to employees related payroll deductions.

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

[LD 490](#) *An Act to Provide for a 5-year Automatic Repeal of Agency Rules* (Sponsored by Rep. Smith of Palermo)

This bill amends the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to provide that any agency rule that is finally adopted or amended after January 1, 2026, is automatically repealed five years from the date of final adoption. An agency that has adopted or has jurisdiction over a rule subject

to automatic repeal may submit to the legislature a request for renewal, which protects the rule from repeal for an additional five-year period. Eighteen months before the automatic repeal of a rule, the bill also directs the Secretary of State to inform the state agency with oversight responsibility notice that the rule will be repealed.

[LD 542](#) *An Act Regarding Municipal Property Tax Levy Limits* (Sponsored by Rep. Adams of Lebanon)

This bill reinstates the so-called LD 1 municipal property tax levy limit law that was repealed as of August 9, 2024.

[LD 551](#) *An Act to Restore Balanced Emergency Powers* (Sponsored by Sen. Harrington of York Cty.)

Of municipal interest, this bill provides that emergency orders issued by a state or local official that binds, curtails or infringes on the rights of private parties must be narrowly tailored to serve a compelling public health or safety purpose, and further provides that only the governor can issue an order that infringes on a constitutional right. The bill also gives a state court jurisdiction to hear cases challenging the legality of the exercise of emergency powers and requires the court to expedite consideration of the case to the extent practicable.

[LD 556](#) *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 provides that unless authorized by statute, a municipality may not adopt an ordinance or regulation that prohibits the use of a safe and commercially available heating or energy system to serve the individual's or entity's heating or energy needs, including the heating or energy needs of a motor vehicle, or that prohibits the individual or entity from engaging the services of a person or energy distributor to install, connect, service or resupply such a system. As used in this section, "energy distributor" means an individual or entity allowed to distribute or supply oil, propane, natural gas or wood or renewable resources or other related energy services to consumers.

TAXATION

[LD 526](#) *An Act to Reduce the Time Period for Challenging the Validity of a Property Tax Lien on Commercial Real Estate* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford)

Beginning with a tax lien recorded after June 30, 2026, this bill prevents a person from commencing an action against the validity of a governmental taking of commercial real estate for nonpayment of property taxes upon the expiration of a two-year period immediately following the expiration of the period of redemption. The bill also defines "commercial real estate" property used primarily for business purposes including, without limitation, apartment buildings with five or more rental or lease units, mobile home parks, office buildings and recreational facilities.

TRANSPORTATION

[LD 478](#) *An Act to Reduce Maximum Speeds on Roads Close to Residences* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford)

Except when conditions or other regulations require a lower speed, this bill sets the maximum rates of speed for a public way where at least one residence is located within 15 feet, as: (1) 25 miles per hour for a snowplow and equipment used by the Department of Transportation exclusively for the removal of snow on the public way; (2) 25 miles per hour for a vehicle with at least five axles; and (3) 35 miles per hour for all other vehicles.

[LD 557](#) *An Act to Allow All-terrain Vehicles to Be Used on a Public Way* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

Beginning January 1, 2026, this bill allows the operation of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on a public way as long as the ATV is registered and meets specified safety equipment requirements, and the operator is licensed and insured. The bill requires the payment of the resident or nonresident ATV application fee to register an ATV for operation over a public way and prohibits the operation of an ATV on a public way with a posted speed limit of more than 50 miles per hour. The Department of Transportation is authorized to adopt rules, or a municipality or county may adopt an ordinance, to restrict or prohibit the operation of an ATV on a public way if the department, county or municipality determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary for public safety purposes.

VETERANS & LEGAL AFFAIRS

[LD 494](#) *An Act to Update and Clarify Certain Provisions of State Liquor and Lottery Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor)

Part D of this state agency bill repeals the laws governing liquor signs, with the exception for wholesalers, by limiting signage to no more than five located on the outside of a licensed premises, building, or grounds under that person's control and contiguous or adjacent to the licensed premises that advertises: (1) a liquor is on sale; (2) the price of the liquor, or (3) any other advertising that includes more than the name and logo of the premises or an image appearing on a patio umbrella in an outside seating area.