



LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN



Vol. XLIII No. 7 February 26, 2021

Municipal Leaders Call for Revenue Sharing Increases

One week ago, the Appropriations and Taxation Committees met jointly to accept public testimony on sections of Governor Janet Mills' proposed FY 22-FY 23 General Fund budget appropriating, in part, funds for property tax-related programs. The more municipality relevant sections of the budget include reimbursement for 70% of lost property tax revenues associated with the \$25,000 homestead exemption and the requirement that 3.75% of state sales and income tax revenue is shared with municipalities via the revenue sharing program in each year of the biennium.

Municipal officials from Bangor, Brunswick, Gray and Hallowell, as well as MMA, Mayors' Coalition, and Greater Portland Council of Governments participated in the hearing by offering testimony in support of the revenue sharing program.

While proponents expressed appreciation for the governor's investment in the municipal-state partnership, the testimony provided either asked, urged, reminded or encouraged the Legislature to continue to make progress on the path to restoring funding for the program at the 5% level.

John Eldridge, Brunswick Town Manager, reminded the members of the committee that state revenues are shared with municipalities "in recognition of the vital role and need for property tax relief." Gray Council Chair, Sandy Carder, called on the Legislature to increase revenue sharing to 4% in FY 23, warning that although municipalities "were able to hold the line with property tax increases last year, for the most part, that will be extremely difficult

this year." City of Bangor Finance Director, Debbie Laurie, asked the members to "keep in mind during this session that municipalities simply cannot absorb any more unfunded mandates or cuts to local revenue streams" and encouraged the full 5% restoration of revenue sharing.

James Gardner, Jr., Easton Town Manager and MMA President, urged the members of the committees to find the avenues necessary to increase the amount of state sales and income tax revenue shared with communities this year and next.

Rep. Thom Harnett of Gardiner also joined the ranks of the proponents by reminding his peers that "In the face of this pandemic, where so many property taxpayers are struggling with

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Stopping Cops from Stopping Cars

On Wednesday, the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee held a public hearing on LD 417, *An Act To Protect Maine's Drivers from Pretextual Traffic Stops*, sponsored by Rep. Victoria Morales of South Portland.

As drafted, the bill would prevent an officer from stopping a motor vehicle for a violation of any vehicle related infraction under Title 29-A Chapter 5, 15, 17 or 19, if the officer had reason to suspect the operator of unrelated criminal activity. These chapters cover offenses which include unregistered vehicles, violations of inspection standards, speed, illegal U-turns, failing to yield or signal at intersections, or passing a stopped school bus.

Additionally, any evidence found in a vehicle associated with such a traffic stop for

other criminal activity would be automatically deemed "fruit of the poisonous tree" and inadmissible for prosecution purposes.

Rep. Morales advised the committee during testimony that she felt the legislation was necessary to address racial profiling by police because according to national statistics police disproportionately target minority drivers for minor offenses under a pretext of suspecting them of drug possession or trafficking according to national statistics Maine does not yet collect data on traffic stops. However, limited studies by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in York County showed that black people were twelve times more likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than white people.

Proponents of the bill, the ACLU, Maine

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LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

A weekly publication of the Maine Municipal Association throughout sessions of the Maine State Legislature.

Subscriptions to the *Bulletin* are available at a rate of \$20 per calendar year. Inquiries regarding subscriptions or opinions expressed in this publication should be addressed to: *Legislative Bulletin*, Maine Municipal Association, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330. 207-623-8428. Website: www.memun.org

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HEARING SCHEDULE

For the week of March 1, 2021

MONDAY, MARCH 1

Appropriations & Financial Affairs Room 228, State House, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1635

LD 221 – Governor’s Biennial Budget, in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

1:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Environment & Natural Resources Room 216, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-4149

LD 67 – An Act To Assist in the Restoration of Atlantic Salmon.

LD 69 – An Act To Reduce Duplicative Permitting Review for Projects under the Site Location of Development Laws.

LD 436 – An Act Regarding the Authority of the Department of Environmental Protection Regarding Applications, Permits and Fines.

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Room 206, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1338

LD 404 – An Act to Preserve Deer Habitat.

Note: You should check your newspapers for Legal Notices as there may be changes in the hearing schedule. Weekly schedules for hearings and work sessions can be found on the Legislature’s website at: <http://legislature.maine.gov/calendar/#Weekly/>.

Due to COVID-19 related restrictions (and until further notice), all public hearings and work sessions will be conducted remotely. Municipal officials interested in providing live remote testimony will need to email lio@legislature.maine.gov or call (207) 287-1692 no later than 5 p.m. the day before the hearing for information on how to participate. Comments on bills can be submitted in advance of a public hearing using the Legislature’s testimony submission form ([Online Testimony Submission](https://legislature.maine.gov/online-testimony-submission) ([mainelegislature.org](https://legislature.maine.gov))) and interested parties can view committee proceedings, both live and recorded, on the Legislature’s YouTube channel ([News | Maine State Legislature](https://www.youtube.com/newsmainestatellegislature).)

Labor & Housing Room 202, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1331

LD 447 – An Act To Require Equivalent Paid Parental Leave for All Parents Employed by Companies Offering Paid Parental Leave.

LD 449 – An Act To Strengthen the Ability of Public Employers and Unions to Negotiate.

LD 467 – An Act To Support E-9-1-1 Dispatchers and Corrections Officers Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.

LD 469 – An Act To Ensure Safety across Maine’s Construction Industry.

State & Local Government Room 214, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1330

LD 379 – An Act To Establish the Maine State Cemetery Commission.

Veterans & Legal Affairs Room 437, State House, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1310

LD 301 – An Act Regarding Adult Use Marijuana.

LD 353 – An Act To Establish Medical Marijuana Cooperatives.

LD 421 – An Act To Increase the Number of Plants a Medical Marijuana Caregiver May Cultivate.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Room 214, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1312

LD 125 – An Act To Prohibit the Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate and Other Synthetic Herbicides for the Purpose of Silviculture.

Appropriations & Financial Affairs Room 228, State House, 1:00 p.m. Tel: 287-1635

LD 221 – Governor’s Biennial Budget, in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services.

3:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans & Legal Affairs.

Judiciary Room 438, State House, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1327

LD 448 – An Act Regarding Recording of Witness Interviews.

Marine Resources Room 206, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1337

LD 454 – An Act To Ensure Equity in the Shellfish Depuration Compensation Process for Municipalities by Increasing the Rate of Reimbursement Paid to Municipalities.

Taxation Room 127, State House, 9:30 a.m. Tel: 287-1552

LD 141 – An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Tax Laws.

LD 412 – An Act To Authorize the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Constructing or Renovating Municipal Offices and Other Buildings.

LD 418 – An Act To Create a Graduated Real Estate Transfer Tax.

Transportation Room 126, State House, 1:00 p.m. Tel: 287-4148

LD 571 – Resolve, To Name a Bridge in the Town of Veazie the Hayward Carl Spencer Memorial Bridge.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Appropriations & Financial Affairs Room 228, State House, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1635

LD 221 – Governor’s Biennial Budget (Appropriations & Financial Affairs)

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

Environment & Natural Resources Room 216, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-4149

LD 390 – An Act Regarding the Mapping of Shoreland Zones.

Labor & Housing Room 202, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1331

LD 473 – An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program.

Hearing Schedule (cont'd)

State & Local Government Room 214, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1330

LD 434 – An Act To Clarify the Bonding Authority of Counties for Capital Maintenance Projects.

LD 446 – An Act To Reestablish the State Planning Office.

Veterans & Legal Affairs Room 437, State House, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1310

LD 451 – An Act To Remove the Party Designation from Return Envelopes for Absentee Ballots for the General Election.

LD 456 – An Act To Protect Voter Identification by Prohibiting a Voter's Party Designation from Appearing on Absentee Ballot Envelopes.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Room 214, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1312

LD 324 – An Act To Limit Public Land Ownership in Maine.

Appropriations & Financial Affairs Room 228, State House, 1:00 p.m. Tel: 287-1635

LD 221 – Governor's Biennial Budget, in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

3:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

Health & Human Services Room 209, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m. Tel: 287-1317

LD 269 – An Act To Prohibit Smoking in Bus Shelters.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

Appropriations & Financial Affairs Room 228, State House, 10:00 a.m. Tel: 287-1635

LD 221 – Governor's Biennial Budget, in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

1:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry.

Municipal Leaders Call for Revenue Sharing Increases (cont'd)

job loss, reduced income and other challenges, now is not the time to continue to fail to live up to our promise of full revenue sharing at 5%. Our friends, neighbors, small businesses and their communities are struggling like never before. Now more than ever is the time to do what we all know is right - fully fund revenue sharing.”

On Thursday this week, the Taxation Committee began its deliberations on these issues. No recommendations have been advanced as of yet.

Revenue Sharing Day in Tax. Municipal officials will have a second opportunity to support increased funding for the revenue sharing program, as three related bills will receive a public hearing on March 9.

LD 328, *An Act to Fully Fund and Restore*

State-Municipal Revenue Sharing, sponsored by Rep. Harnett, increases state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% as of Jan. 1, 2021. Rep. Walter Riseman of Harrington is also advocating for the immediate return to 5% via LD 409, *An Act To Provide Funding To Restore Fully State-Municipal Revenue Sharing*.

LD 403, *An Act To Assist Service Center Communities by Adjusting State Municipal Revenue Sharing*, sponsored by Rep. Colleen Madigan of Waterville, increases revenue sharing to 4.25% for FY22 and FY23. Despite the title of the bill, the increase would benefit all communities.

The hearing on all three bills will take place before the Taxation Committee on **Tuesday, March 9 at 9:30 a.m.**

Stopping Cops from Stopping Cars (cont'd)

Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Maine Prisoner Advocacy Project, and the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project mirrored the sponsor's sentiments and maintained the communities they represent, including poor white drivers who struggle to pay for repairs or fines, would benefit from the proposed legislation.

MMA, Maine Chiefs of Police, the Department of Public Safety, and Maine Sheriff's Association all testified in opposition to the drafted bill. Opponents are concerned the proposal would effectively prevent police from stopping suspected impaired drivers, conducting roadblocks in the area of a serious criminal incident to search for fleeing suspects, or stopping suspect vehicles in human trafficking investigations.

Focusing on two Supreme Court rulings, *Whren v. United States*, 517 U.S. 806 (1996) and *Rodriguez v. United States*, 575 U.S. (2015), opponents pointed out that “pretext” stops are constitutional based on settled case law and an officer may not extend the length of the traffic stop to seek for additional criminal evidence not related to the stop, without reasonable articulable suspicion. Additionally, the existing evidence suppression process regularly evaluates the validity of a traffic stop effectively achieving what opponents sought to protect.

MMA staff highlighted the bill sought to address a symptom and not the problem in broad and sweeping way that would ultimately

harm victims of other crimes. At the core of the issue are perceived abuses of authority by police that feed distrust and erode legitimacy, which in turn influence public attitudes toward law enforcement. Public trust, once lost, is an uphill battle to regain.

Recognizing the vital role policing has in society, agencies across the U.S. are using President Obama's recommendations from the Task Force on 21st Century Policing to engage communities of color in reform measures at each step of their design and implementation. Significant research shows that agency leadership and institutional commitment to community oriented procedural justice principles are the keys to harm reduction at all levels. Such efforts improve not only community respect for the important role of law enforcement, but also police officer morale.

Procedural justice principles include consistent respectful interactions, bias-free decision-making supported by robust and enforced internal written policy, cultural competency education, and colleague accountability to reshape internal culture and reduce police involved shootings. Additionally a customer service like approach which focuses on explaining processes during interactions with the public, and allowing community voices to be heard helps rebuild public confidence in their agencies.

A work session on the bill is scheduled for Monday, March 1 at 10:00 a.m.

Plastic Bag Ban Gets Recycled Treatment

This week the Environment and Natural Resources Committee fielded testimony on single-use plastic bags, an issue previously disposed of through a statewide ban beginning July 31, 2021. The committee is considering three bills:

- LD 39, *An Act to Remove the Plastic Bag Ban*, sponsored by Sen. Stacey Guerin of Penobscot County;
- LD 108, *An Act to Improve Public Safety by Repealing the Single-use Plastic Carry-out Bag Ban*, sponsored by Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham of Winter Harbor; and
- LD 244, *An Act To Repeal Maine's Single-use Plastic Bag Law*, sponsored by Sen. Paul Davis of Piscataquis County.

Testimony in opposition to the bills was easily recycled, because what was true when the ban was sanctioned is still true today. There is insufficient waste and recycling infrastructure to support the mass production of single-use plastic bags; recycling plastic packaging materials is energy inefficient; eight million

metric tons of plastic ends up in the oceans every year; seabirds and marine organisms are suffering the effects of nanoplastics in the ecosystem; Maine's ocean resources are at risk of degradation from plastic pollution; and municipalities bear the burden of plastic bag disposal costs.

The only testimony in support came from the bill's three sponsors.

One argument for eliminating the approved plastic bag ban included the claim that reusable bags pose greater public health risks than single-use bags. While this sounded logical, scientific evidence does not line up. It was noted by one committee member that data does not indicate reusable bags have a higher risk of fomite (e.g., materials that are likely to carry infections) transmission than single-use bags. Just like there is no market for recycling single-use plastic bags, neither was there an audience for the health concerns of reusable bags.

Equity concerns for small business owners

who may have to source more expensive bags or individuals who cannot afford reusable bags did catch the attention of committee members. Supporters of the bill claimed plastic bag bans are inherently racist and originate from a place of privilege. The committee intends to investigate these claims during the work session.

Municipal support for the ban reached at least 25 towns and cities in Maine prior to the enactment of a statewide ban that preempted their ordinances. If the Legislature votes to repeal state law, the municipalities that took their plastic-bag bans off the books when the state law was enacted will have to reinstate the ordinances. Additionally, all municipalities can expect to see single-use plastic bags wind up in the waste stream, adding more costs for disposal to the taxpayers.

A recording of the public hearing can be found on the committee's Youtube channel. A work session on these bills is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Exemption Season Begins

As sure as the residents of Punxsutawney, PA can be counted on to awaken their famous groundhog from a winter's slumber, the members of the Taxation Committee can be expected to debate the merits of bills seeking property tax exemptions. Those requests come in all sizes and impact the properties owned by a variety of parties, including veterans, seniors, farmers, fraternal organizations and environmentalists. Although each group presents compelling arguments as to why their property should also be added to the tax free rolls, no matter how you describe it, the granting of exemptions simply shifts the burden of funding mandated and desired local government services from the many to the few.

This year is no different. On Tuesday, the committee held public hearings on two bills seeking property tax exemptions.

LD 179, *An Act To Exclude Energy Efficiency Improvements from Property Tax*, sponsored by Rep. Chris Kessler of South Portland, seeks to exempt all property as-

sociated with residential energy efficiency improvements, expanding on the solar energy exemption enacted in 2020.

LD 198, *An Act To Improve Maine's Tax Laws by Providing a Property Tax Exemption for Central Labor Councils*, sponsored by Sen. Ben Chipman of Cumberland County, would exempt the property owned by Maine unions, in similar fashion to that owned by boards of trade and chambers of commerce.

MMA opposed both bills.

Municipal officials understand that energy improvements are important and agree that similar property owners should be treated equally. However, they do not believe it is prudent to incentivize certain behaviors or address inequities to the detriment of the remaining – and ever dwindling – property taxpayers.

At a minimum, state priorities should be funded with state revenues that are not otherwise dedicated to local government partners. In an effort to ensure the equitable treatment of similar property owners, municipal leaders

would prefer that the members of the Legislature review and modernize the state's property tax policies to ensure that all property owners fund a portion of the local government services they consume.

The culmination of state-level decisions that demand municipalities and their property taxpayers do more with less, while simultaneously calling into question the spending priorities adopted by town meetings and duly elected town and city councils, is unsustainable and unwarranted. The Legislature needs to take a serious look at the burdens placed on the property tax to fund municipal, school and county services.

A work session on these bills is scheduled for Thursday, March 4 at 9:30 a.m.

IN THE HOPPER

(The bill summaries are written by MMA staff and are not necessarily the bill's official summary statement or an excerpt from that summary statement. During the course of the legislative session, many more bills of municipal interest will be printed than there is space in the *Legislative Bulletin* to describe. Our attempt is to provide a description of what would appear to be the bills of most significance to local government, but we would advise municipal officials to also review the comprehensive list of LDs of municipal interest that can be found on MMA's website, www.mmun.org.)

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

LD 539 – An Act To Require Law Enforcement Agencies To Do a Thorough Background Check of Applicant Officers and Require the Release of Records, Including Sealed Records, to the Requesting Agency. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill requires a candidate for employment as a law enforcement officer who has previous law enforcement experience to provide the hiring law enforcement agency a written waiver authorizing prior law enforcement employers to release all performance related employment records on the candidate, including sealed records but not including medical, pay and other nonperformance data, and releasing the hiring and disclosing law enforcement agencies of liability related to the disclosure or use of the employment records. A previous employer is immune from any confidentiality or nondisclosure law, policy or contractual requirement for providing information to a hiring law enforcement agency. This bill requires a hiring law enforcement agency to conduct a background check on the employment records prior to hiring the candidate and forbids a law enforcement agency from hiring a candidate who refuses to provide the written waiver.

LD 573 – An Act Concerning Records of the Employment of Law Enforcement Officers and Corrections Officers. (Sponsored by Rep. Corey of Windham)

This bill requires a law enforcement officer or corrections officer who applies for employment with a law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail, when the applicant is employed by or within 90 days prior to the application employed by another law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail, to request that the officer's personnel records, employment records, internal investigation records and any other records pertaining to the applicant's employment and job performance be released to the other agency, facility or jail. The request form, which must be signed and witnessed, must include a waiver of any rights that the applicant has to the privacy of the personnel and employment records, internal investigation records and any other records pertaining to the employment and job performance of the applicant. The bill directs the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to adopt routine technical rules to establish the request and waiver form. The bill requires the agency, facility or jail to which the request was made to promptly release the requested information and provides civil and criminal immunity to both the sending and the receiving agency, facility or jail. Furthermore, the bill requires an agency, facility or jail that performs a polygraph examination 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.

Environment & Natural Resources

LD 489 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment. (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.)

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, recreational, scenic and healthful qualities of the environment.

LD 502 – An Act To Broaden the Definition of “Working Waterfront” with Respect to Land Use Planning. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures facilitating a review of how working waterfront or working waterfront property is defined and treated throughout statutes to assess whether statutory or regulatory changes are needed to better recognize and account for water-dependent commercial activities associated with working waterfront or working waterfront property in the state's land use planning, resiliency planning and climate change adaptation strategies.

Health & Human Services

LD 475 – Resolve, To Create the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This resolve establishes the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative in order to develop a plan to provide stable housing and community services to 200 persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who are the most frequent consumers of high-cost services, such as psychiatric hospitals, emergency shelters, emergency rooms, police, jails and prisons. The collaborative must submit a report to the Committee on Health and Human Services no later than Jan. 1, 2022 on its plan and recommendations. The committee is authorized to report out a bill in 2022 implementing the collaborative's recommendations.

LD 512 – An Act To Provide Intensive Case Managers to Counties That Do Not Have County Jails or Regional Jails. (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast)

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to create additional intensive case manager positions so that counties that do not have a county jail or regional jail will have an intensive case manager. An intensive case manager oversees persons who are detained by a law enforcement officer and who have intellectual disabilities or mental health conditions or have misused substances and connects them to the services for which they qualify, works with the court system to ensure that they receive due process and speedy trials and assists persons who qualify for the MaineCare program to apply for and receive MaineCare benefits and services while being detained or incarcerated, including during the implementation of diversion and reentry plans.

Judiciary

LD 589 – An Act To Provide Access to Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

Under existing Tort Claim Act provisions, a claim against a governmental entity or its employees permitted under the Act is barred from the courts, unless an action begins within two years after the cause of action accrues, except that, if the claimant is a minor when the cause of action accrues, the action may be brought within two years of the minor's attaining 18 years of age. This bill further provides that the limitation in the Act does not apply to a claim based upon a sexual act toward a minor. The bill also revives for a period of two years, beginning six months after the effective date of this legislation, any civil claim or cause of action based upon a sexual act toward a minor that was barred because of the period of limitation or because of failure to timely file notice of claim. Furthermore, the bill provides that, in an action based upon a sexual act toward a minor that was barred by operation of the statute of limitations prior to the effective date of this legislation and that is revived pursuant to this legislation, damages may be awarded against an entity that employed, supervised or had responsibility for the person who committed or allegedly committed the sexual act only if there is a finding of negligence on the part of the entity.



Maine Municipal Association

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IN THE HOPPER

Taxation

LD 409 – An Act To Provide Funding To Restore Fully State-Municipal Revenue Sharing. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison)

This bill increases state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% as of Jan. 1, 2021.

LD 470 – An Act To Allow a Veteran Who Was a Member of the Military Reserves or Served in the National Guard To Qualify for the Veterans' Property Tax Exemption. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.)

This bill provides that persons who served on active duty in the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces are considered veterans eligible for veterans' property tax exemptions.

LD 534 – An Act To Allow Tax Abatements for Catastrophic Loss. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill allows municipal assessors, or the State Tax Assessor for property in the unorganized territory, to abate the property taxes of real property that, due to destruction by flood, fire, explosion or natural disaster, suffers at least a 50% decrease in just value to improvements on that real property.

LD 576 – An Act To Increase Property Tax Relief for Veterans. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

Beginning on or after April 1, 2022, this bill: (1) increases to \$10,000 the property tax exemption for all categories of eligible veterans other than paraplegic veterans receiving a \$50,000 exemption for specially

adapted housing units; (2) expands the dates of federally recognized war periods to include February 1, 1955 to February 27, 1961; and (3) requires the state to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the property tax revenue loss as a result of the increase and expansion of the exemption.

Veterans & Legal Affairs

LD 525 – An Act To Allow Medical and Adult Use Marijuana Stores To Share a Common Space. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill allows the use of a shared facility for retail sale of adult use and medical marijuana and products, as long as the adult use marijuana and products are sold using a different cash register than that used for sales of medical marijuana and products.

LD 557 – An Act To Require Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting. (Sponsored by Rep. Johansen of Monticello)

This bill requires proof of identity via photograph identification when voting in person. Acceptable photograph identification is a current and valid driver's license or non-driver identification card issued in this state, U. S. Passport, 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

LD 580 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Early Voting. (Sponsored by Rep. Moriarty of Cumberland)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to authorize a process by which municipalities may conduct early voting by allowing voters to vote in the same manner as on election day during a period immediately preceding an election and to allow absentee voting for any sufficient reason.