



# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN



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## Training Law Enforcement Will history repeat itself?

The Maine Criminal Justice Academy's (MCJA) history is based on a model very familiar to municipal officials. Bootstrapping federal seed money in the late 1960s for improving the operation of the criminal justice system during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, the Maine Municipal Association assembled a board of directors passionate about professionalizing law enforcement to supervise a two-week training program and work to encourage agencies to engage in the effort. The first training programs were offered in the Portland, Augusta, and Bangor regions.

This voluntary pursuit of training ended in the 1970s when the Mandatory Training Act for Law Enforcement was enacted. The municipal creativity that established the training in the 1960s was now a perfect foundation to build the more permanent model and Thomas College in Waterville secured the purchase of MCJA's first facility.

Nearly 50 years later, the academy is still dependent on volunteers to deliver training. Agencies provide officers who are certified instructors to deliver annual certifications in key law enforcement subjects free of charge to other agencies. This cooperative volunteer model helps deliver on-site hands-on training to agencies instead of forcing them to send their officers to the Vassalboro facility for some annual recertifications.

However, since the 1990s the extent of mandated certifications that officers must obtain annually has expanded without any additional instructional support. Still, 60% of municipal police are providing training officers to the academy without remuneration.

Unfortunately, the approach to increase training requirements without additional resources is still a path being explored by the Legislature, as evidenced by the introduction of LD 1447, *An Act To Require Training in Racial Issues, Racial Justice and Social Issues at the Maine*

*Criminal Justice Academy and To Establish Additional Requirements for Law Enforcement Officers and Candidates*, sponsored by Rep. Lori Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach. As printed, the bill mandates all law enforcement officials to obtain an associate's degree as a condition of employment and further directs MCJA to adopt supplementary training mandates.

However, at the bill's work session before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee on Wednesday, Rep. Gramlich introduced an amendment replacing the printed bill with a measure establishing a study commission to review the curriculum of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, whose membership would include representation from individuals beyond law enforcement.

The amendment was a surprise to many committee members, as well as to the original stakeholders the sponsor was directed to work with, who were reviewing the language for the first time during the work session. However, the proposal could bring forward an opportunity to invest in the attributes legislators desire from

law enforcement rather than mandate additional training obligations without financial assistance, as it has in the past.

The amendment creates a 13-member Law Enforcement Training and Qualifications Study Commission directed to report its findings and recommendations to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee no later than Dec. 5, 2022. The amendment also authorizes the committee to submit legislation in 2023 for consideration by the Legislature.

The commission is directed to review: (1) best practices in training law enforcement officers, including instruction in racial issues training protocols and requirements in other states; (2) best practices in training law enforcement officers in social issues presented by persons with substance use disorder and behavioral health disorders and by persons experiencing homelessness, including training protocols and requirements in other states; and (3) whether to require that all applicants for certification and recertification possess legal authorization

*(continued on page 3)*

## Who Will Get the Final Word on 5G Facilities?

Every new technology brings with it a group of stakeholders intent on statewide deployment. Often the fear of hasty and redundant deployment puts municipalities in the tough position of weighing the immediate benefits of a new technology against the long-term implications of land use, local control, and tech obsolescence. Small cell wireless 5G facilities are one such technology.

This week the State and Local Government Committee continued the long discussion surrounding the authority of municipal ordinances to regulate a technology that some feel should

be permissive in every community with as few restrictions as possible. At the midnight hour before its public hearing an amendment to LD 383, *An Act Concerning Small Wireless Facilities in Maine* sponsored by Rep. Sophia Warren of Scarborough revealed that at least one legislator is interested in codifying broad municipal authority to regulate these facilities.

During the hearing the committee was more interested in knowing how this bill came about and the level of stakeholder input gathered by the sponsor rather than the actual implications of the legislation. Numerous members of the

*(continued on page 2)*

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## Taking Home Delivery to A New High

If Rep. Joseph Perry of Bangor is successful, certain adult use marijuana store owners will be authorized to deliver plants and related products to customers in all Maine communities. LD 1827, *An Act To Permit Limited Delivery of Adult Use Marijuana*, authorizes distribution “regardless of whether the municipality has approved the operation of marijuana stores.”

The suggestion that municipalities stand in the way of the expansion of the adult use industry ignores the fact that it is residents who direct local government functions and operations. Whether it is the adoption of a land use ordinance, the provision of public safety services or the development of the adult use marijuana industry, it is the local legislative body—town meeting or council—that authorizes those decisions.

By authorizing delivery “regardless” of whether the community has opted-in, the provision in LD 1827 prioritizes the desires of the industry over that of the residents.

As it pertains to this issue, the protection of local discretion is of utmost importance as the referendum question legalizing adult use marijuana in Maine was supported by the slightest of margins. On Nov. 8, 2016, 50.3% of the voters supported the initiative, while 49.7% opposed.

In recognition of the narrowness of the election’s outcome, the implementing legislation promotes local discretion by allowing communities to decide whether related businesses will operate within municipal boundaries.

By limiting local discretion over delivery, the legislation sets the stage for further erosion of local control. Municipal officials are concerned that if LD 1827 is enacted, it will whet legislative appetite for further modifications to existing law and intrusion on local control, for example the potential for requiring municipalities to allow the location of related retail stores in all districts zoned for business activities.

Proponents of the bill, including the bill’s sponsor and representatives from the adult use industry, testified before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee on Wednesday stating that unlimited at-home delivery will support the industry’s growth by allowing direct sales of products in all areas of Maine’s vast state, and not only in the 50 municipalities that have opted

to allow sales in their communities. In addition, supporters believe the proposed change will place a needed hinderance on the illegal market by making safe, tested, and regulated marijuana products easily available across the state.

The Maine Public Health Association opposes LD 1827 as potentially increasing youth access to and use of marijuana, particularly in the absence of delivery parameters such as requiring verification of age.

In a similar vein, the Northern New England Poison Center in its “neither for nor against” testimony raised concern with increases in unintentional marijuana poisoning cases among children, which can lead to serious health ramifications. According to the center, the number of unintentional poisoning cases in Maine grew by 65% between 2020 and 2021.

Whether the delivery of adult use marijuana will be authorized over the objections of the voters will be decided by the committee at a future work session.

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### Who Will Get the Final Word on 5G Facilities? (cont’d)

committee were informed of this issue when it first arose years ago and wondered how this bill addresses the original concerns raised by all interested parties.

At stake is the authority for municipalities to enact ordinances specific to small cell wireless facilities, something industry representatives argue the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) prevents them from doing. From the municipal perspective this legislation is codifying an authority to create discriminatory ordinances that local officials feel they already possess. Whether this legislation is preempted by the FCC, MMA is always hopeful that federal agencies will amend their laws to support municipal governments.

The last-minute introduction of the amendment to LD 383 made for a very short list of testimony. The only party at the public hearing in opposition was the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association who offered full-throated disapproval of any attempt to create barriers to the deployment of this 5G technology.

MMA was the sole party in support of the bill. MMA’s provisional support was a balance of four key considerations: (1) the current

regulatory climate tips in favor of industry’s intent to hastily deploy these facilities and the power should be rebalanced; (2) 5G technology is just one of many utilities vying for space in the public right-of-way and municipalities deserve to be able to coordinate land use for the many utilities; (3) when 5G technology becomes outdated these facilities will be left in the public right-of-way with no practical use; and (4) MMA’s support for the bill does not indicate its unwillingness to create a model ordinance that all stakeholders approve.

Committee members recognized the relatively small audience for a bill of such far-reaching implications and with a history of mixed perspectives. Some members were interested in conducting a second public hearing to offer all parties more time to find compromise, however the final decision was to not create additional opportunities for this bill just because the sponsor was late to file language beyond the concept draft. It is possible that the last-minute nature of the bill amendment has sealed its fate.

The work session for LD 383 has been scheduled for two weeks from now, however the exact date and time is still to be determined.

### Right to Strike Bill Pulled

Recognizing the tremendous pressure the ongoing public health crises has placed on public employees and the challenges associated with providing services, Rep. Michael Sylvester of Portland requested an “ought not to pass” vote on LD 555, *An Act to Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees*, extending a right to strike to public employees. Out of respect for his advocacy on labor rights, Rep. Sylvester left the meeting choosing not to cast a vote in opposition to the bill. Upon his departure, the Labor and Housing Committee voted “ought not to pass” by a margin of 9 to 1.

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## Training Law Enforcement (cont'd)

to work in this country, that the applicant be at least 21 years of age, that the applicant possess a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma and an associate's or higher degree in criminal justice or the social sciences, with coursework in cultural competence, history of race and bias, restorative justice, procedural justice and communication skills.

At the work session committee, members debated the composition of the proposed commission and the intended focus of the study. Members agreed that the single law enforcement representative proposed in the amendment should be expanded to include representation from municipal, state and county agencies who have very different enforcement and education needs.

Without seeing the amendment the stakeholders were unable to provide informed feedback. MMA asked that the committee consider how the stakeholders who had not been consulted could better enhance the language with operational knowledge including an assessment on how such curriculum has been developed related to how the academy is funded and instructors are provided. The committee moved to table the bill until the sponsor could connect with the original stakeholders to receive additional feedback.

All the stakeholders agree that a review is warranted. However, where that review starts in relationship to known identified needs and barriers could either improve the volunteer model or result in yet another legislative study that will gather dust in the library bookshelves.

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## LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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# HEARING SCHEDULE

For the week of January 24, 2022

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## MONDAY, JANUARY 24

**Environment & Natural Resources**  
**Room 216, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Tel: 287-4149**

LD 1872 – Resolve, To Create a Task Force Relating to the Water Quality of Saco Bay.

LD 1875 – An Act To Address Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution from State-owned Solid Waste Disposal Facilities.

LD 1911 – An Act To Prohibit the Contamination of Clean Soils with So-called Forever Chemicals.

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

LD 1873 – An Act Related to Airboats.

**State & Local Government**  
**Room 214, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Tel: 287-1330**

LD 1832 – An Act To Correct the Year of the Expiration of the Terms of 2 County Commissioners in Sagadahoc County.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

**Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry**  
**Room 214, Cross Building, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Tel: 287-1312**

LD 736 – An Act To Enhance the Ecological Reserve System.

**Education & Cultural Affairs**  
**Room 208, Cross Building, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Tel: 287-3125**

LD 1902 – Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program To Encourage Climate Education in Maine Public Schools.

**Energy, Utilities & Technology**  
**Room 211, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Tel: 287-4143**

LD 1847 – An Act To Prohibit a Public Utility from Terminating or Disconnecting service to a Public Safety Facility without Advance Notice and Approval.

**Judiciary**  
**Room 438, State House, 1:00 p.m.**  
**Tel: 287-1327**

LD 1871 – Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Extend Its Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues.

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

LD 1912 – Resolve, To Rename 3 Bridges in Brownville and Brownville Junction.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

**Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services**  
**Room 220, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Tel: 287-1314**

LD 1858 – An Act Regarding Delegating Authority for Services Performed by Emergency Medical Services Personnel in Health Care Facilities.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

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

LD 1852 – Resolve, Authorizing the Maine National Guard To Sell Certain Property in Hallowell.

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](mailto: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 ([mainelegislature.org](http://mainelegislature.org))) and interested parties can view committee proceedings, both live and recorded, on the Legislature's YouTube channel (News | Maine State Legislature.)

# Redevelopment Authorities Given Second Consideration

Tired of looking at abandoned, blighted, environmentally hazardous or functionally obsolete properties in your community? Good news, you are not alone. Bad news, redeveloping these undesirable parcels is easier said than done.

That is why Rep. Melanie Sachs of Freeport introduced LD 1694, *An Act To Create the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority*, which establishes state and regional partners to assist with redevelopment of municipally-owned properties.

Presently municipalities face an uphill battle to get property redeveloped and returned to their tax rolls. The process of acquiring, financing, and remediating property for redevelopment is lengthy, costly, and risky for most local governments to undertake alone. Here lies the justification for a land bank redevelopment authority. Such an authority would have access to an expedited permitting and approval process facilitating the redevelopment of property,

shortening the process by years.

Municipalities would have the option to create and manage their own authority or work cooperatively with a regional or state partner.

LD 1694 had its public hearing last year but was carried over and discussed during a work session this week before the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee. The public hearing elicited no opposition, and any outstanding concerns raised at that hearing were generally put to rest during the work session.

Two municipal concerns rose above the rest: (1) should this activity be left to private developers, and (2) can a land bank redevelopment authority acquire land against a municipality's wishes?

The first matter is simply explained as a market failure; land bank redevelopment authorities would be working exclusively on properties that the market has failed, or in other words, properties of which developers have complete

disinterest in. These circumstances force public entities to take the lead on redevelopment at the expense of local property taxpayers.

The second matter is also readily decided; a municipality must expressly permit an authority to acquire and redevelop a property.

After significant conversations with state and local officials, MMA offered amended testimony during the work session in support of the legislation. MMA's constructive commentary during the meeting was that regional planning commissions, or council of governments, are not equally robust in all areas of the state, meaning only some municipalities will have access to a regional partner with adequate staff and financial capacity to perform these redevelopments.

Even though there was unanimous support from the public, committee members balked at committing to a vote. Instead, the bill was tabled for further discussion at its next work session, still to be scheduled.

## IN THE HOPPER

### Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

**LD 1929 – An Act To Provide Assistance to Areas Severely Infested with Browntail Moths.** (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to administer a program to assist a government entity or nonprofit organization, upon application by that government entity or nonprofit organization to the department, with the control of browntail moths. It also includes an appropriation for an Entomologist I position and a Senior Entomology Technician position in the department to support the management of forest insect pests.

### Criminal Justice & Public Safety

**LD 1440 – An Act To Provide Safe Gear for Female Firefighters.** (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor)

This bill appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 for the State Fire Marshal to provide grants to municipal fire departments, volunteer fire associations and fire districts to purchase safe and properly fitting personal protective equipment and firefighter turnout gear for female firefighters.

**LD 1859 – An Act To Build More Sustainable Ambulance Services in Communities.** (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This bill directs the Emergency Medical Services' Board to establish a public education program for the purpose of educating a community, or a group of communities, including public and civic leaders, on the current capacity and costs of emergency medical services and provide detailed information regarding alternative strategies and options for meeting emergency medical services needs.

**LD 1863 – An Act To Allow Bars with an Occupancy of 30 or Fewer Persons To Have Only One Bathroom.** (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill prohibits municipal building codes or other law from requiring an establishment that permits on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages that has an occupancy of 30 or fewer persons to have more than one restroom.

(The bill summaries are written by MMA staff and are not necessarily the bill's 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.memun.org](http://www.memun.org).)

**LD 1886 – An Act To Repeal the Law Regarding the County Jail Reimbursement Fee.** (Sponsored by Rep. Evangelos of Friendship)

This bill repeals the law authorizing a court to assess a county jail reimbursement fee.

### Energy, Utilities & Technology

**LD 1847 – An Act To Prohibit a Public Utility from Terminating or Disconnecting service to a Public Safety Facility without Advance Notice and Approval.** (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This bill requires a public utility, before it terminates or disconnects a public safety facility's service, to provide 60 days' advance written notice and obtain written authorization from the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Public Safety.

**LD 1894 – An Act To Support Municipal Broadband Infrastructure through Incentives and Competition.** (Sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.)

This bill establishes the Internet Access Expansion Investment Fund to improve internet access in Maine. The fund must give priority to projects that assist state or local ownership of broadband infrastructure, with at least 50% of funded projects annually meeting this criterion. The bill allows an electric cooperative or utility, including a municipal utility, to own, lease, construct, maintain and

## Affordable Housing Programs Draw Large Audience

MMA's housing webinar on affordable housing drew an audience of nearly 300 registrants. Attracting the large crowd was a panel of policy experts speaking on the overarching housing policies in the state and on specific housing development programs both currently available and soon to be launched.

Panelists included Director Hannah Pingree and Senior Policy Advisory Greg Payne from the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and Future (GOPIF), and Director Daniel Brennan from MaineHousing. MMA's own Kate Dufour,

Director of State and Federal Relations, was also present to add the municipal perspective.

The bulk of the webinar centered on three housing opportunities:

- 1) A grant matching program hosted through the state and leveraging the ARPA fiscal recovery funds;
- 2) "Part E" to create small-scale multifamily rural housing; and
- 3) Community Solutions Grant Program, an existing grant matching program for the creation or preservation of affordable housing.

Panelists recommended reaching out directly for more information about these programs. Greg Payne can be emailed at [greg.payne@maine.gov](mailto:greg.payne@maine.gov), and Daniel Brennan is available at [dbrennan@mainehousing.org](mailto:dbrennan@mainehousing.org). MMA is thrilled to have willing state partners like GOPIF and MaineHousing.

Recordings and presentation materials will be posted to MMA's website in the coming days.

## IN THE HOPPER (cont'd)

operate broadband or other internet access systems on the electric cooperative's or utility's electric or other utility delivery system and to provide broadband or other internet access services to the public on the electric cooperative's or utility's electric or other utility delivery system.

### Health & Human Services

**LD 1909 – An Act To Remove Restrictions on Syringe Service Programs. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington)**

This bill prohibits a hypodermic apparatus exchange program from limiting distribution of hypodermic apparatuses to program participants or requiring exchange of used hypodermic apparatuses.

### Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

**LD 1858 – An Act Regarding Delegating Authority for Services Performed by Emergency Medical Services Personnel in Health Care Facilities. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)**

Akin to the authority to provide services in a hospital setting, this bill authorizes licensed emergency medical services persons to provide medical services in health care facilities that are not in hospitals provided services are rendered in the person's capacity as an employee or a contracted agent of the hospital or healthcare facility.

### Judiciary

**LD 982 – An Act To Protect against Discrimination by Public Entities. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)**

This bill amends the state's Human Rights Act to prohibit public entities from denying participation in or access to services, programs or activities on the basis of an individual's race, color, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin.

**LD 1529 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Create a Right to Privacy. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco)**

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine by creating a natural and inherent right to privacy in which a person's personal life and affairs are free from governmental and private intrusion and not diminished by a person's interaction with an internet, communication or other electronic data service and that requires a warrant prior to government access of a person's electronic data and electronic communications.

**LD1568 – An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Evangelos of Friendship)**

This bill implements the consensus recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. The purpose of the reconsideration and rewriting of the Maine Implementing Act is to establish that the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians enjoy the rights, privileges, powers, duties and immunities similar to those of other federally recognized Indian tribes within the United States. The full text of the report is available online at <http://legislature.maine.gov/maine-indian-claims-tf>.

**LD 1665 – An Act To Amend An Act To Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Concerning Land Acquisition and Criminal Jurisdiction. (Sponsored by Rep. Babbidge of Kennebunk)**

This bill extends the opportunity for tribal land acquisition to Dec. 31, 2040 for both the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation to add to their respective trust lands under the Maine Implementing Act. It provides that for the purposes of meeting the initial threshold of 150,000 acres, additional lands within the designated area for land acquisition that are contiguous to existing tribal lands may be purchased and certified by the United States Secretary of the Interior by Jan. 31, 2030, for the benefit of the Passamaquoddy Tribe or Penobscot Nation. This bill also amends state law to recognize tribal court jurisdiction, concurrent with the state courts, over offenses committed on tribal lands by Indian defendants against non-Indian victims, subject to the maximum penalty provisions and due process requirements of the federal Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010.

**LD 1772 – An Act To Amend the Remote Meeting Laws in Maine's Freedom of Access Act (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner)**

This bill amends the remote meeting law to provide municipalities greater flexibility in determining when it is appropriate for the public body to meet via remote or hybrid means. The bill also provides that a policy adopted by a council or board applies to all boards or committees within the jurisdiction of the public body.

### Taxation

**LD 1917 – An Act To Amend the Tax Laws of the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham)**

In part, this bill amends the property tax laws to: (1) require municipalities to annually provide information needed by Maine Revenue Services to conduct a state valuation; (2) remove the requirement for benevolent and charitable institutions to be incorporated in Maine to be exempt from taxation; (3) allow assessors to request information from taxpayers regarding property qualifying for an exemption that is subject to full or partial reimbursement by the State; (4) strike the provision under the deferred collection of homestead property taxes



## Maine Municipal Association

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### IN THE HOPPER (*cont'd*)

applying the abatement and appeals process to situations in which the State Tax Assessor disagrees with the municipal valuation of a property subject to deferral; and (5) replace the term “homestead” with the term “permanent residence” in Title 36, 38 section 6234, regarding municipal benefits to veterans, to better align the definition with the benefit to renters allowed under that section. The bill also expands the penalty-free reclassification of land taxed under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law and farm and open space law to include reclassifications into and out of working waterfront land without incurring a penalty and clarifies and aligns the penalty provisions for tree growth, farm and open space and working waterfront current use classifications.

#### **Veterans & Legal Affairs**

**LD 1784 – An Act To Ensure Legislative Review of Rules for Maine’s Medical Use of Marijuana Act. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.)**

Notwithstanding laws to the contrary, this bill provides that major substantive rules provisionally adopted by the Office of Marijuana Policy to regulate the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act and submitted for legislative review may not be finally adopted by the office unless legislation authorizing final adoption of the rule is enacted.

**LD 1927 – An Act To Authorize Certain Off-premises Sales of Adult Use Marijuana. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford)**

This bill authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services

to issue permits to adult use marijuana store licensees for off-premises sales at specific events provided that the store receives approval from the municipality where the event is being held. The bill also prohibits the consumption of adult use marijuana or related products at the event or sales that extend for a period of more than three days.

**LD 1928 – An Act To Update and Clarify the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act and Provide for Greater Transparency. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor)**

This bill amends the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act in several ways, including limiting law enforcement interactions with caregivers, dispensaries, and manufacturing or testing facilities only when: (1) in possession of a warrant requiring access; (2) responding to an immediate health or safety concern; or (3) providing emergency services. The bill provides that an individual involved in the industry is not required to disclose to law enforcement information that could reasonably identify a patient’s identity without a warrant. The bill also requires related state agency rules to include an assessment of the proposal’s impacts on small businesses and adoption by the Legislature before implementation and enforcement.