

01/16/2025 - LPC LD List
132nd Legislature – First Session

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

LD 161 *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 Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a nine-member stakeholder group to review Maine’s subdivision laws. One member of the stakeholder group must be either a municipal official with experience with subdivision law or a currently employed code enforcement officer. By December 3, 2025, the department is further directed to submit a report with findings and recommendations to the joint stand committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over subdivision statutes, which are authorized to submit related legislation in 2026.

LD 183 *An Act to Cap Publicly Owned Land Area at No More than 50 Percent of Any County* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill provides that property owned by a federal, state, county or municipal government, including easements, development and trust rights or other ownership interests, cannot exceed 50% of the land area in each county. Beginning on April 15, 2026, the bill also requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to biannually submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public lands including information regarding the percentage of land, both statewide and by county, owned by public entities.

APPROPRIATIONS & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

LD 209 Language *An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025* (Emergency) (Governor’s Bill)

This is the Governor’s proposed FY 2025 supplemental General Fund budget. Of municipal interest, Part S of the emergency bill limits GA eligibility for housing to three months in a 12-month period, except for the aid provided for temporary or emergency shelters, as well as the assistance for applicants with severe and persistent mental or physical conditions or an applicant with a pending Social Security Administration decision. The bill also provides that maximum levels of assistance for other non-housing related support can only be exceeded for 30 days in 12-month period. The bill also: (1) transfers \$3 million to the Disaster Recovery Fund to fund the state’s share of disaster recovery costs (Part F); (2) transfers \$750,000 to upgrade the Cony Road facility in Augusta (Part I); (3) provides \$250,000 in one-time funding to the Animal Welfare Fund program to assist with extraordinary animal seizure costs (Part T); and (4) provides \$2 million in one-time funding to address the early intervention and management of Spruce Budworm.

LD 210 [Part A & Language](#) *An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027 (Emergency) (Governor's Bill)*

This bill is the Governor's proposed General Fund biennial state budget for FY 2026 and FY 2027. Of municipal interest this emergency bill:

Homestead Exemption Reimbursement (Page A-27). Allocates \$92 million and \$95 million in FY 2026 and FY 2027, respectively for state reimbursement for lost property tax revenue.

County Jail Operations (Pages A-149). Allocates \$24.3 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 for county jail operations and the cost of providing mandated medication assisted treatment.

General Assistance (Page A-330). Allocates \$10.4 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 for state reimbursement under the General Assistance program.

Revenue Sharing (Pages A-630 & 633). Allocates \$276 million and \$283 million in fiscal years 2026 and 2027, respectively, for distribution to municipalities under the revenue sharing program.

Part C - School Aid (Pages 1-6). Establishes as 6.1 the minimum mil rate expectation, a reduction from the FY 2025 minimum of 6.62. This section also: (1) under the Essential Programs and Services formula calculates the total minimum cost of funding K-12 education as \$2.73 billion; (2) appropriates \$1.50 billion as the state's state, which is 55% of the total; and (3) appropriates \$285.6 million as the state's contribution to the unfunded actuarial liabilities for Maine teachers' retirement benefits.

Part D - Maine Office of Community Affairs (Pages 6-42). Amends the statute that created the Maine Office of Community Affairs in 2024 by shifting to the office oversight of the community resilience partnership, coastal zone management, floodplain management, municipal planning assistance, housing planning, volunteer Maine, code enforcement and Maine climate corps programs. This section also amends the members and goals of the Development Ready Advisory Committee by directing the committee, in part, to assist communities in preparing for sustainable growth and in a way that maximizes financial return for state and local economies, improves quality of life for residents, addresses housing needs for households of all income levels and advances environmental protection and transportation goals and specific locally identified priority needs. As proposed, the 21-member committee includes representation from the office, as well as commissioners and directors from several state agencies, and 12 members selected by and to serve at the pleasure of the office's director, including three municipal officials.

Part F – Cannabis Excise Tax (Pages 44-46). Reduces the cannabis excise tax rates by one-third and concurrently increases the sales tax on adult use cannabis to 14%. It also changes the

adult use cannabis sales tax and excise tax transfers to the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund from 12% to 9%.

Part TT – Ambulance Provider Tax (Pages 91-93). Beginning on July 1, 2026, assesses a tax on all ambulance services providers, except for programs run by the Maine National Guard, municipal governments and non-profit organizations. The tax is equal to 6% of the entity's operating revenue.

Part VV – SNAP & TANF Benefits (Page 103-104). Repeals the hardship exception that currently allows individuals who have obtained proper work documentation but are unemployed to receive state-funded SNAP and TANF benefits.

PART NNN – Fishing License Fee Increase (Pages 113-114). Increases fishing license fees by \$7.

Part VVV – Concealed Handgun Permit Fee Increase (Pages 122-123). Increases the fee for concealed handgun permits from \$35 to \$50 for an original application and from \$20 to \$35 for a renewal permit. The nonresident fee for both an original and renewal permit is increased from \$60 to \$80. The bill also provides that all collected fees be remitted to and retained by the Treasurer of State.

Part YYY – Workers' Compensation Board Administrative Fund (Page 125). Amends the provision of law governing the Workers' Compensation Board Administrative Fund to ensure the board can fund expenditures allocated by the Legislature by providing that assessments levied may not be designed to produce more revenue than is sufficient for the Workers' Compensation Board to fund the expenditures allocated by the Legislature and to maintain a reserve of up to 25% of the board's annual budget.

INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

[LD 173](#) *An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from Registration Requirements* (Sponsored by Rep. Wood of Greene)

This bill exempts canoes, kayaks and rowboats that are equipped with motors having a manufacturer's horsepower rating of less than 100 horsepower from boat registration requirements.

JUDICIARY

[LD 152](#) *An Act to Amend the Freedom of Access Act to Require a Specific Time Frame for Agencies to Comply with Requests for Public Records* (Sponsored by Rep. Libby of Auburn)

This bill amends the Freedom of Access Act by requiring a public entity to fully respond to a request within 30 days. Under current law, the entity is required to respond within a reasonable timeframe.

TAXATION

LD 140 *An Act to Incrementally Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

Beginning on April 1, 2026, this bill increases the value of the homestead exemption by \$10,000 annually, until the exemption is \$85,000 and beginning on April 1, 2033, requires the exempt value to be adjusted annually by the rate of inflation.

LD 185 MMA Bill *An Act to Expand Opportunities to Invest Municipal Tax Increment Financing Revenues* (Sponsored by Rep. Mastraccio of Sanford)

This bill enables a municipality or plantation to maximize the use of tax increment financing revenue to renovate and construct municipal facilities that contribute to the community's economic development efforts, including facilities used as emergency shelters.

TRANSPORTATION

LD 154 *An Act to Amend the Transportation Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

This bill allows revenues distributed to municipalities under the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) to be used not only for capital improvements, as the program currently provides, but also for the maintenance of roadway infrastructure, bridges and structures. The bill also amends the provision of law governing the distribution of urban compact assistance funds to allow distribution of funds for all other public roads maintained by a municipality located inside an urban compact area. Funds are distributed at a rate of \$600 per year per lane mile except that funds for seasonal public roads are distributed at a rate of \$300 per year per lane mile.

LD 159 *An Act to Require Vehicle Registrations to Include the Next of Kin of the Vehicle Owner* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft)

This bill adds to the list of required information on a vehicle registration application and certificate the legal name and address of the registrant's next of kin.

LD 164 *An Act to Exempt Authorized Emergency Vehicles from Tolls When Operating in an Official Capacity* (Sponsored by Rep. McIntyre of Lowell)

This bill prohibits the Maine Turnpike Authority from charging or collecting a toll when an authorized emergency vehicle is responding to an emergency, conducting a non-emergency medical transport, or traveling to a repair facility that specializes in the maintenance of emergency vehicles.

VETERANS & LEGAL AFFAIRS

LD 158 *An Act to Direct the Secretary of State to Establish a Date Each Year for Voting by Absentee Ballot* (Sponsored by Rep. Parry of Arundel)

This bill directs the Secretary of State, no later than January 31, to establish the dates by which all municipalities must issue and accept absentee ballots for the regular elections of state and federal officers occurring in the election year.

LD 177 *An Act to Create Municipal Cannabis Revenue Sharing* (Sponsored by Rep. Adams of Lebanon)

This bill directs the state to equally distribute 10% of the funds transferred to the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health & Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund to municipalities that permit the operation of some or all adult use cannabis establishments.

LD 199 *An Act to Change the Limits on Candidates' Communications with Voters at the Polls* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends limits on candidate interactions with voters at the polling place by repealing the current provision allowing candidates to greet voters at the polling place provided the name of the office the person is seeking is not mentioned or otherwise displayed, with a provision authorizing a candidate to orally state the name of office the person is seeking and political affiliation, as long as the candidate does not attempt to influence the voter.