

# Maine Town & City

The magazine of the Maine Municipal Association

JULY 2025 | VOLUME 87 | ISSUE 7

## Legislature Adjourns

Preemptions and  
mandates abound.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

ETHEL N. KELLEY • MMA MUNICIPAL HUMAN RESOURCES & MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECAP • RISK MANAGER



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MAINE TOWN & CITY (ISSN 2578-4374) is published monthly, except in September, by the Maine Municipal Association, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330. (207) 623-8428. Periodicals postage paid at Augusta, Maine, and at additional mailing offices. All rights reserved. Postmaster send address changes to: Maine Town & City, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330. Information, policies and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Maine Municipal Association. Subscription prices: \$10/member; \$50/non-member.

In this issue

**Overview of Legislative Session.** The tale of the 2025 Legislative Session is told over the course of four articles, including descriptions of the studies that will occur over the summer and fall, the newly enacted laws of municipal interest, as well as the bills carried over into the 2026 session for further consideration. The fun kicks off with an overview of how municipalities and the policies of greatest importance were treated. **Page 5**

**Ethel N. Kelley.** When MMA was founded in November 1936, one of its first employees was the infamous Ethel N. Kelley, who worked at MMA for 43 years before her death in 1981. In honor of her tireless commitment to municipal government service, MMA annually recognizes the work of a municipal official through the Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award. This article provides a glimpse of the woman behind the name and recognition. **Page 7**

**MMA Municipal Human Resources & Management Conference Takeaways.** At the June HR & Management Conference, municipal officials gathered to learn how to motivate and engage with employees, as well as to learn what is in store for employers as the next phase of the Maine Paid Family & Medical Leave Act is implemented. **Page 10**

**Municipal Profiles.** This month the Town & City turns its attention to Nick Berry, Witherle Memorial Library Director, located in Castine. Berry is described as thoughtful, strategic and being able to recognize “who’s in his community and tailoring the services around it.” **Page 53**

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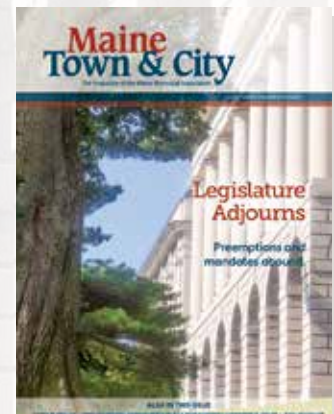
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# Unlocking Hidden Revenue for Municipalities

Special feature brought to you by



Today's municipal finance managers must balance many competing priorities when it comes to current and future budgets. Meanwhile, municipal investment and deposit rates continue to change leading some municipalities to miss out on maximizing interest revenue.

## What is the municipal rate market?

Simply put, the amount of interest financial institutions offer municipal clients for funds on deposit.

## What makes this market different?

Most financial institutions provide a custom deposit rate for each municipal client based on the size and type of relationship.

## What deposit rates are out there for municipalities?

Currently, average rates range from 3.50% to 4.00% offered via fixed or indexed rates.\*

**Fixed rates** are manually adjusted by financial institutions and require the municipality to inquire about adjustments, especially increases.

**Indexed rates** are tied to rate indexes, such as, Effective Federal Funds Rate (EFFR) or Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) and the municipality's deposit rate automatically adjusts up or down with the index.

## What does capitalizing on today's deposit rates mean for my municipality?

Every 1% of interest on \$1 million in deposits generates \$10,000 in annual interest revenue.\* This means 4% on \$1 million in deposits could generate \$40,000 in annual interest revenue.\*

## What other areas should a municipality consider regarding its banking relationship?

- **Security and safety of funds** – Are your deposits beyond \$250,000 insured?
- **Ease and availability of banking services** – Does your bank offer a comprehensive range of remote and online business services?
- **Costs of services** – Does your extended deposit insurance or remote services incur charges that reduce your interest earnings?
- **Government banking experience and relationship support** – Does your bank's support team have deep government banking experience?

## Consult Your Financial Institution

Taking the time to reach out to your current financial institution about your municipality's deposit relationship and services could help you unlock interest revenue without increasing taxes or having to make difficult expense cuts.

## Want to learn more? Reach out to our team.



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# It's Tough to Be a Municipal Official

By Kate Dufour / Director / Advocacy & Communications



“A Bug’s Life,” a classic Disney-Pixar movie, focuses on the characteristics of a variety of insects, ultimately leading viewers to understand that each bug’s contribution supports a shared existence. That is the case even if the insect is known to bite, sting, buzz, or stink. These movies are also notorious for casting villains, where the ailments and troubles of a featured segment of society are hoisted onto the broad shoulders of an unsuspecting individual, illustrating that sometimes contributions to the greater good are misunderstood or taken for granted.

It is equally as difficult to be a municipal official—whether appointed, elected or a volunteer—and throughout the session it seemed as though municipal differences of opinions or approaches were targeted as the root cause of a variety of problems, ranging from housing to road maintenance or any of the burdens continuously being placed on the property taxpayers. That theme is prevalent throughout this month’s feature article describing the newly enacted laws. Many of the enacted initiatives preempt and prohibit local decision-making authority and instead mandate that the Legislature’s policy interests be implemented regardless of the needs and wants of the community, and in the absence of technical, financial and human resources.

The authority that allows municipalities to regulate where childcare or family childcare facilities will be located (LD 1428) has been eroded, as the legislature has decided that such developments must be allowed in areas zoned for residential purposes. While municipal regulation is still in play, towns and cities cannot prohibit the raising of chickens on private residential property (LD 1655). Municipalities interested in implementing parking space requirements will have to comply with a directive (LD 427) prohibiting municipalities from requiring the creation of more than one off-street parking space per residential unit. While no one disagrees that there is too much burden placed on the property taxpayers, nevertheless legislation (LD 1498) was enacted to limit the use of impact fees which serves to shift some, and not all, the pressures of development from the property taxpayers to the developer.

The tendency of the legislature to cast municipal officials and residents across Maine—those who participate

in town meetings, serve on comprehensive planning committees and planning boards—as the problem is a concerning trend. The lack of respect for local decision-making was evident in the public hearings and work sessions, as the voices of local level experts were at times ignored

in favor of those involved with special interest groups.

Setting frustrations aside, local governments were treated fairly throughout the budget process, as financial commitments to schools, municipalities, and counties were honored. As described on page six, one of MMA’s Legislative Policy Committee’s initiatives regarding the expansion of the use of tax increment financing revenues (LD 185) was enacted with amendments. LD 1770, a study focused on the property tax and its impacts, includes participation from two municipal officials and an assessor. Legislation clarifying when General Assistance applications are to be accepted and processed (LD 1081), was welcome news to municipal administrators who prior to the amendment were required to process applications during regular town or city hall business hours, regardless of whether the appointed staff member was in the process of registering a vehicle, processing a business application or issuing an absentee ballot.

Despite these positives, the session was tough on municipal leaders, staff and volunteers. However, like all good movies there is an underlying and prevailing theme. While it may be of little solace to municipal staff left to pick up the pieces as the dust created by the whirlwind session settles, it is clear the state needs local governments to get the job done.

Like the ants portrayed in “A Bug’s Life” demonstrate, although they are small, when united, they become an efficient and unstoppable force, just like municipalities.

Although the legislature is in recess until January 7, 2026, please continue to meet with your elected state officials to show how their decisions impact your communities, both in positive and adverse ways. Next year provides a clean slate of sorts and the opportunity to reestablish the positive state-municipal relationship necessary to implement and appropriately fund the services Maine residents need and deserve. 🏔️

# MMA's 2025-2026 Legislative Platform

Each even numbered year, MMA's newly-elected Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) establishes its policy priorities for the upcoming session. This biennium there was a slate of nine platform bills identified by the LPC. Although six of MMA platform bills have died in the first regular session, three have either made it over the finish line or have been approved to be carried over into the second regular session.

Starting with the good news, LD 185, *An Act to Expand Opportunities to Invest Municipal Tax Increment Financing Revenues*, sponsored by Rep. Mastraccio (Sanford), was originally intended to maximize the ability of a municipality to utilize Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues to renovate or construct facilities that contribute to a community's economic development. As amended, the act raises the cap from 15% to 25% on the use of TIF revenues and includes the designation for emergency shelters as an allowable use of funds.

While not exactly what was envisioned, municipal leaders are grateful for the increase to the cap which will allow more flexibility with the use of TIF revenues.

Additionally, two platform bills were approved to be carried over to the second regular session.

LD 852, *An Act to Reduce the Property Tax Burden by Adequately Funding County Jail Operations*, sponsored by Rep. Ducharme (Madison), was amended by the committee to appropriate \$4 million in FY 2026 and FY 2027 for the County Jail Operations Fund, before being approved for carryover.

County jails are facing increasing financial strain due to rising inmate populations, aging infrastructure, and the growing need for mental health and addiction services. Many facilities are operating beyond capacity with limited resources, which compromises safety for both staff and inmates. Adequate funding is essential to ensure that jails can provide humane conditions, comply with legal standards, and offer rehabilitation programs that reduce recidivism. Investing in county jails also supports broader public safety efforts and helps communities manage the complex challenges tied to incarceration at the local level.

The second bill is LD 1530, *An Act to Improve the Sustainability of Emergency Medical Services in Maine*, sponsored by Sen. Curry (Waldo County), which seeks to determine that the cost of care, including naloxone administration, provided at the scene of an emergency is reimbursable whether or not the patient is transported to the hospital. The bill further seeks to clarify that certain services provided through community paramedicine are required to be reimbursed.

Reimbursement for emergency services when transport does not occur is crucial since first responders often provide critical, life-saving care on scene—even if a patient ultimately declines transport. These calls still require trained personnel, specialized equipment, and rapid response, all of which incur significant costs. Without reimbursement, emergency services providers face financial strain that can impact their ability to maintain staffing and readiness for future emergencies. Supporting reimbursement ensures the sustainability of EMS systems and recognizes the full scope of care delivered, not just when a patient is transported.

It is worth noting that both of these carryover bills have the potential to be dramatically changed in the second regular session or die altogether.

Additionally, we bid farewell to the initiatives that didn't make it over the finish line, including:

- LD 283, *An Act to Expand Local Revenues by Including Meals and Lodging Sales Tax Revenue Under the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Program*, sponsored by Rep. Hepler (Woolwich);
- LD 723, *An Act Requiring the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a Nonresidential Basic Law Enforcement Training Program*, sponsored by Rep. Lajoie (Lewiston);
- LD 933, *An Act to Increase to 100 Percent the State Share of Funding for Special Education Costs of All School Administrative Units*, sponsored by Rep. Dill (Old Town);
- LD 1112, *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Requiring Not Less Than 90 Percent State Reimbursement for Residential Real Estate Property Tax Exemptions and to Establish a Minimum Homestead Exemption*, sponsored by Rep. Matlack (St. George); and
- LD 1729, *An Act to Increase the Rate of Reimbursement to Municipalities for Revenue Lost as a Result of the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption*, sponsored by Sen. Bennett (Oxford County).

On behalf of the LPC, MMA thanks the members of the legislature who sponsored elements of the association's legislative platform and provided an opportunity for municipal voices to be heard. When many voices speak, the message is heard loud and clear. 🌲

# The Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award

The woman behind the name and recognition.

By Stephanie Bouchard



When the Maine Municipal Association was founded in November 1936, one of its first hires was an 18-year-old by the name of Ethel Nichols. Nichols, who everyone called Kelley at her insistence after she married Charles Kelley in 1943, worked for the association until her death in 1981.

In the 43 years she worked at MMA, she became synonymous with the organization. Her importance to MMA and her impact on municipal government in Maine carries on today through what some call the Heisman Trophy of the municipal world – MMA’s annual Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award.

## Early days

In November 1936, when Maine became the first New England state to form a municipal association prior to World War II, the infant organization set up space in Hallowell’s City Hall and set out to make its first hires. Paramount was finding someone with the personality and abilities to answer the phone and handle whatever came her way in the office. Kelley was well suited to the girl Friday role.

Without a full-time executive in the beginning of the organization, Kelley often had numerous responsibilities, ranging from answering the telephone to organizing and formatting the association’s magazine, then called the *New England Townsman* because it went not just to Maine municipalities, but to municipalities in other New England states, too.

“She really was the foundation of the association,” said John Salisbury, who was MMA’s executive director from 1966 to 1979. Besides taking calls from municipal leaders across the state and keeping the office running, Kelley sometimes stepped in as the de facto executive during transitions, he said. During World War II when the men were in the service, she kept the organization going.

“She represented the continuity of the organization over the many years,” he said. “She knew every municipal official in the state.”

While her official job title may have been “receptionist,” “She was far more than that,” said John Melrose, who worked at MMA from 1974 to 1981 in community development and government relations. “She was right in the inner workings of the machinery of the organization.”

With Kelley’s deep institutional knowledge and firsthand relationships with municipal employees in towns and cities across the state, “To some extent,” Melrose said, “she symbolized the whole institution.”

## Paying tribute

In the years after Kelley’s death at age 61 in 1981, MMA did not forget her or her contributions to the as-

About the Author: Stephanie Bouchard is a freelance writer from Nobleboro and regular contributor to *Maine Town & City*. [stephanie@stephaniebouchard.net](mailto:stephanie@stephaniebouchard.net)

sociation and municipal government. In preparation of MMA's fiftieth anniversary in 1986, the organization's executive leadership tapped past presidents to come up with ideas to celebrate. One of the ideas they came up with was to honor and commemorate the woman who had "devoted her adult life" to MMA, said Chris Lockwood, MMA's executive director from 1979 to 2015, by establishing an annual award.

"It was felt that it would be a real tribute to (her)," said Lockwood. With that goal in mind, the Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award criteria were set to reflect who Kelley was: "The person who does the work without seeking any recognition whatsoever, and just gets the job done, maybe with very few resources at (their) disposal and (who is) selfless . . . and dedicated," Lockwood said.

The award is given to one person each year. Typically, about 10 nominations come in each year, said Theresa Chavarie, the now-retired manager of member relations who provided support to the award selection committee throughout her 33 years at MMA. The committee is made up of three past MMA presidents who review the nomination application and letters of support in September.

Usually, the people who are nominated don't know they've been nominated, and the person who the committee chooses is kept close to the vest until the award is announced at the annual convention in October, Chavarie said.

While the award is not monetary, she said, "it's pretty prestigious to be named and to receive (it)."

### **The Heisman Trophy of municipal government**

When Judy Akers, the town clerk in Poland for nearly 50 years, was named the recipient of the Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award in 2022, she wasn't really aware of its prestige, she said, then someone told her it was so special, it was like the Heisman Trophy.

Getting the award when she did was especially meaningful because Akers's father, who had himself worked for the town of Poland, died right before she got the award, but she was able to tell him about it before he passed.

"He was thrilled," she said. The award held significance for him not just because his daughter was being honored but because their family has worked in various capacities for the town for generations, she said. "I had said at the time that my family had given over 200 years of service to the town of Poland," she said.

"It was a nice compliment to me that the association recognized my years of service."

Being recognized for the work put in in service to the community is gratifying, said Kathy Littlefield, recipient of the award in 2017.

A lot of times, she said, people in town don't realize all the effort it takes to serve the community. There's a lot of work to be done and somebody has to do it, she said. "You can't sit home and complain," she said.

Littlefield did not sit home and complain. She served on the select board in Waldo for 53 years before retiring earlier this year.

When she received the Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award, she was not expecting it. "I was very appreciative of that recognition," she said. "I wasn't looking for it, but boy, when you get something like that, you think, well, maybe it was all worth my time and effort."

"Sometimes, I feel like I'm not deserving of all of that," she added. "I just did my job. But I'm very grateful for the (award) and I'm very grateful that I think some of my service helped people in town."

To be selected as the recipient of the Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award truly is an honor, said last year's recipient, Mark Hathaway, Bangor's chief of police. "This award is a big deal," he said. "If you look at the list of previous recipients, there's a diverse, interesting mix of people that have been selected."

Like other award recipients, Hathaway credits the support of other people in his ability to serve his community well. "I don't know that awards measure (an individual's) success because awards really are, nearly in every instance, a team effort, but awards do make you feel good," he said. "I am forever an Ethel N. Kelley award winner, and I am eternally grateful for that."

MMA is accepting nominations for the 2025 Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award until 5 p.m. on Friday, August 22. For more information on the nomination and application process, please visit <https://www.memun.org/About/Awards>, or use the QR code. 🏔️





# Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award

## MMA's Most Prestigious Award

**Nominations will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 22.**

**ETHEL N. KELLEY** devoted 45 years of service to the Maine Municipal Association from its founding in 1936 until her death in 1981. The award honors her immense contributions to MMA and the cause of strong local government in Maine. Kelley has been described as the “foundation of the association” that held the organization together, particularly during World War II, when she kept the organization going. During those years, she held virtually every title in the Association. As part of MMA’s 50th Anniversary celebration in 1986, the Association honored Ethel N. Kelley’s memory by starting the annual tradition of recognizing others of the same character and dedication. The winning nominee will be announced during MMA’s Annual Convention, which will be held on October 8 and 9 at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, Maine.

**WHO QUALIFIES:** Elected and appointed municipal officials, employees and volunteers from any member municipality, including individuals who are currently serving or who have retired within the past two years. The award can also be given posthumously.

**CRITERIA:** MMA is looking for nominees who:

- Have a straightforward selfless concern for people in the community.
- Are able and willing to “hold the community together.”
- Have made conscientious service to the community a lifetime achievement.
- Are dedicated to the cause of good local government.

**NOMINATION PROCESS:** In addition to completing the application found on MMA’s website: <https://www.memun.org/About/Awards>, communities are asked to submit up to three letters of support from local or state officials, business leaders and members of the community. The supporting letters are a critical part of the process and provide an opportunity for the municipality to flaunt the nominee’s virtues and commitment to local government service. There are no formalities or right approaches. A simple statement of support and the reasons why your nominee is deserving of this recognition is sufficient.

**SELECTION PANEL:** The Award Selection Panel consists of three MMA Past Presidents who meet in early to mid-September to make their selection.

**PRESENTATION:** The winner of the memorial award is announced during MMA’s Annual Convention, traditionally held in October, in the presence of recipient’s family and friends, coworkers and the statewide municipal family.



**MAINE MUNICIPAL  
ASSOCIATION** SINCE 1936

“One of MMA’s favored traditions is the announcement of the Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award winner during the Association’s annual convention in October. It presents an opportunity to acknowledge our collective successes and serves as a reminder of the important accomplishments of those dedicated to local government service.”

~ Catherine Conlow,  
MMA Executive Director

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**EK**

# MMA HR & Management Conference

Updating policies, enforcing good behavior and modernizing the workplace are key to motivating employees.

By Betty Adams

The keynote speaker at the Maine Municipal Association’s HR & Management Conference in June emphasized the importance of understanding human nature to better bring out the best in people and of realizing that humans thrive on positive reinforcement.

David Lee, founder of HumanNature@Work, spoke to an audience of municipal employees and others on “How to Become an Employee Whisperer: What Every Manager Should Know about Human Nature.”

He said, “Catch people doing things right; notice the good stuff and reinforce it.”

To those struggling to attract younger people, he said, know that they are seeking meaningful work. He suggested telling them: “If you work here, you can make a difference.”

Lee recommended “sharing stories with your team about people being awesome. It’s not only a power-up, but it also increases the odds that people will act in awesome ways.” He told municipal leaders, “Ask employees to be on the lookout for ‘magic moments’ that remind them of the difference they make, the good they do, and why their work matters.”

Hermon Town Manager Stephen Fields, who is also HR director for the town, attended the conference “to see some of the different techniques and methods from municipalities and the private sector.”

He said he wanted to learn and get information to take back to the staff and that he liked Lee’s focus on working as a team and his questions: “Why does the team matter?” “How do you make everyday situations with rough customers and spin it back to help the staff?”

Fields too said he hoped to garner tips on “how to manage my emotions and coach younger staff members

as they move forward.”

Hermon has 25 full-time and 15 part-time employees.

Shay Freeman, office administrator/department head in the Kennebec County District Attorney’s office, said the human resources department encouraged other county department heads to attend the conference.

“I’m thankful I have an amazing HR department, and I think I need a better understanding of their role,” she said, adding that she was looking forward to learning about succession planning. Freeman has worked for the county for 15 years.

In the presentation on “Succession Planning: The Time is Now,” Patrick Ibarra, co-founder and partner of The Mejorando Group, told attendees—including many already working in human resources—to consider a number of questions: “How modern is your workplace, your set of leaders?” and he told them, “People watch others to see

what gets rewarded. Think about what people are learning from other people.”

He told the group, “You’re hiring people from GenZ (the late 1990s and early 2000s).” He said those individuals want to apply for jobs on their phone, not spend an hour filling out an application.

Ibarra also urged managers to quit relying on documents in performance appraisals, and instead to “Invest in talking to people.”

Ibarra said the workplace is shifting: “Remote work is not going back,” and “You don’t want to be losing people over things that are avoidable.” He asked attendees “What is your retention strategy?”

“Succession planning is about risk management,” Ibarra said. “You may have to accelerate people’s development.” He urged them to look to other departments within the municipality and said that he encourages town managers to have an internship in their own department, noting, “In this state the bench for town managers is really thin.” He added, “The best predictor of future performance is past performance.”



David Lee



Stephen Fields

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He suggested towns and cities pool resources to find a site where they could offer leadership, management and supervisory training. Ibarra offered a number of other suggestions for finding and retaining employees:

- Have your own career fair this summer with your own employees or join other communities.
- “Ask IT: ‘What are the Zip codes of people clicking on your job announcement page?’”
- “Cross out ‘training’ (in the municipal budget) and replace it with ‘learning.’”
- Make sure the people you’re bringing in are A-listers; be careful you’re not lowering standards.

You can’t always compete with money, however you can on opportunity and culture. “Job candidates want flexibility, purpose-driven work, and well-being.”

The Maine Apprenticeship Program, one of the event sponsors, recently received a call for assistance from municipalities and other affiliated organizations, according to Ben Kenney, an apprenticeship consultant with the Department of Labor’s program. He said that when apprentices go through programs for police and firefighters, they tend to stay in that field, and there are opportunities to fulfill other roles in municipalities.

He has been meeting with organizations and towns to start the program, and said he is currently working with the York County government and the Maine Rural Water Association.

During lunch on the second floor of the Abromson Community Education Center at USM’s Portland campus, where the day-long event was held, four women from Dover-Foxcroft who had carpooled to the conference sat together to decide who would attend which of the afternoon presentations so they could share the information later and get the most benefit.

Three were town employees: Town Manager Alsina Brenenstuhl; Emmalee Reed, human resources and finance director, and treasurer; and Dani Buschmann, payroll clerk and deputy treasurer. They were accompanied by Alison Belote from the Dover-Foxcroft Water District, a quasi-municipal department.

Brenenstuhl said, “Our town is turning a new leaf. The town manager left at the end of April following a 21-year tenure. The selectboard and staff and everyone wanted to take a step back and evaluate how to modernize and make the town more competitive. There’s a limited workforce in Piscataquis. We’re trying to get the pay competitive so people can come here and possibly get a job.”

Weighing in on retention as well, she said that “Training once is not enough. It has to be on-going. Now there’s AI with it too. Everything’s changing. We all said this was a good opportunity to come down and bring this (information) back and better our town and employees as a whole.”

Christian Jensen, office supervisor, treasurer and tax collector in the Pittston Town Office, sought information about the financial aspect of complying with Maine’s new Paid Family and Medical Leave Act (PFMLA), wages and hourly pay, etc. “Because we don’t have an HR department, we’re trying to make sure we maintain compliance with applicable laws and take care of our employees,” he said, after attending the seminar presentation on the state’s new paid leave law.



Christian Jensen



Emmalee Reed and Alsina Brenenstuhl

Sarah Brydon, claims administration director with the PFMLA in the Department of Labor, and Luke Monahan, director of the department’s PFMLA Program, talked about how towns could prepare in their presentation “Get Ready: Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Start Next Year.”

Brydon noted that all employers are required to pay into the system and that benefits kick in May 1, 2026, for those who need it. She said employees must meet an earnings requirement, must be out on leave for a reason that is covered under the law, and must provide documentation. The new law, she said, applies to “almost all Maine workers,” but not federal government employees, and several other groups including those covered by the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, incarcerated individuals and volunteers who earn nominal wages.

Maine Municipal Association’s website offers a FAQ page with information about the new PFMLA. It says, “In

collaboration with MMA Legal Services and MMA Human Resources, the Maine Department of Labor recently published a new Maine Paid Family & Medical Leave Act Frequently Asked Questions document focused on addressing the issues being raised by town and city leaders. The answers to your pressing questions can be reviewed here.”

Brydon told attendees, “This is a portable benefit,” and it carries a job protection element that kicks in after 120 consecutive days with a new employer. The benefit calls for 12 weeks of paid leave for qualified individuals.

She also said that the benefit maximum is the state average weekly wage, adding, “Functionally, people are not going to be getting their whole weekly wage replaced.”

The Maine Department of Labor has contracted with Aflac to administer the claims, she said, and noted that the 12 weeks is intended to run concurrently with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. The time can be split up as well.

Monahan referred people to the website on [www.maine.gov/paidleave](http://www.maine.gov/paidleave) for more information and a chart so employees can see what they would get. There also is a section for self-employed Mainers who want to opt for coverage.

He also responded to a questioner who asked whether fraud was anticipated to become a problem. He said some fraud exists nationally in these programs, some of it from organized crime stealing people’s identities and making fake claims, but that the number of people malingering is “incredibly small.”

Brydon added, “These programs have worked for years in other states.”

During breaks in the sessions, Kim Pierce chatted with

attendees as she staffed an event booth for the Maine Association of Retirees, where she is recruitment and research coordinator. The nonprofit group’s membership is composed of public service retirees, and it aids those people with information and advocacy concerning MainePERS, the Maine Public Employee Retirement System, health and dental insurance as well as providing IT assistance.

She suggested that town officials and human resources directors connect their employees with that association, particularly if they are near retirement.

At another presentation, two attorneys with Bernstein Shur, Ann Freeman and Matthew Tarasevich, spoke about “What’s in Your Employee Handbook.”

Freeman said the employee handbook is something that should be referenced, easily available to employees and remain a living document. “Laws are always changing; best practices are always changing.” She recommended marking up the handbook where it might need changing and making a list of those items. “Get a legal review if you haven’t had it,” she emphasized. Freeman recommended putting it on the town website and intranet. “Make it accessible to your employees.”

Tarasevich weighed in as well, saying, “Pick up your policy at least yearly.” He added, “If the law changes, bring it to the selectboard or council; change it now.”

He also suggested changing “comp time” to “flex time” in the case of a person working extraordinary hours or long weeks, and added, “Salaried exempt employees are supposed to get their work done regardless of the time it takes, even if it is over 40 hours per week.”

Freeman also emphasized that a municipality should have a policy on remote work as well as a policy on the use of generative AI (artificial intelligence). 🏔️

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# To Study or Not to Study

Rebecca Lambert, Municipal Issues Specialist

In the corridors of the Maine State House, the first legislative session of the year unfolded with a flurry of bills that spoke volumes about the state's priorities. From climate resilience and housing reform to education equity and rural healthcare and public safety issues, the study bills introduced this session are not just placeholders, they are signals of deeper debates to come. While some may not carry the immediate weight of law, these proposals reveal the challenges lawmakers are bracing to tackle.

While a full list of study bills can be found on our website at [www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org), what follows is a sample of the study bills that have either been enacted in the first regular or special session or carried over to the second regular session for further consideration.

Beginning with the enacted study bills, LD 1770, *Resolve to Establish the Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force*, is an emergency measure that creates a 13-member task force to determine the source of the problem with the current system of property taxation, including who is the most negatively affected by the current system and how they are affected. Membership of the task force will include a member with expertise in assessing property and two municipal officials with expertise in municipal government, taxation, finances, or property valuation. An interim report is expected by January 1, 2026, with a final report expected by December 15, 2026.

This study is especially important for municipalities to follow because it directly addresses how property taxation, one of the primary sources of funding for local government programs and services, is functioning, and more importantly, where it is failing. The findings could shape the future of local budgeting, governance, and community equity across Maine.

Of similar importance, LD 318, *Resolve, Directing the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) and the Department of Education (DOE) to Recommend Changes to the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) Funding Formula*, directs MEPRI to identify cost model parameters for the DOE to use when simulating projected impacts to school funding, including special education, regional adjustments and indexes, and per-pupil amounts to more adequately fund the staff support, economically disadvantaged student weights and transportation factors that are affecting the cost of public education.

MEPRI is also tasked with identifying additional information needed from individual school districts to adequately examine DOE's simulation of the impacts on school funding while paying extra care to high cost out-of-district special education placements and stakeholder input. A report is expected to be submitted to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee by January 15, 2026, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

Changes to the EPS formula could directly impact how

much municipalities are required to raise in local taxes to fund public schools. If the funding formula shifts costs in certain areas, like special education or transportation, municipalities may experience either increased or decreased financial burdens. It's important to remember that the local share of school funding is supported by property taxes. If a new formula is suggested, it has the potential to reduce state support or reallocate costs unevenly requiring municipalities to raise property taxes to meet local school needs, especially in rural or economically disadvantaged areas—the very individuals this restructuring is attempting to help.

Looking through the enacted studies with a public safety lens, one study floated to the surface in terms of municipal interest. LD 719, *Resolve, to Direct the County Corrections Professional Standards Council to Examine Funding of and Compliance by County and Regional Jails*, directs the newly formed council to review a list of four items: (1) county jail compliance with audit and expenditure reporting requirements; (2) unfunded mandates related to county jails; (3) improvements to the operations of the council; and, (4) future needs for state support for county jail operations. A report is expected to be delivered to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee no later than January 15, 2026, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

This study could affect the burden placed on property taxpayers to pay for jails, how well those jails operate, and what role the state plays in supporting them. The goal, for municipal leaders anyway, is to protect local interests and promote fair, sustainable funding solutions for jails that do not fall to the property taxpayer.

Two enacted study bills, one affecting impact fees and another addressing housing construction have also crossed the finish line to enacted status. LD 1246, *Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) to Convene a Working Group to Review the Process of Setting Impact Fees*, directs DECD along with the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) and the Maine Office of Community Affairs to study the process by which municipalities impose impact fees. The group will review how impact fees are established and imposed, the guidance provided to municipalities and developers, and the resources municipalities rely on when establishing impact fee ordinances. The working group is authorized to provide recommendations by December 3, 2025, and submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1375, *Resolve to Establish a Working Group to Address Regulatory Barriers to Housing Construction*, directs GOPIF to use existing resources to convene a working group to examine and recommend solutions for regulatory barriers to housing construction. A report is expected to be delivered by December 31, 2025, to the Housing & Economic Development committee, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

Both of these studies are critically important for municipalities because they could directly influence how local governments plan, fund, and regulate growth, and here is why:

**Potential Changes to Local Authority.** Both studies examine how municipalities use their existing powers—whether to charge developers impact fees (LD 1246) or regulate housing through zoning and permitting (LD 1375). The outcome could lead to additional state laws that limit, standardize, or override local authority in these areas. Municipalities risk losing flexibility if they're not part of the discussion.

**Impact on Local Revenues and Budgets.** Impact fees are a way for municipalities to offset the cost of growth, such as new roads, schools, sewer systems, etc. If the study results in new restrictions or complex processes, towns may lose a critical funding source, pushing infrastructure costs back onto taxpayers.

**Housing Pressure is Rising.** The state wants more housing, faster. The LD 1375 study focuses on removing “regulatory barriers” which often means reexamining local zoning rules, density limits, and permitting timelines. Municipalities may face pressure to change local ordinances, even if they're not equipped with the staff, infrastructure, or public support to do so quickly.

**Municipal Perspectives Are Essential.** Impact fees and housing regulations play out at the local level, yet policy is being shaped at the state level. Without active municipal input, recommendations may reflect only state or developer priorities, overlooking local infrastructure limits, fiscal capacity, and environmental or community planning goals.

These two studies have the potential to reshape the way municipalities fund growth and regulate housing—two of the most sensitive and high-impact areas of local governance. Municipalities risk losing tools and local decision making that are essential to managing their communities.

Shifting attention to study bills that have been carried over to the second regular session, one study to keep an eye on is LD 634, *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal and County Mandates*. This study bill would create a 15-member commission that would include a member of MMA, a member of a clerk's association, and six municipal officials representing varying population categories, tasked with examining the unfunded and outdated mandates affecting municipal and county governments.

This study bill has the potential to address a long-standing municipal concern with the proliferation of unfunded mandates. As local leaders are acutely aware, unfunded mandates require schools, municipalities, and counties to perform tasks or provide services without accompanying state funding, which results in increased budget strains, staff workloads, and operational inefficiencies. LD 634 gives municipal and county officials a chance to review and push against state requirements that no longer serve local needs. Watching the development and engaging in this study, when necessary, ensures municipalities and counties have a voice in shaping a more efficient and sustainable state-local partnership.

An environmental study affecting stormwater pollution is also still in play for the second regular session. LD 646, *Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution*, is an emergency measure creating a commission to study how to address unmanaged stormwater pollution. The commission would include a representative of municipal government and a variety of environmental stakeholders. The commission would be directed to: (1) compile and review data regarding the actual and potential effects of stormwater pollution on public and environmental health; (2) identify and develop strategies to address knowledge gaps that hinder the State's ability to craft law, policy and other responses to mitigate stormwater pollution; (3) identify pollutants of concern that are not effectively managed through state and federal stormwater laws and rules; (4) identify and recommend strategies to address stormwater pollution associated with development that is not effectively managed through state and federal laws and rules, including through the municipal separate storm sewer system general permitting process; and, (5) identify barriers, such as staffing and funding, to adopting necessary policies and tools to address stormwater pollution.

Stormwater management is already a local issue as permitted municipalities are responsible for maintaining drainage systems, mitigating flood risks, and complying with federally imposed and state enforced stormwater regulations. This study could impact local infrastructure, regulatory obligations, development policies, and budgets. As unmanaged stormwater pollution is a growing environmental issue, local governments may be expected to do more to help fix it. By staying informed and involved it will give municipalities a voice in shaping workable and well-supported solutions.

Finally, be on the lookout for carry over LD 1347, *Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study the Maine Tort Claims Act*, which seeks to create a 12-member commission to study to the Maine Tort Claims Act (MTCA). The membership would include an MMA member, and one member from both a small and large municipality, and the commission is directed to review and consider the following factors: (1) whether additional negligent acts or omissions should be excepted from immunity; (2) whether the cap on damages should be changed or increased; (3) other states' use of medical pay coverage in addition to damages; (4) fiscal impacts on municipal budgets and associated insurances; (5) available data on the number of potential claims brought against governmental entities; and, (6) any other changes to the MTCA.

The study of the MTCA is important not only because the outcomes could significantly impact municipal liability and legal exposure, but it could also reshape the legal protections municipalities rely on to manage risk and control insurance costs. Likewise, tort reform is not just a legal issue, it affects public works, emergency services, recreation and more. Even small changes in liability standards can have broad implications across local government operations. 🏡



## New Laws – 2025

**Effective Date.** Emergency legislation became effective on the date it was signed by the Governor unless otherwise noted. If the new law or resolve was an emergency measure, it is noted before the Public Law or Resolves citation. Non-emergency legislation becomes effective 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature in which it was enacted. Since the 132nd Maine State Legislature adjourned the First Regular Session sine die on Friday, March 21, 2025, and the First Special Session on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, there are two effective dates for non-emergency legislation. Bills enacted prior to the March adjournment date became effective law on Friday, June 20, 2025. Bills enacted in the special session become effective law on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. The effective date is included after the Public Law or Resolves citation. The finally enacted language is linked to the LD number for those reading the electronic version of the article.

**Mandate.** Legislation enacted with a mandate preamble contains the following language: “This measure requires one or more local units of government to expand or modify activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues but does not provide funding for at least 90% of those expenditures. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 21, two-thirds of all the members elected to each chamber have determined it necessary to enact this measure.” If the new law was enacted with a mandate preamble, it is so-noted along with the Public Law citation.

### Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

LD 24 *Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Public Land Parcels in Lincoln Plantation and Sandy River Plantation* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 22 (09/24/25)** This resolve authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey leased lots in Lincoln Plantation and exchange a small-leased parcel in Sandy River Plantation for a deeded right-of-way across an adjacent parcel. The resolve also requires that a survey be completed to determine the boundaries of the conveyed lots.

LD 124 *An Act to Protect the Right to Food* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 309 (09/24/25)** Of municipal interest, this act creates the Maine Vegetable Garden Protection Act, designed to protect an individual’s constitutional authority to cultivate vegetable gardens on a person’s property or, with permission, on the property of another person, in any political subdivision, including municipalities, plantations and counties, which cannot prohibit or regulate the right to food in a way that is inconsistent with the act. The act also authorizes political subdivisions to develop and implement programs to promote permaculture and establish edible landscaping, food forests and community gardens in public spaces and further authorizes entities to seek and accept funds from public and private sources to support those efforts. The act amends the existing Food Sovereignty Act by: (1) adding to the list of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry duties the responsibility to protect the constitutional right to food; (2) defining the terms consumer, food producer, food sovereignty and traditional foodways; (3) establishing principles to further preserve rural life and values and to protect the right to food; and (4) extending the authority of municipalities and counties to adopt food sovereignty ordinances regulating traditional foodways, which are defined as cultural, social and economic practices related to the production and consumption of food, including the conveyance of knowledge regarding food production, preservation, preparation and presentation.

LD 261 *An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting* (Sponsored by Rep. Bunker of Farmington) **Public Law 2025, c. 274 (09/24/25)** This act provides that municipal ordinances regulating timber harvesting activities adopted after January 1, 2026, are subject to review by the Bureau of Forestry and can only be implemented: (1) after the bureau has certified that the ordinance has been adopted in accordance with related state statutes; and (2) a copy of the ordinance has been filed with the bureau. The act also requires the department to establish a centralized publicly available list of municipal timber harvesting ordinances including those adopted prior to January 1, 2026.

LD 308 *An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Administration of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) **Public Law 2025, c. 15 (09/24/25)** This act directs the Animal Welfare Advisory Council to meet at least every other month and authorizes the chair to delegate council duties to individual members or subcommittees.

LD 356 *Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Prohibit the Use of Rodenticides in Outdoor Residential Settings* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 47**



**(09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Board of Pesticides Control to prohibit the use of rodenticides in outdoor residential settings and exempts board certified and authorized persons to use or supervise the use of rodenticides. By January 15, 2026, the board is required to submit a report regarding the prohibition to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

**LD 398** *An Act to Amend the Definition of “Transient Occupancy” in the Laws Governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission* (Sponsored by Rep. Guerrette of Caribou) **Emergency Enacted; Public Law 2025, c. 61 (05/09/25)** This act changes the definition of “transient occupancy” in the laws governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission to mean occupancy that does not exceed 150 days, rather than 120 days as in current law, in a calendar year.

**LD 491** *Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Certain Real Property in the Town of Richmond* (Sponsored by Rep. Cluchey of Bowdoinham) **Resolves 2025, c. 24 (09/24/25)** This resolve requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey certain property in the Town of Richmond to Wilhelmine Dennis Oakes or the estate of Wilhelmine Dennis Oakes.

**LD 528** *An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies in Animals by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) **Public Law 2025, c. 141 (09/24/25)** This act directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in consultation with the Animal Welfare Advisory Council, to appoint one or more persons in each county to administer rabies vaccines to animals. The department is also directed, in consultation with veterinarians employed by the State, to develop a training program, which must include education regarding the proper storage and administration of rabies vaccines; the process for issuing rabies certificates; and the information that must be provided to an owner or keeper of a vaccinated animal.

**LD 758** *Resolve, to Conduct a Study to Update Flood Hazard Data in the Sandy River Watershed* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 42 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs several state agencies, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency, to contract for a geomorphic study within the Sandy River watershed to update flood hazard data, including an assessment of river movement, erosion and sedimentation and the impacts of those factors on flood risk and river health. The resolve also directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to seek funding to support the cost of the study.

**LD 1072** *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Land for Maine’s Future Program and to Authorize the Use of Options to Purchase at Agricultural Value* (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 471 (09/24/25)** This act amends the law governing the Land for Maine’s Future Program to add maintaining working lands for farming, commercial fishing and forestry to the program’s mission. The act also provides an avenue for purchasing property at the agricultural value, which is defined as an agreement in recordable form between the fee owner of working farmland property and one or more qualified holders, including the municipality where the property is located, and that permits a qualified holder to control, either directly or indirectly, the purchase price of the property for the primary

purpose of preserving the permanent availability of that property for working farmland. The law clarifies that the land acquired and held by the State cannot be sold or used for another purpose without approval by two-thirds of the Legislature.

**LD 1323** *Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Evaluate the Impact of Neonicotinoids on Pollinators, Humans and the Environment* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) **Resolves 2025, c. 69 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Board of Pesticides Control to study the impacts neonicotinoids have on pollinators, soils, water, plant tissue and humans, as well as to review alternatives for the protection of crops from damaging pests and diseases. No later than January 15, 2026, the board is directed to submit a preliminary report and by January 15, 2027, a final report, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2027.

**LD 1450** *An Act Regarding the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 216 (09/24/25)** This act amends the existing Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program by adding the reduction in municipal fiscal burdens that results from new development in rural areas to the program’s intended outcomes. The act clarifies that the farm support arrangements, allowing for the return of up to 100% of the property taxes paid on a qualifying property, must be approved by a majority of the municipality’s legislative body, the municipal officers, or by a municipal employee appointed by the municipal officers and designated to review and approve farm support arrangements. The act also clarifies that agreements cannot affect either more than 3% of the municipality’s taxable land value or in any calendar year affect more than 1% of the total assessed taxable land value. Additionally, the law provides that state agency rules supporting implementation of the program are routine technical.

**LD 1525** *An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Ray of Lincolnville) **Public Law 2025, c. 170 (09/24/25)** Upon written request, this act authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to donate timber to a firewood bank, defined as an organization that makes firewood available free of charge to individuals and families in need of heating assistance, provided: (1) there are sufficient funds available in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund; (2) all harvesting and trucking fees are paid for or reimbursed by the firewood bank; and (3) all contractual requirements regarding the donation of the firewood are met. In collaboration with the University of Maine System, as needed, the act also directs the department to promote firewood banks by increasing public awareness of these resources, the charitable efforts needed to maintain firewood banks, and to list all operating firewood banks on its website.

**LD 1655** *An Act to Allow the Keeping of Chickens on Private Residential Property* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan) **Public Law 2025, c. 174 (09/24/25)** This act prohibits municipalities from adopting ordinances preventing the raising of chickens on a person’s residential property but does not limit municipal home rule authority to regulate the raising of chickens. The act also defines a chicken as a female domesticated bird that is raised for meat or eggs and does not include a fully mature domesticated male chicken.

LD 1771 *An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 414 (09/24/25)** This act shifts responsibility for issuing kennel licenses from municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and requires the animal control officer (ACO), or state humane agent in communities where an ACO is not appointed, to inspect kennels to support the state's licensing efforts. The law requires the department to forward 20% of the collected fee to the animal welfare account established for the municipality where the kennel is located. The act also specifies the department's authority to refuse to issue or renew, suspend or revoke a facility license for an animal shelter, kennel, boarding kennel, breeding kennel or pet shop.

LD 1953 *An Act to Ensure Public Access to Conservation Land by Providing Protections from Liability to Landowners* (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 256 (09/24/25)** This act provides additional protection from liability for a landowner that grants an easement enabling perpetual public access to property to pursue recreational or harvesting activities.

## Appropriations & Financial Affairs

LD 210 *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* (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Gattine of Westbrook) **Public Law 2025, c. 388 (09/24/25)** This act makes additional General Fund appropriations and allocations to the baseline budget, enacted as PL 2025, c. 2, for FY 2025, FY 2026 and FY 2027. Of municipal interest, the budget allocates and appropriates: (1) \$4 million in FY 2026 to fund mandated county jail medication-assisted treatment and medical care; (2) \$2 million in FY 2026 and FY 2027, increasing total General Assistance reimbursement to \$12.4 million annually, \$4 million in FY 2026 to reimburse municipalities for 70% of the actual aid provided, and an additional \$4 million in FY 2026 to provide one-time funding to be distributed proportionally to municipalities based on each community's share of total statewide costs; and (3) \$11 million in FY 2026 and \$18.6 million in FY 2027 in revenue sharing, yielding total revenue distributions of \$276 million and \$284 million, respectively, over the biennium.

Additionally, the act: (1) 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, commission for community service, code enforcement and Maine climate corps programs and directs the Development Ready Advisory Committee, which includes three municipal officials, 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; (2) reduces the cannabis excise tax rates by one-third, concurrently increases the sales tax on adult use cannabis to 14%, and decreases from


12% to 9% the amount of adult use cannabis sales and excise tax revenue transferred to the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund; (3) increases the real estate transfer tax to \$6 for each \$500 that exceeds \$1 million and after ensuring that the Maine State Housing Authority has the revenues necessary to meet bonding obligations, transfers: (a) 18% to the Housing First Fund, (b) 32% to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund, (c) 30% to the Housing Production Fund, and (d) 20% to the General Fund; (4) transfers \$3 million in unappropriated General Fund surplus to support a manufactured home and mobile home park preservation and assistance program; (5) increases the fees for a variety of resident and nonresident hunting and fishing licenses; (6) creates within the Department of Labor the Targeted Workforce Investment Program to provide training and other workforce development activities in support of industries or occupations for which there is an identified need in the state economy; (7) increases the fee for resident and nonresident concealed handgun permits and provides that all concealed handgun permit fees collected by the state or other issuing authorities must be remitted to and retained by the Treasurer of State; and (8) amends the provision of law governing the Workers' Compensation Board Administrative Fund to ensure levied assessments do not 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.

LD 609 *An Act Making Certain Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government* (Sponsored by Rep. Gattine of Westbrook) **Public Law 2025, c. 2 (06/20/25)** This act makes baseline General Fund appropriations and allocations for FY 2025, FY 2026 and FY 2027. Of municipal interest, the

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budget allocates and appropriates: (1) \$92 million and \$95 million in FY 2026 and FY 2027, respectively for state reimbursement for lost property tax revenue under the homestead exemption program; (2) \$20.3 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 for county jail operations; (3) \$10.4 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 for state reimbursement under the General Assistance program; (4) \$265 million in FY 2026 and FY 2027 for distribution to municipalities under the revenue sharing program, as well as an additional \$11 million in FY 2025 to align with December 1, 2024 projections; and (5) establishes the minimum mil rate expectation at 6.10; sets the minimum total cost of funding K-12 education at \$2.74 billion; appropriates \$1.5 billion as the state's 55% share; and appropriates \$285.6 million as the state's contribution to the unfunded actuarial liabilities for Maine teachers' retirement benefits. The act also: (1) directs the state controller to transfer \$5 million of unappropriated General Fund surplus revenues to the Disaster Recovery Fund; and (2) requires designated GA administrators to annually complete training and directs the Department of Health and Human Services to annually inform municipal GA administrators about the program's rules, requirements and compliance expectations.

## Criminal Justice & Public Safety

LD 28 *Resolve, to Rename the Twin Rivers Fire Academy in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Training Facility* (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 28 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Town of Fairfield to designate the firefighter training facility in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Training Facility.

LD 121 *An Act to Amend the Maine Litter Control Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 176 (09/24/25)** This act amends the Maine Litter Control Act by: (1) adding brush and yard debris to the definition of litter; (2) exempting slash (e.g., branches, bark, treetops, chunks, culled logs, uprooted stumps, etc.) generated by a public utility from the definition; and (3) clarifying that a violation of the act must be an intentional action.

LD 176 *An Act to Authorize the Formation of Emergency Medical Services Districts* (Sponsored by Rep. Fredette of Newport) **Public Law 2025, c. 334 (09/24/25)** This act amends 30-A MRSA, c. 164 to include the provision of emergency medical services in the laws guiding the creation of fire service districts with one or more municipalities.

LD 224 *An Act to Expand the Definition of "Terrorism" in the Laws Governing the Maine Emergency Management Agency* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) **Public Law 2025, c. 77 (09/24/25)** This act updates the laws governing the Maine Emergency Management Agency by defining: (1) "cyberattack" as an activity targeting information and communications technology infrastructure, systems or services affecting the State or the State's critical infrastructure; and (2) "terrorism" as the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government or civilian population, including conduct that constitutes a cyberattack on information and communications technology infrastructure, systems or services affecting the State or the State's critical infrastructure, whether physical or non-physical.

LD 583 *An Act to Support Informed Community Self-determination in Emergency Medical Services Planning* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 457 (09/24/25)** This act appropriates \$100,000 in FY 2026 enabling the Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to provide one-time funding for the EMS Community Grant Program established to facilitate community led and informed discussions around EMS challenges and opportunities.

LD 719 *Resolve, to Direct the County Corrections Professional Standards Council to Examine Funding of and Compliance by County and Regional Jails* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook) **Resolves 2025, c. 73 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the County Corrections Professional Standards Council to review: (1) county jail compliance with audit requirements; (2) unfunded mandates related to county jails; (3) improvements to the operations of the council; and (4) future needs for state support for county jail operations. No later than January 15, 2026, the resolve also directs the council to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 786 *An Act to Promote Public Safety and Retain Essential First Responders by Converting the Maine Length of Service Award Program Trust Fund to a Nonlapsing Fund* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 202 (09/24/25)** This act provides that any unexpended funds in the Maine Length of Service Award Program that remain at the end of the fiscal year must be carried forward and available for expenditure in the subsequent year.

LD 841 *Resolve, to Study the Delivery of Emergency Medical Services to and Ferry Service Effects on Unbridged Island Communities in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 93 (06/20/25)** This resolve directs Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to convene a working group to study the delivery of emergency medical services and ferry service effects on unbridged island communities. The eight-member study group includes two members from island communities representing different interests and a representative of a municipal fire department. No later than January 1, 2026, Maine EMS is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committees on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and Transportation, which are authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 931 *An Act to Amend the Law Allowing Individuals Subject to Pretrial or Presentence Incarceration to Be Credited Time for Participation in Work Projects Within a Jail* (Sponsored by Rep. O'Halloran of Brewer) **Public Law 2025, c. 341 (09/24/25)** This act provides that an inmate who is detained at a county or regional jail pretrial or presentence, and who voluntarily participates in a work project within the jail is eligible to have up to one day removed from the sentence for every 16 hours of participation in the project.

LD 1005 *Resolve, to Study Authorization for Municipal Fire Departments with Trained Personnel to Conduct Fire Sprinkler System Plan Reviews* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) **Resolves 2025, c. 103 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Office of the State Fire Marshal to convene a working group, which includes participation of representatives from a statewide association of fire chiefs, statewide association of municipalities, and a municipal fire department seeking to conduct fire sprinkler

system plan reviews. The working group is directed to examine the status of fire sprinkler system plan review in Maine, including reviewing all related and available data, best procedures to enable the office to grant authority to willing municipal fire departments, and strategies for addressing the office's staffing needs. No later than December 3, 2025, the office is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committees on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and Housing and Economic Development, which are authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1135 *Resolve, to Convene a Working Group to Study the Use of Oral Fluid Testing in Determining the Intoxication of Drivers, Aircraft Operators and Hunters* (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 87 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Public Safety to convene a working group, including a representative from a statewide association of chiefs of police, to study the use of oral fluid testing to determine intoxication. The working group is tasked with determining: (1) the need for this testing in Maine; (2) legal and regulatory changes necessary to allow the use of oral fluid testing; (3) how the testing will impact administrative license suspensions; and (4) the equipment and training necessary to conduct and implement the testing. No later than January 1, 2026, the department is also directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1607 *An Act to Require Law Enforcement Agencies to Adopt Written Policies Regarding Compliance with Certain Constitutional Obligations Related to Disclosure of Evidence* (Sponsored by Rep. Bunker of Farmington) **Public Law 2025, c. 219 (09/24/25)** By January 1, 2026, this act requires law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies to assist prosecuting agencies in complying with constitutional obligations regarding the disclosure of evidence as provided under *Brady v. Maryland* (1963) and *Giglio v. United States* (405 U.S. 150 (37)), and to comply with mandatory disclosures to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

LD 1695 *An Act to Require Law Enforcement Agencies to Adopt Written Policies Regarding Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (Sponsored by Rep. Arata of New Gloucester) **Public Law 2025, c. 344 (09/24/25)** This act directs law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies addressing the treatment of persons who are experiencing or have experienced human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation.

LD 1710 *An Act Regarding the Authority to Transport Prisoners Confined in Jail and the Use of Physical Force with Respect to Prisoners and Persons Who Have Been Arrested* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook) **Public Law 2025, c. 429 (09/24/25)** This act defines when and the conditions that must be in place to justify the use of both deadly and non-deadly force by a corrections officer or supervisor, transport officer, law enforcement officer or another individual responsible for the custody, care or transport of a person in custody due to a court order or arrest. The law also defines when a private person, who is directed by a corrections officer or supervisor, transport officer, law enforcement officer or another individual to assist in preventing the escape of a person in custody, may use a reasonable degree of force. In all cases, the act requires officials to receive in-service training in the use or in directing the use of such force.

LD 1981 *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Emergency Medical Services' Board and the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 491 (09/24/25)** This act implements a recommendation from the Emergency Medical Services' Board blue-ribbon commission that authorizes, by a majority vote and in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, the EMS board to appoint a seven-member licensing board whose members represent EMS service providers, dispatchers, educators and administrators. The licensing board is directed to issue warnings, censures or reprimands to licensees; suspend licenses or registrations for violations of applicable laws, rules and conditions of licensure; impose civil penalties and conditions of probation; and execute consent agreements to resolve complaints or investigations without additional proceedings.

## Education & Cultural Affairs

LD 86 *An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Education* (Sponsored by Rep. Sargent of York) **Public Law 2025, c. 112 (09/24/25)** In part, this act allows the residents of a municipality within a community school district to petition and vote to withdraw from the district in the same manner afforded to residents in a regional school unit.

LD 242 *An Act to Extend the Maximum Time Period for Certain School Construction Bonds* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 197 (09/24/25)** This act extends from 25 to 30 years the period that temporary notes can be issued in anticipation of the sale of a school construction bond.

LD 318 *Resolve, Directing the Maine Education Policy Research Institute and the Department of Education to Recommend Changes to the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) **Resolves 2025, c. 84 (09/24/25)** No later than October 1, 2025, this resolve directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to identify cost model parameters for the Department of Education to use in simulating projected impacts on school funding, including special education, regional adjustments and indexes, per-pupil amounts to more adequately fund instruction staff support, economically disadvantaged student weights, and transportation factors. The institute is also tasked with identifying the additional information needed from school administrative units to examine the per-pupil cost of certain high-cost special education programs and soliciting stakeholder input on the results of the department's simulated impacts on school funding. No later than January 15, 2026, the department is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 692 *An Act to Increase Support for Statewide Emergency Broadcast Messaging* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 459 (09/24/25)** This act appropriates \$250,000 annually in ongoing funding to the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to align the state more closely with the statutory requirement to provide emergency broadcast messaging for public safety.

LD 722 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Medical Services' Board to Report to the Joint Stand-*

ing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on the Status of Funds in the Emergency Medical Services Stabilization and Sustainability Program (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook) **Resolves 2025, c. 34 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Emergency Medical Services' (EMS) Board to report on the status of the funding in the EMS Stabilization and Sustainability Program, including the amount of funding received by EMS training centers and the status of any remaining funds and no later than January 15, 2026, submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

**LD 1103** An Act Regarding Unallocated Balances in a School Administrative Unit School Budget (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 208 (09/24/25)** This act permanently increases from 5% to 9% the amount of unallocated balances from the previous fiscal year's school budget a district can retain before using the remaining revenues to reduce the state and local share of the total allocation for the purposes of computing state subsidy.

**LD 1404** Resolve, to Create a Working Group on the Status of School Libraries and on Public Libraries in Maine (Sponsored by Rep. Murphy of Scarborough) **Resolves 2025, c. 117 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the State Librarian to convene a 15-member working group, including two representatives of municipal public libraries, to study the: (1) services for specific populations, including persons with disabilities, youth, immigrant and migrant communities and tribal communities; (2) role libraries play in emergency preparedness, cultural diversity, public health and safety and community identity and resilience; and (3) current overall status of public and school libraries. No later than November 1, 2027, the resolve also directs the state librarian to submit a re-

port to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2028.

**LD 1433** Resolve, to Establish a Working Waterfront Infrastructure Engineer Corps Pilot Program and to Conduct a Feasibility Study of a Higher Education Service Corps Program (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook) **Resolves 2025, c. 118 (09/24/25)** This resolve creates the Working Waterfront Infrastructure Engineer Corps Pilot Program, overseen by the Maine Sea Grant at the University of Maine, to provide expertise in engineering, planning, and permitting to restore and protect Maine's working waterfront and other vulnerable infrastructure. The two-year pilot, beginning in 2026, provides five undergraduate or graduate students, each year, the opportunity to conduct working waterfront vulnerability assessments. By December 1, 2027, the university is directed to provide a report, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and state and local government matters, both of which are authorized to advance legislation following the submission of the report. The resolve directs the Maine Commission for Community Service to conduct a feasibility study examining the expansion of the existing service program and by December 3, 2025, report its findings to the committees on Education and State and Local Government, which are authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

**LD 1701** Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Establish a Working Group to Study the Maine Learning Results (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) **Resolves 2025, c. 76 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Education to convene a working group to study the system of learning results, including the program's purpose, efficacy, and inclusion of diverse cultures and communities. No later than February 1, 2026, the department is required to submit an interim report and no later than February 1, 2027, to submit a final report, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026 and 2027.

**LD 1887** Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Newly Constructed Schools (Sponsored by Rep. Arata of New Gloucester) **Resolves 2025, c. 56 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Education to amend its rules and no later than July 1, 2026, to require air quality and ventilation standards only for newly constructed public schools.

## Energy, Utilities & Technology

**LD 114** An Act to Amend the Charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston) **Private & Special 2025, c. 1 (09/24/25)** This private and special act amends the charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority to allow the authority to operate under the assumed name of the Lewiston Auburn Clean Water Authority.

**LD 241** An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Approve Rate Adjustments for Low-income Water Utility Ratepayers (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 137 (09/24/25)** This act authorizes a water utility or group of water utilities to petition the Public Utilities Commission for approval of a low-income assistance program providing qualifying low-income residential ratepayers with a discount or credit on the amount the ratepayer otherwise owes to a water utility.



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LD 293 *An Act to Eliminate the Debt Limit of the Boothbay Region Water District* (Sponsored by Rep. Stover of Boothbay) **Private & Special 2025, c. 2 (09/24/25)** This private and special act increases the debt limit for the Boothbay Region Water District from \$12 to \$19 million.

LD 301 *An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Use Quantitative Metrics and Rate-adjustment Mechanisms in a Proceeding for a General Rate Increase* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **Public Law 2025, c. 198 (09/24/25)** This act enables the Public Utilities Commission to establish or authorize rate-adjustment mechanisms pertaining to a public utility's operations and activities in proceedings for a general rate increase.

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) **Public Law 2025, c. 23 (09/24/25)** This act 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. The act also directs the trustees, directors or managing board to prepare and submit a financial management plan to the Public Utilities Commission and each municipality in the district and authorizes the commission to provide an opportunity to the impacted municipalities to provide input on the plan.

LD 810 *An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines* (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland) **Public Law 2025, c. 340 (09/24/25)** This act provides that a high-impact electric transmission line is deemed to have received majority legislative approval, if the line is approved for a contract after a competitive procurement conducted by either the Public Utilities Commission or a state agency pursuant to statutory authority granted under Title 35-A.

LD 860 *An Act to Allow the Public Advocate to Obtain Information from Public Utilities, Competitive Electricity Providers and Standard-offer Service Providers* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **Emergency Enacted: Public Law 2025, c. 123 (05/29/25)** This act requires competitive electricity suppliers to provide the Public Advocate copies of the reports filed with the Public Utilities Commission and authorizes the advocate to make recommendations to the commission or to the Legislature, including regarding the reasonableness of rates charged by a public utility or competitive electricity provider. The act also directs the advocate to prepare a report regarding rates and business practices of standard-offer service and competitive electricity providers and no later than December 3, 2025, submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 873 *An Act to Expand Municipal Authority over Utility Pole Permits* (Sponsored by Rep. Abdi of Lewiston) **Public Law 2025, c. 38 (09/24/25)** This act decreases from 40,000 to 30,000 the population of municipalities authorized to revoke the location of

a utility pole when required for public safety and welfare.

LD 1048 *An Act to Require Certain Notice Requirements for Whistleblower Protections* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) **Public Law 2025, c. 407 (09/24/25)** This act requires public utilities and competitive electricity providers to annually notify employees, affiliated interests and utility contractors of their rights to provide testimony before the Public Utilities Commission and Public Advocate. The notice must be written in plain English, in 12-point type and sent separately from any other communication.

LD 1080 *An Act Prohibiting Public Utilities from Requiring Deposits Based Solely on a Residential Customer's Income* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **Public Law 2025, c. 115 (09/24/25)** This act prohibits a public utility from requiring a deposit based solely on an applicant's income and defines an applicant as a person who has not been a customer of the utility within 30 calendar days of the application for utility service. The act also directs the Public Utilities Commission to initiate rulemaking to implement the provisions of the law.

LD 1127 *An Act to Establish Immunity for a Receiver Appointed by the Public Utilities Commission to Oversee the Operations of a Consumer-owned Water Utility* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **Public Law 2025, c. 59 (09/24/25)** This act specifies that a receiver appointed by the Public Utilities Commission to oversee the operations of a consumer-owned water utility must be treated in the same manner as an employee acting on behalf of a governmental entity under the Maine Tort Claims Act.

LD 1212 *Resolve, to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating* (Sponsored by Sen. Harrington of York Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 54 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Efficiency Maine Trust, in collaboration with the Departments of Economic and Community Development and Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, as well as the Governor's Energy Office, to work with representatives of the modern wood heating system industry to study and make recommendations relating to programs and incentives encouraging the promotion and use of modern wood heating systems in Maine. By December 3, 2025, the trust must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1436 *An Act to Update and Clarify Provisions Related to 9-1-1 Services* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **Public Law 2025, c. 167 (09/24/25)** This act makes several changes to the law governing the 9-1-1 system, including: (1) updating terminology; (2) designating the Public Utilities Commission as the entity responsible for rulemaking instead of the Emergency Services Communication Bureau and making all rulemaking routine technical; (3) reorganizing the provisions of law related to 9-1-1 funding; (4) authorizing the bureau to allow grants, subject to available funds, to be used to consolidate or transfer public safety answering points and dispatch centers; and (5) expanding the information that must be provided in the commission's annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters.

LD 1747 *An Act to Repeal and Replace the Charter of the Yarmouth Water District* (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth) **Private & Special 2025, c. 8 (09/24/25)** This private and special

act repeals and replaces the charter of the Yarmouth Water District, subject to voter approval.

LD 1913 *An Act to Allow Matinicus Isle Plantation to Issue a Revenue Bond for Urgently Needed Repairs to the Plantation's Electric Power Generating Facility* (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland) **Emergency Enacted; Private & Special 2025, c. 7 (06/09/25)** This private and special act authorizes Matinicus Isle Plantation to issue general obligation bonds to construct and improve an electric power generating facility without requiring payment schedules to conform with Public Utilities Commission rules and regulations and authorizes property taxes to be used to make the principal and interest payments.

## Environment & Natural Resources

LD 62 *An Act to Support Municipal and County Actions on Dam Ownership and to Make Other Changes to the Laws Regulating Release from Dam Ownership* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill) **Public Law 2025, c. 226 (09/24/25)** This act amends the Department of Environmental Protection's process regarding the release of dam ownership by changing the information that must be submitted by the dam owner and changing the timeframes for certain required processes under the laws regulating those proceedings, including the consultation process with the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Department of Marine Resources and the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

LD 65 *An Act to Update the Definition of "Coastal Wetlands" Under the Natural Resources Protection Act and the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) **Public Law 2025, c. 128 (09/24/25)** This act amends the definition of "coastal wetlands" in the Natural Resources Protection Act and in mandatory shoreland zoning laws by clarifying that coastal wetlands include: (1) all tidal, subtidal and swamp, marsh, bog, beach, flat or other contiguous lowlands that are subject to tidal action during the highest astronomical tide as determined by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and (2) all areas with vegetation present that is tolerant of salt water and occurs primarily in a saltwater or estuarine habitat.

LD 138 *An Act Regarding the Permitting of Projects Affecting Public-use Airports Under the Natural Resources Protection Act and the Site Location of Development Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 329 (09/24/25)** This act amends the Natural Resources Protection Act and the site location of development laws to prohibit the Department of Environmental Protection from including conditions of a permit that, as determined by the department, decrease safety within the air operations area at a public-use airport.

LD 228 *An Act to Allow Coastal Seawalls to Be Raised by up to 2 Feet in Order to Accommodate Predicted Sea Level Rise* (Sponsored by Rep. Foley of Wells) **Emergency Enacted; Public Law 2025, c. 122 (05/29/25)** This act amends the Natural Resources Protection Act by authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to approve a permit for a one-time increase, of up to two feet in the height, to a seawall or similar structure in a coastal sand dune system, as long as certain specified conditions are met.

LD 269 *Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 375: No Adverse Environmental Effect Standards of the*

*Site Location of Development Act, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 58 (06/10/25)** This resolve provides for final adoption of portions of Chapter 375: No Adverse Environmental Effect Standards of the Site Location of Development Act, a major substantive rule of the Department of Environmental Protection, provided that certain changes to the proposed rule are implemented.

LD 296 *An Act to Appropriate Funds to the Department of Environmental Protection, Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta) **Public Law 2025, c. 451 (09/24/25)** This act provides \$50,000 in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 as one-time funding for projects that meet specific criteria and improve or maintain the quality of Maine lake waters.

LD 297 *An Act Regarding the Management of Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge at the State-owned Landfill* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta) **Public Law 2025, c. 373 (09/24/25)** This act amends the law regarding the reuse or recycling of construction and demolition debris by certain solid waste processing facilities that were in operation during calendar year 2018 and that accept exclusively construction and demolition debris by extending the dates by which such facilities must reuse or recycle a certain percentage of debris through methods other than placement in a solid waste landfill. The act also provides that any additional excess residue associated with the processing of the 25,000 tons of oversized bulky waste amount generated by the solid waste processing facility in a 12-month period and used at a solid waste landfill, not to exceed 75,000 tons in that 12-month period, is deemed to be waste generated within the State, as long as that additional excess residue is not composed of oversized bulky waste and is used at a state-owned solid waste landfill as daily cover. The changes take effect retroactively to June 23, 2023.

LD 400 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal to Compile a Statewide Inventory of Aqueous Film-forming Foam Concentrate* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) **Public Law 2025, c. 111 (09/24/25)** No later than November 1, 2025, this resolve directs the Office of the State Fire Marshal to initiate a one-year program to collect information regarding the aqueous film-forming foam concentrate possessed by any public entity in the amount of five or more gallons, and a two-year program for collecting the same information from private entities. No later than January 1, 2028, the office is further directed to submit the inventory to the joint standing committees of the legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources and criminal justice and public safety matters, which are authorized to report out legislation in 2028. The resolve also appropriates \$86,000 in FY 2026 and FY 2027 to implement the directive.

LD 401 *An Act to Support Removal of Overboard Discharge Systems* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich) **Public Law 2025, c. 44 (09/24/25)** This act amends the laws governing pollution control by: (1) changing the cost of a municipal or quasi-municipal pollution abatement construction program for which the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) may pay up to 90% of the expense from \$100,000 to 250% of the median household income in the state; (2) amending the income limits for individual pollution abatement projects serving single-family dwellings,

seasonal dwellings or commercial establishments for which the commissioner may pay a percentage of the cost; (3) amending the income limits used to determine the portion of an overboard discharge replacement project that is eligible for grant funding; and (4) requiring that in order to be eligible for grant funding, the owner of an overboard discharge system and contractor certify that the removal project has been completed and the local plumbing inspector certifies that an alternative disposal system has been installed.

**LD 407** *Resolve, to Ensure the Removal of Aqueous Film-forming Foam from the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) **Resolves 2025, c. 33 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority to take the steps necessary to: (1) no later than December 31, 2025 ensure that all fire suppression systems containing aqueous film-forming foam located on the property are shut off and that all foam is removed from the property; (2) no later than July 1, 2026 acquire funding to cover the cost of completely purging all fire suppression systems containing foam; and (3) no later than December 31, 2026 purge all fire suppression systems.

**LD 465** *An Act to Update Waste Discharge License Fees* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 62 (09/24/25)** Of municipal interest, this act amends the state's waste discharge license fees by adding a license for general permit coverage for municipal separate storm sewer systems and establishing an annual fee of \$1,306.

**LD 497** *An Act Regarding the Regulation of Significant Vernal Pools Under the Natural Resources Protection Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) **Public Law 2025, c. 338 (09/24/25)** This act amends provisions of the Natural Resources Protection

Act regarding significant vernal pool habitats, including defining the terms critical terrestrial habitat, significant vernal pool habitat, and significant vernal pool protection zone. The act also amends the section of the law defining which landowners are not subject to vernal pool regulation by repealing the provision which previously allowed a landowner to cause an impact on a significant vernal pool habitat buffer area, and adding an exemption for the owner of property that bisects a significant vernal pool, but whose property does not contain the vernal pool depression. The act also provides that when a vernal pool has not been determined as significant by the Departments of Environmental Protection or Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, either department may determine that the vernal pool is not significant if it is located in northern Maine and dries out after filling and before July 15, or located in southern Maine and dries out after filling and before July 1.

**LD 529** *An Act to Establish the Alamoosook Lake Watershed Management District* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill) **Emergency Enacted; Private & Special 2025, c. 10 (06/18/25)** Subject to approval by the voters, this private and special law establishes the Alamoosook Lake Watershed Management District, which is a quasi-municipal corporation managed by a board of trustees, with three members appointed by the municipal officers in the Town of Orland and two members elected by the owners of property along the lake. The implementing legislation describes the powers, responsibilities and authorities granted to the district, how elections and business are conducted, the process for dissolving the district, the budget hearing and approval process, and financial responsibilities of both the town and property owners abutting the lake.

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LD 531 *An Act to Establish the Toddy Pond Watershed Management District* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill) **Emergency Enacted; Private & Special 2025, c. 9 (06/18/25)** Subject to approval by the voters, this private and special law establishes the Toddy Pond Watershed Management District, which is a quasi-municipal corporation managed by a nine member board of trustees, with two members appointed by the municipal officers in the Town of Orland, three members appointed by the municipal officers from the towns of Penobscot, Surry and Blue Hill and four members elected by the owners of property along the lake. The implementing legislation describes the powers, responsibilities and authorities granted to the district, how elections and business are conducted, the process for dissolving the district, the budget hearing and approval process, and financial responsibilities of the towns and property owners abutting the lake.

LD 708 *An Act to Allow for Rescission of a Site Location of Development Permit When a Development Is Decommissioned* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta) **Public Law 2025, c. 49 (09/24/25)** For developments other than a subdivision, this act adds to the laws governing when the state can rescind a site location of development permit to include cases where the development has been fully decommissioned, which is defined as: (1) when all components of a development have been physically removed; (2) the site has been restored to preconstruction grade, and any previously vegetated areas have been revegetated with native vegetation similar to nearby native vegetation; and (3) all waste has been recycled or disposed of at a facility authorized to accept the materials for recycling or disposal. The act also authorizes the state to rescind a permit when the permittee has not started the proposed development.

LD 1065 *An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste* (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 419 (09/24/25)** Beginning July 1, 2030, this act provides that a designated food waste generator may not dispose of its generated food waste at an incineration facility or solid waste landfill and must to the maximum extent practicable reduce the volume of food waste it generates, separate and arrange for the donation of excess edible food, and manage the remaining food waste through agricultural use, composting or anaerobic digestion. The Department of Environmental Protection may approve a temporary waiver from these requirements for an undue hardship for a period not to exceed three years. Beginning on March 1, 2031, and annually thereafter, the act requires generators to submit a report to the department including information on the amount of edible food waste donated to rescue organizations, the amount of waste transferred to organics recyclers and any other required information.

LD 1207 *An Act to Amend the Site Location of Development Laws to Require a 100-foot Buffer Between Solar Energy Developments and Rivers, Streams and Brooks* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 106 (09/24/25)** This act prohibits the construction of solar energy developments, defined as systems consisting of ground-mounted solar panels, within 100 feet of a river, stream or brook, and exempts vegetation removal activities necessary for shade management or road or utility line crossings from the setback requirement.

LD 1423 *An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 383 (09/24/25)** In part, this act clarifies that municipalities participating in the packaging stewardship program must provide for the collection and recycling of any readily recyclable packaging materials, including the materials generated by producers that are not participating in the program.

LD 1604 *An Act to Protect Groundwater and Surface Waters from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances from Landfill Leachate* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 172 (09/24/25)** This act requires a person licensed by the Department of Environmental Protection to discharge wastewater to groundwater or any waters to maintain a record of and annually report to the department data regarding the origin, volume and final disposition of leachate collected from a solid waste landfill delivered to or otherwise accepted by the licensee for treatment or other management. The act also requires a landfill to test leachate for PFAS and include the results in the landfill's annual report, which the department is directed to post on a publicly accessible website. Upon a written request to the department from a property owner abutting a landfill, the landfill is required to conduct a one-time sample of a private well used by the owner for drinking water purposes, and if PFAS contamination is found, the landfill must conduct additional testing. Additionally, the laboratory performing the testing must provide results to the owner of the well and department.

LD 1782 *Resolve, Regarding Host Community Compensation for the Juniper Ridge Landfill in the City of Old Town* (Sponsored by Rep. Dill of Old Town) **Resolves 2025, c. 66 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to work with the operator of the state-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill and the City of Old Town to amend the host community agreement of December 8, 2005, to ensure the city is fairly and adequately compensated for the burdens of hosting the landfill. In the process of executing the agreement, the state is required to consider changes in circumstances, ongoing or future capacity expansions or extension of operation service agreements and any other factors determined by the parties.

LD 1786 *An Act to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Provide Certain Information Regarding Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to the Public and Private Drinking Water Well Owners* (Sponsored by Rep. Arford of Brunswick) **Public Law 2025, c. 321 (09/24/25)** This act requires the Department of Environmental Protection to post on its publicly accessible website the most stringent maximum PFAS contaminant levels adopted by Maine or a federal agency, measured in parts per trillion, that are in effect at the time the information is posted and to update the information when levels change. When conducting or facilitating the testing of a private drinking water well for PFAS, the department is required to provide the owner, by mail, and if possible, email, information regarding the most stringent maximum levels of contamination, a comparison of the testing results to those levels, and information on resources available to owners of private drinking water wells affected by PFAS, including information regarding mitigation strategies. If the department does not conduct or facilitate the testing, only

the information regarding the maximum levels of contamination and information on resources must be provided to owners of private wells.

LD 1793 *An Act to Amend Eligibility Criteria Under the Maine Solid Waste Diversion Grant Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 322 (09/24/25)** This act amends the eligibility criteria for grants distributed under the Maine Solid Waste Diversion Grant Program to include programs, projects, initiatives or activities relating to the collection and transportation of waste that is diverted from disposal, as well as to cover the costs associated with implementing a program, including hiring or contracting with consultants or specialists, conducting feasibility studies and promoting collaborative regional efforts for collecting and transporting solid waste.

LD 1976 *Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 379: Compensation for Impacts to High-Value Agricultural Land from Solar Energy Development, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 51 (06/09/25)** This resolve provides for legislative review of Chapter 379: Compensation for Impacts to High-Value Agricultural Land from Solar Energy Development, a major substantive rule of the Department of Environmental Protection, which was filed outside the legislative rule acceptance period.

## Health & Human Services

LD 99 *An Act to Clarify Information Sharing Between the Department of Health and Human Services and Schools with Respect to Investigations of Child Abuse or Neglect* (Sponsored by Rep. Murphy of Scarborough) **Public Law 2025, c. 362 (09/24/25)** This act clarifies that an investigation team of the Department of Health and Human Services may share information with the superintendent of a school administrative unit, the chief administrator of a private school or a public school not in a school administrative unit when there is an indicated or substantiated finding of out-of-home abuse or neglect against an employee of the public or private school. The act also allows the Department of Education to disseminate reports of suspected child abuse or neglect to public and private schools when neither the department nor the Department of Health & Human Services is investigating or determines that the school is unaware of the information.

LD 110 *An Act to Require Reporting on the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds by Certain Municipalities and County Governments* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) **Public Law 2025, c. 79 (09/24/25)** This act requires direct share subdivisions, including municipalities and counties, that receive opioid settlement funds in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding to submit a report to the Attorney General (AG) by January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, detailing the amount of revenue received and expended in the prior calendar year, including a description of each expenditure. The act also directs the AG to compile the information and submit reports to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by February 15 of each year.

LD 215 *An Act to Establish a Program to Assist Residents of Large Recovery Residences* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) **Public Law 2025, c. 449 (09/24/25)** This act sets the maximum levels of housing assistance provided under the Gen-

eral Assistance (GA) program to residents of recovery residences with 26 or more beds at 70% of the maximum level of assistance provided to those residing in facilities with 25 or fewer beds and reimburses municipalities for 100% of the aid provided to an applicant residing in a facility of 26 or more beds. The act also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a stakeholder group, including residents and operators of recovery residences and municipal officials, to review options for managing the amount of GA provided to residents of recovery residences. No later than February 1, 2026, the department is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 650 *An Act to Support Municipal Public Health* (Sponsored by Rep. Graham of North Yarmouth) **Public Law 2025, c. 75 (09/24/25)** This act repeals and replaces the law governing the appointment of local boards of health by authorizing municipalities to appoint boards of three to seven members, one of whom must be a physician, an advance practice nurse or physician assistant, if available in the community. The appointees must have knowledge, education and experience in medicine or public health, including but not limited to community mental health, public health nursing, public and community health and education and communications and to the extent possible, be representative of the population served. The act also specifies that the board is an advisory body to the local health officer, directs the board to prioritize activities overseen by the local health officer, and authorizes the board to: (1) in consultation with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention educate the public about health issues; (2) propose ordinances to the local legislative body promoting general health; (3) advise councils, selectboards, and staff on public health issues; and (4) collaborate with nonprofit organizations and businesses to support local public health work.

LD 710 *An Act to Expand Access and Reduce Barriers to Access to Naloxone Hydrochloride and Other Opioid Overdose-reversing Medications* (Sponsored by Rep. Zager of Portland) **Public Law 2025, c. 145 (09/24/25)** Of municipal interest, this act expands municipal immunity from criminal and civil liability for providing access to opioid overdose-reversing medications, including vending machines for use by the public in response to an opioid-related overdose.

LD 1078 *An Act to Support Maine's Public Health Objectives by Increasing Access to Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor) **Public Law 2025, c. 408 (09/24/25)** This act allows a certified hypodermic apparatus exchange program to: (1) operate mobile sites within the municipality where the program is certified, provided the program ensures the safe collection and disposal of hypodermic apparatuses and operates within the parameters preapproved by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention; and (2) provide delivery services, provided the program ensures client confidentiality, safe handling, and proper disposal and delivers only to locations where it has been expressly invited by an individual or entity with legal authority to allow access to the location.

LD 1081 *An Act to Support Access to General Assistance at Municipal General Assistance Offices and Designated Places* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **Public Law 2025, c. 149**

**(09/24/25)** This act requires municipalities to designate the hours when GA applications can be obtained, and when those applications will be accepted and processed, which may not be less than 50% of the municipality’s regular business hours. The act also amends and clarifies the information on the notice municipalities are required to post regarding the program to include the: (1) hours when applications can be obtained; (2) hours when applications will be accepted and processed; (3) name of the overseer who is available to take applications in an emergency and outside daily business hours; (4) requirement that the municipality issue a written decision within 24 hours of receiving an application; and (5) Department of Health and Human Services’ toll-free number for reporting alleged violations of these requirements.

**LD 1326** *An Act to Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances* (Sponsored by Rep. Shagoury of Hallowell) **Public Law 2025, c. 425 (09/24/25)** This act provides that monitoring and reporting of PFAS compounds and treatment to address maximum contaminant level exceedances must conform with the standards established in 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 141, as promulgated on April 26, 2024. The act also requires the public notice of a contaminant exceedance to include information identifying each type of PFAS detected in the drinking water, the levels of each type of PFAS detected and the total level of PFAS detected. The act also requires community and non-community water systems to immediately notify the Department of Environmental Protection and law enforcement officials of potential or suspected tampering with the water system.

**LD 1428** *An Act to Increase Access to Child Care for Maine Families* (Sponsored by Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford) **Public Law 2025, c. 288 (09/24/25)** This act requires municipalities to allow childcare or family childcare facilities to operate in an area that is zoned for residential purposes and further allows facility owners to operate without an outdoor recreational space, provided the facility is located within a reasonable distance of an outdoor public recreational space.

**LD 1550** *Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend Its Rules to Protect Water Quality by Reducing Nutrient Pollution from Septic Systems* (Sponsored by Sen. Ingwersen of York Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 45 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend rules governing subsurface wastewater disposal by: (1) amending the design standards for disposal fields to address short circuiting by reducing nutrient loading from septic tank effluent through natural processes; (2) applying the amended design standards only to soil profiles that pose a high risk of short circuiting due to the presence of sand or gravel layers in lower soil horizons or bedrock fractures; and (3) providing that an area of land suitable for the installation of a disposal field may not be rendered unsuitable due to any changes in the rule amended pursuant to this resolve.

**LD 1946** *An Act to Clarify the Eligibility of Certified Recovery Residences for Bridging Rental Assistance Program Housing Vouchers* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) **Public Law 2025, c. 427 (09/24/25)** This act provides that residents of certified recovery residences are eligible to apply for benefits

under the Bridging Rental Assistance Program to be used upon the individual’s departure, provided all program standards and conditions are met.

## Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

**LD 123** *An Act Regarding Licensure of Emergency Medical Services Persons* (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 7 (06/20/25)** This act amends the law governing the minimum requirements for licensing and relicensing of emergency medical services persons by removing the requirement that a person must have successfully completed the practical evaluation of emergency medical treatment skills approved by the Emergency Medical Services’ Board and replacing it with a requirement that the person must have successfully completed an assessment of emergency medical treatment skills approved by the board.

**LD 238** *An Act to Protect Emergency Medical Services Persons’ Right to Work in Multiple Health Care Settings* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 70 (09/24/25)** This act clarifies that a licensed emergency medical service provider may not use or be governed under the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982 while engaging in activities delegated by a physician or physician assistant pursuant to existing law.

**LD 1794** *An Act to Provide Protection from Unfair Parking Tickets on Lots Accessible to the Public* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 350 (09/24/25)** This act requires an entity that owns, operates or manages property providing access to public parking to consciously and prominently post the amount of any fine, fee or charge for the violation of a

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parking rule so that it is visible at the entrance and exit of the parking facility. Violations of parking rules must be provided in writing, and include the date, time, and nature of the violation, the amount of the fee, fine or charge, payment instructions and contact information for the person responsible for collecting the fine. Failure to adhere to the act is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act, and the claimant may obtain an award of damages equal to three times the amount of the assessed fine, fee or charge.

LD 1830 *Resolve, to Expand the Recipients of the Report on the Public Safety Health and Wellness Grant Pilot Program and Authorize Legislation to be Submitted in Response to the Report* (Sponsored by Rep. Bagshaw of Windham) **Resolves 2025, c. 91 (09/24/25)** No later than January 10, 2026, this resolve directs the Department of Public Safety to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committees on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, Health and Human Services and Criminal Justice and Public Safety regarding the public health and wellness grant program enacted in 2024. The resolve also authorizes each committee to submit legislation in 2026.

## Housing & Economic Development

LD 1 *An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure* (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; Public Law 2025, c. 33 (04/22/25)** In response to the damage caused by the winter storms of December 2023 and January 2024, this act: (1) creates the Home Resiliency Program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to provide grants to assist owners in funding home resiliency projects, allocates \$15 million to fund the program,

and establishes eligibility criteria, which, in part, limits program access to applicants who own and reside in the home subject to the improvements; (2) creates the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund as a dedicated, non-lapsing fund administered by the Maine Emergency Management Agency to fund the state's match for the Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster and hazard mitigation revolving low-interest loan program, which is designed to support municipal and tribal government infrastructure projects that reduce future storm and other hazards risks; and (3) establishes the State Resilience Office within the Maine Office of Community Affairs to coordinate, assist and collaborate with state agencies, municipalities, tribal governments and regional entities to improve Maine's resilience to extreme weather-related events and creates the State Resilience Fund to support data, planning tools, technical assistance and project funding designed to increase the resilience of communities, state and local infrastructure, businesses and other state entities to natural hazards, storm events and other disasters.

LD 337 *An Act to Repeal the Sunday Amateur Sports Law, the Law Allowing Municipalities to Permit the Operation of Movie Theaters on Sundays and the Law Imposing a Fine or Imprisonment for Playing Games and Sports with Admission Charges on Memorial Day* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner) **Public Law 2025, c. 43 (09/24/25)** This act repeals the municipal authority to adopt ordinances prohibiting the engagement in outdoor recreational or competitive amateur sports between the hours of 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sundays, as well as the authority to adopt ordinances preventing theaters from showing movies between the hours of 1 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on a Sunday. The act also repeals a provision in statute that makes engaging in any public outdoor game or sport, where admission is charged, before 3:30 p.m. on Memorial Day punishable by a fine of not more than \$25 or by imprisonment for not more than 10 days, or both.

LD 413 *An Act Regarding Disclosure by Sellers of Residential Real Property of Notices of Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Violations* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison) **Public Law 2025, c. 69 (09/24/25)** This act specifies the information the seller of residential property must provide when disclosing a violation of a shoreland zoning ordinance, including the notice of violation issued by a municipal or state official and any information regarding pending enforcement actions, litigation, court judgements, settlements or consent agreements.

LD 427 *An Act to Regulate Municipal Parking Space Minimums* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor) **Public Law 2025, c. 374 (09/24/25)** This act prohibits municipalities from requiring or imposing standards on residential developments within a designated growth area that result in the creation of more than one off-street parking space per unit. The act also enables a developer to satisfy parking requirements via the use of off-site parking agreements with existing facilities located within 0.25 miles of the development, provided documentation of the availability of sufficient parking is shared with the municipality. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is authorized to adopt the rules necessary to implement parking space limits.

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

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**lic Law 2025, c. 48 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Maine Office of Community Affairs 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, including in-person focus groups; (4) work with the Office of the State Fire Marshal to determine compliance with life safety codes; and (5) create a catalog of preapproved building types. No later than November 4, 2026, the office is directed to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters, which must include recommended legislation to ensure that when a municipality adopts preapproved building types, applications for permits are deemed administratively approved when the development is located along existing streets or within designated growth areas served by public water and sewer. The act appropriates \$200,000 in FY 2026 to implement the directive.

**LD 603 An Act to Ensure That the Exemption of Certain Agricultural Buildings from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Includes Maple Sugarhouses** (Sponsored by Rep. Cooper of Windham) **Public Law 2025, c. 46 (09/24/25)** This act exempts buildings used primarily to process or store maple sap or syrup from the provisions of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

**LD 698 An Act to Sustain Emergency Homeless Shelters in Maine** (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 460 (09/24/25)** This act deallocates funding for the Housing First Fund and Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund programs in FY 2026, and uses the \$4.5 million in savings to support emergency homeless shelters by allocating the funds to the Maine State Housing Authority's emergency shelter and housing assistance program.

**LD 901 Resolve, Directing the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to Take Appropriate Actions to Identify Opportunities for the Beneficial Reuse of the Buildings and Land Commonly Known as the Bangor Mall** (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 80 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to work with the City of Bangor to identify opportunities for the reuse of the Bangor Mall and develop a comprehensive plan that includes a mix of uses, promotes the economic revitalization of the property, and creates affordable housing for the city and region. No later than January 15, 2026, the authority is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

**LD 907 An Act to Amend the Law Governing Zoning Ordinance Variances for Persons with Permanent Disabilities** (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 103 (09/24/25)** This act amends the laws governing zoning adjustments by allowing municipalities to grant variances to storage and parking construction ordinances to the owner of a dwelling responsible for transporting a person with a permanent disability and when necessary to store the vehicle used to transport that individual.

**LD 945 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Powers and**

**Responsibilities of the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority** (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **Public Law 2025, c. 120 (09/24/25)** This act amends the laws governing the powers of the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority by providing the authority with the same powers possessed by a corporation. The act also authorizes the authority to enter into agreements with private entities, provided that agreements including the acquisition of property are approved by the municipality where the property is located.

**LD 949 An Act to Clarify Licensing Jurisdiction for Manufactured Housing Communities** (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell) **Public Law 2025, c. 428 (09/24/25)** This act requires a municipality to accept a license issued by the Manufactured Housing Board as evidence that a manufactured housing community meets all requirements to operate.

**LD 970 An Act to Prioritize Affordable Housing by Expediting Reviews for Affordable Housing Projects Applying for Funding from the Maine State Housing Authority** (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford) **Public Law 2025, c. 262 (09/24/25)** This act exempts from site location of development review the new construction of dwelling units at a previously permitted development, provided: (1) the additional disturbed area does not exceed 40,000 square feet in any calendar year and not more than 80,000 square feet in total; (2) new dwelling units are designed to accommodate more than four families and are connected to public water and sewer systems; (3) the new construction is not contrary to the terms or conditions of the permit, other than by the addition of new disturbed area for dwelling units; and (4) the permittee annually notifies the Department of Environmental Protection of any new construction conducted in the previous 12 months that is eligible for the exemption.

**LD 997 An Act to Allow Residential Use Development in Commercial Districts** (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford) **Public Law 2025, c. 364 (09/24/25)** No later than July 1, 2027, this act requires municipalities to allow the development of residential units within buildings located in an area zoned for commercial uses, unless the municipalities determine that flooding or other natural hazards in the zone make the buildings unfit for residential uses. The act also authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances that limit the number of residential units in a commercial development, restrict the use of a ground floor unit for commercial purposes only, and regulate the siting and design of mixed-used development, provided that the ordinance does not discourage development through unreasonable costs or delays.

**LD 1016 An Act to Establish the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund** (Sponsored by Sen. Remy of Lincoln Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 398 (09/24/25)** This act creates the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, to support ownership of manufactured housing communities and mobile home parks by owners of manufactured and mobile homes. To support the fund, the act creates a fee to be paid by certain buyers of manufactured housing communities and mobile home parks, excluding municipal housing authorities, equal to \$10,000 per lot.

**LD 1041 An Act to Preserve Affordability in Publicly Assisted Housing Developments** (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

**Public Law 2025, c. 381 (09/24/25)** This act requires any person, firm or organization that owns or has a controlling interest in low-income rental housing, defined as housing with five or more dwelling units subject to affordability, rental control or conditions for receiving financial assistance, to provide notice of the expiration of affordability restrictions or financial assistance to the tenants of the property, the Maine State Housing Authority and the municipal housing authority. The notice must be left in or under the door of the tenant's dwelling and mailed by first-class mail, return receipt requested to the state or municipal housing authority and include the address of the housing unit, name and address of the owners, date on which changes will take effect and any other information required by rule.

**LD 1143 An Act to Update Language on Setback Variances for Single-family Dwellings** (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 263 (09/24/25)** This act changes references to a "single-family dwelling" to a "dwelling" in the law regarding setback variances.

**LD 1145 An Act to Protect Residents Living in Mobile Home Parks** (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 394 (09/24/25)** This act provides a group of mobile homeowners or a mobile homeowners' association with the right of first refusal to purchase a mobile home park that the owner intends to sell. The act also authorizes the homeowners or homeowners' associations, upon a majority vote, to assign the purchasing rights to the municipality where the park is located, state or municipal housing authority or to a nonprofit organization, provided the entity accepts the right and agrees to operate the mobile home park.

**LD 1159 An Act to Prohibit Governmental Entities That Charge a Fee for In-person Credit Card Purchases from Refusing to Accept Cash** (Sponsored by Rep. Rollins of Augusta) **Public Law 2025, c. 209 (09/24/25)** This act prohibits a municipality or other governmental entity that charges a customer a fee for purchases made by credit card from refusing cash payments for in-person retail transactions.

**LD 1170 An Act to Make the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority Responsible for the Transfer and Development of State-owned Surplus Land** (Sponsored by Rep. Julia of Waterville) **Public Law 2025, c. 264 (09/24/25)** This act replaces the Maine State Housing Authority with the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority as the state agency responsible for the transfer and development of state-owned surplus land and clarifies that the development authority can acquire property that is determined to be surplus by a state, federal, municipal or other governmental entity. The act also authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to conduct an annual inventory of all land owned by state and semiautonomous state agencies and provide the redevelopment authority and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters a copy of the inventory.

**LD 1184 An Act to Require Municipal Reporting on Residential Building Permits, Dwelling Units Permitted and Demolished and Certificates of Occupancy Issued** (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport) **Public Law 2025, c. 495 (09/24/25)** By January 31 annually, this act requires municipalities with populations greater than 4,000 to collect and submit housing data, including data

on residential building permits, dwelling units permitted and demolished, certificates of occupancy or other approvals issued, and certain occupant affordability data, to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The act also directs the department to assist municipalities in meeting the directive, including reimbursing 90% of the actual expenses incurred by a municipality if the collection or reporting of the data is a modification or expansion of municipal activity that necessitates additional expenditure. To that end, the act appropriates \$60,000 in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 to reimburse municipalities for the cost of the mandated collection and reporting activities.

**LD 1245 An Act to Establish a Fund and Council to Support Working Waterfronts** (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook) **Public Law 2025, c. 265 (09/24/25)** This act creates the Working Waterfront Information and Technical Assistance Fund and directs the Maine Office of Community Affairs to work with the Departments of Economic and Community Development and Marine Resources, coastal municipalities, regional governments, and other organizations to produce informational campaigns and to provide technical assistance to encourage the protection and development of working waterfronts. The act also creates the Working Waterfront Advisory Council to address issues impacting working waterfronts. No later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the council is required to submit a report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over matters related to working waterfronts, which are authorized to submit legislation on an annual basis.

**LD 1246 Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to Convene a Working Group to Review the Process of Setting Impact Fees** (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 85 (06/18/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and the Maine Office of Community Affairs to convene a working group to study the process by which municipalities impose impact fees. The working group must include representatives of municipalities and developers and include a review of the process by which impact fees are established and imposed, the guidance provided to municipalities and developers, and resources municipalities rely on when establishing impact fee ordinances. By December 3, 2025, the state agency responsible for overseeing the Housing Opportunity Program is directed to submit recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

**LD 1287 An Act to Support Workforce Development by Establishing the Housing Stability Fund** (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 498 (09/24/25)** This act establishes the Housing Stability Support Program and the Housing Stability Fund within the Maine State Housing Authority to provide rental assistance, paid directly to a landlord, for tenants with household incomes of less than 30% of the median income for the area and appropriates \$1 million annually to support the program. Rental assistance provided through the program may not exceed \$300 per month, or a maximum of \$3,000 per household per calendar year. The act also requires the authority to delegate program administrator responsibilities to third parties, which includes municipal housing authorities.

*Continued on page 35*



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JULY 2025



Michelle Pelletier  
Director, Risk Management Services

## A Message from the Director of MMA Risk Management Services

Over the past six months, the Risk Management Services (RMS) team has been diligently working to deliver valuable support to its members. Our dedicated Underwriters, Claims Representatives, and Loss Control professionals serve Maine's municipalities and quasi-municipal entities, working tirelessly to develop effective solutions for members of the Property & Casualty Pool and the Workers' Compensation Fund. In addition, the team supporting the Unemployment Compensation (UC) Fund has been actively adapting to ongoing changes at the Maine Department of Labor.

Member engagement continues to be a top priority for Risk Management Services in 2025. We remain committed to promoting the wide range of services we offer to support our members.



This year, RMS presented Protecting Against Fraudulent Impersonation and Cyber Attacks at the Maine Municipal Tax Collectors and Treasurers' Association's 2025 Annual Conference. We also participated as vendors at both the Maine Fire Chiefs' and the Maine Town, City, and County Managers' Association conferences, connecting directly with municipal leaders.



Additionally, RMS was invited to the North Country Convention, sponsored by the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC), where we took part not only as vendors, but also as presenters. Our Loss Control staff delivered an important session on sewer liability, emphasizing the need for proper maintenance and highlighting the hazards associated with utility work.

In May, staff attended the Maine Police Chiefs' Association Conference to raise awareness about the **SERVESTRONG** wellness initiative and our driver training resources. We participated in the June Highway Congress, where we showcased our new Fleet Safety Program and provided a sample policy tailored for public works departments.

Likewise, our Member Services, Underwriting, and Claims teams have been actively engaging with members through in-person visits. These meetings include coverage reviews, claims evaluations, and training sessions for department heads. These efforts not only enhance understanding of our services but also help strengthen relationships with our members—feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

The renewal review for the Property & Casualty Pool's July 1st cycle began in January, and we're pleased to report strong reinsurance outcomes, with the resulting savings passed directly on to Pool members. These positive results

*cont'd on page 33*

## 2025 Grants & Scholarships Updates

Risk Management Services offers a variety of grants and scholarships for our members to utilize. These programs are designed to support members in their ongoing safety efforts and, ultimately, reduce the likelihood of a loss. The intent is for these funds to be used proactively, and to help promote a safe and healthy work environment. Currently, we offer three grants and one scholarship. Below is a summary of each program.

### Ed MacDonald Safety Enhancement Grant

This grant is available to all members who have a current Workers' Compensation policy with MMA's Risk Management Services. The primary goal of the Safety Enhancement Grant is to fund equipment or items that reduce the risk of injury to workers. Members may apply for a maximum of \$3,000 per application, and the total cost of the requested items must be at least \$200. Only one application may be submitted per grant period per membership.

It's important to note that this is a reimbursement grant and items cannot be purchased prior to the grant being awarded. The deadline to apply is April 15 of each calendar year. Applications received after the deadline will be carried forward to the following year's grant cycle.



Eligible items commonly include high-visibility clothing, traffic control equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), fall protection, slip-resistant mats, and certain ergonomic tools or equipment. For the 2025 cycle, we received 214 applications and were able to approve and fund 154 of them, totaling just over \$400,000.

### Risk Reduction Grant

The Risk Reduction Grant serves as a counterpart to the Ed MacDonald Safety Enhancement Grant. While the Safety Enhancement Grant focuses on reducing Workers' Compensation exposures, this program is intended to help mitigate property and liability exposures. As a result, only members of the Property and Casualty pool are eligible to apply.

Other than its purpose, the Risk Reduction Grant functions very similarly. Like the Safety Enhancement Grant, items must not be purchased before an award is granted. Approved submissions can receive reimbursement for 100% of the item's cost, up to a maximum of \$3,000. The application period closes annually on September 15.



To be considered, submissions must demonstrate a proactive risk management strategy that includes a clearly identifiable benefit. The proposed solution should be measurable and show a direct effort to reduce property and/or liability exposures. Applications must include supporting data and are subject to the availability of funds.

Examples of items funded through this grant include backup cameras, generators, security alarms and lighting, computer uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems, bollards, and security cameras. In 2024, we awarded 132 grants through this program, with total funding exceeding \$300,000.

### Ed MacDonald Safety Scholarship

The Ed MacDonald Safety Scholarship was created to help members of the Workers' Compensation Fund provide access to essential safety training for their employees. The program is intended to improve risk management practices and support safe work environments before a loss occurs. Because of this proactive approach, certain trainings—like first aid and CPR—are not eligible, as they are considered reactive.

Examples of eligible training include attendance at the Safety and Health Conference, Firefighter I & II certification, Verbal

### The Municipal Risk Manager

The Municipal Risk Manager is published seasonally to inform members of developments in municipal risk management which may be of interest to you in your daily business activities. The information in these articles is general in nature and should not be considered advice for any specific risk management or legal question. You should consult with legal counsel or other qualified professional of your own choice for specific questions.

**Publisher:** Risk Management Services; **Editor:** Marcus Ballou; **Layout Design:** Sue Bourdon  
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Judo training, and certain mental health resiliency courses. A unique aspect of this scholarship is its flexibility: it may be used to support a single employee attending a training or to bring in a subject matter expert to deliver group training. The maximum award is \$1,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a group.

Funds must be used solely for training-related expenses and cannot be applied to food or hospitality costs. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with the request that the application be submitted at least 25 days in advance of the proposed training. So far in 2025, we have received 16 applications and approved of 10, totaling \$16,173 in scholarship funding.

### Law Enforcement Grant Program

This grant is specifically designed to support members of the Property and Casualty Pool that operate law enforcement agencies. Its primary goal is to encourage the development and implementation of standard operating procedures, policy management, and officer training that align with best practices and accreditation standards.

The program helps agencies work toward certification through the Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (MLEAP). The total grant award is \$5,000, issued in two payments of \$2,500. The first payment is released once the member agency enters into a contract with a qualified vendor to assist with reviewing and developing policies. The second payment is awarded upon receiving MLEAP certification.

Like the Safety Scholarship, this program operates on a rolling application basis. Since its inception in 2021, RMS has awarded 32 grants and helped 19 agencies achieve full MLEAP accreditation.

For more information on any of these programs, please visit the Grants and Scholarships page on our website at <https://www.memun.org/Risk-Management/Grants-Scholarships>, or contact us directly at [rmslosscontrol@memun.org](mailto:rmslosscontrol@memun.org).



**MMA Risk Management Services would like to congratulate the Winslow Police Department, as well as all Police Departments that have achieved MLEAP Accreditation.**

#### *A Message from the Director...cont'd*

reflect the ongoing commitment of members to risk management, and efforts such as addressing safety concerns, maintaining accurate property valuations, and protecting property from damage have a tangible impact on the Pool's performance.

Over the past few years, the Pool placed a strong emphasis on updating property values to reflect current inflationary trends; a key factor in securing favorable reinsurance terms. On May 21, 2025, the Pool's Board of Directors approved the 2025–2026 Funding Model, which includes only minimal rate increases. The board also approved the distribution of \$600,000 in dividends for the 2023–2024 coverage term, which will be returned to eligible members later this summer.

In addition, the Workers' Compensation Fund Board approved the distribution of \$725,000 in dividends, recognizing members' continued commitment to workplace safety and performance. These dividends represent a direct financial benefit to members and highlight the value of active participation in the Fund.



As a reminder, members of both the Pool and the Fund have complimentary access to NeoGov, an online training platform. The five most frequently used courses include:

- Harassment Prevention for Maine Employees;
- Workplace Ergonomics (Maine);
- Comprehensive Fire Prevention;
- Bloodborne Pathogens; and
- Hazard Communication: The New GHS Standards.

If your organization is not yet taking advantage of this resource, we encourage you to explore the offerings. Our staff are available to answer questions and provide support to help you get started.

Thank you for your continued support of these programs. We look forward to connecting with you on October 8 and 9 during MMA's Annual Convention, which will be held at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor

# Unemployment Compensation Fund Proudly Serving Members for 47 Years

MMA's Unemployment Compensation Fund (UC Fund) was created in 1978 at the request of MMA members to assist them in meeting their obligations under the Employment Security Act in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The UC Fund membership is composed of Maine governmental entities that are individually self-insured but administered as a group, while each member maintains an individual account within the Fund. The Maine Department of Labor classifies MMA's UC Fund members as Direct Reimbursement Employers. In other words, the Fund reimburses the Maine DOL on a member's behalf only when a member has unemployment claims.



*Rachel Risinger*

We also want to announce that Rachel Risinger has been promoted to the position of UC Fund Coordinator. Rachel is excited and honored to have the opportunity to provide the membership professional guidance and technical support throughout the claims process and wage reporting requirements.

The primary benefits of the Unemployment Compensation Fund include:

- **TECHNICAL GUIDANCE:** Preparing for fact findings and appeal hearings, preparing wage reports, requests for separation information, wage audits and other unemployment issues that may arise.
- **BUDGET STABILITY:** The amount of the contribution is fixed for the year, and additional payments are not required in the event a large sum is paid out in claims.
- **SIMPLIFICATION:** Communications and reporting to the Department of Labor on behalf of UC Fund members are directed to the UC Fund Coordinator, and member's UC wage reports are also administered through the Fund.
- **DIVIDENDS, INTEREST AND EXCESS BALANCES:** Dividends, interest, and excess balances are returned to members, based on the determination of MMA's consulting actuary.

The MMA UC Fund would like to thank our loyal members. Of our 250 members, nearly 75% have been in the Fund since its inception in 1978. If you would like further information about the MMA UC Fund, please contact Rachel Risinger, UC Fund Coordinator at: 207-626-5583 option 5 or via email at: [ucfund@memun.org](mailto:ucfund@memun.org).

## Mission Statement

MMA's Unemployment Compensation Program was created in 1978 at the request of MMA Member municipalities, service districts and related nonprofit organizations to assist in meeting their obligations under the Employment Security Act in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

## Members Enjoy:

- Financial stability of the Fund
- Dividend and interest returns
- Uniform wage reporting
- Actuarially recommended rates
- Advice on Fact Findings and Hearings



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LD 1375 *Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Address Regulatory Barriers to Housing Construction* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 64 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future, within existing resources, to convene a working group to examine and recommend solutions for regulatory barriers to housing construction in Maine. Members of the working group include representatives of organizations with building and engineering expertise and state and local building code experience. No later than December 31, 2025, the office is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1453 *Resolve, to Establish the Housing Production Innovation Working Group* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 105 (07/01/25)** This resolve creates the 11-member Housing Production Working Group and directs the working group to study the potential for innovative housing construction technologies to reduce housing development costs and accelerate production, including modular housing, componentized housing, three-dimensional printing or other approaches to home construction. In part, the working group is tasked with considering production-side barriers, which include examining varying building codes, inspection standards and approval processes; inconsistent licensing requirements; lack of a trained workforce; and transportation challenges. No later than December 3, 2025, the working group is further directed to submit its recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1498 *An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis by Limiting Municipal Impact Fees on Housing Development* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) **Public Law 2025, c. 480 (09/24/25)** This act amends the laws governing the adoption of impact fees by requiring municipalities to: (1) demonstrate that an infrastructure improvement is necessary to accommodate the development and that the impact fee is based on the cost of the infrastructure improvement and proportionate to the development's use of the infrastructure improvement; and (2) establish a policy document, available for review at the municipal office or posted on the website, that describes the way in which the municipality determines the need for the assessment of an impact fee and how the developer's share is calculated. The act also requires municipalities to encumber impact fee revenues within 360 days of receipt.

LD 1637 *An Act to Reform the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 412 (09/24/25)** This act amends the laws establishing the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, including amending the governing board's membership to require that at least three members are residents, town officials or business owners from Brunswick, at least one is a resident of Topsham, and one member is appointed from a preapproved list of candidates provided by the Brunswick town council.

LD 1681 *An Act to Consider Municipal Shelter Facilities and Housing Projects Essential for Public Health, Welfare and Safety by Updating the Definition of "Public Service Infrastructure"* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) **Public Law 2025, c. 250 (09/24/25)** This act amends the Maine Municipal Bond Bank

Act by adding municipal shelter facilities and housing projects managed and operated by a municipality or a municipal housing authority to the definition of "public service infrastructure."

LD 1751 *An Act to Improve the Growth Management Program Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick) **Public Law 2025, c. 393 (09/24/25)** This act amends the Growth Management Act (GMA) as follows: (1) updates several definitions; (2) amends and clarifies the purposes and goals of the act, including the development of tools to promote regional planning, housing development, and adaptation to extreme weather events; (3) clarifies that an adopted plan remains in effect until amended or repealed; (4) authorizes municipalities to use the processes used to publish public information when complying with provisions requiring public inspection of a proposed comprehensive plan; (5) requires a comprehensive plan to include a needs assessment section that identifies the existing or desired conditions necessary to support housing, economic growth and development; protect public health, safety and welfare; and protect the environment and critical resources, including the public input received to determine identified needs; (6) requires that the implementation strategy section of a plan include a capital investment plan identifying the replacement and expansion of public facilities and services required to meet projected growth and development; (7) requires a comprehensive plan to include a future land use plan that identifies and designates geographic areas as growth and rural areas, as well as areas appropriate for medium-density development that do not require expansion of municipal facilities; (8) clarifies that a municipality is not required to identify growth areas if it demonstrates that it is not possible to accommodate future residential, commercial or industrial growth, the community has experienced minimal or little growth, or the municipality does not have a downtown or densely developed area; (9) requires comprehensive plans to include a regional coordination program, developed with other municipalities, to manage shared resources and facilities, such as rivers, aquifers, and transportation facilities; (10) in the process of developing an implementation plan, requires municipalities to establish development standards and timely permitting procedures, ensuring that needed public services are available, and preventing inappropriate development in natural hazard areas, as well as discouraging incompatible development in rural areas; (11) extends from 10 to 12 years state certification of a comprehensive plan; and (12) amends deadlines associated with certifying a comprehensive plan.

The act also directs the state agency responsible for the oversight of GMA to: (1) convene a working group prior to developing the rules necessary to implement changes to the growth act; (2) develop guidance for public participation; (3) develop a guidance document to assist municipalities in choosing among various approaches to comprehensive planning; (4) prepare technical assistance materials regarding place types or other similar planning tools; and (5) by January 15, 2026, submit an interim report on the implementation process to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1765 *An Act to Ensure Affordability and Stability in Residential Housing and Manufactured Housing Communities* (Sponsored by Rep. Julia of Waterville) **Public Law 2025, c. 365 (09/24/25)** In part, this act directs the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, in working with other state agencies or interested par-

ties, to: (1) develop a model rent stabilization ordinance for use by municipalities; (2) identify barriers and solutions for building residential units in vacant lots; (3) explore opportunities to provide technical and financial support to manufactured housing community homeowners; and (4) evaluate traditional mortgages as financing options for manufactured housing. By December 31, 2025, the office is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

**LD 1829** *An Act to Build Housing for Maine Families and Attract Workers to Maine Businesses by Amending the Laws Governing Housing Density* (Sponsored by Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford) **Public Law 2025, c. 385 (09/24/25)** This act: (1) preempts municipalities from adopting fire suppression ordinances for an accessory dwelling unit, unless the unit is within or attached to a structure of more than two dwellings; (2) prevents municipalities from using rate of growth ordinances to limit residential development in a defined growth area; (3) requires all municipalities to allow at least 14 extra feet of height above existing height restrictions for affordable housing developments subject to review by a municipal fire official or designee; (4) authorizes the development of three dwelling units, including detached or attached units, for any lot, and four units if the lot is in a designated growth area or served by public, special district or other centrally managed water or sewer system and prevents lots in those areas from exceeding 5,000 square feet for the first four dwelling units within the growth area, and outside of the designated growth area, the law prohibits requiring more than 5,000 square feet for the first two dwelling units not including accessory dwelling units and restricts the ability to require above minimum lot sizes for subsurface wastewater needs in lake and shoreland environ-

ments; (5) prevents planning board review of four or fewer dwelling units within a structure; (6) requires all planning and appeals board members to attend training within 180 days of election or appointment; and (7) requires municipalities to amend subdivision ordinances to reflect the new requirements by July 1, 2026, for council communities and July 1, 2027, for town meeting communities.

**LD 1864** *An Act to Facilitate the Reconstruction of Storm-damaged Commercial Fisheries Facilities and Infrastructure* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; Public Law 2025, c. 286 (06/12/25)** This act allows an individual or business owner whose dock, pier or wharf was damaged by the severe storms and flooding that occurred from January 9-13, 2024 to be granted a variance from the shoreland zoning and floodplain management ordinance in the state's coastal communities to enable the individual or business owner to conduct repairs in time to take advantage of the federal funds available pursuant to an emergency declaration.

## Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

**LD 27** *An Act to Amend and Simplify Certain Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Licensing and Permitting Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 126 (09/24/25)** This act amends the laws governing the authority of a resident or a member of the resident's immediate family to hunt without a license on a resident's property to clarify that the property does not have to be used exclusively for agricultural purposes and to permit hunting via use of a firearm. The act also amends the statutes allowing for fishing without a license to clarify that the property does not have to be used exclusively for agricultural purposes and to provide that the parcel must be more than 10 contiguous acres in size.

**LD 95** *An Act to Amend and Simplify Certain Wildlife Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Cluchey of Bowdoinham) **Public Law 2025, c. 333 (09/24/25)** Of municipal interest, this act reorganizes the statutes regulating the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's rulemaking authority over opening hunting areas, which still requires approval by the municipal legislative body.

**LD 976** *Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Facilitate Public Access and Resilience Planning for Swan Island* (Sponsored by Rep. Cluchey of Bowdoinham) **Resolves Law 2025, c. 100 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene a working group, including a municipal official from the Town of Richmond, to develop a comprehensive plan to enhance public access to Swan Island located in Perkins Township. The working group is tasked with identifying barriers to public access, evaluating accessible transportation options, assessing infrastructure needs, exploring funding sources, and producing a detailed public access plan for implementation on or before May 1, 2026. No later than January 1, 2026, the department is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

**LD 1308** *Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Examine Issues Related to Public Access to Privately Owned Lands* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) **Emergency Passed; Resolves Law 2025, c. 82 (06/17/25)**

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This resolve directs the Departments of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a 12-member working group to examine issues related to public access. Specifically, the working group is tasked with assessing access to privately owned land and opportunities to expand access, including providing private landowners financial incentives, soliciting input from individuals and businesses involved in outdoor and traditional recreational activities, assessing the current and future status of public access, and recommending polices to better support access to public and private property. No later than February 15, 2026, the departments are directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committees on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which are authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1763 *An Act to Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich) **Public Law 2025, c. 378 (09/24/25)** This act implements a prohibition on the placement or use of a nonwater-dependent floating structure in, on or over inland waters or coastal waters, and defines the structure as a unit that is supported wholly or partially by the structure's own buoyancy and that supports a nonwater-dependent use. "Nonwater-dependent uses" are defined as uses that can function in a location other than the surface waters of the state and that do not require, for their primary purpose, location on submerged lands or direct access to inland waters or coastal waters. The prohibition includes exceptions for functionally water-dependent uses, swimming structures, water toys, ice fishing shacks and aquaculture facilities. The act also clarifies that regulation of houseboats and homemade watercraft fall under the laws regulating watercraft. No later than February 1, 2026, the act directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with updated information on nonwater-dependent floating structures in Maine, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

## Judiciary

LD 20 *An Act Regarding the First Judicial District and the District Court Locations in the Judicial Divisions of Androscoggin and Western Aroostook* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 436 (09/24/25)** This act amends the statute establishing judicial divisions by requiring the District Court for Androscoggin to be in Lewiston and the District Court for Western Aroostook to be in Fort Kent. The act also authorizes the Chief Judge of the District Court to issue an order reallocating municipalities and unorganized territories between the Western and Eastern Aroostook judicial divisions and no later than January 15, 2026, further directs the chief judge to submit a report with recommendations for redrawing the geographic boundaries between any of the judicial divisions in Maine to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 83 *An Act Concerning the Filing of Marriage Licenses and the Recording of Intentions as Part of the Electronic Vital Records System* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth) **Public Law 2025, c. 130 (09/24/25)** This act amends the laws regarding the management of marriage licenses by requiring: (1) completed applications to be attached to the marriage record stored in the State Register of Vital Statistics' electronic system; (2) in situations

where licenses have been erroneously issued and the couple has not yet married, the state register or municipal clerk to inform parties that they cannot marry until the judge of probate approves the marriage; (3) marriage licenses returned later than 15 working days following the marriage be marked as a late filing; and (4) a marriage registration to be marked as delayed when the parties apply for a certificate for a marriage that occurred more than one year previously but for which no record can be found. The act also repeals the provision in statute requiring municipal clerks to provide applicants of a marriage license a Department of Health and Human Services brochure concerning the effects of alcohol and drugs on fetuses.

LD 251 *An Act to Protect the Confidentiality of Information of Individual Customers of a Public Utility* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 99 (09/24/25)** This act provides that customer information in the possession of a public utility, the Office of the Public Advocate or the Public Utilities Commission, as designated by commission rule, is confidential under the Freedom of Access Act. The act also extends the confidentiality provisions to the information in possession of a public sewer system, including the customer's name, physical or mailing address, email address, telephone number, utility usage, payment and credit history, financial or medical condition, unless: (1) the customer consents; (2) the disclosure is made for debt collection purposes; (3) the information is shared with a law enforcement officer for a lawful process, or with a state, county, tribal or local emergency management agency when responding to an emergency; (4) the information is necessary to allow a public utility or sewer system to bill customers for services rendered; or (5) when required by state or federal law.

LD 353 *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Ingwersen of York Cty.) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 104 (07/01/25)** This resolve establishes and directs the 13-member Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State and directs the commission to develop recommendations for enhancing public awareness, improving identity verification requirements for real estate transactions, and strengthening civil and criminal remedies to assist in preventing deed fraud. By December 3, 2025, the commission is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 386 *An Act Regarding Information That May Be Shared by Law Enforcement Entities with a School Superintendent or a Principal* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 73 (09/24/25)** This act allows a law enforcement officer or criminal justice agency to share information with a school superintendent or principal pertaining to a juvenile when the information is credible and indicates a substantial danger with the use of a firearm or dangerous weapon.

LD 537 *An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **Public Law 2025, c. 417 (09/24/25)** This act prohibits the doxing of a minor, which is defined as the intentional, knowing or reckless disclosure of personally identifying information of a minor, when: (1) the individual disclosing the information consciously disregards a substantial risk to the minor or close relations to the minor; and (2) directly or indirectly constitutes stalking,

causes physical harm or serious damage to property, or results in reasonable fear for physical safety. The act also defines the terms minor and personally identifying information and provides that a person that violates the prohibition is subject to civil action for damages, including injunctive relief, actual, compensatory or any combination of remedies or any other appropriate relief, as well as attorney's fees and costs.

LD 983 *An Act Regarding Service of Notice of Restricted Person Status to Hospitalized Patients* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 104 (09/24/25)** This act authorizes law enforcement agencies to request hospitals, at a time deemed clinically appropriate, to provide access to a patient for purposes of providing notice that the individual is a restricted person and taken into protective custody due to likelihood of foreseeable harm. The act also authorizes hospitals to disclose that a person is a patient regardless of patient consent or a hospital's confidentiality restrictions policy.

LD 1266 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health to Convene a Working Group to Propose a Plan for Expanding the Reach of Treatment Courts* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) **Resolves 2025, c. 98 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a working group to develop a plan for expanding the availability of adult drug, family, and veteran treatment courts across Maine and invite a group of multidisciplinary stakeholders, including local law enforcement agencies, to participate in the discussions. No later than January 1, 2026, the department is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1797 *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Denials of Public Records Requests* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth) **Public Law 2025, c. 186 (09/24/25)** This act requires that a written notice of a denial of a public records request cites the statutory authority for the denial.

LD 1813 *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning State Boards and Commissions* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth) **Public Law 2025, c. 187 (09/24/25)** This act requires state boards and commissions to designate public access officers and requires members to complete public records and proceedings training.

LD 1827 *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Requests* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth) **Public Law 2025, c. 175 (09/24/25)** The act permits a public body or official to deny a series of requests for inspection or copying of a public record on the basis that requests are unduly burdensome or oppressive. The act also allows the body or official to seek protection from an unduly burdensome or oppressive request by filing for a protection order in the Superior Court in the county where the request was made. The action must be filed within 60 days of receipt of the request or within 60 days of the date on which a body or official notifies the requester that the series of requests is unduly burdensome or oppressive.

LD 1828 *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth) **Public Law 2025, c. 111 (09/24/25)** Of municipal interest, this act amends the public access law to clarify that the personal contact information of applicants for county and municipal employment is confidential.

## Labor

LD 55 *An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Accrual of Earned Paid Leave* (Sponsored by Rep. Lemelin of Chelsea) **Public Law 2025, c. 438 (09/24/25)** This act provides that accrued and unused hours of earned paid leave from the previous year of employment must be available for use by an employee in the year of employment immediately following the previous year. Accrued and unused hours of earned paid leave carried forward from the previous year of employment may not reduce the total amount of hours of paid leave an employee is entitled to earn in the year of employment immediately following the previous year, up to 40 hours or the accrual limit specified in the employer's policy governing paid leave, whichever is higher.

LD 82 *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Laws by Extending Indefinitely the Presumption Applying to Law Enforcement Officers, Corrections Officers, E-9-1-1 Dispatchers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons Diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder* (Sponsored by Rep. Mathieson of Kittery) **Mandate Emergency Enacted; Public Law 2025, c. 433 (07/01/25)** This act repeals the October 1, 2025, repeal of a provision in the Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 that makes a post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from a workplace injury and suffered by a law enforcement officer, corrections officer, E-9-1-1 dispatcher, firefighter or emergency medical services person a rebuttable presumption.

LD 848 *An Act Regarding the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford) **Public Law 2025, c. 147 (09/24/25)** This act allows municipal and county law enforcement officers and municipal firefighters who have held their positions for more than five years and who did not enroll in the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program during the open enrollment period, to do so between October 1 and November 30, 2025.

LD 894 *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Paid Family and Medical Leave* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 277 (09/24/25)** This act amends the laws governing paid family and medical leave by: (1) clarifying that intermittent leave of an employee for less than one work day may not be taken unless it is agreed to by the employee and the employer; (2) directing the Bureau of Paid Family and Medical Leave within the Department of Labor to administer the benefits program; (3) establishing remedies for the department to enforce the collection of delinquent premium contributions, penalties and assessments on employers that fail to make payments required by the program; and (4) establishing liability for individuals or organizations with respect to premium contributions, penalties and assessments owed by employers, and acquired by those individuals or organizations.

LD 1025 *An Act to Allow Federal Civil Service to Count for Purposes of Maine Public Employees Retirement System Benefits* (Sponsored by Rep. Harrington of York) **Public Law 2025, c. 206 (09/24/25)** This act allows a member of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System who served as a non-military federal government public employee before becoming a member to purchase up to five years of service credit for the period the member served as a federal employee.

LD 1105 *An Act Concerning Displaced Civilian Federal Firefighters in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Mathieson of Kittery) **Public Law 2025, c. 371 (09/24/25)** This act directs the Department of Labor to establish and maintain a database of civilian federal firefighters who have been displaced by layoff, reduction in force, or closure of a federal installation, including a naval shipyard, military base, or facility of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

LD 1221 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor to Study Protection of Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program Funds* (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford) **Resolves 2025, c. 63 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Labor to study methods to protect all revenues derived from taxes, fees, premiums, fines and penalties under the paid family and medical leave benefits program from being expended for purposes other than those related to the program. No later than January 15, 2026, the department is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

## Marine Resources

LD 1595 *An Act to Strengthen Working Waterfronts Against Nuisance Complaints Regarding Aquaculture* (Sponsored by Rep. Rively of Westbrook) **Public Law 2025, c. 249 (09/24/25)** This act amends the law that prohibits private nuisance actions against a person engaged in a commercial fishing activity or commercial fishing operation to include activities associated with aquaculture and commercial fisheries businesses, which include enterprises concerned with the commercial harvest of wild or aquacultured marine organisms.

## State & Local Government

LD 3 *An Act to Adopt Eastern Daylight Time Year-round Contingent on Federal Approval* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 191 (09/24/25)** Current law authorizes the year-round observation of daylight time, provided it is both authorized by federal law and observed by all states in the eastern time zone, including the District of Columbia. This act amends the law to allow Maine to observe daylight time year-round, provided federal law or regulation permits it.

LD 119 *An Act to Include the Declaration of an Emergency by the President of the United States as a Basis to Allow the Governor to Provide Disaster Relief to Local Government* (Sponsored by Sen. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 194 (09/24/25)** This act includes the declaration of an emergency by the president of the United States as a basis to allow the governor to provide disaster relief to local governments.



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# New Laws – 2025

LD 286 *An Act to Allow County Commissioners Greater Flexibility When Establishing a Payment Schedule for Municipalities to Pay County Tax Bills* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta) **Public Law 2025, c. 100 (09/24/25)** This act authorizes the county commissioners to establish the date or dates by which municipalities must pay county taxes.

LD 358 *An Act to Increase Fees Paid to Registers of Deeds* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 328 (09/24/25)** This act requires the county register of deeds to send an electronic or paper copy of property transfers in a format required by the assessor and allows registers to charge a reasonable fee for paper copies. As of January 1, 2026, the act: (1) increases to \$25 the per instrument fee for documents recorded at the request of the state or a municipality and \$35 per instrument for all other filings; (2) adjusts from \$5 to \$10 per page the rate for paper copies of plans; (3) increases from \$21 to \$45 the fee for recording, indexing and preserving plans; (4) repeals the \$13 fee for requests for more than one previously recorded instrument; (5) pursuant to an agreement with the requestor, increases from five cents to 25 cents the fee for downloads of 1,000 or more consecutive electronic images; (6) decreases from 500 to 400 the number of free electronic images acquired by a person in the calendar year, exempts municipalities from the 50 cent per electronic image assessed for each record requested above the 400 threshold, and authorizes the register to assess a \$1 fee per printed image; and (7) increases from \$3 to \$5 the per document surcharge the register may collect, except for documents requested by the state or municipalities.

LD 556 *An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy Sys-*

*tem or Energy Distributor* (Sponsored by Sen. Harrington of York Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 456 (09/24/25)** This act provides that unless authorized by statute, a municipality may not adopt an ordinance or regulation that prohibits the use of an individual or entity's safe and commercially available heating or energy system or that prohibits the individual or entity from engaging the services of a person or distributor to install, connect, service or resupply such a system, who remain subject to municipal licensing requirements. The act also clarifies that municipalities are authorized to encourage the use of a particular type of heating or energy system or spend funds in support of a particular 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.

LD 702 *An Act to Designate January 6th as A Day to Remember* (Sponsored by Rep. Macias of Topsham) **Public Law 2025, c. 144 (09/24/25)** This act designates January 6 as A Day to Remember, directs the governor to issue a proclamation annually honoring the resilience of democracy during the events of January 6, 2021, in Washington, D.C. and encourages educational institutions, civic organizations and public libraries to observe the day with discussions, events, and programing focused on the importance of civic engagement.

LD 731 *An Act to Prohibit Municipalities from Barring the Creation of Homeless Shelters* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) **Public Law 2025, c. 156 (09/24/25)** This act prevents municipalities from prohibiting the establishment of homeless shelters but retains authority for municipalities to reasonably regulate shelters. The act also defines a "homeless shelter" as



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a housing facility that primarily provides temporary dormitory-style or dwelling unit-style overnight accommodations to persons experiencing homelessness.

LD 915 *An Act to Modernize Deed Duplication from Microfilm to a Digital Image* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook) **Public Law 2025, c. 239 (09/24/25)** This act requires a register of deeds to make a record of an instrument recorded in the registry office in the form of a digital image stored on magnetic or optical media.

LD 1091 *An Act to Reinforce Free Speech at Town Meetings by Requiring Opportunity for Public Comment* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo) **Public Law 2025, c. 409 (09/24/25)** This act requires municipal officers to provide a reasonable opportunity for public comments on matters addressed at any regularly scheduled public meeting of the municipal officers. The act also provides that municipalities are not preempted or restricted from adopting and enforcing reasonable standards governing public comments, including time limits and standards of conduct.

LD 1153 *An Act to Change in Statute the Areas Represented by the Members of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Insurance Arena from Sets of Municipalities to the County Commissioner Districts of Cumberland County* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) **Public Law 2025, c. 68 (09/24/25)** This act reduces from nine to seven the number of members who serve on the Board of Trustees of the Cross Insurance Arena and directs the county commissioners to appoint trustees from each of their districts.

LD 1302 *An Act Regarding the Number of Voters of a Municipality Required to Petition for Consideration of Deorganization of That Municipality* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 212 (09/24/25)** Under existing law, a petition for consideration of a deorganization must be signed by a number of residents equal to at least 50% of the votes cast in the municipality during the last gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10 residents. This act repeals the “no less than 10” requirement.

LD 1462 *An Act to Promote Artisans and the Creative Economy* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich) **Public Law 2025, c. 319 (09/24/25)** This act prevents municipalities from adopting or enforcing ordinances or regulations that prohibit the vending of expressive matter, except that the municipality may regulate the time, place and manner of the vending of expressive matter provided the restrictions are: (1) directly related to health, safety or welfare concerns; (2) necessary to ensure the public’s use and enjoyment of natural resources and recreational opportunities; (3) necessary to prevent undue concentration of commercial activity that unreasonably interferes with the scenic and natural character of a park owned or operated by the municipality; (4) necessary to maintain sanitary conditions; or (5) necessary to ensure compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The act also clarifies that municipalities are not required to amend existing ordinances or regulations that substantially comply with the act. The act also defines “expressive matter” as materials or objects created by a vendor with expressive content, including written material, such as newspapers, books or writings, and visual art, such as paintings, prints, photography or sculpture.

LD 1542 *An Act to Amend the Membership of the Washington County Budget Advisory Committee* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 290 (09/24/25)** This act amends the membership of the Washington County budget advisory committee by requiring the commissioners to appoint one member who is a resident of the unorganized territory, provided the individual has not served or been employed by the county within the last three years. No later than October 15, 2025, and every October 15 of an odd-numbered year thereafter, the act also requires the Washington County legislative delegation to select by majority vote, one member of the delegation to serve on the budget advisory committee for a two-year term as a voting member.

LD 1635 *An Act to Streamline Municipal Referenda Recount Initiation* (Sponsored by Rep. Arata of New Gloucester) **Public Law 2025, c. 268 (09/24/25)** By a majority vote of the municipal officials, this act allows for a recount to be conducted when a municipal referendum passes or fails by less than 1% of all the votes cast, including any blank ballots.

## Taxation

LD 68 *An Act to Amend the State Tax Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston) **Public Law 2025, c. 271 (09/24/25)** Of municipal interest, this act changes from April 1 to May 1, the date by which the owner of taxable equipment files a report with the assessor describing the property for which an exemption is claimed and repeals the automatic 30-day extension for filing the report. Instead, the act authorizes assessors who receive a written request for an extension before taxes are committed to grant, for good cause, additional time to file the report, provided the extension does not exceed three months.

LD 185 *An Act to Expand Opportunities to Invest Municipal Tax Increment Financing Revenues* (Sponsored by Rep. Mastraccio of Sanford) **Public Law 2025, c. 310 (09/24/25)** This act increases from 15 to 25% the limit on the amount of captured assessed value in a tax increment financing (TIF) district that can be used for the: (1) construction, renovation or operation of municipal public safety facilities, including facilities used as emergency shelters; and (2) construction or renovation of facilities owned by a municipality or plantation and used to deliver services, provided use of TIF revenues do not exceed 50% of total capital costs.

LD 288 *An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine’s Tax Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston) **Public Law 2025, c. 113 (09/24/25)** Of municipal interest, this act proposes technical changes to property tax laws, including: (1) requiring fulltime property assessors to be certified by Maine Revenue Services as having “the basic knowledge required to perform the assessing function” rather than certified as “professionally trained assessors;” (2) repealing the requirement that Maine Revenue Services provide municipalities with printed homestead exemption applications; and (3) correcting a conflict in the payment due date in the state’s homestead property tax deferral program.

LD 294 *An Act to Expand Municipal Volunteer Program Eligibility Requirements in the Municipal Property Tax Assistance Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Bunker of Farmington) **Public Law 2025, c. 337 (09/24/25)** Under current law, municipalities are authorized to adopt ordinances enabling volunteers who are at least 60

years of age to earn up to \$1,000 or 100 times the minimum wage as a benefit on the taxes assessed on their homesteads. Beginning January 1, 2026, this act expands that authority by allowing municipalities, via ordinance, to extend the benefit to volunteer firefighters, volunteer municipal firefighters or volunteer emergency medical services persons.

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) **Public Law 2025, c. 231 (09/24/25)** Beginning with tax liens recorded after June 30, 2026, this act 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 act also defines “commercial real estate” as property either used or held for use 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.

LD 744 *An Act to Remove Certain Wharves and Piers from the Laws Governing the Current Use Valuation of Working Waterfront Land* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) **Public Law 2025, c. 380 (09/24/25)** This act amends the definition of “working waterfront land” in the laws governing the current use valuation of working waterfront properties by removing from the definition wharves and piers used primarily or used predominantly by people engaged in commercial fishing activities.

LD 819 *An Act to Clarify the Status of Energy Storage Systems with Regard to the Business Equipment Tax Exemption and the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Sato of Gorham) **Public Law 2025, c. 467 (09/24/25)** The act makes battery storage systems eligible for the business equipment tax exemption provided that more than 50% of the electrical output from the storage system serves the load behind the utility meter where the battery storage system is located or where there was a fully executed interconnection agreement between the battery storage system owner and a transmission and distribution utility by January 1, 2025.

LD 936 *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Mining Excise Tax* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) **Public Law 2025, c. 469 (09/24/25)** Of municipal interest, this act implements the changes proposed as the result of a review of the state’s taxation of metallic mineral mining, including exempting unextracted minerals from the property tax.

LD 1044 *An Act to Clarify the Qualifying Use of Tax Increment Financing for Extension of a Development District* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth) **Public Law 2025, c. 356 (09/24/25)** This act clarifies that to be eligible for a 20-year extension, a tax increment financing district may use TIF revenue for affordable housing, transit-oriented development or both. The act also amends the definition of “transit-oriented development” to provide that such a development does not have to be located in a transit-oriented development district, area or corridor or a transit-served node.

LD 1325 *An Act to Create Clarity in the Laws Regarding Property Tax Abatement Appeals* (Sponsored by Rep. Daigle of Fort Kent) **Public Law 2025, c. 342 (09/24/25)** As of January 1, 2026, this

act prevents an applicant for a property tax abatement from appealing decisions of the assessors or the municipal officers with respect to nonresidential property or properties having an equalized municipal valuation of \$1 million or greater to the county commissioners. Instead, an applicant must appeal the decision to the State Board of Property Tax Review.

LD 1355 *Resolve, to Require the Governor’s Energy Office to Study Taxation of Renewable Energy Infrastructure* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) **Resolves 2025, c. 116 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) to examine and evaluate the current system of taxation of renewable energy infrastructure, including the history of municipal taxation in Maine and in other states, and possible adoption of a uniform capacity tax for renewable energy infrastructure. The office is required to consult with the Office of Tax Policy, representatives from the renewable energy industry, and municipal and county officials, and to solicit public comments. By November 4, 2026, GEO is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2027. The resolve also authorizes the office to receive funds and grants from public and private sources to carry out the study but is not required to undertake the work if it does not receive sufficient funding.

LD 1584 *An Act to Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services to Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2025-26* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston) **Emergency Enacted: Public Law 2025, c. 242 (06/10/25)** This act establishes municipal cost components for state and county services provided to the unorganized territory, which forms the property tax assessment. After computing all the appropriations and accounting for the general revenue and educational revenue deductions, the total tax assessment for FY 2026 is \$33.8 million.

LD 1755 *An Act to Increase the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit in Rural Areas* (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor) **Public Law 2025, c. 499 (09/24/25)** Retroactively to January 1, 2025, this act amends the income tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic property by increasing the benefit for projects conducted in rural areas, defined as municipalities with populations of less than 12,500, provided that at least 33% of the structure’s aggregate square footage is used for apartments, dwellings or other living spaces. The act also provides that if the rehabilitation of a certified historic structure is certified as an affordable housing project, then the credit increases by an additional 10%.

LD 1768 *An Act to Protect Residents of Mobile Home Parks by Amending the Real Estate Transfer Tax* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 484 (09/24/25)** This act adds to the uses of funds in the Housing Opportunities for Maine program maintaining housing affordability in mobile home parks to support ownership of parks by homeowners’ associations, housing cooperatives or other nonprofit entities representing the interests of mobile homeowners. The act also exempts from the real estate transfer tax deeds conveying ownership of a mobile home park to a majority of residents at the time of conveyance.

LD 1770 *An Act to Provide Immediate and Long-term Property Tax Relief to Maine Households* (Sponsored by President Daugherty of Cumberland Cty.) **Emergency Passed: Resolves 2025, c.**

**108 (07/01/25)** This resolve creates the 13-member Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force, including a member with expertise in assessing property and two municipal officials with expertise in municipal government, taxation, finances or property valuation, to contract with an entity for research and analytical support, with the goal of determining the source of the problem with the current system of property taxation, who is most negatively affected by the current system and how those persons are affected. By January 1, 2026, the task force is required to submit an interim report and by December 15, 2026, a final report, to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2027.

**LD 1783** *An Act to Clarify Municipal Affordable Housing Tax Increment Financing* (Sponsored by Rep. Salsbury of Westbrook) **Public Law 2025, c. 252 (09/24/25)** This act amends the duration of affordable housing development programs under the tax increment financing program to be the earlier of either 30 years after the project is placed in service or 35 years after the district is approved. The act also authorizes the legislative body of a municipality to delegate to a municipal officer the reporting responsibilities required by law.

**LD 1876** *An Act to Change the Name and Duties of the Taxpayer Advocate to Increase the Use of State Tax Credits* (Sponsored by Rep. DeBrito of Waterville) **Public Law 2025, c. 486 (09/24/25)** In part, this act directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to study the use of tax credits, including identifying and assessing the current role municipalities play in promoting awareness of earned income, property tax fairness, dependent exemption and sales tax credits, as well as the state's property tax deferral program, and identify barriers preventing the expansion of promotional activities. No later than November 4, 2026, the department is directed to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2027

**LD 1895** *An Act to Require the Removal from a Property Tax Lien the Name of a Previous Owner Who Paid Prorated Property Taxes* (Sponsored by Rep. Arata of New Gloucester) **Public Law 2025, c. 351 (09/24/25)** This act requires the municipal treasurer to prepare and record a discharge of the tax lien against the seller if the seller provides proof of payment of the seller's pro rata share of all taxes owed by the seller. The discharge is only for the seller.

## Transportation

**LD 29** *Resolve, to Require the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council and Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 95 (09/24/25)** Subject to available funding resources, permitting and municipal agreements, this resolve directs the Department of Transportation to remove state-owned inactive existing railroad track along: (1) the Lower Road between the Town of Brunswick and the City of Gardiner to the existing Kennebec River Rail Trail, and a portion of the rail line in the City of Hallowell, and to replace the track with an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail surfaced with pavement, or stone dust on the existing rail bed; and (2) the section known as the Calais Branch from the Route 214 intersection in Ayers Junction in the Town of Pembroke to Route

1 in the City of Calais and replace the track with a multi-use trail on the existing rail bed.

**LD 30** *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 96 (09/24/25)** Subject to available funding resources, permitting and municipal agreements, this resolve directs the Department of Transportation to remove state-owned inactive existing railroad track along the section known as the Berlin Subdivision between the City of Portland and the City of Auburn and replace the track with an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail surfaced with pavement, gravel or stone dust on the existing rail bed.

**LD 154** *An Act to Amend the Transportation Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle) **Public Law 2025, c. 66 (09/24/25)** This act allows revenues distributed to municipalities under the Local Road Assistance Program 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 act also amends the provision of law governing the distribution of urban compact assistance funds to allow funding 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 Motor Vehicle Certificates of Registrations to Include a Space to List an Emergency Contact* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft) **Public Law 2025, c. 134 (09/24/25)** Once current supplies have been depleted, this act



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directs the Secretary of State to issue certificates of motor vehicle registration that include on the reverse side a blank space where the owner may note the legal name and address of an emergency contact.

LD 162 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Carmel the Kevin M. Howell Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Thorne of Carmel) **Resolves 2025, c. 9 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2976 on Main Road in the Town of Carmel the Kevin M. Howell Memorial Bridge.

LD 200 *Resolve, to Rename the Sebago Lake Road Crossing Bridge in the Town of Standish* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 8 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3907 on Chadbourne Road in the Town of Standish, currently known as the Sebago Lake Road Crossing Bridge, the Town of Standish Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 243 *Resolve, to Name a Railroad Crossing in Wiscasset the James Weldon Johnson Crossing* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 13 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to permanently designate the crossing at railroad mile marker 49.10 on Main Street in the Town of Wiscasset as the James Weldon Johnson Crossing.

LD 274 *An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, Highway 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, 2026 and June 30, 2027* (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle) **Emergency Enacted: Public Law 2025, c. 9 (03/21/25)** This act authorizes Highway Fund appropriations for FY 2026 and FY 2027 and of municipal interest: (1) allocates roughly \$31 million in both years of the biennium for distribution to municipalities under the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP); and (2) clarifies that the portion of the Department of Transportation's budget distributed to municipalities via LRAP is 9% of the department's funding for "general construction and maintenance of highways and bridges."

LD 289 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Bingham the Barry A. DeLong Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison) **Resolves 2025, c. 27 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3236 on Bridge Street in the Town of Bingham, currently known as the Austin Stream Bridge, the Barry A. DeLong Bridge.

LD 345 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Strout of Harrington) **Resolves 2025, c. 7 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3964 on Johnson Cove Road in the Town of Roque Bluffs, currently known as the Englishman River Bridge, the Hope Bridge.

LD 447 *An Act to Amend the Law Governing Ferry Service to Matinicus Isle* (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland) **Public Law 2025, c. 229 (09/24/25)** In addition to the 12 trips to Matinicus Isle required in current law, this act authorizes the state ferry service to provide additional service as agreed upon by the residents of Matinicus Isle and the Department of Transportation.

LD 460 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Newfield the Dam's Mills Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 6 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 5313 on Bridge Street in the Town of Newfield, currently known as the Dam's Mills Bridge, the Dam's Mills Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 463 *Resolve, to Rename the New Ten Mile River Bridge on Pequawket Trail in Brownfield the Brownfield Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Senator Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 5 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 5860 on the Pequawket Trail in the Town of Brownfield, currently known as the New Ten Mile Brook Bridge, the Brownfield Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 464 *Resolve, to Rename the Brackett Mill Bridge in Denmark the Brackett Mill Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 4 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 5410 on West Main Street in the Town of Denmark, currently known as the Brackett Mill Bridge, the Brackett Mill Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 472 *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. Rotundo of Androscoggin Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 30 (09/24/25)** 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. The commissions are directed to submit a report with their findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by December 3, 2025.

LD 516 *Resolve, to Name the Bridge Between Milford and Old Town the Alton L. Drinkwater Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford) **Resolves 2025, c. 3 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2630 on Center Street between the City of Old Town and the Town of Milford the Alton L. Drinkwater Memorial Bridge.

LD 569 *Resolve, to Rename the Shapleigh Bridge the Shapleigh Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 14 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3637 on Route 11 in the Town of Shapleigh, currently known as the Shapleigh Bridge, the Shapleigh Veterans Memorial Bridge.

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LD 610 *Resolve, to Designate a Portion of Route 234 in the Town of New Vineyard and the Town of Anson in Honor of Corporal Andrew L. Hutchins* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner) **Resolves 2025, c. 59 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate a portion of Route 234 in the Town of New Vineyard and the Town of Anson the Corporal Andrew L. Hutchins Way.

LD 611 *An Act to Allow the Secretary of State to Collect Excise Taxes on Motor Vehicles Owned by Residents Who Are Unhoused* (Sponsored by Rep. Sayre of Kennebunk) **Public Law 2025, c. 143 (09/24/25)** This act allows an unhoused resident of the State to pay excise tax on a motor vehicle directly to the Secretary of State, provided: (1) the resident previously registered the motor vehicle in Maine; (2) the secretary confirms that the municipality refused to receive the excise tax; and (3) the resident has a legally issued driver's license.

LD 617 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Waterboro the Waterboro Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Eder of Waterboro) **Resolves 2025, c. 18 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3830 on Main Street in the Town of Waterboro, currently known as the School Bridge, the Waterboro Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 621 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Mattawamkeag the Mattawamkeag Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Quint of Hodgdon) **Resolves 2025, c. 60 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2522 on Main Street in the Town of Mattawamkeag, currently known as the Mattawamkeag Bridge, the Mattawamkeag Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 672 *Resolve, to Rename the Salmon Falls Bridge Between Buxton and Hollis the Salmon Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 15 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3708 on Route 202 between the Town of Buxton and the Town of Hollis, currently known as the Salmon Falls Bridge, the Salmon Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 685 *Resolve, to Rename the Mill Pond Bridge the Sebago Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 16 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 6230 on Sebago Road in the Town of Sebago, currently known as the Mill Pond Bridge, the Sebago Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 686 *Resolve, to Rename the Kezar Falls Bridge Between Porter and Parsonsfield the Kezar Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 12 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2432 on Federal Road between the Town of Porter and the Town of Parsonsfield, currently known as the Kezar Falls Bridge, the Kezar Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 796 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Windham and Gorham the Little Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 20 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2787 on Route 202 between the Town of Windham and the Town of Gorham, currently known as the South Windham Bridge, the Little Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 862 *Resolve, to Honor Scarborough Veterans by Renaming the Pine Point Crossing Bridge the Scarborough Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) **Resolves 2025, c. 17 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 5260 on Pine Point Road in the Town of Scarborough, currently known as the Pine Point Crossing Bridge, the Scarborough Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 1182 *An Act to Grant the Rockland Port District an Increase in Its Borrowing Capacity and Include Sustainable Aquaculture and Marine Industries in Its Charter* (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland) **Private & Special 2025, c. 4 (09/24/25)** This act raises the debt limit of the Rockland Port District from \$600,000 to \$6 million and allows the district to purchase, maintain and operate facilities supporting sustainable aquaculture and marine industries.

LD 1186 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle) **Resolves 2025, c. 97 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to work with island and ferry service stakeholders to study the feasibility of adding ferry service to Monhegan Island and further directs the department to submit a report by December 3, 2025, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1209 *Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study the Safety and Use of Nonconforming Vehicles on Maine's Roads and Highways* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 29 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Secretary of State to convene a working group, including a municipal representative, to study the feasibility of allowing the registration and operation of nonconforming vehicles on state roads and highways, including mini trucks, antique military vehicles and any other vehicle under 10,000 pounds and operated by a holder of a Class C license. The working group is tasked with identifying operating standards and safety risks, reviewing and analyzing laws in other states and existing reports and studies, and considering how to implement an inspection system for nonconforming vehicles. No later than February 6, 2026, the secretary is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1231 *An Act to Require Legislative Approval of Proposed Permanent Changes to the Overnight Docking of State Ferries on Islands* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) **Public Law 2025, c. 282 (09/24/25)** Except for temporary changes resulting from an emergency or significant operations need, this act prohibits the Department of Transportation from changing existing overnight docking practices of a state-owned ferry vessel that docks overnight on an island served by the Maine State Ferry Services without legislative approval.

LD 1340 *An Act to Establish the Municipal Stream Crossing Fund* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 162 (09/24/25)** This act establishes the Municipal Stream Crossing Fund to issue grants to eligible local governments, municipal conservation commissions, soil and water conservation districts and private nonprofit organizations for stream crossing replacements on municipal roads. In awarding the grants, the Maine Department of Transportation must

consider the: (1) impact on native brook trout and sea-run fish restoration; (2) extent to which the project meets the state's 100-year flood standards; (3) project's urgency; (4) expected impact on reducing frequency or severity of flooding and improving stormwater management; and (5) extent to which the project is an efficient and cost-effective investment. The act also stipulates that the grants cannot be used to cover all the costs associated with the project or on a state or private road.

LD 1359 *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Report Progress Made Toward Implementing Recommendations Based on the 2025 Public Transit Advisory Council Report* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle) **Resolves 2025, c. 99 (09/24/25)** No later than December 3, 2025, this resolve directs the Department of Transportation to submit a report detailing the progress made on implementing the recommendations from the 2025 Public Transit Advisory Council to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1390 *Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State to Develop Recommendations for a Multiyear Registration System for National Car Rental Companies* (Sponsored by Rep. Parry of Arundel) **Resolves 2025, c. 78 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Secretary of State, with input from the Bureau of State Police, to develop recommendations to implement a multi-year registration and inspection program for national car rental companies in Maine. No later than December 3, 2025, the secretary is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1411 *An Act to Modify the Laws Regarding Driver's License Applications* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) **Public Law 2025, c. 165 (09/24/25)** This act provides that a person who commits a traffic infraction and who has resided in the state for at least 90 days and has not yet obtained a Maine driver's license, may be fined a minimum of \$150 up to a maximum \$500 for failing to obtain a state license. The act also modifies the provision of law regarding the disclosure of social security numbers on driver's license and nondriver identification card applications.

LD 1451 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Establish the Maine Coordinating Working Group on Access and Mobility* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 101 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to create the 12-member Maine Coordinating Working Group on Access and Mobility to: (1) establish a mobility management approach among state agencies to increase efficiency, accessibility and sustainability of transportation across Maine; (2) build interagency coordination between the Departments of Transportation, Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor; and (3) use federal guidance models from other jurisdictions to remove barriers and develop methods of cost sharing between federal and state programs to improve access. No later than February 1, 2026, the department is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1562 *An Act Regarding Municipal Road Standards* (Sponsored by Rep. McIntyre of Lowell) **Public Law 2025, c. 395 (09/24/25)** This act provides that when a resident notifies a municipal officer or county commissioner in writing that a town way is not safe

and convenient, the municipality or county may evaluate the risk to travelers based on the existing roadway surface and season of the year and recommend a reasonably achievable repair. If the municipality or county unreasonably neglects to repair the defect in a reasonable amount of time, a person who suffers an injury or sustains property damage due to the defect may pursue a civil action. After five days' notice, if the county or municipality unreasonably neglects to keep the way in repair, three or more residents can petition the municipal board of appeals, appointed by the legislative body, to set a time and place near the deficit of a town way for a hearing and if the board determines the road is safe and convenient to dismiss the petition.

LD 1568 *An Act to Allow the Use of a Siren in a Vehicle Used by a Harbor Master or Deputy Harbor Master* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) **Emergency Enacted; Public Law 2025, c. 190 (06/09/25)** This act allows a municipality to authorize the use of a siren on a motor vehicle operated by a harbor master or deputy harbor master when responding to an emergency call.

LD 1581 *An Act Regarding the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax and Registration Fees Exemption for Certain Veterans* (Rep. Nutting of Oakland) **Emergency Enacted; Public Law 2025, c. 152 (05/30/25)** This act specifies that a maximum of three automobiles owned by a qualifying veteran, whose name must be on the title, are eligible for the exemption from registration fees and excise tax.

LD 1616 *An Act to Eliminate Requirements for Drivers to Surrender Their Physical Driver's Licenses During a Temporary Suspension* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle) **Public Law 2025, c. 173 (09/24/25)** This act eliminates requirements for an individual whose license has been temporarily suspended to surrender a driver's license and instead allows the person to keep their identification documentation. The act also eliminates provisions establishing crimes and traffic infractions associated with the display or possession of a suspended driver's license.

LD 1874 *An Act to Enable the Maine Pilotage Commission to Oversee Pilots Operating in Portland Harbor* (Sponsored by Rep. Crockett of Portland) **Public Law 2025, c. 253 (09/24/25)** This act transfers jurisdiction over pilots operating in Portland Harbor from the Board of Harbor Commissioners for Portland Harbor to the Maine Pilotage Commission, changes the description of the coastal zones in the laws governing the commission, and, in the case of Portland Harbor, amends the membership of the Maine Pilotage Commission by providing that one member be a licensed pilot with a maritime background, appointed from a list provided by the mayors from Portland and South Portland.

## Veterans & Legal Affairs

LD 9 *An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Disclosure* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 224 (09/24/25)** Of municipal interest, this act amends existing laws impacting elections in communities with populations of 15,000 or more by requiring a ballot question committee that not only makes expenditures exceeding \$5,000 to influence a municipal referendum, but also receives contributions exceeding \$5,000, to register and file finance reports with the ethics commission.

LD 158 *An Act to Establish a Date to Begin Voting by Absentee Ballot in the Presence of the Clerk* (Sponsored by Rep. Parry of Arundel) **Public Law 2025, c. 133 (09/24/25)** This act provides that for the 30 days preceding an election, during the hours when the clerk's office is open, a resident may vote by absentee ballot in the presence of the clerk.

LD 600 *An Act to Initiate Recounts in Tied Elections* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford) **Public Law 2025, c. 114 (09/24/25)** This act amends the election laws to require the Secretary of State, for statewide elections, and municipal clerks, for local elections, to automatically initiate a recount when there is a tied vote and clarifies that any candidate, other than the apparent winner, may request a recount.

LD 911 *An Act to Clarify Procedures for When a Candidate Withdraws from an Election Determined by Ranked-choice Voting or When a Candidate Dies or Becomes Disqualified in an Election Determined by Ranked-choice Voting* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 363 (09/24/25)** This act provides that if one or more candidates on the ballot in an election determined by ranked-choice voting (RCV) die, are disqualified, or withdraw less than 70 days before the election, the outcome of the election is still determined by RCV regardless of the number of candidates remaining in the race. The act specifies that a candidate who has withdrawn, but whose name remains on the ballot, cannot be determined the winner of an election. The act also provides a deadline for removing a candidate's name from the general election ballot and provides that if a candidate's name is not removed from the ballot, but a notice of withdrawal is provided, the Secretary of State is required to prepare and distribute to municipalities, in the candidate's district, a notice informing voters of the withdrawal and that a vote for the candidate will not be counted. The notices must be distributed with all absentee ballots and on election day posted outside the guardrail enclosure and in each voting booth.

LD 1148 *Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State to Study Providing Access to Absentee Ballots for Municipal Elections to Uniformed Service Voters or Overseas Voters in the Same Manner as Absentee Ballots for Statewide Elections* (Sponsored by Rep. Shagoury of Hallowell) **Resolves 2025, c. 43 (09/24/25)** This resolve directs the Secretary of State to: (1) in consultation with municipal election officials, study the feasibility and methods for providing uniformed service or overseas voters digital access to and receipt of local absentee ballots from a municipality holding an election on the same date as a statewide election; (2) update its website or the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act absentee ballot retrieval service portal to clearly and conspicuously state that local absentee ballots must be obtained from the municipality of residence; and (3) no later than December 3, 2025, submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1702 *An Act to Amend Election Polling Place Candidate Restrictions* (Sponsored by Rep. Cooper of Windham) **Emergency Enacted; Public Law 2025, c. 331 (06/17/25)** This act prohibits candidates for office or their representatives from collecting or soliciting on public property within 250 of the entrance of the voting place, as well as within the voting place: (1) voter signatures on a petition in support of a candidate's candidacy; (2) financial

contributions; or (3) qualifying contributions under the Maine Clean Election Act.

LD 1977 *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) **Public Law 2025, c. 397 (09/24/25)** This act amends the laws governing elections as follows and of greatest municipal interest: (1) clarifies that if a person registering to vote is unable to provide satisfactory proof of identity the person must be placed on the incoming voting list and cast a challenged ballot, unless the person provides proof of identity prior to voting on election day; (2) amends the deadlines for registering to vote in-person before the day of the election and for transferring a voter registration application; (3) replaces the term "polling place" with "voting place;" (4) provides that if the 15<sup>th</sup> day before a primary election is a holiday the next business day is considered the deadline for a change in or withdrawal from party enrollment; (5) requires municipalities to make an official available to certify candidate petition signatures on the day the deadline is set; (6) prevents the Secretary of State from accepting a candidate consent form unless certified by the registrar and from validating more than the maximum required number of signatures; (7) repeals the statutes requiring the secretary to produce and publicly disseminate a guide to election laws and to conduct a training program for new municipal clerks; (8) authorizes the secretary to prepare neutral instruction materials necessary to assist voters; (9) increases from seven to 21 days immediately before the election the requirement to post notice of an election in a conspicuous public place; (10) increases from 60 to 90 days before the election the deadline for a party's state committee to file a complaint that the polling place is too small; (11) establishes regulations for permissible voting place activities, including poll watching, signature gathering, charitable activities, party workers and observers, photography and video recording, and registration and enrollment drives; (12) requires clerks to provide absentee ballot applications not more than two months before a primary election; (13) includes mental health facilities, residential facilities for individuals with intellectual disability and state mental health institutes in the section of law regarding alternate methods of absentee voting; (14) authorizes a warden to reasonably limit the time and manner of the inspections of absentee ballots and to give preference to authorized representatives of candidates and qualified parties if multiple inspection requests are received; and (15) in the process of testing electronic tabulating equipment, requires the clerk to write the word "TEST" across the ballot in red rather than blue or black ink.





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# Keep Calm and Carry Over

## The Legislature's Procedure for Continuing Their Work

Amanda Campbell, Legislative Advocate

At the conclusion of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Legislature's first special session, over 400 bills were ordered to be carried over, or held, for further consideration when the legislature reconvenes for the second regular session in January 2026. The joint order, approved by both chambers before adjourning on June 23, 2025, allows specific committee requested bills to be held "in the posture in which they were at the time of adjournment." Bills remaining on the Special Appropriations and Study Tables, as well as bills not disposed of by the Appropriations and Financial Affairs (AFA) Committee were also held for the next session.

### Keep Calm

As the end of a session nears, committee members are directed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House to recommend a list of bills to be carried over. These tend to be bills the committee has determined will need additional time, information and resources to appropriately debate the merits of any policy changes the bill may propose. This could be due to complex policy reform, significant fiscal impact, or just timing of the printing for a bill that has significant content to review. This session also saw several bills committed back to the committee of jurisdiction during floor debate, a strategy likely utilized to provide more time to work on the bills' content rather than risk the legislation dying due to lack of support at the last minute. In addition, bills that were introduced as concept drafts, typically sponsored by committee chairs, are carried over as potential vehicles for committee bills in the second session. These placeholder bills have no descriptive content in their current form but can be used by the committees to advance legislation that results from interim study recommendations or to address other policy areas of importance to the committee.

Of the bills carried over, fifty-seven could impact municipal operations and were debated by MMA's Legislative Policy Committee. A full listing of those measures can be found on the "Carryover LD List" under the Advocacy & Communications tab at [www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org).

What follows is a summary of a few bills that are worthy of mention.

### Teacher Salaries

Since 1985, the legislature has taken steps to override local decision making with regard to minimum teacher salaries. Forty years later, this legislature is building on that theme by again proposing increases in minimum teacher salaries but bypassing the potential mandate of

that action by providing limited funding. LD 34, *An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers* proposes incremental increases from the 2021 legislatively required minimum of \$40,000, to \$45,000, \$47,500 and \$50,000, respectively, beginning with school year 2026-27 and ending in 2028-29.

While no one will argue that the work schoolteachers perform is valued and critical for the development of our future leaders, municipal officials must be part of the equation when it comes to school spending. The local budget processes and school board negotiations for collective bargaining agreements, specifically the component of additional implied salary increases for existing and long-term faculty, were not addressed by this bill, and are not included in the minimal supplemental funding proposed in the fiscal note.

Only MMA and the Maine School Board Association testified to the importance of local decision making and the municipal budgeting process. Although the Department of Education did not take a position on the bill, the department's testimony provided valuable financial data exposing the projected costs, outside of the supplemental funding, that would impact local communities and the property taxpayers as part of the local share for the cost of education. Beginning with the 2029-30 school year, the supplemental funding for minimum salaries would sunset, leaving the taxpayers on the hook for the full cost of the minimum salaries and any additional increases that could stem from the implementation of those minimums. This bill was carried over on the special appropriations table.

### Hospitality Lounges

Beginning in 2016, with the passage of the Marijuana Legalization Act, and after many revisions and agency rulemaking, municipalities were afforded the opportunity in 2019 to "opt-in" to local regulation of cannabis establishments as approved by local voters. The Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) lists approximately 120 municipalities as having opted-in to allow retail, growing, manufacturing, and/or testing establishments in their communities. What those communities have not voted to approve are cannabis hospitality lounges.

The most recent bill proposing these establishments, LD 1365, *An Act to Allow Consumption of Adult Use Cannabis in Locally Approved Hospitality Lounges* would not only allow these lounges to be approved outside of the state enacted local opt-in process, but the establishments would not be governed by any state level regulations.

Adoption of a local ordinance would be required, outlining licenses and any fees, but upon approval of a hospitality lounge application, no additional state licensing would be necessary. For all other cannabis establishments, the opposite is true. In addition, unless OCP adds hospitality lounges as legitimate “opt-in” cannabis establishments, it is questionable if communities could apply for reimbursement from the Municipal Opt-In Fund, managed by OCP, for the legal costs of implementing or amending a cannabis ordinance.

Proponents of the bill advocate for the allowance of hospitality lounges and cannabis consumption, arguing that those establishments would be in line with a bar or cigar lounge. The argument that no legal, public locations exist for the consumption of cannabis is valid. The Cannabis Hospitality Task Force report, which was submitted to the Veterans and Legal Affairs (VLA) Committee in January 2025, stated that 80% of the stakeholders appointed to the group supported the “traditional” consumption lounge model. However, without guardrails for the protection of servers and others from secondhand smoke, as well as training for those servers to identify a patron who may have overindulged, LD 1365 leaves too many questions unanswered. A potential sponsor amendment could address some of those public health concerns, but further amendments to address the dangers of impaired patrons driving home from these establishments were not discussed. This bill was a carryover request from the VLA Committee.

### Overdose Prevention Centers

This legislative session saw several bills attempting to address the ongoing opioid and substance use disorder epidemic through needle exchange programs, needle waste disposal programs and reporting of opioid settlement funds.

LD 755, *An Act to Prevent Opioid Overdose Deaths by Allowing Municipalities to Approve the Establishment of Overdose Prevention Centers* would build on the existing programs currently licensed by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Different from those current programs, this bill would require municipal authorization before a center could commence operations. While this requirement is a welcome recognition of home rule authority, the preliminary fiscal note identifies that the required public hearing for a proposed center may represent a state mandate. Additionally, this bill provides immunity to persons identified as “protected” when acting in accordance with the proposed policy. It is this section that likely accounts for the bill’s amendment of Title 5, which governs administrative procedures and services, rather than Title 22, which governs public health.

This bill had only one work session, during which the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee referred the bill to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety (CJPS) Com-

mittee. A public hearing will likely be held, once the legislature reconvenes in January 2026, by the CJPS committee which requested the carryover.

### Municipal Ordinance Limitations

It is unlikely to surprise municipal officials that, yet another bill heard by the Housing and Economic Development (HED) Committee looks to erode local home rule authority and community planning efforts. LD 1247, *An Act to Restrict Municipal Ordinance Requirements Regarding Housing Developments* would place additional restrictions on local land use ordinances, specifically directed at minimum lot sizes, off-street parking, lot coverages, road frontage and setback requirements.

These limitations would apply to housing developments served by public water and sewer districts but would not be limited to a community’s identified designated growth area, as determined by a comprehensive plan. A developer would be required to confirm that the development would be connected to “adequate” sewer and water services, but adequate is not defined and no mention is made of an adequate water supply.

In addition to the land use restrictions enacted in the now infamous LD 2003 and the more recently passed LD 1829, municipal officials could once again be forced back to the drawing board to revise land use ordinances that have already been amended with thoughtful and community driven solutions that comply with current law. This bill presents another one-size-fits-all policy that clearly does not fit the varied sizes of Maine’s 486 communities. While this bill has had its public hearing, discussion was tabled at two work sessions before the bill was recommended to be carried over by the HED committee, with no amendments.

### Ambulance Service Assessment Fees

In February 2025 the AFA Committee held public hearings and work sessions on the governor’s biennial budget, which included the proposal of an ambulance provider tax of 6% on net operating revenue. The proposal specifically excluded municipal departments providing emergency ambulance services, however, the definition of these departments was unclear, and the administration could not confirm if departments that provide interlocal coverage, or have been in existence as quasi-municipal nonprofit departments, were included. The intention of using this new revenue as a pathway to draw down additional federal funds for emergency ambulance MaineCare reimbursements was not well received by the HHS or AFA committees, and ultimately the initiative was not included in the budget.

As printed, LD 35, *An Act to Strengthen Local Emergency Medical Services by Increasing the MaineCare Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Services* would have adjusted


appropriations and allocations, across funds and departments, to increase the MaineCare reimbursement rates for covered ambulance services to 140% of the allowable rate for a three-year period. However, as amended, LD 35 received a new title, *An Act to Maximize Federal Funding in Support of Emergency Medical Services*, and now intends to maximize that funding by implementing an ambulance service assessment fee. While the language is only marginally different from the governor's proposal, the municipal concerns remain.

This bill was recommitted back to the HHS committee so it could be carried over.

### Personal Property Tax

The provision of property tax law that governs the assessment of individually owned personal property was the topic of debate through LD 1506, *An Act to Amend the Personal Property Tax Exemption for Individually Owned Personal Property*. As drafted, the bill proposed to increase from \$1,000 to \$5,000 the value of individually owned items exempt from the personal property tax. The Taxation Committee unanimously voted the bill "ought to pass as amended" by amending the bill to provide a complete exemption from property tax for individually owned personal property while retaining the existing tax on industrial and commercial personal property. It is important to note that the requirement to tax individually owned personal property would not be repealed, and Maine Revenue Services voiced concern that communities might in fact double down on personal property assessments in anticipation of larger reimbursements due to the complete exemption. With a fiscal note of \$3.8 million in both FY 2028 and FY 2029, to cover those anticipated increased reimbursements, this bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table, where it awaits its fate in the second session.

### Carry On...

The second regular session of the legislature is scheduled to begin on January 7, 2026, and is historically meant to consider those matters that have been held as well as any new legislation deemed an emergency by the Legislative Council. During the second session of the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature, an additional 105 bills were introduced and 42 approved. In anticipation of what new issues may be facing municipal government in the second session of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, all local officials can do now is keep calm while the MMA advocacy staff carries on. 

## Special Appropriations Table

At the end of the first special session of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, approximately 175 bills remained, and were carried over on the Special Appropriations Table. These items, each with a fiscal note and requiring votes to be removed from the table and to be finally enacted, are now held for further consideration during the second session. Considering state fiscal constraints and an unsettled view of future federal funding, it is not surprising that so many matters have been held unfunded.

The Office of Fiscal and Program Review describes the Special Appropriations Table as one of the tools established "for tracking and making sure bills...are coordinated with the overall budget decisions...given the balanced budget constraints." Any bill passed to be enacted that comes with a price tag potentially impacting the General Fund is held on this table until budget bills are passed and it is determined if any remaining funds are available.

Only after these bills are voted "off the table" by the Appropriations and Financial Affairs (AFA) Committee, either with or without amendments, can the legislation be considered for final enactment. Amendments could include changes to bill language and increases or decreases in funding.

Some of the bills remaining on the table and of municipal interest include: *An Act to Incrementally Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption* (LD 140); *An Act to Provide Funds Necessary for the Production and Delivery of Election Materials by the Secretary of State* (LD 13); *An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Rural Counties by Providing State Police Patrol and Policing Services* (LD 477) and; *An Act to Include Food Provided or Served at Emergency Shelters in General Assistance Reimbursement* (LD 1017).

The March 29, 2024 issue of MMA's Legislative Bulletin included an article creatively describing the full appropriations table process and can be found at <https://www.memun.org/Media-Publications/Legislative-Bulletin>. Visit the AFA committee page for a final listing of all bills held on the table upon adjournment of the first session (<https://legislature.maine.gov/12487>).

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# Profiles of Service...Nick Berry, Witherle Memorial Library Director

By Stephanie Bouchard



Nick Berry

When Witherle Memorial Library’s director, Nick Berry, was a boy he always had his nose in a book. “He was brought up around libraries and books and, so, he had a love for reading and learning at a very young age,” said his mother, Diane Berry, a retired special education teacher.

“He was one of those kids that when it was bedtime, we had to pull the book out of his hands as opposed to the take the TV away, so he’s always had a real love for books, and I think that is a big piece of why he chose to do what he is doing.”

While Berry’s mother easily connects the dots to his library career, Berry himself says that becoming a library director wasn’t a career goal. As a child, he thought he’d become a teacher like his mother and grandmother but

“Public libraries seemed where I could connect with people the most.”

eventually realized that he wasn’t comfortable with the public speaking aspect of the job.

Despite volunteering at his local library and his school library when he was in his teens, it wasn’t until he was in college and doing an internship as part of his creative writing degree program that he began to consider a career as a librarian.

“I had been thinking about at that point, ‘Hey, maybe I can go along with this. You’re not going to earn a lot writing, so you’ve got to have a real job,’” Berry said. Doing his internship at Treat Memorial Library in Livermore Falls, where the librarians had thrown a variety of challenges at him, got Berry thinking a library career might be a good option. “(By) the end of (the internship), I was like, ‘I need to do this. This is where I need to be.’”

Besides his affinity for books and reading, Berry’s desire to work in public service wasn’t a stretch. His family has a long history of public service in the Livermore area. Berry’s great grandfather began the Livermore Fire Department, in part because his family had an orchard and, crucially, an orchard sprayer on the back of his truck that could be used to douse fires.

Generations of Berrys served in the fire department, including Berry’s father, Randy, who was one of several family members who served as fire chief. Randy Berry, like his grandfather before him, also served in the Maine State Legislature.

“We hadn’t pushed him to do anything,” Randy Berry said. “We’ve always been involved in supporting things and (doing) things that need to be done.”

With the example of his parents and other family members and the volunteer work in the community he did through the Boy Scouts, being community-minded just came naturally to him, Berry said.

But it was when he was doing his internship to earn his master of library science (MLS) degree from Syracuse University in New York that he realized the importance and power of public libraries in communities.

Berry was interning at Syracuse’s public library in one of its Westside branches which served an ethnically diverse, poorer population of the city. “Seeing how the librarians worked with (them), it gave me the urge to help more,” he said.

The best place for him to help more, he determined, was in public libraries, rather than academic libraries or specialty libraries. “Public libraries seemed where I could connect with people the most,” he said. And, public libraries offer a wide variety of ways to connect with people, he noted. “There’s so many possibilities, so many things you could do in a public library that wouldn’t necessarily be done in academic libraries.”

After graduating with his MLS degree, Berry found work back in Maine, eventually becoming the director at Hartland Public Library in Somerset County, where he learned that being a library director was a lot more than managing the budget and getting books for people. “I unplugged the toilet a lot,” he said.

His plumbing skills aside, Berry is a great asset to the communities he serves, said Jenny Melvin, who knows Berry through her role as a consultant at the Maine State Library.

“Libraries have really transitioned from being just a place where you get books to a place where you connect with people, you connect with resources. It’s a place that’s welcoming for everybody.” ~ Jenny Melvin

“Nick’s very thoughtful about things and he’s very

strategic about the way he approaches the library and its relationship to the community,” she continued. “He is able to really see what the community needs, recognizing who’s in his community, and then tailoring the services around it.”

And that’s what he’s been doing since he took the job as library director at Castine’s Witherle Memorial Library in July 2021.

“He is really responsive,” said Casey Bernard, the board chair of the library’s board of trustees. “When there’s something right in front of us that needs to be dealt with, he’s on it . . . and he’s brought some interesting programming.”

Teenagers, said Melvin, are an age group that is notoriously hard to get into the library, but Berry has managed to engage teens in both Hartland and Castine. As he had in Hartland, Berry made an intentional effort to reach out to the teenagers of Castine by beginning a Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) gaming group. (He also started a D&D gaming group for adults).

“Someone that doesn’t get D&D or gaming might look at that and say, ‘Oh, they’re just playing a game,’” said Berry. “But, we’re not only providing them with something to do, some place to be, (they’re) working as a group to tell a story and solve problems.”

The D&D group for youth has been so popular, a second group has started up and that one includes youth from nearby Blue Hill.

Among the projects Berry has been involved in since starting his job in Castine is one that started small but has grown into a controversial issue in town. In 2021, the library launched a special collection called the Witherle Collection.

Named after one of the library’s original benefactors,

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George Witherle, who was an avid outdoorsman and naturalist, the collection contains books about the geography, geology and ecology of Maine.

Berry and the library staff felt like the collection needed to provide more to the community than just books about the natural world contained within the four walls of the library, so they pitched to the library board the idea of creating a native plant garden outside the building.

Wanting to have a native plant garden as part of the library's landscape is not just about plants, Berry said. "It's about wanting to educate about native plants. There's a benefit to fighting climate change."

Berry points out that recent storms have caused major damage along Maine's coast, including to Castine, so having a native plant garden and the example and the educational opportunities it provides is valuable.

The design of the native plant garden includes hard-scaping around the library, which is part of a historic district that's on the National Register of Historic Places. Some town residents objected to the design, saying, among other things, that the design is not appropriate

for the site. Berry was surprised by the degree of push-back, but ultimately, the project received approval.

While executing a successful program or project is satisfying for Berry, what he loves best about working at the library is found in small things, he said.

For example, library staff made an effort to get books to a homebound Castine resident. "She was stuck in her bed, really, and the books were a way she could get out into the world," Berry said. "Those books were a lifeline for her."

Whenever the patron sent books back to the library, she'd include handwritten notes in them for the library staff. "Getting those notes was always something that made you smile," he said. "They were her way of communicating with us."

It's small things like that, he said "where you're just doing your job, but people really appreciate that you're helping (them) find something they need. You're just helping them, but it also brings joy to help them." 🏔️

## ABOUT THIS SERIES

This series focuses on the people who work in municipal government. Do you know someone who should be featured? If so, please email Kate Dufour at [kdufour@memun.org](mailto:kdufour@memun.org).

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The Hebron selectboard has promoted Deputy Treasurer **Alicia Bryant** to administrator, the first chief executive to work for the town. Bryant was hired for the treasurer's job last December after managing accounting and payroll for her family business for more than 10 years. An ad-hoc hiring committee, which included all three selectpersons, made the selection. She started her new job on June 30.

**Joseph Crocker** was named Raymond town manager in May, replacing **Susan Look**, who resigned after one year. Crocker worked as Raymond parks and recreation director for five years before accepting the top job.



Truc Dever

The Biddeford City Council has named **Truc Dever** as its next city manager, effective on Aug. 11. Dever currently serves as director of public works in Kirkland, Wash., and previously led that city's human resources department. Earlier in her career, she served for eight years as executive director of a large public health agency in California.

The council chose Dever from among 34 applicants and noted her range of experience and commitment to communication as prime attributes. Brian Phinney, Biddeford chief operating officer, will continue to serve as acting city manager until Dever's contract begins.



David Hanna

**David Hanna** will come out of retirement to take the job as Thomaston's first full-time fire and EMS chief and director of emergency management, effective July 1. Hanna retired as Dover, N.H., fire chief in August 2024, working his way up the ranks during his 30 years of service. Hanna, who holds a bachelor's degree in architecture, will reside in nearby Rockport, where he is building a home. Meanwhile, the town bid farewell to Selectboard member **William "Bill" Hahn**, who served for 18 years on the board and leaves behind "a remarkable legacy" of leadership and community service, town officials said.



William Hahn

Phippsburg Town Administrator **Ross McLellan** has been named Hallowell's new city manager, effective June 23. He replaces **Gary Lamb**, who planned to stay on during the

transition. McLellan has served as Phippsburg's administrator since 2021.

Winslow interim Fire Chief **Michael Murphy** has been named permanent chief, capping a 34-year career in firefighting. Murphy joined the Winslow department in 2023 as a lieutenant after serving more than three decades for the Fairfield and Benton Fire-Rescue Department, where he is still an on-call firefighter. He was promoted to deputy chief and then interim chief after the town's public safety department was dissolved earlier this year.



Michael Murphy

The interim town manager of Fairfax, Vt., has been hired as Skowhegan interim manager, effective in June. **Nicholas Nadeau** will juggle both jobs until his work in Vermont ends. He holds a doctorate of education from Liberty University. He managed the town of Blue Hill for a year before resigning in 2023. He replaces **Dawn DiBlasi**, who resigned in May.

Former Kennebunk selectperson **Shiloh Schulte** died June 4 in a helicopter crash near remote Kuparuk, Alaska. He served on the selectboard from 2015 to 2024, including two years as chairman. A wildlife biologist, Schulte was leading conservation work for a Massachusetts-based research firm at the time of the crash.



Susan St. Clair and Elizabeth Fowles

Two Rockland city employees, with a combined total of almost a century of service, retired in June. **Susan St. Clair** joined the city staff in 1974 through a work study program at Rockland District High School. She was hired as deputy tax collector in 1976 and retired as tax collector, treasurer and deputy city clerk. **Elizabeth Fowles** began working for the city in June 1980. She worked as an assistant to the general assistance director for 14 years and served the remaining years as deputy tax collector, deputy treasurer and assistant city clerk. 🌲





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Both courses include: (1) hands-on activities enabling participants to experience how AI can be used; (2) information and tips from industry experts; and (3) flexible learning options, allowing participants to work through sessions at a pace that is comfortable, accommodates learning styles and supports the work-family-life balance. Participants will receive a certificate once the training is completed.

In addition to the online courses, InnovateUS offers weekly workshops on a variety of topics, including sessions focused on program evaluation and data use. Not only are the workshops free but they are also recorded, enabling municipal officials to review sessions as schedules allow.

For more information about this exciting and free training opportunity, please visit InnovateUS at <https://innovate-us.org/partner/maine-municipal-association> or simply use the QR code!



## BANGOR

The city has received state funding to build a new live training facility that will be open to more than 100 fire departments in Maine. Bangor's existing building is nearly 40 years old. The new structure will be built with cargo shipping containers, which will allow it to be refigured for various situations. The city council in late May accepted a \$679,000 grant from the Maine Fire Prevention Services Commission for the new facility. The Bangor Fire Department will contribute \$24,000 to add a third story to the building. The new facility will offer six rooms where firefighters can battle live fires, rather than the one room in the existing structure. The building will be erected to coincide with the construction of a new \$2.4 million public safety facility, which should be completed by mid-2026.

## BUCKFIELD

Annual town meeting voters in June agreed overwhelmingly to accept a donation of land and cash from a lifelong resident who left the assets to the town after his death in March. If the town had not accepted the gifts, the 14-acre parcel of land and \$850,000 in cash would have been given to the Hells Angels motorcycle club. Voters endorsed an article to set aside two acres of land for a training facility for first responders. A second article to use the remaining acreage for a recreation area also passed. The \$850,000 will be used to maintain the property. Town officials said they didn't know why the man proposed giving the assets to the Hells Angels, since he was not a member of any club. They speculated it might have been a joke.

## PARIS

Voters at the June annual town meeting axed nearly \$1.2 million from the town's proposed \$7.5 million municipal budget, with much of the cut affecting the police department and capital projects. The proposed \$1.35 million for the police department was reduced to \$801,000 after an even steeper cut was defeated. The decision is likely to eliminate some patrol officer positions, officials said. A disgruntled resident, unhappy with the service he received at the town office, swayed enough voters to endorse a 20 percent cut in administrative services. The same voter also convinced the standing-room-only crowd to reduce capital spending by \$600,000. The final budget represents a \$600,000 cut from the current-year budget. Officials said they would make do with what voters had approved.

## PRESQUE ISLE

The city council in June approved a loan of up to \$150,000 to Homeless Services of Aroostook to keep Aroostook County's only homeless shelter open. Councilors had delayed a decision while shelter administrators sought more financial support from county towns—an effort that proved fruitless. After tabling the matter in May, councilors toured the shelter and inspected financial records. They also consulted experts in homelessness before taking the vote, officials said. The loan is short-term funding pending passage of a bill that would provide \$5 million to Maine homeless shelters. The shelter has up to 12 months to repay the city.

## ROCKLAND

Residents in June made history when they approved a bond to help develop affordable housing in the coastal town of 7,000, the first housing bond of its kind in Maine. The bond endorsed by a vote of 352-250 allows the city to borrow as much as \$10 million to boost development of affordable and workforce housing in an area where housing prices are out of reach for workers earning low or average incomes. The new fund is one of several actions taken by the city council in recent years to address the housing crisis, including making zoning changes to allow for more housing density. The city's housing task force will develop specifics for the fund, but proposals include funding infrastructure improvements to support new projects with low-interest loans, property acquisition and other measures. The bond will be revenue neutral, officials said, with the city recouping its investment through loan repayments and new taxes. The city's goal is to add 50 housing units a year for the next decade.

## ST. AGATHA

The town sponsored Aroostook County's first agricultural rescue training for firefighters during the first in a series of workshops in June. The training was developed by the Marshfield Clinic Research Institute in Wisconsin, which sent instructors to the training. The training series will focus on farm equipment rollovers, chemical fires, harvester accidents, building good relationships with farmers and large animal rescues. Participants also will learn how to map a farm using a smartphone app that can pinpoint the location of an emergency. Farming is a major industry in Aroostook and while accidents are rare, they can be deadly. The June training was free to first responders thanks to federal grant funding. The St. Agatha Fire Department is seeking support from local businesses and other sponsors to ensure the training remains free.

## UNION

Residents voted at town meeting in June to reject a proposal banning the use of camper trailers for permanent housing. The town's new code enforcement officer recommended the ban after determining that at least eight people were living in campers in town. While officials worried about the safety of residents living in mobile units, voters agreed by a vote of 354-209 that some people could not afford anything other than a camper.

## WATERVILLE

Struggling to recruit a new manager, the city council has asked city staff to draft proposed language for a November referendum asking residents to remove the requirement that a manager reside in the city. The consultant helping the council in its search for a manager reported that many potential candidates, both in and out of Maine, asked about the residency requirement. According to the consultant, there could be many people who are interested in the job but unable or unwilling to sell their homes and relocate. The council advertised the position twice, but none of the applicants attracted strong enough support to proceed. The job will be posted for a third time in September. 🌲

Interested in having your community featured in the People or News segments of the Maine Town & City? Share your successes with municipal officials across the state.

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## NEW PUBLIC COMMENT REQUIREMENTS

The vast majority of select boards and town or city councils voluntarily offer time during their board meetings for members of the public to provide input on items of municipal business. A new law, however, will now mandate that practice. See PL 2025, c. 409 (effective September 24, 2025).

The newly enacted 30-A M.R.S. § 2608 will now require that a “reasonable opportunity for public comment” be provided on “matters addressed by the municipal governing body at any regularly scheduled public meeting of the municipal officers” (except for board subcommittee meetings).

Note that the new requirement applies only to public, “regularly scheduled” board meetings; it will not require that public comment be allowed at special or emergency board meetings. Nor does the requirement apply to local boards or committees other than the board of municipal officers. Also, note that the public’s right to comment applies to “matters addressed” by the board at the meeting (i.e., agenda items) and not to all municipal issues generally.

Finally, the legislation preserves the right of the municipal officers to adopt and enforce reasonable standards governing public comment, including time limits and conduct standards. See MMA Legal Services’ newly updated Guidance on Public Comment at Board Meetings, available on MMA’s website ([www.memun.org/legal](http://www.memun.org/legal)) for more information on administering public comment periods. (By S.F.P.)

## FOAA: EXPLANATIONS, NEW RECORDS OR FORMATS NOT REQUIRED

(Reprinted as revised from the March 2017 Legal Notes)

*Question:* An individual routinely demands answers and explanations from us and insists on an emailed response. Are we legally obligated to comply with these requests?

*Answer:* No. Maine’s Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) does not require a public agency or official to answer questions or explain the agency’s or official’s actions or records. Nor does the law require an agency or official to provide a response in writing or deliver it in any particular medium. In fact, the law expressly states that officials are not required to create records that do not already exist. See 1 M.R.S. § 408-A(6). Whether and how an agency or official replies to questions or provides explanations is governed by other, more practical considerations, such as the subject matter, the nature and scope of the questions, and competing demands on the agency’s or official’s time and resources.

There are a few exceptions to the rule that FOAA does not require new records to be created, however. If a re-

quest for a record is denied (because the record is confidential, for example), the denial (or a tentative denial) must be given in writing, stating the reason, within five working days of the request. See 1 M.R.S. § 408-A(4). Also, every denial or conditional approval of any application, license or permit, and every dismissal or refusal to renew the contract of any public employee, must be in writing and, except for probationary employees, must include the reasons for the decision. See 1 M.R.S. § 407.

There is also a small exception to the rule that a requester cannot dictate the format of a response. If a public record exists and is electronically stored, the requester may have access to it either as a printed document or in the medium in which it is stored, unless the computer file cannot be redacted to prevent the disclosure of confidential information. See 1 M.R.S. § 408-A(7).

Even though the FOAA does not generally require that records be created, if a record already exists and it is a public record, any member of the public is entitled to access it as provided in the FOAA. For detailed instructions on how respond to a FOAA request, see MMA Legal Services’ Right to Know Information Packet, available in the “Legal” section of MMA’s website ([www.memun.org/legal](http://www.memun.org/legal)) (By S.F.P./R.P.F.)

## GOT A NEW MUNICIPAL CLERK, TAX COLLECTOR OR TREASURER?

(Updated from February 2015 Legal Notes)

Whenever a municipal office changes hands, certain actions must be taken to complete the transition. This is especially true for clerks, tax collectors and treasurers, who play key roles in the administration of local government. Here’s a checklist for transitioning to a new clerk, collector or treasurer:

**Oath of office.** Before assuming the duties of office, an official must be sworn. See 30-A M.R.S. § 2526(9). Before that, the official must be properly elected or appointed; there must be a record of the election or signed appointment papers and a record of the oath. An official elected or appointed to more than one office should be separately sworn to each. A new oath is also required for each new term of office an official is re-elected or re-appointed to serve.

**Bonding.** A clerk *may* be bonded, but a tax collector and a treasurer *must* be. See 30-A M.R.S. §§ 2651, 5601; 36 M.R.S. § 755. In any case, the bond issuer (“surety”) should be notified promptly so the new officeholder can be properly covered. See “Bonding Requirements,” *Maine Town & City*, Legal Notes, September 2024 for more details.

**Deputies.** A new clerk, collector or treasurer who wants a deputy must appoint the deputy in writing, and the dep-

uty must be sworn before performing any duties. See 30-A M.R.S. § 2603. A deputy's term is concurrent with that of the principal official, which means that a deputy is out of office as soon as the principal official leaves office and the deputy has no authority to act unless re-appointed and re-sworn by the new principal official. Any bonding surety should also be notified whenever deputies are appointed. See "All About Deputies," *Maine Town & City*, Legal Notes, March 2016 for more details.

**Notice to state agencies.** A new clerk must also serve either as the registrar or a deputy registrar of voters and must be appointed and sworn into that position. If serving as registrar, the clerk must notify the Secretary of State within 10 days of appointment and must attend state training at least once every two years. See 21-A M.R.S. § 101. Because clerks issue dog licenses (7 M.R.S. § 3942), the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Animal Welfare Program should also be notified. If a new clerk will be a state agent for hunting and fishing licenses, the clerk must contact the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for a state appointment and for training. See 12 M.R.S. § 10801.

A new tax collector is automatically the new excise tax collector unless the municipality has voted to designate someone else for that position. See 36 M.R.S. § 1487. If a new tax collector will serve as a state agent for motor vehicle registrations, the collector must contact the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles for a state appointment and for training. See 29-A M.R.S. § 201.

Whenever a new treasurer is chosen and sworn, the municipal clerk must notify the State Treasurer's Office. See 30-A M.R.S. § 5602. (The State Treasurer may not send money to the municipality until this notice is provided.) A new treasurer should also promptly take steps to become an authorized signatory on all municipal bank accounts.

**Records.** Local officials must deliver their records to their successors upon expiration of their term of office. See 5 M.R.S. § 95-B. (In most cases, "constructive" delivery—turning over the office keys, safe combinations, passwords, etc.—will suffice.) If an official refuses to do so, the State Archivist may demand delivery and enforce that demand by legal action. See 5 M.R.S. § 95-A.

**Recommitment of taxes.** A tax collector will not be released from collection obligations, nor can uncollected taxes be recommitted to a new collector, until there is a settlement with the municipal officers (select board or council). This means a full accounting for all taxes committed to the collector. Upon satisfactory settlement, the municipal officers may discharge the collector from any further legal obligation and any uncollected taxes may then be recommitted by the assessor(s) to the new collector. The process

## Municipal Calendar

**BY JULY 31** – Deadline for employers required to submit quarterly withholding taxes to file a return and remit payment to the State Tax Assessor (36 M.R.S. § 5253).

**BETWEEN MAY 1 AND OCTOBER 1** – Municipal officers may conduct process to close certain town ways to maintenance during winter months (23 M.R.S. § 2953). See MMA Legal Services' *Roads Manual*.


**BY AUGUST 15** – Monthly/quarterly/semi-annual expenditure statement/claim for General Assistance reimbursement to be filed via online portal, faxed to (207) 287-3455, emailed to [GeneralAssistance.DHHS@maine.gov](mailto:GeneralAssistance.DHHS@maine.gov), or sent to DHHS, General Assistance Unit, #11 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0011 (22 M.R.S. § 4311).

**SEPTEMBER 1 – Labor Day**, the first Monday in September, is a legal holiday (4 M.R.S. § 1051).

**BY SEPTEMBER 15** – Monthly/quarterly/semi-annual expenditure statement/claim for General Assistance reimbursement to be filed via online portal, faxed to (207) 287-3455, emailed to [GeneralAssistance.DHHS@maine.gov](mailto:GeneralAssistance.DHHS@maine.gov), or sent to DHHS, General Assistance Unit, #11 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0011 (22 M.R.S. § 4311).

for settlement, discharge and recommitment is described in MMA Legal Services' *Tax Collectors & Treasurers Manual*.

**FOAA Training.** Clerks, treasurers, and their deputies (but not collectors) must complete training in the Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) within 120 days after commencement of each new term of office to which they are elected or appointed. The training requirement can be fulfilled through a training program or by reviewing the FAQ section of the Maine Attorney General's FOAA website ([www.maine.gov/foaa](http://www.maine.gov/foaa)). See our "Right to Know" information packet for more information.

**Register with MMA.** Although not required, new officials may wish to register with MMA's member database and request a password to the members-only section of our website ([www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org)). This will provide free access to a wealth of resources, including MMA Legal Services' manuals, information packets and other guidance. MMA and affiliate groups, including the Maine Town & City Clerks' Association (MTCCA) and the Maine Municipal Tax Collectors' & Treasurers' Association (MMTCTA), also sponsor numerous training programs for new officials which can be accessed through MMA's website. (By *S.F.P./R.P.F.*) 



# TRAINING CALENDAR

## AUGUST

8/5	Tues.	You're the boss - Now what?	Augusta - MMA	MMA
8/5 & 6	Tues. & Wed.	MTCCA New Clerks Training	Bangor - Hilton Garden Inn & Zoom Webinar	MTCCA
8/13-15	Wed.-Fri.	MTCMA New England Management Institute	Newry - Sunday River - The Jordan Hotel	MTCMA
8/14	Thurs.	MLGHRA Summer Training	Augusta - MMA & Zoom Webinar Hybrid	MLGHRA
8/19	Tues.	MMA Lunch & Learn	Zoom Meeting	MMA
8/21 & 22	Thurs. & Fri.	MMTCTA Governmental Accounting Workshop	Augusta - MMA	MMTCTA
8/26	Tues.	MTCCA Voter Registration Workshop	Augusta - Augusta Civic Center	MTCCA
8/27	Wed.	MTCCA Title 21A Workshop	Augusta - Augusta Civic Center	MTCCA
8/27 & 28	Wed. & Thur.	MTCCA Athenian Dialogue	Zoom Meeting	MTCCA

## SEPTEMBER

9/3	Wed.	Understanding the Freedom of Access Act	Zoom Webinar	MMA
9/3 - 5	Wed. - Fri.	MAAO Fall Conference & Annual Meeting	Newry - Sunday River - The Jordan Hotel	MAAO
9/9	Tues.	Elected Officials Workshop	Augusta - MMA & Zoom Webinar Hybrid	MMA
9/10	Wed.	MTCCA Networking Day & Annual Meeting	Brewer - Jeff's Catering	MTCCA
9/11	Thurs.	MBOIA September Membership Meeting & Training	Portland - Portland Elks Lodge #188	MBOIA
9/17	Wed.	MFCA Membership Meeting	Brunswick - Greenwood Emergency Vehicles	MFCA
9/17 - 9/19	Wed. - Fri.	MeWEA Fall Convention	Newry - Sunday River - Grand Summit Hotel	MEWEA
9/23	Tues.	MTCCA Voter Registration Workshop	Presque Isle - The Northeastland	MTCCA
9/24	Wed.	MTCCA Title 21A Workshop	Presque Isle - The Northeastland	MTCCA
9/24	Wed.	MMTCTA Payroll Procedures	Augusta - MMA	MMTCTA
9/26	Fri.	MWDA GA Basics Workshop	Augusta - MMA	MWDA
9/29	Mon.	Verbal Judo for the Contact Professional - 1 DAY	Portland - Portland Elks Lodge #188	MMA

## OCTOBER

<b>10/8 &amp; 9</b>	<b>WED. &amp; THURS.</b>	<b>MMA 89TH ANNUAL CONVENTION</b>	<b>BANGOR - CROSS INSURANCE ARENA</b>	<b>MMA</b>
10/16	Thurs.	MMTCTA Municipal Law for Tax Collectors & Treasurers	Augusta - MMA	MMTCTA
10/17	Fri.	MWDA Advanced GA Workshop	Augusta - MMA	MWDA
10/21	Tues.	MMA Lunch & Learn	Zoom Meeting	MMA
10/22	Wed.	Labor & Employment Law	Augusta - MMA & Zoom Webinar Hybrid	MMA
10/23 & 24	Thurs. & Fri.	Title 30A- Town Meeting and Local Election Law	Zoom Webinar	MTCCA
10/28	Tues.	Planning Board/Boards of Appeal	Augusta - MMA & Zoom Webinar Hybrid	MMA
10/28	Tues.	MBOIA MUBEC Training	Portland - Keeley's Banquet Center	MBOIA
10/29	Wed.	MEGFOA Fall Training & Annual Meeting	Augusta - MMA & Zoom Webinar Hybrid	MEGFOA
10/29	Wed.	MBOIA MUBEC Training	Brewer - Jeff's Catering	MBOIA
10/30	Thurs.	MBOIA MUBEC Training	Waterville - Waterville Elks Lodge	MBOIA
10/31	Fri.	MBOIA MUBEC Training	Waterville - Waterville Elks Lodge	MBOIA

Registration for trainings is typically open 8 weeks prior to the event date, please check the website for availability - [www.memun.org/Training](http://www.memun.org/Training)

# MAINE MUNICIPAL BOND BANK

## 2025 FALL BOND ISSUE SCHEDULE

Capital financing through the Bond Bank's General Bond Resolution Program allows borrowers to take advantage of the Bond Bank's high investment grade rating, low interest rates and reduced issuance and post issuance costs. Traditionally twice a year, in the spring and fall, the Bond Bank will consolidate eligible applicants and engage in a bond sale. From application to receipt of funds the bond issuance process usually lasts three to four months. Below is the schedule for the Bond Bank's Fall Issue. Applications can be found on our website at [www.mmbb.com](http://www.mmbb.com).

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> – Application Deadline**

**Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> – Application Approval (Board Meeting)**

**Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – Preliminary opinions and loan agreements due from bond counsel of each borrower**

**Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> – Last date for signing school contracts and rates in place for water district. PUC approvals due**

**Week of September 29<sup>th</sup> – Maine Municipal Bond Bank Pricing**

**Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Final documents due from bond counsel**

**Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – Pre-closing**

**Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – Closing – Bond proceeds available (1:00pm)**

If you would like to participate in or have any questions regarding this bond issue, please contact Toni Reed at (207)622-9386 ext. 213 or [treed@mmbb.com](mailto:treed@mmbb.com).



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- Coastal and shoreline access
- Bond issues and financing options
- Municipal employment and labor matters
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