

**2025 LD List**  
**132<sup>nd</sup> Legislature – First Session**  
*As of 1/29/25*

**January 28, 2025**

[LD 287](#) *An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation Construction Projects* (Sponsored by Rep. Lee of Auburn)

Beginning on January 1, 2026, this bill requires the Department of Transportation when making improvements to state and state aid highways with construction costs that exceed \$500,000 to: (1) identify locations on the highway that do not meet certain interconnectivity and safety standards, including compliance with federal ADA sidewalk design requirements; (2) consult with municipalities regarding planned connections with other transportation infrastructure adjacent to the construction project, including public transportation services, and on speed management techniques to minimize crash exposure; (3) adjust posted speed limits to eliminate serious and fatal motor vehicle crashes; and (4) plan, design and construct roads that contribute to transportation network connectivity and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motor vehicle uses. The bill also exempts emergency work from the interconnectivity and safety improvements, and further establishes a list to prioritize funding for projects that: (1) provide street access for all transportation users; (2) encourage mixed land uses, infill development, walkable neighborhoods, and robust community and public participation and input; (3) facilitate access to affordable or dense housing; and (4) preserve open space, wetlands, parks, farms and woodlands.

[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. Bridge of Augusta)

This bill amends the law governing the date by which municipalities must pay county taxes by authorizing the county commissioners to establish quarterly, biannual or other due dates by which a specific portion of the total tax amount must be paid.

[LD 285](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Amend Its Rules Regarding Seasonal Load Restrictions on Certain State and State Aid Highways* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Frost of Belgrade)

This emergency resolve directs the Department of Transportation to amend rules defining the heavy load restrictions on posted state and state aid highways between November 15 to June 1, by adding greenhouse supplies to the list of special commodities eligible for a limited load permit. As defined greenhouse supplies include compost, planting mix, containers for growing seedlings and greenhouse coverings and greenhouse construction materials

[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 of Woolwich)

This bill creates an additional revenue-sharing resource for municipalities by establishing the Local Government Hospitality Fund and distributing 1% of meals and lodging sales tax

revenue to the municipalities where the tax was collected in proportion to the amount of meals and lodging tax collected by each municipality.

[LD 276](#) *An Act Regarding Inland Fisheries and Wildlife* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

This concept draft bill would amend the laws governing inland fisheries and wildlife.

[LD 274 Part A & Language](#) *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* (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

This emergency bill is the Governor's proposed Highway Fund biennial state budget for FY 2026 and FY 2027. Of municipal interest this emergency bill: (1) allocates roughly \$31 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 for distribution to municipalities under the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP), which represents a \$6 million increase over the FY 2025 distribution; and in Part H, clarifies that the portion of the Department of Transportation's budget distributed to municipalities via LRAP is 9% of departments' funding for "general construction and maintenance of highways and bridges."

[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* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This emergency resolve provides for 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.

[LD 266](#) *An Act to Require the Updating of Voter Registration Signatures* (Sponsored by Rep. Smith of Palermo)

Beginning on January 1, 2026, this bill provides that a voter signature in the central voter registration (CVR) system is valid for five years. The bill also requires municipal registrars to annually review the system and notify and provide voters whose signatures will expire in the current calendar year with a registration update form authorized by the Secretary of State. Municipal registrars are also required to load a voter's updated signature into the CVR.

[LD 264](#) *An Act to Remove the 12-month Waiting Period for the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This bill repeals the requirement that an otherwise eligible applicant must wait 12 months before receiving the homestead exemption.

[LD 263](#) *Resolve, to Provide Rural Nonmedical Transportation Services to the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Receiving Home and Community Benefits Under MaineCare* (Sponsored by Rep. Shagoury of Hallowell)

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish an 18-month pilot project providing operators of nonmedical transportation services up to \$2,000 for the

nonmedical transportation services provided to an individual qualifying for certain MaineCare services when the individual has no other means of transportation. No later than December 3, 2025, the bill also directs the department to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, including an assessment of the program's long-term viability. The committee is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 261 *An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting* (Sponsored by Rep. Bunker of Farmington)

This bill provides that municipal ordinances regulating timber harvesting activities 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; (2) a copy of the ordinance has been filed with the bureau; and (3) if the ordinance is consistent with a comprehensive plan adopted by the local legislative body. The bill also requires the clerk from a municipality that has a timber harvesting ordinance in place as of January 1, 2026, to provide copies to the bureau by April 30, 2026 and within 30 days for ordinances adopted after January 1, 2026. The bill also contains a reach back provision requiring ordinances adopted between September 1, 1990, and January 1, 2026, to meet the proposed requirements by June 30, 2029.

LD 260 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law* (Sponsored by Rep. Sargent of York)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to prohibit the denial or abridgment by the State or any political subdivision of equal rights based on the actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental disability, ancestry or national origin of an individual.

LD 259 *An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission in Statute* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill establishes the 28-member Criminal Records Review Commission, which includes members from organizations representing county sheriffs and municipal police chiefs, and directs the commission to review laws, rules and procedures pertaining to criminal history record information.

LD 255 *An Act to Support Mobile Home Residents in Purchasing Their Mobile Home Parks* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill provides \$3.5 million in one-time funding for the manufactured and mobile home park preservation and assistance program.

## **January 21, 2025**

LD 252 *An Act to Withdraw from the National Popular Vote Compact* (Sponsored by Rep. Bagshaw of Windham)

This bill repeals the National Popular Vote for President Act and makes changes to other election statutes to reflect the repeal.

LD 251 *An Act to Protect the Confidentiality of Information of Individual Customers of a Public Utility* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This bill excludes from the definition of "public records" in the Freedom of Access Act a public utility customer's information that is designated as confidential in rules adopted by the Public Utilities Commission.

LD 247 *An Act Regarding Recommendations for Changing Place Names in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill establishes the Maine Board on Place Names as an advisory board directed to establish policies and procedures for naming and renaming places and of municipal note, requires municipal officers and county commissioners to notify and work with the board if a place name in a municipality or unorganized territory is found by the Maine Human Rights Commission to be offensive.

LD 245 *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This emergency bill implements recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services by creating and directing the 26-member Maine Emergency Services Commission to monitor and evaluate Maine's EMS system and provide recommendations on necessary changes to the system. The members of the commission include a variety of full-time and volunteer EMS providers, licensed EMS operators, and members representing statewide associations of municipalities and fire chiefs. The bill also authorizes municipal officers to adopt plans stipulating the method by which transporting EMS will be delivered within the municipality and to submit a copy of the plan to the Maine EMS Commission and authorizes an emergency medical services provider to render emergency medical services within a hospital or health care facility where the provider is a contractor of the hospital or facility. Finally, the bill directs Maine EMS to: (1) conduct a funding needs analysis of communities seeking to engage in regional collaboration or the adoption of a regional model in the delivery of emergency medical services; (2) by December 3, 2025, submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety a report, including proposed draft legislation, for the reorganization of the Emergency Medical Services' Board; and (3) no later than July 1, 2026, develop and implement a public information campaign designed to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the delivery of emergency medical services.

LD 244 *An Act to Provide Safe, Short-term Housing to Indigent Individuals Recently Released from Correctional Facilities* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill directs the Department of Corrections to administer a program to provide transitional housing to recently released indigent clients and establishes a fund to implement the program. This bill also directs the Maine State Housing Authority to study long-term solutions for transitional housing for recently released indigent clients.

LD 243 *Resolve, to Name a Railroad Crossing in Wiscasset the James Weldon Johnson Crossing* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

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 242 *An Act to Extend the Maximum Time Period for Certain School Construction Bonds* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill extends from 25 to 30 years the period that temporary notes can be issued in anticipation of a sale of school construction bond.

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.)

This bill authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to approve a low-income assistance program to enable a qualifying resident to receive a discount or credit on the amount the ratepayer owes to a water utility or group of water utilities.

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.)

This bill provides that the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982 may not be construed to prohibit licensed EMS personnel from rendering medical services in a hospital or other health care facility setting if those services are rendered in the person's capacity as an employee, volunteer or contracted agent of the hospital or health care facility.

LD 237 *An Act to Increase the Percentage of Funds Provided to Municipalities Through State-Municipal Revenue Sharing* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill increases the percentage of state sales and income tax revenues distributed through the state-municipal revenue sharing from the current 5% to 5.5% on January 1, 2026 and to 6% on January 1, 2027.

LD 236 *An Act to Provide Legislative Oversight of the Rule-making Petition Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington)

This bill requires rules advanced via citizen petition to be major substantive.

LD 235 *Resolve, Regarding the Operation and Future Capacity of State-owned Landfills* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington)

This emergency resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to: (1) evaluate the potential costs and benefits associated with the state's ownership of the former paper mill landfill in the Town of Jay for the primary purpose of increasing disposal capacity for wastewater treatment plant sludge and special waste but with consideration given to the potential for the disposal of municipal solid waste at that landfill; (2) evaluate options for amending the operating services agreement of February 5, 2004 between the bureau and the operator of the state-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town concerning the operation of the landfill for the purpose of enhancing the transparency and oversight of the operations and related activities of the landfill; and (3) on or before January 1, 2026 submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources reports outlining findings and recommendations of the evaluation of the former Jay paper mill and Juniper Ridge Landfill agreement.

LD 234 *An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington)

This bill repeals the laws governing ranked choice voting for the: (1) primary elections for federal and state offices; (2) general and special election for the offices of U.S. Senator and Representative to Congress; and (3) general presidential elections.

LD 232 *An Act to Impose a Vehicle Weight Limit on Route 46 in the Town of Eddington* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington)

Beginning on January 1, 2026, this bill prohibits a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of more than 33,000 pounds from operating on Route 46 in the Town of Eddington

LD 231 *An Act to Update the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington)

This bill amends the solid waste management hierarchy by moving “waste processing that reduces the volume of waste needing land disposal” to the third priority, rather than its current fifth priority ranking.

LD 228 *An Act to Allow Coastal Seawalls to Be Raised by up to 2 Feet in Order to Accommodate Predicted Sea Level Rise* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Foley of Wells)

This emergency bill amends the Natural Resources Protection Act by authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to approve a permit or permit by rule for a one-time increase in the height of a seawall or similar structure in a coastal sand dune system, as long as the seawall is in existence on January 1, 2025, the height of the seawall is increased by no more than two feet, and the seawall otherwise meets all applicable requirements adopted by the department by rule.

LD 226 *An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport by Extending Conservation Easement Protections* (Sponsored by Rep. Paul of Winterport)

This bill directs the Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, to extend the current conservation easement to cover all lands on Sears Island that are not managed under a permanent buffer conservation easement between the state and the trust.

LD 225 *An Act to Reduce Property Taxes and Finance Public School Construction and Education Through a 3 Percent Sales Tax on Hotel and Lodging Place Rentals* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This bill increases by 3% the sales tax on hotels and lodging place rentals and requires those revenues to be used to fund school construction and kindergarten to grade 12 education.

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)

This bill updates the definition of "terrorism" in the laws governing the Maine Emergency Management Agency to include acts against non-physical infrastructure, including, but not limited to, information and telecommunications technology infrastructure, systems or services or critical infrastructure. The bill also defines the term "cyberattack" to mean the act of targeting the state's information and telecommunications technology infrastructure, systems or services or critical infrastructure, for the purpose of disrupting, disabling, destroying or maliciously controlling such infrastructure, systems or services or destroying the integrity of the data or stealing the information.

LD 223 *An Act to Amend the Mining Excise Tax Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

This bill implements the recommendations found in the Bureau of Revenue Services' report regarding the state's taxation of metallic mineral mining, which includes exempting unextracted minerals from the property tax.

LD 222 *An Act to Establish a Take-back and Disposal Program for Firefighting and Fire-suppressing Foam to Which Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Have Been Added* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick)

This bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Office of the State Marshal, to design and implement by July 1, 2027, a take-back and disposal program for firefighting and fire-suppressing foam to which PFAS have been intentionally added. The department is also authorized to contract with a third-party to implement and administer the program and may adopt rules regulating the take-back program.

LD 219 *An Act to Limit Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs to a One-for-one Exchange* (Sponsored by Rep. Mastraccio of Sanford)

This bill limits the number of hypodermic needles that may be exchanged through a program certified by Maine CDC on a one-to-one basis.

LD 215 *An Act to Establish a Program to Assist Residents of Large Recovery Residences* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield)

This bill creates the Recovery Residence Rental Assistance program funded with state appropriations, allocations and other public and private resources to assist with rental fees owed by individuals who reside in certified recovery residences that have the capacity to serve 20 or more residents at a time.

LD 211 *An Act to Make School Safer for Students with Epilepsy and Other Seizure Disorders by Requiring Seizure Action Plans and Training in Schools* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

Beginning July 1, 2026, this bill requires school administrative units to employ at least one individual who is trained to administer or assist with the self-administration of seizure rescue medication and further requires school employees subject to professional development mandates to participate in a minimum of one hour of self-directed study related to seizure disorders annually. The bill also requires school districts to establish a seizure action plan, developed in collaboration with a parent or guardian of a student diagnosed with a seizure disorder and starting with the 2026-2027 school year, provide age-appropriate seizure education program for all students.

LD 210 No LD # 2 Part A & Language *An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027* (Emergency) (Governor's Bill)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Part F – Cannabis Excise Tax (Pages 44-46).** Reduces the cannabis excise tax rates by one-third and concurrently increases the sales tax on adult use cannabis to 14%. It also changes the adult use cannabis sales tax and excise tax transfers to the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund from 12% to 9%.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**January 14, 2025**

[LD 200](#) *Resolve, to Rename the Sebago Lake Road Crossing Bridge in the Town of Standish* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to rename the Sebago Lake Road Crossing Bridge on Chadbourne Road the Town of Standish Veterans Memorial Bridge.

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

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

LD 193 *An Act to Fund Students in Maine Schools Who Are Experiencing Homelessness* (Sponsored by Rep. Archer of Saco)

This bill amends the school funding formula to provide an additional .50 weight to a school administrative unit's per-pupil count for each student experiencing homelessness and adds these weights to the calculation of the base total of a school administrative unit's total operating allocation.

LD 187 *An Act to Prohibit Labor Organizations from Imposing Mandatory Service Fees on Nonmembers* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner)

This bill repeals the ability of a bargaining agent to assess a service fee on employees who are represented by but are not members of a labor organization for expenditures related to representation.

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

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

LD 184 *Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study the Foreclosure Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

This resolve establishes and directs a seven-member commission, including legislators, the Maine State Housing Authority and representatives from the banking and credit union industries, to study agency rules governing the foreclosure process, including various timelines and the impact on the availability of foreclosed properties for affordable housing; the effect the foreclosure process has on mortgages sold in the secondary mortgage market; and how to mitigate identified problems without losing existing consumer protections. No later than December 3, 2025, the commission is required to submit its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

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

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

LD 181 *An Act to Modify the Calculation of Pupil Counts Used for Determination of School Administrative Unit Operating Costs* (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

This bill amends the calculation of the pupil count used to determine education operating costs by providing that beginning in FY 2026-27, the pupil count is the greater of the average of the pupil counts on October 1st of the three most recent calendar years prior to the year of funding or the most recent October 1st pupil count.

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

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

LD 176 *An Act to Establish a Regional Ambulance Service in Southern Penobscot County* (Sponsored by Rep. Fredette of Newport)

This bill establishes the Southern Penobscot County Regional Ambulance Service Authority to facilitate the provision of emergency medical services, which is governed by a board represented by one municipal official from each member community. The bill also describes the authority's financial powers, responsibilities and duties, and organizational structure, as well as the process for withdrawing from the authority.

LD 175 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Ensure That Only Citizens of the United States May Participate in Elections* (Sponsored by Rep. Libby of Auburn)

This resolution amends the Constitution of Maine to specify that only U.S. citizens who are 18 years of age or older and are residents Maine are eligible to vote for governor, senators and representatives and in any election in the city, town or plantation where those citizens reside, except for persons under guardianship for reasons of mental illness.

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

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

LD 168 *An Act to Improve Safety in Public Schools by Requiring Silent Electronic Notification Systems in Classrooms* (Sponsored by Rep. Sinclair of Bath)

This bill requires public elementary or secondary schools that enroll 12 or more students to equip each classroom with a silent electronic notification system that automatically notifies the E-911 system, school security personnel, and local law enforcement agencies when activated.

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

This bill prohibits the Maine Turnpike Authority from charging or collecting a toll when an authorized emergency vehicle is responding to an emergency, conducting a non-emergency

medical transport, or traveling to a repair facility that specializes in the maintenance of emergency vehicles.

LD 162 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Carmel the Kevin M. Howell Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Thorne of Carmel)

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 161 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of the State Subdivision Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LD 153 *An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Mooring of Watercraft* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This bill prohibits a person from securing a watercraft to a mooring without receiving permission from the mooring's owner or lessee and establishes penalties and exceptions to that prohibition.

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

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

LD 151 *An Act to Allow Businesses to Impose a Surcharge on Credit Card and Debit Card Transactions* (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

This bill extends the provision in existing law allowing governmental entities to impose surcharges for payments made with a credit or debit card to all sellers and transactions.

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

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

## **January 8, 2025**

LD 138 *An Act to Exempt Airports from Certain State Endangered and Threatened Species Habitat Protections* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill exempts the property of an airport from protections for state endangered and threatened species that may require special management considerations or protection guidelines and from restrictions on state and municipal approval of projects that may significantly impact state endangered and threatened species habitats.

LD 133 *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Nuisance Dogs* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill amends the definition of "nuisance dog" to include a dog or wolf hybrid that disturbs the peace of an individual by excessive barking, howling or yelping, and the individual is not trespassing on the dog or wolf hybrid owner's or keeper's premises at the time of the excessive barking, howling or yelping. The bill also explicitly authorizes a person to file a written complaint to a sheriff, local law enforcement officer or animal control officer if the person's peace has been disrupted by a dog that barks, howls or yelps excessively.

LD 132 *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Constitution of Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

This resolve establishes a 12-member Commission to Study the Constitution of Maine, which consists of eight legislators, the Secretary of State, a constitutional law scholar, and representatives of a federally recognized Indian tribe and a national civil liberties organization. The commission is tasked with reviewing the constitution and developing recommendations to: (1) strengthen Maine's Declaration of Rights, Article I of the Constitution of Maine; (2) remove procedural minutiae from the constitution that are better left to statute; (3) enable the popular election of constitutional officers; (4) establish four-year terms for Senators; (5) reduce the number of members of the Legislature; (6) establish a unicameral Legislature; (7) allow constitutional amendments to be initiated directly by the people; and (8) examine any

constitutional resolutions introduced in the 132nd Legislature. No later than November 4, 2026, the commission is required to submit its report and recommendations, including suggested amendments to the constitution, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2027.

LD 131 *An Act to Eliminate the Provision of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 That Allows an Employer Member of a Group Self-insurer to Insure Its Employees Through a Fronting Arrangement* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

This bill eliminates the authority for an employer member of a group self-insurer to form workers' compensation fronting company arrangements.

LD 128 *An Act to Support Permitting of Certain Multifamily Housing Developments Under the Site Location of Development Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends the definition of "subdivision" for purposes of the site location of development laws to allow lots that include detached residential housing designed to accommodate up to four families, including accessory dwelling units, instead of just single-family housing. This bill also specifies that rules made by the Board of Environmental Protection to permit, by rule, any class of activities that would otherwise require individual issuance of a permit or approval by the board are routine technical rules.

LD 124 *An Act to Protect the Right to Food* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

Of municipal interest, this bill 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 vegetable gardens, permaculture, edible landscaping, food forests or community gardens in a way that is inconsistent with the act. The garden protection proposal 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 bill also amends the 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 six principles to further preserve rural life and values and to protect the right to food, including focusing on people, valuing producers, localizing food systems, promoting local control, building knowledge and skills and working with nature; and (4) extending the authority of municipalities to adopt food sovereignty related ordinances to those regulating traditional foodways and further providing that the law does not require municipalities to adopt a specific form or framework in the process of adopting traditional foodways or direct producer-to-consumer transactions. As defined in the bill, "traditional foodways" are 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 123 *An Act Regarding Licensure of Emergency Medical Services Persons* (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill amends the law governing the minimum requirements for licensing and relicensing of emergency medical services persons by removing the requirement that a person seeking licensing or relicensing 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 121 *An Act to Include Brush and Yard Debris in the Definition of "Litter"* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This bill amends the Maine Litter Control Act by adding brush and yard debris to the definition of "litter."

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.)

This bill 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.

LD 118 *An Act to Allow Candidates for Sheriff and District Attorney to Participate in the Maine Clean Election Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill allows candidates for the offices of sheriff and district attorney to participate in the Maine Clean Election Act beginning with the 2028 election cycle.

LD 115 *An Act to Assess Impact Fees on Megayachts* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill provides that a megayacht is subject to an impact fee of \$10 per foot of length over 150 feet for each day up to 30 consecutive days that the megayacht is secured to a slip in a municipality that collects slip fees. The bill provides that commercial fishing vessels, certain commercial cruise vessels, commercial scientific research vessels, marine salvage or construction equipment vessels, commercial freight-carrying vessels, vessels built before 1950, vessels made primarily of wood, military vessels and vessels owned by academic institutions are not included in the definition of "megayacht." Municipalities are allowed to retain 10% of all impact fees, with the remainder to be transferred to the Megayacht Fund, as established in the bill, and requires that 50% of funds be used to support harbor infrastructure and sea level rise mitigation infrastructure and 50% of funds support public transit infrastructure, including ferries and land-based public transportation.

LD 114 *An Act to Amend the Charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

This bill 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 111 *An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance* (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast)

This bill requires the State to pay 65% of a retired teacher's share of the premium for group accident and sickness or health insurance from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 and 70% after July 1, 2026.

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)

This bill requires that a direct share subdivision that receives opioid settlement funds in accordance with the Maine State-Subdivision Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement Regarding Use of Settlement Funds, dated and signed on January 26, 2022, and the Maine State-Subdivision Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement Regarding Use of Settlement Funds-2023, dated and signed on May 2, 2023, collectively referred to in the bill as the Memoranda of Understanding, must submit an annual report to the Attorney General detailing the amount of such funds received and expended in the prior calendar year and including a description of each such expenditure. The first annual report must be submitted by January 15, 2026. A direct share subdivision is defined in the bill as a municipality or county that is a plaintiff subdivision identified in Exhibit 3 of the Memoranda of Understanding.

LD 107 *An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing* (Sponsored by Rep. Zager of Portland)

This bill requires insurance coverage, including coverage in the MaineCare program, for biomarker testing.

LD 106 *An Act Regarding the Taxation of Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

This bill provides that benefits paid from the paid family and medical leave program are subject to state income tax to the extent those benefits are not included in the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income. It also provides that a taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income may be reduced by the amount subject to repayment that has been previously taxed by the State. It also allows individuals filing a new claim for family leave benefits or medical leave benefits to elect to have the administrator of the program deduct and withhold state income tax from the individual's payment of benefits at the rate of 5% and requires the administrator of the program to deduct and withhold state income tax. It also requires the department to advise individuals filing a new claim for benefits that the benefits are subject to state income tax.

LD 104 *An Act to Protect the Health of Medical Cannabis Patients and Streamline the Mandatory Testing of Cannabis* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford)

In large part, this bill amends the medical cannabis law by creating the regulations and standards necessary to require registered caregivers, registered dispensaries and manufacturing facilities to submit harvested cannabis to a registered cannabis testing facility to ensure that the harvested cannabis does not exceed the maximum level of allowable contamination for any contaminant that is injurious to health, before being sold to a qualifying patient. The bill also creates testing facility requirements, both through statute and rulemaking authority, which requires an owner to obtain authorization from the municipality where the testing facility will be located. The bill also directs the Office of Cannabis Policy to adopt labeling, packaging and other necessary health and safety rules regulating harvested cannabis sold or transferred to a qualifying patient.

LD 102 *An Act to Notify the Public of Juveniles Who Are Wanted Persons* (Sponsored by Rep. Lajoie of Lewiston)

This bill allows criminal justice agencies to provide to the public certain juvenile history record information for the purpose of apprehending a juvenile that has escaped from custody as defined by the Maine Criminal Code or when a warrant of arrest has been issued alleging the juvenile has committed a crime that would constitute murder or a Class A, B, C or D crime if the juvenile were an adult.

LD 101 *An Act Regarding Public Records and Fees for Requesting Public Records from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife* (Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

In part, this bill creates an exception from the provisions of the Freedom of Access Act that govern the fees that an agency may charge to a person requesting public records and allows the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to charge a separate fee of \$5 per record for copies of applications, licenses, registrations, permits and recreational vehicle crash reports and 3 cents per name or per record, with a minimum charge of \$10, for spreadsheets and lists of records related to applications, licenses, registrations, permits and recreational vehicle crash reports. These fees are subject to sales tax, and therefore the bill also modifies the provisions of tax law defining "retail sale" and "sales price" to facilitate applying a sales tax to these fees.

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)

This bill 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 child abuse or neglect against an employee of or a student registered in that school administrative unit.

LD 97 *An Act to Facilitate the Improvement of Credit Scores of Residents of Department of Corrections Facilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Sayre of Kennebunk)

This bill allows the commissioner of the Department of Corrections, by rule, to allow a client of a correctional facility to receive a loan from a finance institution, without the funds being deposited in the department's general client account or telephone account, provided the loan is: (1) designed to improve the client's credit score; (2) deposited into the client's savings account at the financial institution; (3) secured by the money dispersed by the client from the department's general client account to the savings account at the financial institution; and (4) paid in full from the secured funds in the client's account.

LD 96 *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles and Traffic Law Governing Mandatory Driver's License Suspension for Refusing Testing for Drugs or a Combination of Drugs and Alcohol* (Sponsored by Rep. Bunker of Farmington)

Under current law, a person is required to submit to a blood or urine test selected by a drug recognition expert if that drug recognition expert has probable cause to believe that the person is under the influence of a specific category of drug, a combination of specific categories of drugs or a combination of alcohol and one or more specific categories of drugs. The bill

changes this provision by broadening the probable cause to include impairment caused by "a drug" or "drugs" generally, replacing "drug recognition expert" with "law enforcement officer" and modifying the requirements pertaining to the type of test or tests required under the provision. The bill also adds a provision clarifying that the Secretary of State is required to immediately suspend the driver's license of a person who fails to submit to and complete a test under the provision of law governing drug impairment assessments in accordance with existing procedures

LD 95 *An Act to Amend and Simplify Certain Wildlife Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Cluchey of Bowdoinham)

Of municipal interest, the bill reorganizes the statutes regulating the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's rulemaking authority over opening hunting areas, which still require approval by the municipal legislative body.

LD 92 *An Act Regarding the Management of the Waste Components of a Solar Energy Development upon Decommissioning* (Sponsored by Rep. Lemelin of Chelsea)

This bill amends the solar energy development decommissioning laws by requiring that the recycling or disposal of waste components of a solar energy development occurs within 90 days of the physical removal of the waste components from the development.

LD 86 *An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Education* (Sponsored by Rep. Sargent of York)

In part, this bill 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 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)

This bill 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 as not yet married, the state register or municipal clerk to inform parties that they cannot marry until the judge of probate approves the marriage; and (3 ) marriage licenses returned later than 90 working days following the marriage be marked as delayed in filing. The bill also repeals the provision in statute requiring the municipal clerk 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 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)

This bill 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 79 *Resolve, to Rename the Bridge on Main Street Between Biddeford and Saco the General Wallace H. Nutting Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3423 on Main Street between the City of Biddeford and the City of Saco the General Wallace H. Nutting Memorial Bridge.

LD 71 *An Act Regarding Special Education Funding* (Sponsored by Rep. Mathieson of Kittery)

Beginning in fiscal year 2026, this bill requires the state to fund no less than 55% of special education costs under the essential programs and services school funding formula.

LD 69 *An Act to Repeal the Law Restricting the Use of Certain Plastic, Paper and Single-use Bags* (Sponsored by Rep. Bagshaw of Windham)

This bill repeals the law restricting the use of recycled paper bags, reusable bags made of plastic and single-use carry-out bags used at a point of sale.

LD 68 *An Act to Amend the State Tax Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

Of municipal interest, this bill changes from April 1 to May 1, the date by which the owner of business equipment tax exemption (BETE) property 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 bill 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. The bill also authorizes the State Tax Assessor to provide access to BETE applications, rather than provide copies of the applications.

LD 65 *An Act to Update the Definition of "Coastal Wetlands" Under the Natural Resources Protection Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This bill amends the definition of "coastal wetlands" in the Natural Resources Protection Act by clarifying that coastal wetlands include all tidal and subtidal lands 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.

LD 62 *An Act to Support Municipal and County Actions on Dam Ownership* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This bill amends the Department of Environmental Protection's process regarding the release of dam ownership by requiring the owner to provide sufficient information to enable individuals and groups who own property abutting the dam site, commissioners from the Departments of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, director of the MEMA, and representatives of tribal government, municipal officers and county commissioners in the area where the dam is located to determine whether to assume ownership of the dam. The bill also amends the laws governing the timing of a municipal public meeting regarding the release of ownership from no later than 60 days to 180 days after receiving notice of such an action.

LD 61 *An Act to Regulate Employer Surveillance to Protect Workers* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor)

This bill requires employers, including public employers, to provide notice before initiating employee surveillance through electronic devices or systems, and further restricts the use of audiovisual monitoring in an employee's residence, personal vehicle, or on personal property. The bill provides an exception for the use of surveillance cameras for security or safety purposes or the use of global positioning system tracking or other safety devices on vehicles owned by the employer but operated by the employee. The bill also: (1) authorizes an employee to decline a request by an employer to install data collection or transmission applications on the employee's personal electronic devices; (2) requires an employer to notify prospective employees during the interview process that the employer engages in employer surveillance; (3) gives rule-making authority to the Department of Labor; and (4) creates a private right of action for persons aggrieved by a violation by an employer.

LD 60 *An Act to Allow Employees to Request Flexible Work Schedules* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor)

This bill requires employers, including public employers, to consider an employee's request for a flexible work schedule and in the process of considering the request determine if it can be granted in a manner that is consistent with employer operations. Such considerations include the cost to the employer, impacts on employee morale, ability to meet consumer demands, and ability to reorganize work among existing employees, to name a few. Employers must inform an employee, in writing, of the decision, and if denying the request, specify the reasons for the denial. If the request is granted, the employee and employer must mutually agree on the duration, time and terms of the flexible work schedule. With as much notice as possible, the employer can rescind the flexible work schedule when deemed necessary. An employer that takes action to prevent or penalizes an employee for requesting a flexible work schedule is subject to a civil penalty between \$100 to \$500 payable to the Department of Labor. The bill further provides that a collective bargaining agreement may provide employees with more expansive flexible work schedule rights.

LD 56 *An Act to Remove the 5 Cent Fee for Bags in Retail Stores (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Rep. Lemelin of Chelsea)

This emergency bill repeals the 5¢ fee currently required when a retail establishment provides a recycled paper bag or a reusable bag made of plastic to bag products at the point of sale.

LD 55 *An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Accrual of Earned Paid Leave* (Sponsored by Rep. Lemelin of Chelsea)

This amends the law governing earned paid leave to provide that an employee is entitled to earn one hour of paid leave from a single employer for every 40 hours worked, up to the accrual limit specified in the employer's policy. The bill also provides that accrued and unused hours of earned paid leave from the previous year must be available for use by an employee in the current year of employment and further clarifies that accrued and unused hours from the previous year may not reduce the total amount of hours of paid leave an employee is entitled to earn in the current year, up to the accrual limit specified in the employer's policy.

LD 54 *An Act to Require Employers to Disclose Pay Ranges and Maintain Records of Employees' Pay Histories* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor)

This bill requires employers with 10 or more employees to include pay ranges in job postings. The bill also requires that upon request of an employee, an employer disclose the range of pay offered for the position the employee holds. Employers are also required to maintain a record of each position held by an employee and the pay history for the duration of the individual employment and for three years after termination.

LD 53 *An Act to Establish the November General Election Day as a State Holiday* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This bill designates the day of the November general election occurring in an even numbered year as a state holiday.

LD 50 *An Act to Provide the Right of First Refusal to Towns in Which the University of Maine System and Similar Quasi-independent State Entities Are Selling Property* (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast)

This bill provides municipalities with a first right of refusal to purchase the real property owned by a quasi-independent state entity and located in the community at the current market value as determined by an independent appraiser. The right established in the bill expires if the municipality fails to either: (1) provide notice invoking the right within 30 days of receiving written notice of the opportunity; or (2) complete the purchase of the property within three months of invoking the authority.

LD 42 *An Act Regarding the Bind-over and Detention of Juveniles* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook)

This bill amends the laws requiring that when a juvenile who has been bound over for prosecution as an adult reaches 18 years of age while incarcerated to be detained in an adult section of a jail, by authorizing the Department of Corrections to request and the court to grant permission to detain the individual in a juvenile facility. The extension applies only for the period of time that the individual is detained prior to the commencement of an adult proceeding, including the appeal of the order binding a juvenile over for prosecution as an adult. The bill also provides that the department may request that the court rescind the order at any time and clarifies that a person who attains 21 years of age may not be detained in a juvenile facility.

LD 38 *An Act Requiring Photographic Identification for Voting* (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.)

This bill requires voters to present photographic identification when voting in person, which includes a Maine issued valid driver's license or nondriver identification card, a U.S. passport, a military identification, or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued under Title 25, chapter 252 if that permit includes a photograph. An identification issued by a college or university does not qualify as eligible identification. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to provide voters with a special photograph identification card, which must be issued free of charge, and can be used to participate in an election.

LD 37 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Old Orchard Beach the Captain Christopher S. Cash Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3643 on Seaside Avenue in the Town of Old Orchard Beach the Captain Christopher S. Cash Memorial Bridge.

[LD 35](#) *An Act to Strengthen Local Emergency Medical Services by Increasing the MaineCare Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Services* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

Beginning on July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2028, the Department of Health and Human Services is directed to increase the MaineCare reimbursement rate for ambulance services to 140% of the average allowable reimbursement rate under Medicare.

[LD 34](#) *An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill increases the current \$40,000 minimum salary for certified teachers annually until the minimum salary is \$52,500 on June 30, 2029. For school years starting on or after 2030, the minimum salary for certified teachers and technical education techs must be adjusted annually for inflation. The bill also requires that additional state aid be allocated to fund the increases until July 1, 2028.

[LD 30](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Regarding the Rail Line from Portland to Yarmouth* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, subject to available funding resources, permitting and municipal agreements, to remove state-owned inactive existing railroad track along the Berlin Subdivision between the City of Portland and Royal River Park on East Elm Street in the Town of Yarmouth and to replace the track with an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail surfaced with pavement or gravel or stone dust on the existing rail bed.

[LD 29](#) *Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, subject to available funding resources, permitting and municipal agreements, to remove state-owned inactive existing railroad track along 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.

[LD 28](#) *Resolve, to Rename the Twin Rivers Fire Academy in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Academy* (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.)

This resolve directs the Town of Fairfield to designate the firefighter training facility in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Academy.

[LD 27](#) *An Act to Amend and Simplify Certain Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Licensing and Permitting Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill 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 bill 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 25 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Wastewater Treatment Facility Planning and Construction of Infrastructure Projects* (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.)

This bond bill seeks voter approval for a \$50 million bond for grants to assist municipalities, quasi-municipal entities and unorganized townships with wastewater treatment facility planning and construction of infrastructure projects facilitating proper management and disposal of wastewater sludge or biosolids.

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.)

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.

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.)

This bill amends the statute establishing judicial divisions to require that the District Court for Androscoggin be in Lewiston and the District Court for Western Aroostook be in Fort Kent. The bill also amends the statute establishing judicial districts to provide that the first district consists of the divisions of Eastern Aroostook located in Caribou and Western Aroostook located in Fort Kent.

LD 19 *An Act to Change the Definition of "Oversized ATV" in the Laws Governing the Registration of All-terrain Vehicles* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This emergency bill increases the minimum weight of an oversized all-terrain vehicle from 2,000 to 2,500 pounds.

LD 16 *An Act to Establish Separate Prosecutorial Districts in Downeast Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This bill reduces Prosecutorial District Number 7 to Hancock County and creates Prosecutorial District Number 9 for Washington County.

LD 15 *An Act to Eliminate the Excise Tax on Camper Trailers* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill eliminates the excise tax on camper trailers, which is assessed, collected and retained by municipalities.

LD 13 *An Act to Provide Funds Necessary for the Production and Delivery of Election Materials by the Secretary of State and to Reconvene the Working Group to Study Polling Places at Schools* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill creates the Product and Delivery of Election Materials Fund, a non-lapsing, interest bearing fund within the Department of the Secretary of State to support the production and delivery of election materials as required by state statutes. Beginning on September 30, 2025, and every September 30 thereafter, the bill directs the state controller to transfer \$266,000 from unappropriated General Fund surpluses to the election materials fund. Every two years, the amount transferred to the fund must be adjusted for inflation. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to reconvene the nine-member working group to study polling places at schools, which includes representatives from the Maine Town and City Clerks' Association and Maine Municipal Association. No later than December 15, 2025, the working group is further directed to submit its report and recommendations regarding student, staff and voter safety and practices around the use of school buildings for elections to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 12 *An Act to Amend the Freedom of Access Act to Apply to Legislative Caucuses* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill defines a "legislative caucus" as a meeting involving three or more legislators of the same political party that convenes for the purpose of conducting business on behalf of the legislature or committee and provides that those proceedings are public under the Freedom of Access Act.

LD 10 *An Act to Add Political Affiliation as a Protected Class to the Maine Human Rights Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends the Maine Human Rights Act by adding political affiliation as a protected class from employment, housing, public accommodations, credit extension, or education discrimination.

LD 9 *An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Disclosure* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

Of municipal interest, this bill 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 7 *An Act to Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Residents 65 Years of Age or Older* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill extends a \$75,000 exemption on the homestead of a permanent Maine resident who is 65 years of age or older and who has resided in the home for at least 10 years.

LD 4 *An Act to Adopt Eastern Standard Time Year-round* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

Current law authorizes the year-round observation of eastern 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 bill repeals these conditions and allows for the observation of eastern daylight time in Maine.

LD 3 *An Act to Adopt Eastern Daylight Time Year-round Contingent on Federal Approval* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

Current law authorizes the year-round observation of eastern 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 bill amends the law to allow Maine to observe eastern daylight time year-round, provided federal law or regulation permits it.

LD 2 *An Act to Allow Military Vehicles Purchased for Civilian Use to Be Registered and Operated on Maine Roads* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill allows demilitarized vehicles, defined as automobiles built for and used by the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Space Force and Coast Guard, to operate over Maine roads. The bill directs the Secretary of State to register these vehicles and issue registration plates in a three-number and three-letter combination. An application for registration must include evidence of transfer of title from the federal government and an affidavit that the vehicle is garaged or maintained in the state. Additionally, demilitarized vehicles are subject to motor vehicle inspection requirements, except that the Chief of the State Police can provide certain exemptions under rulemaking authority.

LD 1 *An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure* (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

In response to the \$90 million in damages caused by the winter storms of December 2023 and January 2024, Part A of this emergency bill creates the Home Resiliency Program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to provide grants to assist owners fund home resiliency projects. The program is funded by the Home Resiliency Fund, which is capitalized with a \$15 million transfer from available balances within the bureau. To be eligible, an individual must own and reside in a home that was not the subject of a previous home resiliency project. The bill further directs the bureau to develop a list of eligible projects, post the list on a publicly accessible website, set maximum grant amounts, and adopt the rules necessary to implement the program. The bill also specifies that the bureau may not award grants before May 1, 2026.

Part B of the emergency bill creates the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund as a dedicated, non-lapsing fund administered by the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The fund is used as 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. The bill also transfers \$750,000 from available balances within the insurance bureau to fund the mitigation loan program, transfers an additional \$10 million from the bureau to capitalize the Disaster Recovery Fund, and directs MEMA to adopt the rules necessary to administer the fund.

Part C of the emergency bill establishes the State Resilience Office within the Maine Office of Community Affairs and directs the office to coordinate, assist and collaborate with state agencies, municipalities, tribal governments and regional entities to improve Maine's resistance to weather-related events. The bill also creates the State Resilience Fund to be administered by the office and with revenue used 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. The office is also directed to adopt the rules necessary to implement the program. In addition to the one-time transfer of \$9.6 million from the available balances within the insurance bureau, the bill provides that beginning with fiscal year 2028, \$1.755 million from available balances within the bureau's special revenue fund be annually transferred to the State Resilience Fund.

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### **No LD # Legislation**

No LD #2 *An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms within Municipal Buildings and at Municipal Public Proceedings and Voting Places* (Sponsored by Rep. Arford of Brunswick)

This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances, rules or regulations that limit or prohibit the possession of firearms within municipal buildings, voting places and where public proceedings are held in the community. The ordinance or regulation adopted must: (1) allow federal, state, county and local law enforcement officers to possess firearms in otherwise prohibited areas; and (2) designate by common name and physical address all buildings and places where the prohibition applies, which includes owned, leased or rented facilities and building used temporarily as polling places or venues to conduct public hearings, gatherings and official events. The bill also requires municipalities that enact ordinances to post notice of the limitation in a prominent location outside of all buildings and other places where applicable.