

2025 Carryover Bills

The following bills have been “carried over, in the same posture, to any special or regular session of the 132nd Legislature, pursuant to Joint Order SP 800,” meaning if amendments were adopted prior to adjournment, they were carried over as amended. Each bill number below is hyperlinked to its original language and the description includes any amendments.

[LD 13](#) (New title) *An Act to Provide Funds Necessary for the Production and Delivery of Election Materials by the Secretary of State* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

As amended by the committee, this bill creates the Production 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 and provides that the unexpended balance in the fund is limited to \$1.5 million. Beginning with FY 2026, and biennially thereafter, the bill directs the state controller to transfer \$410,000 from unappropriated General Fund surpluses to the election materials fund and requires that every two years, the amount transferred to the fund is adjusted for inflation.

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

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill annually increases the current \$40,000 salary for certified teachers until the minimum salary is \$50,000 on June 30, 2028, and requires that additional state aid be allocated to fund the increases until July 1, 2030.

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

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill requires employers with 10 or more employees to include pay ranges in job postings, unless the position is compensated solely on the basis of commission, which the posting must indicate. The bill also requires, upon the request of an employee, an employer to 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's employment and for three years after termination. The bill includes appropriations in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 to provide the Department of Labor with the resources necessary to enforce the proposed requirements.

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

As amended by a majority of the committee, 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, ability to reorganize work among existing employees, and the creation of less safe working conditions for other employees, to name a few. An employer 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 and the written notice describing the parameters of the flexible work schedule must be construed as a mutual agreement between the impacted parties. 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 reprimand 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. The bill includes appropriations in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 to provide the department with the resources necessary to enforce the proposed requirements.

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

As amended by the committee, beginning on July 1, 2025 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.

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

As amended by the committee, beginning on April 1, 2026, this bill increases the value of the homestead exemption by \$5,000 annually, until the exemption is \$65,000 and beginning on April 1, 2033, requires the exempt value to be adjusted annually by the rate of inflation.

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

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill allocates \$3 million in one-time funding for the manufactured and mobile home park preservation and assistance program.

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)

As amended by a majority of the committee, 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. The bill also includes a fiscal note stating that the Secretary of State's budget includes sufficient funds to accommodate one initiative on the November ballot following the passage of the resolution but provides that if a second initiative is included, an additional appropriation of \$341,000 may be necessary.

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)

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill repeals the requirement that an otherwise eligible applicant must wait 12 months before receiving the homestead exemption and includes a \$1.6 million appropriation in FY 2027 to reimburse municipalities for the increase in lost property tax revenue.

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 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 295 *An Act Regarding Education* (Sponsored by Rep. Murphy of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill proposed to enact measures regarding education.

LD 298 *An Act to Employ Mental Health Personnel Within the Maine State Police* (Sponsored by Rep. Underwood of Presque Isle)

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill increases the number of Behavioral Health Coordinators within the Maine State Police by three specifically to assist with the need for shared services amongst agencies served in Aroostook County. The bill also adds one coordinator supervisor position to oversee all behavioral health coordinator services.

LD 299 *An Act to Support Investment in Agriculture* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws supporting investment in agriculture.

LD 305 *An Act Regarding Transportation in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

This concept draft bill amends the laws governing transportation.

LD 307 *An Act Regarding Energy, Utilities and Technology* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This concept draft bill proposes to update certain laws regarding energy, utilities and technology.

LD 326 *An Act to Increase the Property Tax Exemption Provided to Individuals Who Are Legally Blind* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta)

As amended by the committee, beginning on April 1, 2026, this bill increases from \$4,000 to \$6,000, the residential real estate property tax exemption for residents who are legally blind and requires the state to reimburse municipalities for 50% of the revenues lost as a result of the exemption. The bill appropriates \$29,480 in FY 2027 to fund necessary computer programming costs.

LD 350 *An Act Regarding the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot)

This concept draft proposes to amend the laws governing the operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

LD 351 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Build a Warehouse for Goods and Cargo at Bangor International Airport* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bond bill seeks voter approval for a \$10 million bond to build a temperature-controlled international warehouse for goods and cargo at Bangor International Airport.

LD 352 *An Act to Improve Criminal Justice and Public Safety* (Sponsored by Sen. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to improve criminal justice and public safety.

LD 354 *An Act to Improve Education in Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to improve education.

LD 362 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Replenish the Land for Maine's Future Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This bond bill seeks voter approval for a \$50 million bond for the acquisition of land for conservation, water access, wildlife or fish habitat, outdoor recreation, and working farmland and waterfront preservation.

LD 363 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Create the School Capital Improvement Fund* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill authorizes a bond issue to create the School Capital Improvement Fund, a matching fund program to renovate or replace school facilities.

LD 364 *An Act to Promote Economic Development in Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This concept draft bill enacts measures to foster economic growth and development in Maine.

LD 382 *An Act to Establish a System of Revenue Sharing for the Use and Management of Coastal Resources* (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Oxford Cty.)

This concept draft bill establishes a fair and equitable system of revenue sharing for the commercial, industrial and recreational use and management of Maine's coastal resources that ensures a direct benefit to the communities most affected by the use of those resources and that promotes statewide economic growth. The bill establishes a standardized fee and royalty schedule for the use of those resources based on the type and scale of activities conducted and a formula for the distribution of the revenue generated, with a portion of the funds to be retained by the state to support the administration, enforcement and oversight of coastal resource activities and a portion of the funds to be distributed to affected communities and stakeholders. The bill also provides that the collection of established fees and royalties and distribution of that revenue would be administered and overseen by a statutorily established revenue sharing board consisting of representatives from state agencies, municipal governments and other stakeholders.

LD 391 *An Act to Advance Recognition of the Inherent Rights of the Wabanaki Nations* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the law to continue to advance state recognition of the inherent rights of the Wabanaki Nations and restore rights available to other federally recognized Indian tribes under federal law.

LD 393 *An Act to Designate Certain Bridges as Veterans Memorial Bridges* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill concept draft bill proposes to designate certain bridges as veterans memorial bridges.

LD 394 *An Act to Improve Transportation Infrastructure in Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the law to improve the State's transportation infrastructure.

LD 395 *An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends the original 1980 Implementing Act that applies to the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation and Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and provides that except for gaming activities, criminal jurisdiction, and environmental laws, Maine laws that preempt by the operation, application or implementation of a right or

special statute under federal law to not apply. With respect to environmental laws, the bill provides that the federal Clean Water Act, Water Quality Act of 1987, Clean Air Act, and the Indian Mineral Development Act of 1982, do not apply to Indian territory or trust land to the extent the provisions affect or preempt the application of Maine law and extend the jurisdiction of the tribe, nation or band beyond their territory or trust land, unless such provisions are specifically made application within the state.

LD 426 *An Act to Protect the Human Rights of Individuals in the State* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

This concept draft bill proposes to protect human rights.

LD 437 *An Act Directing the Department of Education to Develop Pilot Programs to Place Child Care Facilities in Selected School Administrative Units* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell)

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill directs the Department of Education to study placing childcare facilities for infants, toddlers and preschool-aged children in public schools, and by the first day of the 2026-2027 school year implement a six-year pilot childcare program in at least four school administrative units. The department is also directed to report to the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over education matters according the following schedule: (1) no later than November 4, 2026, a report detailing the findings of the study, including recommendations for legislation; (2) no later than December 5, 2029, an interim report detailing the progress of the program; and (3) no later than November 3, 2033, a final report detailing the progress of the program. The bill also appropriates the revenue necessary to implement the program.

LD 438 *An Act to Allow Municipalities to Limit Nonprofit Property Tax Exemptions* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo)

This bill authorizes municipalities to limit the value of a property tax exemption extended to a nonprofit institution or organization, provided the governing body determines, by vote, that granting an exemption is detrimental to the residents of a municipality.

LD 449 *An Act to Authorize a Court to Conditionally Discharge Certain Criminal Defendants* (Sponsored by Rep. Sinclair of Bath)

This bill authorizes a court to enter an order of conditional discharge suspending all of a defendant's pending criminal proceedings for a period of up to six months, during which time the defendant must refrain from engaging in criminal conduct and must abide by certain conditions, similar to conditions of probation, that the court considers

reasonable and appropriate to assist the defendant in leading a law-abiding life. A defendant is eligible for a conditional discharge if the defendant has not previously been convicted of murder or a Class A, B or C crime; is currently charged with only one or more Class B drug crimes or Class C, D or E crimes; has not previously been subject to a conditional discharge; and consents in writing to the conditional discharge. At the end of the conditional discharge, the court is required to enter an order dismissing, with prejudice, the pending criminal charges that were the subject of the order of conditional discharge. The bill also amends the Good Samaritan law to provide that a defendant is immune from proceedings to terminate a conditional discharge if the grounds for the termination motion are obtained because of a medical professional's or law enforcement officer's responding to a request for medical assistance for a suspected drug-related overdose.

LD 456 *An Act to Improve Public Defense Services* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws related to the expansion of public defense services in the State and the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services.

LD 461 *An Act to Fund Rural Patrol Services in Washington County* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

As amended by the committee, this emergency bill provides funding for four Maine State Trooper positions to conduct rural patrols in Washington County and appropriates the general and highway fund revenues necessary to fund the added troopers.

LD 468 *An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food* (Sponsored by Sen. Ingwersen of York Cty.)

As amended by the committee, this bill allocates \$1.2 million per fiscal year to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives to be used to match contributions from private and public sources.

LD 474 *An Act to Improve Maine's Environment and Protect Natural Resources* (Sponsored by Sen. Tepler of Sagadahoc Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to improve the environment and natural resources.

LD 475 *An Act to Protect Maine's Marine Resources* (Sponsored by Sen. Tepler of Sagadahoc Cty.)

This concept draft proposes to enact measures to protect marine resources.

LD 477 *An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Rural Counties by Providing State Police Patrol and Policing Services* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

This bill provides funding for 15 state trooper positions, and nine State Police Corporal positions to enhance public safety to support county sheriff department efforts in Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin and Somerset counties and appropriates the general and highway fund revenues necessary to fund the added positions.

LD 483 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Secure Prosperity for Maine Families and Businesses* (Sponsored by Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford)

This bond bill seeks voter approval for a \$300 million bond to support the state's tax credit for affordable housing and the Maine State Housing Authority's rural affordable housing rental program and first-time homebuyer program; create childcare-public school partnerships for children up to four years of age and childcare private industry partnerships; and expand residential public water and public sewer systems.

LD 484 *An Act Regarding the Department of Public Safety* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield)

This concept draft bill proposes to update the laws regarding the Department of Public Safety.

LD 485 *An Act Regarding Criminal Justice* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield)

This concept draft bill proposes to update the laws regarding criminal justice.

LD 493 *An Act to Expand Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Private Drinking Water Wells* (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono)

As amended by committee, this bill requires landlords to test well water for PFAS when residential buildings are supplied by a private drinking water well and to disclose to the buyer of residential property that uses a private water supply a water test that indicates the presence of PFAS. The bill also adds PFAS to the list of contaminants in the Department of Health and Human Services uniform testing recommendations for private drinking water wells and appropriates the revenues necessary to implement the program.

LD 500 *An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

As amended by the committee, no later than July 1, 2027, this bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to implement a program providing free PFAS well water testing to low-income residents and to conduct educational outreach to make

residents aware of the availability of free testing and eligibility for grants from the Maine State Housing Authority to pay for water treatment systems. The bill also clarifies that homeowners served by well water that exceeds state PFAS standards and other contaminants are eligible for the grants and appropriates the revenue necessary to implement the program.

LD 510 *An Act to Require the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Maintain the Weld to Byron Road in Township 6 North of Weld* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

As amended by the committee, this bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to maintain the Weld to Byron Road in Township 6 North of Weld. The bill also appropriates the revenue necessary to implement the maintenance requirements.

LD 517 *An Act to Protect the First Amendment Rights of Individuals in the State* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

This concept draft bill proposes to update certain laws to protect the First Amendment rights of residents of the State.

LD 527 *An Act to Establish Bail Officers to Administer the Maine Bail Code* (Sponsored by Rep. Lee of Auburn)

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill amends the Maine Bail Code to create a new position of bail officer within the judicial branch to set and execute bail in accordance with the law. This bill requires the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to collaborate with the Chief Judge of the District Court to establish a training class for law enforcement officers regarding the execution of bail bonds and authorizes the court to impose a surcharge for accepting bail payments made by credit card. The bill also directs the court to convene a working group with currently employed bail commissioners to examine the establishment of bail officers and whether additional amendments to state law are necessary to establish bail officers. No later than November 4, 2026, the court is further directed to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2027. The bill also includes an appropriation of \$400,000 in FY 2026 and \$409,000 in FY 2027 to fund three bail officer positions.

LD 549 *An Act to Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System and Update Certain Requirements Regarding Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kits* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett Oxford Cty.)

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill increases from 8 to 20 years the period a law enforcement agency is required to store a forensic examination kit in cases where the victim has not reported the alleged offense and clarifies that the storage requirement of a forensic examination kit involving only strangulation is for six years. The bill also directs the Department of Public Safety to create, operate and maintain a sexual assault forensic examination kit tracking system, which requires participation from law enforcement agencies, licensed health care providers, crime laboratories and prosecuting attorneys. No later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the department is required to report on the data collected from the system and make recommendations for improvements to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters and the governor. The bill also provides that by June 1, 2026, all law enforcement agencies that receive, maintain, store or preserve sexual assault forensic examination kits must complete an inventory of the kits in their possession and report the findings to the department. The bill includes appropriations of \$200,514 in FY 2026 and of \$223,007 in FY 2027 to implement the tracking system, as well as a mandate preamble, requiring two-thirds majority vote from the House and Senate to support its passage.

LD 560 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Coastal Climate Resiliency* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

This bond bill seeks voter approval for a \$75 million bond for grants awarded to county, municipal and tribal governments, as well as regional councils, to improve their coastal climate resiliency and upgrade their engineered beaches.

LD 564 *An Act to Improve the Operations of State Government* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to make certain changes to state laws to improve the operations of state government.

LD 566 *An Act to Modernize the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and Amend the Law Governing Inspection Fees* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

This bill authorizes the Chief of the State Police to require the use of an electronic inspection program for the purpose of performing motor vehicle inspections. It also authorizes an inspection station to charge a \$20 fee for inspection regardless of the model year of the inspected vehicle and provides that an operator of an official school bus inspection station is entitled to a fee of \$20 for each school bus inspected.

LD 571 *An Act to Improve Conditions for Maine Workers and Retirees* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws to address certain conditions faced by workers and retirees.

LD 574 *An Act to Improve Labor Conditions for Workers in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to improve labor conditions for workers in the state.

LD 593 *An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

As amended by the committee, this bill allocates \$10 million annually to the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund.

LD 596 *Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This resolve provides that, pursuant to the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3132, subsection 6-C, the legislature approves the construction and operation of a high-impact electric transmission line and appurtenant facilities to interconnect renewable energy resources in northern Maine with the electric grid operated by the New England independent system operator.

LD 599 (New title) *An Act to Raise the Salary Threshold for Overtime Pay* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill as of January 1, 2026, codifies the federal paid overtime salary threshold for a salaried employee by adding the salary level of \$58,656 per year and the 35th percentile of weekly earnings for full-time salary workers in the lowest-wage census region as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bill also appropriates the necessary revenue to fund the additional overtime costs.

LD 605 *An Act to Provide Solutions for Sustainable Management of Municipal Solid Waste* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington)

This concept draft bill proposes to eliminate provisions of law that impede innovative solutions to solid waste disposal and support alternative methods of solid waste disposal, such as reuse and recycling, to reduce volumes in landfills and provide solutions for sustainable management of municipal solid waste.

LD 608 *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)

This concept draft bill proposes to make certain supplemental appropriations and allocations and change certain provisions of the law necessary for the proper operation of state government.

LD 615 *An Act Regarding Elections* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend provisions of law related to elections.

LD 634 *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal and County Mandates* (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

This resolve creates the 15-member Commission to Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal and Educational Mandates, with members including a representative from a statewide association of municipalities, a representative from a statewide association of town and city clerks, and six municipal officials representing communities of varying populations. The commission is directed to no later than December 3, 2025, submit an interim report, and no later than November 4, 2026, submit a final report, to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026 and 2027.

LD 641 (New title) *An Act to Support Diversion Efforts to Prevent Homelessness in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford)

As amended by the committee, this bill provides \$750,000 in one-time funding, in both FY 2026 and FY 2027, to support the Housing Problem Solving Program.

LD 646 (New title) *Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth)

This emergency resolve creates the Commission to Study How to Address Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution, which includes a representative from municipal government, along with a variety of environmental stakeholders, and directs the commission 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 response 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. No later than December 3, 2025, the commission must submit its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 669 *An Act Regarding Labor* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor)

This concept draft bill proposes to change certain labor laws.

LD 679 *An Act to Increase the Funding to the Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

As amended by the committee, this bill provides \$1 million in one-time funds to the Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund within the Maine Community College System for the construction and repair or replacement of regional live fire service training facilities to be awarded by the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission.

LD 690 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide Funding for Affordable and Low-income Housing Programs* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.)

This bond bill seeks voter approval for a \$100 million bond to fund four Maine State Housing Authority programs, including: (1) \$35 million for the rural affordable housing rental program; (2) \$35 million for the low-income housing tax credit program; (3) \$15 million for the affordable homeownership program; and (4) \$15 million for grants and loans issued through the home accessibility and repair program.

LD 695 *An Act Regarding the Laws of the State of Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to make changes to Maine laws.

LD 699 *An Act Providing Appropriations and Allocations for State Government Operations* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to provide appropriations and allocations necessary for the operation of state government.

LD 705 *An Act to Provide Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government* (Sponsored by Rep. Gattine of Westbrook)

This concept draft bill proposes to provide for appropriations and allocations for the operation of state government.

LD 713 *An Act Regarding Taxation* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

This concept draft bill proposes to make changes to the laws governing taxation.

LD 714 *An Act Amend the Tax Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the tax laws.

LD 715 *An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief by Increasing the Availability of the Property Tax Fairness Credit Based on a Resident's Age and Income* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

As amended by the committee, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, this bill amends the property tax fairness credit benefit for individuals who are at least 65 years of age, filing individually or as a married individual filing jointly, with an annual income of \$36,000 or less, by providing that the credit is equal to the amount by which the benefit base for the resident individual exceeds 3% of the resident individual's annual income. In the case of married individuals filing jointly, only one spouse is required to be 65 years of age or older to qualify for the tax credit. The bill appropriates \$77,460 in FY 2027 to fund necessary computer programming costs.

LD 739 (New title) *An Act to Reimburse the City of Ellsworth for a Public Road to a New Court Facility in Hancock County* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Ellsworth)

As amended by the committee, this bill appropriates \$750,000 in one-time funding to reimburse the City of Ellsworth for 50% of the costs incurred to build a public road to facilitate access to a new Hancock County courthouse.

LD 740 *An Act to Establish a Comprehensive Program to Divert Youth from the Criminal Justice System and Address Their Needs* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill establishes a process allowing a law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe that a juvenile has committed a juvenile crime, or a juvenile community corrections officer to whom a juvenile has been referred, to refer the juvenile to the Department of Health and Human Services for a needs assessment designed to identify the supports and services needed to promote child and family well-being. The bill also makes statements of a juvenile, the parent, custodian or guardian of the juvenile inadmissible evidence of an adjudicatory hearing against the juvenile to a law enforcement officer related to referring the juvenile to the Department of Health and Human Services program. Additionally, the bill directs the department to establish a stakeholder group to assist in the implementation of the juvenile needs assessment, which includes representation from a law enforcement educator.

LD 748 *An Act to Increase Bridging Rental Assistance Program Housing Voucher Funding to Reduce the Current Partial Waiting List and Increase Housing Vouchers for Persons Living with Mental Health Challenges* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell)

As amended by the committee, beginning in FY 2026 this bill appropriates \$660,000 annually to support the Bridging Rental Assistance Program.

LD 754 *An Act to Ban the Sale, Use and Possession of Single-use Electronic Cigarettes and to Review Extended Producer Responsibility Options for All Batteries* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill prohibits the sale, use and possession of single-use electronic nicotine delivery devices, which include electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes, electronic hookahs and so-called vape pens. The bill also directs the Department of Environmental Protection to convene a stakeholder group of interested parties to review the feasibility and viability of establishing an extended producer responsibility approach for all batteries not currently covered by a requirement.

LD 755 *An Act to Prevent Opioid Overdose Deaths by Allowing Municipalities to Approve the Establishment of Overdose Prevention Centers* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill provides that an overdose prevention center may not operate in a municipality without approval, which includes centers that operate at a fixed location or a mobile setting. To qualify for municipal approval, the bill also provides that the center must: (1) provide referral services; (2) conduct cleanups of hypodermic apparatus litter and education regarding proper disposal; (3) provide hygienic locations, supported by trained staff, where a client may self-administer controlled substances; (4) establish operating procedures for the center; (5) develop an overdose response protocol; (6) adopt a policy that facilitates communication from and to neighboring businesses and residences to address concerns or complaints; (7) have a relationship with the nearest hospital emergency room; and (8) provide an annual report to the municipality that includes the number clients using the center, the aggregate demographics of clients, number of overdoses experienced and number of clients referred to a substance use disorder treatment program. The bill also provides immunity from arrest, prosecution, revocation proceedings or termination proceedings for people using the service or employed by or otherwise associated with an overdose prevention center when acting in accordance with the provisions of the bill.

LD 780 *An Act to Fund State Government* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to make appropriations and allocations necessary to fund state government.

LD 781 *An Act to Provide for Appropriations and Allocations* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to provide for appropriations and allocations.

LD 783 *An Act to Continue Support for the Maine Multicultural Center* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

As amended by the committee, beginning in FY 2026, this bill appropriates \$190,000 annually to establish a comprehensive program for foreign-trained workers through the Maine Multicultural Center in Bangor.

LD 785 *An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act to ensure that the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation, and Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (tribes) enjoy rights, privileges, powers, duties and immunities similar to those of other federally recognized tribes in the U.S. The bill also: (1) Recognizes that the rights, privileges, powers, duties and immunities of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians apply to "Houlton Band Trust Land," which includes all land and natural resources acquired by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in trust for the band under the federal Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Supplementary Claims Settlement Act of 1986. (2) For the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation, recognizes as Indian territory any land acquired by the secretary in trust for the tribe or nation within specific counties of the state either prior to the effective date of this legislation or after the effective date of this legislation if the land is not located within the borders of a city, town, village or plantation. If trust land acquired after the effective date of this legislation and is located within the borders of a city, town, village or plantation, it may be considered Indian territory if the tribe or nation enters into an agreement with the local government addressing payments in lieu of taxes, allocation of law enforcement responsibility and land use. (3) Includes within Passamaquoddy Tribe territory all lands owned in fee simple by the tribe on the effective date of this legislation if those lands are located within specific counties and are subsequently acquired by the secretary; (4) Repeals the provisions of the Maine Implementing Act regarding the takings of tribal lands for public use. (5) Provides that the tribes, as well as their officers and employees, are immune from suit to the same extent as other federally recognized Indian tribes and their officers and employees under federal

Indian law. (6) With respect to the regulation of natural resources, the bill: (a) Recognizes the exclusive authority of the tribes to regulate fishing, hunting, trapping and other taking of wildlife by both tribal and nontribal citizens within their respective Indian territories and trust land; (b) retains the authority of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission under current law to regulate fishing on boundary waters; and (c) authorizes the state, solely for conservation purposes, to regulate tribal members engaged in fishing, hunting, trapping and other taking of wildlife off Indian territory or trust land to the extent permitted under federal Indian law and consistent with reserved tribal treaty rights. (7) Combines within one section of the Maine Implementing Act the authority of law enforcement officers appointed by the tribes to enforce laws within their respective territories and trust land and that tribal courts have exclusive jurisdiction over criminal and juvenile laws in their respective tribes. (8). With respect to civil jurisdiction, the bill recognizes the exclusive authority of the tribes to: (a) exercise civil regulatory authority on their respective territories or trust land and over their respective tribal members and tribal entities; (b) exercise civil regulatory authority on their respective Indian territory or trust land over persons and entities who are not tribal citizens or tribal entities; (c) exercise adjudicatory jurisdiction over civil actions arising on the Indian territory or trust land. (9) Requires the development of a dispute resolution process to facilitate resolution of disputes between the State of Maine and tribes. (10) Provides that except for any provision of federal Indian law that conflicts with the Maine Implementing Act's provisions may conduct gaming activities only in accordance with state law and not under the authority of the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act or its implementing regulations.

LD 793 *An Act to Modernize Gaming Revenue Allocations and Increase Efforts to Prevent Gambling Addiction* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the law governing gaming revenue allocations by modernizing cascade allocations and increasing the allocations to the Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund.

LD 820 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish the Right to Hunt and Fish* (Sponsored by Rep. Caruso of Caratunk)

As amended by the committee, this resolution seeks voter approval for a constitutional amendment to provide a right to hunt, fish and harvest subject to laws enacted by the Legislature and rules adopted by state agencies to promote wildlife conservation and management and to preserve the future of hunting and fishing. The proposed amendment also establishes hunting and fishing as the preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife.

LD 826 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Establish the School Energy Savings Revolving Loan Fund* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.)

This bond bill seeks voter approval for a \$10 million bond to capitalize the School Energy Savings Revolving Loan Fund to support energy and energy efficiency projects in Maine schools to be administered by the Department of Education.

LD 836 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade Municipal Culverts at Stream Crossings* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bond bill seeks voter approval for a \$50 million bond to fund a competitive grant program that matches local funding for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings to enhance and restore rivers, streams and fish and wildlife habitats and to allow communities to better prepare for extreme storms and floods.

LD 838 *An Act to Explore Public Financing and Ownership of Electric Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to explore savings options for electricity ratepayers through public financing and ownership of electric transmission and distribution infrastructure.

LD 846 *An Act to Protect Natural Resources by Clarifying Hydropower Dam Removal Requirements* (Sponsored by Rep. Blier of Buxton)

This bill amends the laws regulating the removal of an existing dam that is part of a hydropower project by requiring that if a portion of the dam is located on land owned by a municipality or other government entity, the applicant must demonstrate to the Department of Environmental Protection that the municipality approves the removal of the dam. The bill also requires an applicant to participate in a premeeting with the department and hold a public informational meeting and further prohibits the applicant from filing for a permit to remove only a portion of the dam. Additionally, if the removal is expected to alter water levels, the department shall require as a condition of the permit the applicant to identify all landowners expected to be affected by the changes in water levels and set aside sufficient funds to reimburse those landowners for corresponding losses in property value.

LD 847 *An Act to Prohibit Housing Discrimination* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell)

Beginning January 1, 2026, this bill makes refusing to rent housing based on the source of a potential renter's legally obtained income, including any portion subsidized through federal, state or local housing assistance, a form of housing discrimination under the Maine Human Rights Act.

LD 849 *An Act to Establish a Recall Process for Public School Board Members* (Sponsored by Rep. Sayre of Kennebunk)

Notwithstanding any provision of law, ordinance or municipal charter to the contrary, this bill provides that public school board members may be recalled only for specified behavior or misconduct and may not be recalled for the performance of a required or discretionary duty. The petition to recall must be signed by at least 25% of the number of voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election in the municipality or, if the school board member was elected as a school board member-at-large, by at least 25% of the number of voters who voted in the school administrative unit in the last gubernatorial election. The recall must be approved by a majority of voters in an election in which the total number of ballots is at least 35% of the number of votes cast in the municipality or, if applicable, the school administrative unit in the last gubernatorial election.

As amended by the sponsor, the bill provides that a school board member may only be recalled via a municipal charter provision that limits the application of the recall to a school board member who has: (1) been convicted for a punishable crime; (2) failed to perform duties as described in state statutes; or (3) misused or misappropriated public property or funds. The petition to recall must be signed by at least 25% of the number of voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election in the municipality or district or, if the school board member was elected as a school board member-at-large, by at least 25% of the number of voters who voted in the school administrative unit in the last gubernatorial election. Furthermore, the initiator of the petition must file an intention of recall with the municipal clerk, which must include the reasons justifying the recall. Within three business days of the receipt of the recall notice, the municipal clerk is required to provide the notice to a municipal attorney for review, who, within 10 business days must determine whether the grounds for recall have been met. The recall must be approved by a majority of voters in an election in which the total number of ballots is at least 35% of the number of votes cast in the municipality or, if applicable, the school administrative unit in the last gubernatorial election.

LD 852 *An Act to Reduce the Property Tax Burden by Adequately Funding County Jail Operations* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

As amended by the committee, this bill appropriates \$4 million in FY 2026 and FY 2027 for the County Jail Operations Fund.

LD 876 (New title) *An Act to Support the Maine Service Fellows Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Reilly of Westbrook)

As amended by the committee, this bill appropriates \$700,000 annually in ongoing funding to fund 20 fellows in the Maine Service Fellows Program.

LD 882 *An Act to Protect Communication with Providers of Critical Incident Stress Management Peer Support* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook)

This bill includes critical incident stress management peer support in existing laws governing the confidentiality of health care information, provides that peer support individuals are mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse, neglect or suspicious death, and designates peer support communications as privileged. As defined in current laws, critical incident stress management peer support includes services provided to public safety agency employees and corrections officers, which includes assisting an employer, member or officer to process trauma and stress and connect the person to appropriate resources.

LD 883 *An Act to Reduce the Tax Burden on Maine Citizens* (Sponsored by Rep. Quint of Hodgdon)

This concept draft bill proposes to reduce the tax burden on Maine residents.

LD 888 *An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Survivors of Veterans* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo)

As amended by the committee, for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2026, this bill provides that veterans are no longer required to have served during a federally recognized war period to receive the \$5,000 homestead exemption and: (1) increases to \$6,000 the exemption for veterans who are 62 years of age or older; (2) provides disabled veterans a service-connected disability rating based exemption of between \$10,000 and \$50,000; and (3) clarifies that a veteran's unremarried surviving spouse, minor child or parent remains eligible for the benefit. Beginning with FY 2026, the bill also allocates ongoing funding to reimburse municipalities for 50% the lost property tax revenues associated with expanding the exemption.

LD 897 *An Act Regarding the Calculation of Electric Rate Contracting Costs* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to update the procedures related to the calculation of electric rate contracting costs and reimbursements.

LD 916 *An Act to Promote Investment in Housing* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This concept draft bill proposes to promote investment in the development of housing by offering tax abatements to corporate entities that donate to community development financial institutions that support housing development.

LD 943 *An Act to Require the ASPIRE-TANF Program to Be Administered by State Employees* (Sponsored by Rep. Archer of Saco)

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to administer the ASPIRE-TANF program with department employees and provides for the phasing out of contracted public and private agencies providing program services by December 31, 2026, except for certain service delivery functions including job training and education, employment support, childcare assistance and transportation assistance. The bill also requires the department to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing the staffing and participant outcomes of the program and the challenges and successes of administering the program.

LD 948 *An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

As amended by the committee, this bill extends the registration and license periods under the medical and adult use cannabis laws from one to two years and updates the license renewal process for registrants and licensees without any violations of those laws in the previous year to require only the payment of the license or registration fee to the Office of Cannabis Policy for a new active license to be issued. The bill also extends from one to two years the registration period for manufacturing facilities and for persons authorized to engage in cannabis extraction using inherently hazardous substances and updates the requirement for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to conduct criminal history record checks for an officer, director, or assistant of a registered manufacturing facility or person authorized to engage in cannabis extraction using inherently hazardous substances from annually to every two years. The amendment appropriates \$1.4 million in FY 2026 and \$1.5 million in FY 2027 to fund the Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund and the Medical Use of Cannabis Fund.

LD 978 *An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement for Municipalities and Indian Tribes* (Sponsored by Rep. Zager of Portland)

This bill provides that for the six municipalities or tribes that received the most amount of GA reimbursement between fiscal years 2022 and 2025, the amount of state reimbursement is: (1) 75% in FY 2027 and FY 2028; (2) 80% in FY 2029 and FY 2030; and (3) 90% in FY 2031 and subsequent years. For all other municipalities and tribes, the reimbursement rate increases to 90% as of July 1, 2026.

LD 981 *An Act to Provide Electronic Notification to Victims of Crimes* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

As amended by the committee, the title of the bill is changed to *An Act to Facilitate the Establishment of an Automated Crime Victim Notification System* and requires the state and counties to implement and adopt rules guiding the implementation of a system that notifies a victim of a defendant's release or escape from a correctional or jail facility. The bill further requires county sheriffs to convene an automatic crime victim notification system advisory committee to support, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of the system. The committee must include representative from statewide association of sheriffs, domestic violence prevention projects, and sexual assault support centers, as well as the Office of Victim Services and no later than November 4, 2026 report its findings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2027. The bill also appropriates \$244,000 in FY 2026 and \$124,000 in FY 2027 as one-time funding to support the mandates the bill places on counties.

LD 995 *An Act to Provide Funding for Low-income Electric Ratepayer Assistance*
(Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

As amended by the committee, this bill specifies, for purposes of needs-based low-income assistance for electricity customers, that "low-income household" means a household that is eligible for a low-income assistance program administered by the Maine State Housing Authority or eligible for a means-tested program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and that has an income of no more than 150% of the federal poverty level. The bill also provides a one-time appropriation of \$7.5 million in FY 2026 and FY 2027 for low-income electric ratepayer assistance.

LD 1004 *An Act to Ensure the Proper Operation of the State* (Sponsored by Rep. Moonen of Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to make changes to the laws to ensure the proper operations of Maine.

LD 1017 *An Act to Include Food Provided or Served at Emergency Shelters in General Assistance Reimbursement* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill includes the cost of food provided or served at emergency shelters in the Department of Health and Human Services' reimbursement of general assistance costs to municipalities. The fiscal note that accompanies the bill acknowledges that the proposed change will increase the cost of the direct aid provided under the General Assistance program but clarifies that precise estimates of the fiscal impact is not possible because records of these costs are kept at the municipal level and vary over time.

LD 1026 *An Act to Provide Mapping Services for Aquaculture Lease Siting* (Sponsored by Sen. Reny of Lincoln Cty.)

This bill adds to the duties of the Maine Office of Community Affairs the requirement to create and provide municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils a mapping template and technical assistance to proactively map out areas of concern related aquaculture lease siting.

LD 1059 *An Act to Establish the Process for the Selection of Delegates for a Convention Called Under the United States Constitution, Article V* (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales)

This concept draft bill proposes to establish a process for the selection of delegates for a convention called under the United States Constitution, Article V.

LD 1089 *An Act to Permanently Fund 55 Percent of the State's Share of Education by Establishing a Tax on Incomes of More than \$1,000,000* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell)

This bill imposes an income tax surcharge of 4% on the portion of Maine taxable income that exceeds \$1 million and to use the generated revenue to fund prekindergarten to grade 12 public education.

LD 1111 *An Act to Provide Water Service Infrastructure to Fairfield Residents Affected by Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances* (Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield)

As amended by the committee, this bill appropriates \$10 million in one-time funds to enable the Kennebec Water District to expand water service infrastructure in Fairfield in response to PFAS contamination in private wells.

LD 1123 *An Act to Provide Funding for MaineCare-related Services for Public Schools* (Sponsored by Rep. Yusuf of Portland)

As amended by the committee, beginning in FY 2026, this bill provides ongoing funds to provide technical assistance and facilitate MaineCare reimbursements for local school districts.

LD 1136 *An Act to Defend the Rights of LGBTQ+ Persons in the State* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to update certain laws to protect the rights of individuals who identify as LGBTQ+.

LD 1167 *Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program to Assist Nonprofit Housing Developers in Rehabilitating Existing Aging Housing Stock for First-time Home Buyers* (Sponsored by Rep. McCabe of Lewiston)

As amended by the committee, this resolve directs the Maine State Housing Authority to create a pilot program to provide nonprofit housing developers grants to rehabilitate 15 existing aging housing units purchased by first-time home buyers who: (1) occupy the unit; (2) do not earn incomes that exceed 120% of the area's median income; and (3) agree to relinquish a graduated percentage of profit if they sell the unit within the first three years of ownership. The resolve also provides that when a tenant vacates a unit during rehabilitation and is a first-time home buyer, a right of first refusal to purchase the vacated property must be provided to the displaced tenant. The bill provides a \$1.2 million appropriation in FY 2026 to implement the pilot program.

LD 1177 *Resolve, to Study of the Public Health and Environmental Risks of Synthetic Turf* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

As amended by the committee, this bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study regarding the potential impacts synthetic turf has on public health and the environment, including the examination of disposal options, evaluation of the effects on ambient air, groundwater and surface water temperatures, and an analysis of the rates of release of microplastics over time. No later than January 1, 2028, the department is directed to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2028.

LD 1216 *An Act to Improve Behavioral Health Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention Services* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to improve the quality of and access to behavioral health crisis services; reduce the stigma surrounding suicide, mental health conditions and substance use disorder; provide a behavioral health crisis response that is substantially equivalent to the response already provided to individuals who require emergency physical health care in the state; strengthen the crisis response for children, youth, young persons and families; and codify the name of the 988 telephone number for the national suicide and crisis hotline.

LD 1223 *An Act to Lower Electric Rates for Maine Ratepayers by Requiring the Payment of Certain Costs from the General Fund* (Sponsored by Rep. Foster of Dexter)

This bill provides that when a transmission and distribution utility is required by statute to purchase or contract for renewable energy credits, energy storage systems or

transmission infrastructure, costs incurred by a utility may not be incorporated into customer electricity rates and instead be funded by the state. The bill also prohibits a customer that participates in an assistance program to be enrolled in a standard-offer service and further provides that the costs associated with required low-income assistance and arrearage programs may not be paid by customers, but rather by the state.

LD 1226 *An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Residential Building Contractors*
(Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes and directs the nine-member Residential Construction Board, which includes a municipal code enforcement officer, to establish licensing requirements for residential general contractors, as well as practice standards that are consistent with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. The bill also appropriates funds in FY 2026 and FY 2027 to support the board's start-up and operating costs.

LD 1230 *An Act to Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun Purchase* (Sponsored by Rep. Chapman of Auburn)

This bill repeals the requirement that a seller of firearms wait 72 hours before delivering a purchased firearm to the buyer.

LD 1247 *An Act to Restrict Municipal Ordinance Requirements Regarding Housing Developments* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This bill provides that if a housing development is served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and the system is located in an area where dwelling units are allowed, a municipality is required to allow the development of a unit on the a lot with a minimum size of 5,000 square feet and may not require more than two off-street parking spaces for every three units. Municipalities are also prohibited from establishing dimensional standards that are more restrictive than those for single-family dwelling units in effect on October 1, 2023, as well as road frontage standards that are greater than 50 feet and front, rear or side setbacks greater than 10 feet. Developers are required to provide written verification that each unit is connected to adequate sewer and water services, before the municipality can certify the development for occupancy.

LD 1259 *An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

This bill prohibits state or local law enforcement agencies or officers from entering into contracts with federal immigration enforcement authorities.

LD 1261 *Resolve, to Establish the Community Navigator Pilot Program to Support At-risk Families* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

As amended by committee, this bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with two child abuse and neglect prevention councils to establish a two-year Community Navigator Pilot Program to engage in outreach activities providing education and guidance to mandated reporters and connecting screened-out families with community services, including physical and mental health care, housing, fuel and food access assistance, child care, transportation, employment training and substance use disorder treatments. For purposes of the bill, a screened-out family is defined as a family where a report was filed with the department for suspect child abuse or neglect, but the report did not meet the criteria necessary to open a child protective services investigation. The bill further directs the department to provide \$90,000 to each council selected to participate in the pilot program.

LD 1282 *An Act Regarding Eligibility for Historic Preservation Bond Proceeds* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

As amended by the committee, this bill amends the eligibility requirements for grants through the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for the preservation and restoration of historic properties to allow eligibility for properties designated as historic by municipal historic preservation ordinances or comprehensive plans. The bill also appropriates \$25,000 in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 for the administrative cost associated with expanding grant eligibility.

LD 1312 *An Act to Provide a Source of Revenue for School Construction and for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to explore options for establishing a dedicated source of revenue for both school construction costs and the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund.

LD 1347 (New title) *Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study the Maine Tort Claims Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the 12-member Commission to Study the Maine Tort Claims Act, which includes members from a small and large municipality and an organization representing the interests of municipalities. The commission is directed to review and consider: (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 tort claims act. No later than December 3, 2025, the commission is directed to report to the Joint Standing Committees on Education, Judiciary, and State and Local Government, which are authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1365 *An Act to Allow Consumption of Adult Use Cannabis in Locally Approved Hospitality Lounges* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This bill authorizes the operation of cannabis hospitality lounges that are open to persons who are at least 21 years of age for the consumption of adult use cannabis and products, as well as edible products that do not contain cannabis. The bill also authorizes a municipality to adopt ordinances governing licensing or other approval requirements applicable to cannabis hospitality lounges.

LD 1378 *An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act* (Initiated Bill)

This initiated bill enacts the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act and provides that a petition for an extreme risk protection order, which prohibits the purchase, possession or control of a dangerous weapon, may be sought if a person is suspected of posing a significant danger of causing physical injury to the person or to another person. Upon receipt of the petition and affidavit, the District Court is required to schedule a hearing, which must be held within 14 days of the filing of the petition and provide notice of the hearing to the person who is the subject of the requested extreme risk protection order. If the court finds that the person poses a significant risk of causing physical injury to the person or to another person, the court must issue an order prohibiting, for up to one year, the person from purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon. An extreme risk protection order may be terminated if there is clear and convincing evidence that the person no longer poses a significant danger of causing physical injury. An order may be renewed for an additional period of up to one year. A person who is the subject of an extreme risk protection order must immediately surrender all dangerous weapons in that person's possession, custody or control to a law enforcement agency.

LD 1382 *An Act Regarding Dam Repair* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes a maximum limit of \$1 million per loan application under the Dam Repair and Reconstruction Fund and establishes a loan payback period between five and 30 years, but no longer than the useful life of the proposed project. The bill allows the department to require an applicant to provide matching funds to be considered for a loan and allows the department to establish a loan forgiveness program. The bill appropriates \$5 million in FY 2026 to capitalize the fund.

LD 1416 *An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Immediately Take Custody of Persons Sentenced to Mental Health Facilities That May Not Include County or Regional Jails* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill requires that when a court commits a defendant to the Commissioner of Health and Human Services for placement in an appropriate mental health institution, that placement must be immediate and may not be in a county or regional jail.

LD 1419 *An Act to Provide a Sales Tax Exemption for Housing Constructed Off-site Similar to That for On-site Construction* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill increases the sales tax exemption for the sales of newly manufactured homes for all costs excluding materials included in the sale price but only to a maximum of 50% of the sale price to 75% of the sale price in line with the exemption provided for housing built on location.

LD 1424 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Investment in Workforce Housing and Raise Certain Income Eligibility Limits in the Affordable Homeownership Program* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill seeks voter approval for a \$10 million bond to finance workforce housing in opportunity zones through the Maine State Housing Authority's Affordable Homeownership Program and further directs the authority to change participant income limits from 120% to 150% of the area median income in all counties outside of Cumberland, Sagadahoc and York.

LD 1477 *An Act to Provide an Exemption from Pilotage Requirements for Passenger Ferry Service Between Bar Harbor, Maine and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia* (Sponsored by Rep. Friedmann of Bar Harbor)

This bill provides an exemption from pilotage requirements for certain vessels providing regularly scheduled ferry operations between Bar Harbor, Maine and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

LD 1506 *An Act to Amend the Personal Property Tax Exemption for Individually Owned Personal Property* (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales)

As amended by the committee, this bill provides a tax exemption for individually owned personal property and includes a one-time appropriation of \$162,280 in FY 2026 to fund Bureau of Revenue Services computer programming costs and a fiscal note of \$3.8 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 to reimburse municipalities for related property tax revenue losses.

LD 1507 *An Act to Require General Public Notification of Oil Terminal Facility Transfer Activities* (Sponsored by Rep. Beck of South Portland)

This bill requires owners and operators of oil terminal facilities to develop and implement community notification plans in which members of the public upon request are notified electronically within 24 hours of the transfer of oil between the facility and a vessel, between a vessel and another vessel or between the facility and a vehicle. The community notification plan is subject to review and approval by the Department of Environmental Protection and the municipality in which the facility is located and must be posted on a publicly accessible website. Owners and operators of existing oil terminal facilities are required to submit a community notification plan for review by the department and the municipality by January 1, 2026 and implement and publicly post the plan by July 1, 2026. The owners and operators must provide an update of the plan on July 1st annually thereafter.

LD 1519 *An Act to Create a Stewardship Program for Electronic Smoking Devices and Related Products* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

As amended by the committee, on or before November 1, 2026, this bill requires a producer of electronic smoking devices to submit a plan to the Department of Environmental Protection for the establishment of a stewardship program to manage unwanted electronic smoking devices. Within 180 days of the approval of the plan, a producer must implement the stewardship plan. Once in place, producers are prevented from selling electronic smoking devices unless the producer participates in an approved stewardship program. One year following the commencement of the stewardship program, at a minimum, producers must establish collection locations within 15 miles of 90% of Maine residents, unless the department determines the requirement is not practicable. Additionally, within 90 days of receiving a request from a municipality seeking to serve as a collection location, producers must provide all collection receptacles and the training necessary to manage the collection location, which may be located at a transfer station or fire or police station. The bill also specifies that beginning on the date that an approved electronic smoking device stewardship plan is first implemented, a person may not dispose of devices, except in accordance with the stewardship program or by delivery to a licensed hazardous waste transporter. The bill includes a fiscal note appropriating \$109,480 in FY 2026 and \$121,474 in FY 2027 to implement the program.

LD 1521 *An Act to Require All State Agencies to Provide a Zero-based Budget Once Every 10 Years* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

The bill requires the development of a new budgeting system in which state agencies are subject to zero-based budgeting every 10 years and in the interim years subject to review and alternative budget requirements. The bill also requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to submit legislation facilitating a zero-based budget to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, which is authorized to submit legislation.

LD 1522 *An Act to Establish the Maine Eviction Prevention Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill makes permanent the eviction prevention pilot program and authorizes the Maine State Housing Authority to delegate administration of the program to a community action agency, municipal housing authority or other qualified entity. Delegated entities are required to develop a method for verifying a participant's eligibility for the rental assistant every six months and are prohibited from assessing an administrative fee that exceeds 12% of the funding received. The bill also appropriates \$10 million in FY 2026 and FY 2027 to support the program.

LD 1530 *An Act to Improve the Sustainability of Emergency Medical Services in Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This bill provides that care, including the administration of overdose-reversing medications, provided at the scene of an emergency medical services event by an ambulance service or non-transporting emergency medical service is reimbursable care regardless of whether a patient is transported to another facility. The bill also requires reimbursement for certain services provided through community paramedicine.

LD 1547 *An Act to Use a Portion of the Sales Tax on Snowmobiles to Fund Maine's Snowmobile Trail Programs* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This bill requires that 40% of the sales and use taxes generated by snowmobile sales be credited to the Snowmobile Trail Fund and that 80% of those revenues be dedicated to trail maintenance and 20% use for capital equipment expenditures.

LD 1577 *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study and Recommend Solutions for Modernizing the Maine Legislature* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook)

This resolve establishes the 15-member Commission to Study and Recommend Solutions for Modernizing the Maine State Legislature, including efficiency through technology; improving the legislative process and physical access; increasing transparency and staffing; evaluating remote access and committee meetings; and reducing the size of the legislature and increasing term limits to six or eight terms. By November 4, 2026, the

commission is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, which may submit legislation in 2027.

LD 1609 *An Act to Prevent the Participation of Individuals and Companies Linked to Federally Recognized Criminal Organizations in the Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Programs* (Sponsored by Rep. Fredericks of Sanford)

This bill requires the Office of Cannabis Policy to deny an application for a new or to revoke an existing license under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis or Cannabis Legalization acts to any person who is associated with or operates a cannabis establishment at a physical location known to be associated with organized crime as identified by state or federal law enforcement officers within the five years prior to application or operation.

LD 1636 *Resolve, to Study Changing the Start of the State Fiscal Year to October 1st* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This resolve creates the 12-member Working Group to Study Changing the Start of the State Fiscal Year, which includes two municipal representatives, and directs the working group to explore the option of changing the fiscal year to October 1 to September 30, including the impacts on municipalities, counties and schools. By December 3, 2025, the working group is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1646 *An Act to Amend Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Regarding Suspected Drug-related Overdoses* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill updates the provisions regarding immunity from arrest, prosecution and revocation and termination proceedings when assistance has been requested for a suspected drug-related overdose to remove references to medical emergencies and expands the scope to include calls for assistance for a person exhibiting symptoms of a drug-related overdose. The bill also defines a suspected drug-related overdose as a physical, cognitive or behavioral condition that may reasonably indicate that a person is experiencing a potentially threatening reaction to drug use.

LD 1649 *Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Operations of the Legislature* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

As amended by a majority of the committee, the emergency preamble is removed and the title of the bill is changed to *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study and Recommend Solutions for Modernizing and Improving the Effectiveness of the Legislature*, which creates a 10-member commission represented by members of the Legislature and a

tribal representative; a six member working group represented by nonpartisan legislative staff; and an eight-member public citizen working group appointed by the majority and minority leaders in the House and Senate. The commission and working groups are directed to study the existing structure and operations and identify the changes necessary to modernize the Legislature to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. No later than December 3, 2025, the commission is directed to submit a report for consideration by the legislature in 2026.

LD 1661 *An Act to Establish a Comprehensive and Interagency Approach to Invasive Species Management* (Sponsored by Rep. Frost of Belgrade)

This bill establishes the 20-member Maine Invasive Species Advisory Council, including a representative of municipal government, which is directed to develop a comprehensive plan for invasive species management. The bill also creates the Comprehensive Invasive Species Management Office, within the Office of the Governor, to coordinate interagency collaboration to accomplish invasive species prevention, management, education and outreach as prioritized and directed by the council.

LD 1665 *An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief to Maine Families* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

As amended by a majority of the committee and beginning on or after January 1, 2025, this bill increases the benefit under the property tax fairness credit for income tax filers to: (1) \$2,550 for single individuals; (2) \$3,300 for joint filers; (3) \$4,050 for heads of households with one child; (4) \$4,250 for heads of households with more than one child; and (5) \$4,250 for individuals 65 years of age or older. The bill also directs Maine Revenues Services (MRS) to convene a working group, including municipal officials, to study the property tax fairness credit program and make recommendations on how to make the program easier to understand and to simplify the process of applying for the credit. By December 3, 2025, MRS is further directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1666 *An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes* (Sponsored by Sen. Reny of Lincoln Cty.)

As amended by the committee, this bill provides ranked-choice voting for both general and special elections for the offices of governor and legislature, clarifies the definition of ranked-choice voting by changing the use of the terms "vote" and "ballot," replaces the term "count" with "tabulate," and provides that the winner of an election in which ranked-choice voting is conducted is the winner by a plurality of the votes.

LD 1671 *An Act to Establish Disclosure Requirements Regarding Law Enforcement Officer Credibility Information* (Sponsored by Rep. Lee of Auburn)

This bill requires that a law enforcement agency disclose to a prosecuting attorney's office when a law enforcement officer who is a potential witness in a criminal prosecution has engaged in certain specified conduct that calls into question the credibility of the officer as a witness. Law enforcement agencies must notify the law enforcement officer when disclosing the credibility information to a prosecuting attorney's office. The prosecuting attorney's office must provide notice to the law enforcement officer and the chief law enforcement officer of the reporting law enforcement agency at least 10 calendar days before disclosure of the information to a defendant, except under specific circumstances, and provide the law enforcement officer an opportunity to address a potential disclosure to a defendant before any such disclosure is made. The bill requires a law enforcement agency to adopt written policies and procedures for disclosing credibility information to a prosecuting attorney's office. The bill also requires the prosecuting attorney's office to adopt written policies and procedures for receiving and maintaining credibility records concerning law enforcement officers, disclosing credibility information to a defendant under the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure, Rule 16, notifying other prosecuting attorney's offices in the state of the credibility information and removing such records if the information is later determined to be inaccurate or false. The bill allows an officer to file a petition in Superior Court to require a prosecuting attorney's office to remove the credibility information from the officer's records if the credibility information is found to be false or inaccurate.

LD 1673 *Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact Statements in the Legislative Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

As amended by a majority of the committee, in addition to removing the emergency preamble, this resolve directs the Legislative Council to establish and oversee a pilot project to develop and implement an economic impact statement to be used to evaluate the impact of proposed legislation. No later than December 1, 2025, the council is directed to issue requests for proposals from public agencies, private firms, nonprofit organizations and academic institutions to develop the impact statements to be used to evaluate the impact of legislation. No later than December 15, 2026, the council is directed to submit its recommendations including whether to expand the use of economic impact statements for consideration by the council in 2027.

LD 1694 *An Act to Provide an Income Tax Credit for Certain Disaster Mitigation Projects for Working Waterfront Property* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook)

This bill provides an income tax credit to a business earning \$47 million or less in average annual gross receipts to undertake working waterfront disaster mitigation projects, such as the elevation of foundation walls, flood risk protection, shoreline stabilization and warning systems. The bill also limits the credit to 30% of the cost of the disaster mitigation project but may not exceed \$300,000.

LD 1696 *Resolve, to Study Maine's Absolute Dominion and Beneficial Use Laws Relating to Water Rights* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill creates the 17-member Commission to Study Maine's Absolute Dominion and Beneficial Use Laws Relating to Water Rights, which includes a representative of a municipal water utility, and directs the commission to develop recommendations regarding the legal status of groundwater rights and ownership to promote the equitable and sustainable management of the state's water resources. By December 3, 2025, the commission is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026. The fiscal note accompanying the legislation provides that the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council will determine if there are sufficient resources to fund all studies.

LD 1737 *An Act to Ensure the Future of Maine's Sporting Camp Heritage* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill establishes a separate license for a commercial sporting camp and prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from requiring a commercial sporting camp located in an area without a municipal water supply to install sprinkler systems or to make upgrades or improvements to existing plumbing systems or septic systems provided that existing systems are operational. The bill also defines a commercial sporting camp as a building or group of buildings devoted primarily to offering lodging, meals, equipment and professional guide services for a fee to persons engaged in hunting, fishing or snowmobiling, if the commercial sporting camp: (1) is located in an unorganized territory, abuts an unorganized territory or is in a municipality or other organized territory of less than 1,500 residents; (2) has a caretaker present on site or nearby; (3) does not operate primarily to serve day visitors; (4) is not a hotel, motel, bed and breakfast, campground, children's camp or educational camp or a housekeeping cabin that is not qualified to serve meals; (5) is open to the public and is not restricted to members only; (6) is not organized as a nonprofit organization; (7) is authorized to collect sales tax; and (8) does not primarily solicit reservations on electronic platforms for short-term rentals.

LD 1739 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Support Maine's Agricultural Sector, to Create an Agricultural Buildings Property Tax Exemption and to Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Study Barriers to Its Financial Assistance Programs and Study the Potential for a Common Application for Those Programs* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker or Warren)

In part, beginning with the April 1, 2026 property tax year, this bill exempts from taxation any increase in the value of a structure or building constructed or reconstructed after January 1, 2026, provided the building is essential to the operation of lands actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use and used and occupied to carry out that operation. The exemption is further limited to be applied only while the building is used and occupied to support agricultural or horticultural purposes, but for no more than 10 years.

LD 1741 *An Act Regarding County Law Enforcement Administration and Rural Law Enforcement* (Sponsored by Rep. Stover of Boothbay)

This bill makes changes to the responsibilities of county sheriffs to: (1) require the county commissioners or a personnel board to give deference and rebuttable presumptions of fairness and professional necessity to a sheriff's decision to not reappoint a deputy or to dismiss, suspend or otherwise discipline a deputy or subordinate employee, subject to the procedures and standards for dismissal found in an applicable collective bargaining agreement; (2) stipulate that if the county committee of a political party submits one or more recommendations to fill a vacancy in the sheriff's office to the governor, the acting sheriff must be included for consideration for appointment; (3) stipulate that if the office of sheriff becomes vacant because of death, resignation or otherwise, the chief deputy becomes the acting sheriff; and (4) provide the sheriff sufficient funds for all office expenses, administrative assistance and travel including but not limited to training and fees for member organizations and materials that may aid the sheriff and personnel, independent legal advisors, and rental of adequate office space if county buildings are unable to provide such in existing infrastructure.

LD 1772 *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue-Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill creates the Trust for a Healthy Maine Act to receive all tobacco settlement funds and to redistribute revenue to state agencies or designated agents of the state to fund tobacco use prevention and control at levels recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to ensure adequate resources for other disease prevention efforts and promoting public health. The purposes of the trust also include supporting state agencies in planning and delivering

public health and prevention programs, promoting multilevel planning and coordination among state, district and municipal decision-making and advisory boards, and providing training and technical assistance to local health officers, boards of health and municipal leaders providing public health services.

LD 1775 *An Act to Authorize the Issuance of a Revenue Bond to Upgrade County Jails to Meet the Corrections Needs of Maine's Counties* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

This bill authorizes the Finance Authority of Maine to issue \$87 million in revenue bonds to provide funding to county jails, including those that detain adult residents for up to 72 hours, to upgrade their facilities to accommodate and provide treatment and recovery services to residents who have substance use disorders and to provide supplemental funding for jails that have potential funding shortfalls. The bonds are issued for 10 years and are repaid using equal amounts of revenue from the contract for wholesale spirits operations and the funds received from the opioid settlement fund.

LD 1788 *An Act to Strengthen the Freedom of Access Act by Categorizing Commercial Requesters* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford)

This bill amends the laws guiding the Freedom of Access Act by defining the terms commercial and non-commercial requests; clarifying that entities cannot assess a fee for the first two hours of staff time spent on a non-commercial request; and authorizing an agency or official to establish a fee structure for commercial requests. The bill also requires a person making a request to certify whether the request is commercial or non-commercial, whether the public information subject to the request is likely to be produced pursuant to an ongoing judicial proceeding, and to provide additional information, as necessary, to the agency or official having custody or control of a public record subject to the request. Under the terms of the bill, a commercial request is defined as a request for a public record that furthers a commercial, trade or profit interest, which can include furthering those interests through litigation. An agency or official's decision to place a requester in the commercial request category is made on a case-by-case basis based on the requester's intended use.

LD 1804 *An Act Concerning Funding and Oversight of Transportation Matters* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

This bill amends laws to prescribe authority and responsibility over funding over transportation related issues by: (1) establishing that the Transportation Committee has jurisdiction over highway related appropriations and allocations, as well as minimum levels of funding for bridges, highway lights and multimodal transportation, which must be

adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index each biennium; (2) increasing from 40% to 60% the percentage of automobile-related sales and use taxes transferred to the Highway Fund and adding automobile-related sales and use taxes to the revenues allocated to the Highway Fund; (3) requiring the Bureau of State Police to be wholly funded by the General Fund; (4) adding multimodal transportation to the list of allowable uses of the Highway Fund; (5) redefining “transportation infrastructure;” (6) removing the designation of project-specific and non-project-specific procurement and retaining the provision that the Department of Transportation has full power to purchase all supplies, materials and equipment that are incidental to, or necessary for, construction, improvement or maintenance of transportation infrastructure; and (7) beginning March 1, 2026, requiring the department and the Maine Turnpike Authority to submit biennial reports in each even-numbered year, summarizing the procurement activities over the preceding two calendar years.

LD 1806 *An Act to Create a Residential Rental Unit Registry* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

This bill creates a residential rental unit registry and directs the Secretary of State to publish on its website a searchable database of affordable rental units that are available or rent for a period of more than 30 days. The owner of a rental unit must register annually with the secretary and provide: (1) the name, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of the owner, manager and any entity that has a parental or subsidiary relationship with the owner of the residential rental unit; (2) emergency contact information of the owner; (3) the physical address of the residential rental unit for enhanced 9-1-1 services; (4) mailing address of the residential rental unit if different from the physical address; (5) total number of residential rental units on each property of the owner, including the number of occupied residential rental units at the time of registration; and (6) the total number of residential rental units on each property not available for occupancy, whether under construction or under renovation. The bill also authorizes the secretary to assess and collect an initial registration fee to cover the expenses associated with administering the registry and exempts certain owners from paying the fee, including properties subsidized by state or federal programs or already required to rent restrictions adopted under federal, state or local law, rule or ordinance. The bill also directs the secretary to: (1) adopt routine technical rules implement the program; (2) provide a publicly accessible online portal or form for an owner of a residential rental unit to submit the required registration information; (3) provide a publicly accessible, searchable database of residential rental units; and (4) develop a process by which a municipality can receive residential rental unit data pertaining to that municipality. Finally, the bill prohibits a landlord who does not register from terminating a tenant's lease for nonpayment or serving the tenant with a notice of

termination for nonpayment of rent less than 120 days after registering. Additionally, failure to register is a civil violation for which a fine in the amount of three times the rent of the unit must be adjudged.

LD 1814 *An Act to Increase Transparency in State Government by Amending Laws Regarding Persons Attempting to Influence the Competitive Bidding Process and Lobbyist Reporting During Rulemaking Processes* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

In part, this bill expands the definition of "lobbying" and "grassroots lobbying" to include communicating directly with any official in the executive branch for the purpose of influencing any rulemaking.

LD 1816 *An Act to Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System and Conduct an Inventory of Existing Forensic Examination Kits in the Possession of Law Enforcement* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Duson of Cumberland Cty.)

As amended by a minority of the committee, this emergency bill increases from 8 to 20 years the period a law enforcement agency is required to store a forensic examination kit in cases where the victim has not reported the alleged offense and clarifies that the storage requirement of a forensic examination kit involving only strangulation is for six years. The bill also directs the Department of Public Safety to create, operate and maintain a sexual assault forensic examination kit tracking system, which requires participation from law enforcement agencies, licensed health care providers, crime laboratories and prosecuting attorneys. No later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the department is required to share data collected from the system and recommendations for improvements to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters and the governor. The bill also provides that by June 1, 2026, all law enforcement agencies that receive, maintain, store or preserve sexual assault forensic examination kits must complete an inventory of kits in their possession and report findings to the department. The bill includes appropriations of \$253,266 in FY 2026 and \$216,117 in FY 2027 in General Fund revenue and \$136,375 in FY 2026 and \$116,371 in FY 2027 in Highway Fund revenue to implement the tracking system. The bill also includes a mandate preamble, requiring two-thirds majority vote from the House and Senate to support its passage.

LD 1820 *An Act to Simplify Regulation of the Adult Use Cannabis Industry* (Sponsored by Rep. Chapman of Auburn)

As amended by the committee and of municipal interests, this bill provides that absent any provisions of law to the contrary, a law enforcement officer may enter any part of a licensed cannabis premises that is not open to the public only when: (1) the licensees

voluntarily allow the officer to enter; (2) entry is authorized pursuant to a warrant; or (3) when entry is authorized in accordance with a recognized exception to the warrant requirement, including, but not limited to, exigent circumstances. The bill also appropriates \$368,790 in FY 2026 and \$795,852 in FY 2027, \$50,000 of which is dedicated to funding a law enforcement training program.

LD 1847 *An Act to Institute Testing and Tracking of Medical Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products Similar to Adult Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products, Dedicate a Portion of the Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax to Medical Use Cannabis Programs and Create a Study Group* (Sponsored by Rep. Graham of North Yarmouth)

This bill: (1) applies the adult use cannabis testing and tracking provisions to medical use cannabis; (2) requires a portion of the adult use cannabis excise and sales tax to be used to fund public health and safety campaigns related to the sale and use of medical use cannabis; (3) requires gummy adult use cannabis products to be blister packaged; and (4) establishes a study group to examine youth consumption of medical use and adult use cannabis.

LD 1848 *An Act to Implement Recommendations for Improved Dam Safety* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill implements recommendations for the improvement of dam safety as identified in the report required pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 176, which in part requires a state dam inspector to assess all significant and high hazard potential dams at least once every five years. The bill also appropriates \$400,000 in both FY 2026 and 2027 to hire the staff necessary to implement the recommendations.

LD 1870 *An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters* (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill establishes the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program within the Department of Environmental Protection, to assess a recovery fee against an entity that was engaged in extracting fossil fuel or refining crude oil between January 1, 1995, and December 31, 2024, and only if the department determines that the entity's products were responsible for more than one billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. The bill also requires payments to be deposited into the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program Fund to develop and implement the program and fund for climate change adaptation projects, which the department is directed to prioritize through the adoption of a resilience implementation strategy and to ensure that at least 35% of the funds are used for climate

change adaptation projects that benefit low-income persons with environmental justice concerns.

LD 1892 *An Act to Establish Procedures for School Construction Projects* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

Beginning July 1, 2026, this bill establishes a school construction debt service fund that is funded by gaming activity, cannabis tax, lapsed balances in the General Fund, and tobacco tax revenues, as well as federal funds. The bill requires a school administrative unit to pay 25% of the total cost of a school project and all school construction projects be green-certified and use the most cost-effective, energy-efficient and low emission standards possible. The bill also establishes the Maine Public School Financing Authority, which is responsible for the sale of bond issues for school administrative units and, when feasible, offering zero-interest financing or cash allotments for school construction projects.

LD 1904 *An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill creates the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund, administered by the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to assist municipalities in paying legal costs incurred in pursuing egregious shoreland zoning violations. The bill requires municipalities that receive financial assistance to reimburse the fund within six months of the settlement or final adjudication of a legal claim. The bill also appropriates \$100,000 in one-time funding and provides for ongoing appropriations to ensure a minimum balance of \$100,000 remains in the fund.

LD 1910 *An Act to Strengthen Housing Stability Services by Increasing Support and Outreach* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with community-based nonprofit organizations for nine outreach case workers and nine housing stability workers to provide supportive services to individuals who are unhoused and chronically homeless, as well as to ensure that the individuals are in safe indoor environments while awaiting permanent housing. By September 1, 2025, the bill also directs the department to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development with details on the delivery of housing stability support services, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026. The bill also appropriates \$1.7 million in ongoing funding to implement the program and includes an emergency preamble, making the bill effective law once signed by the governor.

LD 1912 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Address Maine's Housing Shortage* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bond bill seeks voter approval for a \$60 million bond with: (1) \$30 million used to provide grants to manufacturers of manufactured housing and low-interest loans to develop new factories or expand existing factories; (2) \$25 million to support Maine State Housing Authority's (MSHA) Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund; (3) \$2.5 million for MSHA's Weatherization Plus Program; and (4) \$2.5 million to support a polit program to issues grants to nonprofit housing developers to rehabilitate existing aging housing stock for purchase by qualified first-time home buyers.

LD 1921 *An Act to Create a Statewide Housing Resolution Board* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This bill establishes in the Administrative Office of the Courts a three-member Housing Resolution Board to hear appeals of final decisions by a municipal review authority, including planning, site plan, design review and historic preservation review boards, regarding housing and mixed-use housing developments. The board is directed to hear and affirm, reverse or modify the final decisions of a municipal review authority, only with respect to errors of law or if the board is persuaded that the decision was unreasonable, and concerning: (1) subdivisions, site plans, variances, special exceptions, administrative appeals and ordinance administration; (2) the use of innovative land and growth management and interim growth management controls; (3) historic district, heritage and conservation commissions; (4) other municipal permits and fees applicable to housing and housing developments; and (5) mixed-use combinations of residential and nonresidential uses. An appeal must be filed within 30 days, with notice provided to the municipal review committee, which must within 30 days submit to the review board a certified record of its proceedings. The board is then directed to hold a hearing on the merits of the appeal and issue a written decision within 60 days thereafter. Appeals of local decisions may also be brought to the board by any other aggrieved or injured party that demonstrates legal standing. The bill provides that any party that brings an action before the board waives the right to bring an action in Superior Court. However, decisions of the board can be appealed to the Supreme Judicial County by any party.

LD 1926 *An Act to Require Increased Housing Density or Lower Minimum Lot Sizes for Workforce Housing* (Sponsored by Rep. Stover of Boothbay)

This bill requires municipalities to increase density requirements for the development of workforce housing wherever single-family or multifamily residential housing is allowed and defines workforce housing as a development with at least five units

that are offered for sale or rented to an individual whose income is less than 220% of the area median income (AMI). The bill also provides that development densities are to increase by: (1) 75% if housing units are available for rent or sale to households with incomes between 80% and 100% of AMI; (2) 60% for households with incomes between 101% and 120% of AMI; (3) 45% for households with incomes between 121% and 180% of AMI; and (4) 30% for households with incomes between 181% and 220% of AMI, provided that at least 50% of the increased amount is sold or rented to households that meet the established AMI thresholds for a period of 30 years. Municipalities are also prohibited from requiring more than one off-street parking space for every three workforce housing units developed, but retain the authority to enforce setbacks, height limitations and other related ordinances that do not unreasonably restrict the intent of the proposal. Municipalities must amend their ordinances to accommodate the new standards by January 1, 2026, for council municipalities and by July 1, 2026, for town meeting municipalities, without state reimbursement for the mandated task.

LD 1931 *An Act to Annually Reimburse the Town of Charleston for 43 Percent of Property Tax Revenue Lost Due to the Mountain View Correctional Facility's Tax-exempt Status* (Sponsored by Rep. Foster of Dexter)

This bill requires the Treasurer of State to annually reimburse the Town of Charleston for 43% of the lost property tax revenue due to the Mountain View Correctional Facility tax exemption.

LD 1949 *An Act Regarding Energy Fairness* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill: (1) requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules prohibiting the disconnection of residential customers' utility services for nonpayment provided certain conditions are met; (2) prohibits certain expenses from being included in a public utility's rates, including fines and penalties, costs associated with travel, lodging and food for officers and board of directors, and expenditures for investor relations; and (3) requires public utilities with over 50,000 customers to file a quarterly docket with the commission containing data from the previous quarter applicable to residential and nonresidential customers.

LD 1959 *An Act to Prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from Reducing General Assistance Reimbursement Maximums for Payment of Costs of Providing Emergency Shelter* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

Retroactive to July 1, 2023, this bill provides that the maximum level of municipal general assistance for an emergency shelter is the actual cost of providing services. The bill also prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from adopting any rule

reducing or otherwise restricting maximum levels of municipal general assistance for providing emergency shelter or any rule establishing maximum time periods for eligibility for emergency housing assistance that are more restrictive than limits established in the laws governing municipal general assistance.

LD 1962 *An Act to Establish the Corrections Ombudsman* (Sponsored by Sen. Duson of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill creates the Office of Corrections Ombudsman to support a humane and transparent corrections system for incarcerated persons and staff, which is directed to receive complaints and suggestions for addressing health, safety, welfare or rights of incarcerated persons or staff, establish procedures for receiving and processing complaints, conduct investigations, and report on the outcomes of conducted investigations. The office is also charged with conducting public education programs, undertaking legislative advocacy and making proposals for systemic reform and formal legal action to secure and ensure the rights of incarcerated persons.

LD 1966 *An Act to Improve Access to Community Solar Programs in the State* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

In part, this bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to conduct one or more proceedings beginning in 2025 and every five years thereafter to review and investigate administrative charges collected by a public utility with over 50,000 customers. If the commission finds that a utility has over collected administrative charges, the commission can order the utility to refund excess charges. The bill also requires the commission to establish customer bill information requirements that include an accurate and comprehensive description of all costs and benefits of public policy charges.

LD 1975 *An Act to Eliminate the ConnectMaine Authority by Repealing the Advanced Technology Infrastructure Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

This bill repeals the state's broadband policy, the ConnectMaine Authority, the ConnectMaine Fund and the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund.

LD 1980 *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers* (Sponsored by Sen. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.)

This bill implements recommendations from a stakeholder group created to examine the recruitment, retention and wellness of law enforcement officers by: (1) requiring a death certificate to note if the deceased had previously worked as a first responder; (2) directing the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to incorporate wellness

training and critical incident briefing in its training programs; and (3) providing an ongoing appropriation to fund a wellness coordinator position within the Department of Public Safety. The bill also creates the 11-member Law Enforcement Retention Advisory Council, which includes members representing statewide associations of police, law enforcement, chiefs of police, and sheriffs, and a retired law enforcement officer, to advise the Department of Public Safety on the development and implementation of state and local policies and programs to improve recruitment, retention and wellness of law enforcement officers.

LD 1983 *An Act to Protect Minors from Intoxicating Hemp-derived Products by Regulating Those Products Under the Adult Use Cannabis Laws* (Governor's bill) (Sponsored by Sen. Ingwersen of York Cty.)

This bill makes changes to the cannabis laws regarding the regulation of intoxicating hemp-derived products. It amends the definition of "hemp" in statutes to exclude intoxicating hemp-derived products and regulates such products under the same statutes as adult use cannabis, including testing, tracking, packaging, labeling and sale within the adult use cannabis program. The bill also prohibits the sale of intoxicating hemp-derived products by liquor licensees and provides for the taxation of these products by applying a tax rate of 20%.