2025 Session – Enacted Study Bills

<u>LD 318</u> Resolve, Directing the Maine Education Policy Research Institute and the Department of Education to Recommend Changes to the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) Resolves 2025,c. 84

No later than October 1, 2025, this resolve directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to identify cost model parameters for the Department of Education to use in simulating projected impacts on school funding, including special education, regional adjustments and indexes, per-pupil amounts to more adequately fund instruction staff support, economically disadvantaged student weights, and transportation factors. The institute is also tasked with identifying the additional information needed from school administrative units to examine the per-pupil cost of certain high-cost special education programs and soliciting stakeholder input on the results of the department's simulated impacts on school funding. No later than January 15, 2026, the department is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 353</u> Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Ingwersen of York Cty.) Resolves 2025, c. 104

This emergency resolve establishes and directs the 13-member Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State and directs the commission to develop recommendations for enhancing public awareness, improving identity verification requirements for real estate transactions, and strengthening civil and criminal remedies to assist in preventing deed fraud. By December 3, 2025, the commission is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

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

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

LD 719 Resolve, to Direct the County Corrections Professional Standards Council to Examine Funding of and Compliance by County and Regional Jails (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook) Resolves 2025, c. 73

This resolve directs the County Corrections Professional Standards Council to review: (1) county jail compliance with audit and expenditure reporting requirements; (2) unfunded mandates related to county jails; (3) improvements to the operations of the council; and (4) future needs for state support for county jail operations. No later than January 15, 2026, the council is also directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 758 Resolve, to Conduct a Study to Update Flood Hazard Data in the Sandy River Watershed (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) Resolves 2025, c. 42

This resolve directs several state agencies, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency, to contract for a geomorphic study within the Sandy River watershed to update flood hazard data, including an assessment of river movement, erosion and sedimentation and the impacts of those factors on flood risk and river health. The resolve also directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to seek funding to support the cost of the study.

<u>LD 841</u> Resolve, to Study the Delivery of Emergency Medical Services to and Ferry Service Effects on Unbridged Island Communities in the State (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) Resolves 2025, c. 93

This resolve directs Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to convene a working group to study the delivery of emergency medical services and ferry service effects on unbridged island communities. The eight-member study group includes two members from island communities representing different interests and a representative of a municipal fire department. No later than January 1, 2026, Maine EMS is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committees on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and Transportation, which are authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 976 Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Facilitate Public Access and Resilience Planning for Swan Island (Sponsored by Rep. Cluchey of Bowdoinham) Resolves 2025, c. 100

This resolve directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene a working group, including a municipal official from the Town of Richmond, to develop a comprehensive plan to enhance public access to Swan Island located in Perkins Township. The working group is tasked with identifying barriers to public access, evaluating accessible transportation options, assessing infrastructure needs, exploring funding sources, and producing a detailed public access plan for implementation on or before May 1, 2026. No later than January 1, 2026, the department is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 1005</u> Resolve, to Study Authorization for Municipal Fire Departments with Trained Personnel to Conduct Fire Sprinkler System Plan Reviews (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) Resolves 2025, c. 103

This resolve directs the Office of the State Fire Marshal to convene a working group, which includes representatives from a statewide association of fire chiefs, a representative of a statewide association of municipalities, and a municipal fire department seeking to conduct fire sprinkler system plan reviews. The working group is directed to examine the status of fire sprinkler system plan review in Maine, including reviewing all related and available data, the procedures necessary to enable the office to grant authority to willing municipal fire departments, and strategies for addressing the office's staffing needs. No later than December 3, 2025, the office is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committees on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and Housing and Economic Development, which are authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 1135</u> Resolve to Convene a Working Group to Study the Use of Oral Fluid Testing in Determining the Intoxication of Drivers, Aircraft Operators and Hunters (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 87**

This resolve directs the Department of Public Safety to convene a working group, including a representative from a statewide association of chiefs of police, to study the use of oral fluid testing to determine intoxication. The working group is tasked with determining: (1) the need for this testing in Maine; (2) legal and regulatory changes necessary to allow the use of oral fluid testing; (3) how the testing will impact administrative license suspensions; and (4) the equipment and training necessary to conduct and implement the testing. No later than January 1, 2026, the department is also directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 1148</u> Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State to Study Providing Access to Absentee Ballots for Municipal Elections to Uniformed Service Voters or Overseas Voters in the Same Manner as Absentee Ballots for Statewide Elections (Sponsored by Rep. Shagoury of Hallowell) **Resolves 2025, c. 43**

This resolve directs the Secretary of State to: (1) study the feasibility and methods for providing uniformed service or overseas voters digital access to and receipt of local absentee ballots from a municipality holding an election on the same date as a statewide election; (2) update its website or the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act absentee ballot retrieval service portal to clearly and conspicuously state that local absentee ballots must be obtained from the municipality of residence; and (3) no later than December 3, 2025, submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 1186</u> Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle) **Resolves 2025, c. 97**

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to work with island and ferry service stakeholders, including an elected municipal officer from Monhegan Island, to study the feasibility of adding ferry service to the island. No later than December 3, 2025, the department is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 1209</u> Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study the Safety and Use of Nonconforming Vehicles on Maine's Roads and Highways (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) Resolves 2025, c. 29

This resolve directs the Secretary of State to convene a working group, including a municipal representative, to study the feasibility of allowing the registration and operation of nonconforming vehicles on state roads and highways, including mini trucks, antique military vehicles and any other vehicle under 10,000 pounds and operated by a holder of a Class C license. The working group is tasked with identifying operating standards and safety risks, reviewing and analyzing laws in other states and existing reports and studies, and considering how to implement an inspection system for nonconforming vehicles. No later than February 6, 2026, the secretary is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 1212</u> Resolve, to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating (Sponsored by Sen. Harrington of York Cty.) Resolves 2025, c. 54

This resolve directs the Efficiency Maine Trust, in collaboration with the Departments of Economic and Community Development and Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, as well as the Governor's Energy Office, to work with representatives of the modern wood heating system industry to study and make recommendations relating to programs and incentives encouraging the promotion and use of modern wood heating systems in Maine. By December 3, 2025, the trust must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 1221</u> Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor to Study Protection of Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program Funds (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford) **Resolves 2025, c.63**

This resolve directs the Department of Labor to study methods to protect all revenues derived from taxes, fees, premiums, fines and penalties under the paid family and medical leave benefits program from being expended for purposes other than those related to the program. No later than January 15, 2026, the department is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 1246</u> Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to Convene a Working Group to Review the Process of Setting Impact Fees (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport) Resolves 2025, c. 85

This emergency resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future, and Maine Office of Community Affairs to convene a working group to study the process by which municipalities impose impact fees. The working group must include representatives of municipalities and developers and include a review of the process by which impact fees are established and imposed, the guidance provided to municipalities and developers, and resources municipalities rely on when establishing impact fee ordinances. By December 3, 2025, the department is further directed to submit recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 1308</u> Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Establish a Working Group to Explore Opportunities to Maintain Public Access of Land (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) Resolves 2025, c. 82

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

<u>LD 1323</u> Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Evaluate the Impact of Neonicotinoids on Pollinators, Humans and the Environment (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) Resolves 2025, c. 69

This resolve directs the Board of Pesticides Control to study the impacts neonicotinoids have on pollinators, soils, water, plant tissue and humans, as well as to review alternatives for the protection of crops from damaging pests and diseases. No later than January 15, 2026, the board is directed to submit a preliminary report and by January 15, 2027, a final report, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2027.

LD 1355 Resolve, to Require the Governor's Energy Office to Study Taxation of Renewable Energy Infrastructure (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) Resolves 2025, c. 116

This resolve directs the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) to consult with the Office of Tax Policy, representatives from the renewable energy industry and municipal and county officials with relevant experience and solicit public comments on the study. GEO must examine and evaluate the current framework for taxing renewable energy infrastructure, the history of municipal and county taxation in Maine and in other states, and possible adoption of a uniform capacity tax for renewable energy infrastructure and exclusion of revenue from the statemunicipal revenue sharing program formulas. By November 4, 2026, GEO is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2027. The resolve also authorizes GEO to receive funds, grants or public and private contributions to carry out the study but does not require the office to undertake the work if it has not received sufficient funding.

<u>LD 1375</u> Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Address Regulatory Barriers to Housing Construction (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) Resolves 2025, c. 64

This resolve directs the Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future, within existing resources, to convene a working group represented by organizations with building and engineering expertise and state and local building code experience, to examine and recommend solutions for regulatory barriers to housing construction. By December 31, 2025, the department is further directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 1390</u> Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State Develop Recommendations for a Multiyear Registration System of National Car Rental Companies (Sponsored by Rep. Parry of Arundel) Resolves 2025, c. 78

This resolve directs the Secretary of State, with input from the Bureau of State Police, to develop recommendations to implement a multi-year registration and inspection program for national car rental companies in Maine. No later than December 3, 2025, the secretary is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1404 Resolve, to Create a Working Group on the Status of School Libraries and on Public Libraries in Maine (Sponsored by Rep. Murphy of Scarborough) Resolves 2025, c. 117

This resolve directs the State Librarian to convene a 15-member working group, including two representatives of municipal public libraries, to study the: (1) services for specific

populations, including persons with disabilities, youth, immigrant and migrant communities and tribal communities; (2) role libraries play in emergency preparedness, cultural diversity, public health and safety and community identity and resilience; and (3) current overall status of public and school libraries. No later than November 1, 2027, the resolve also directs the state librarian to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2028.

<u>LD 1453</u> Resolve, to Establish the Housing Production Innovation Working Group (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) Resolves 2025, c. 105

This bill creates the 11-member Housing Production Working Group and directs the working group to study the potential for innovative housing construction technologies to reduce housing development costs and accelerate production, including modular housing, componentized housing, three-dimensional printing or other approaches to home construction. In part, the working group is tasked with considering production-side barriers, which include examining varying building codes, inspection standards and approval processes; inconsistent licensing requirements; lack of a trained workforce; and transportation challenges. No later than December 3, 2025, the working group is further directed to submit its recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

<u>LD 1701</u> An Act to Support the Implementation of Learning Standards and Results in Public Schools (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) Resolves 2025, c. 76

This resolve directs the Department of Education to convene a working group to study the system of learning results, including the program's purpose, efficacy, and inclusion of diverse cultures and communities. No later than February 1, 2026, the department is required to submit an interim report and no later than February 1, 2027, to submit a final report, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026 and 2027.

<u>LD 1770</u> Resolve, to Establish the Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force (Emergency) (Sponsored by President Daughtery of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2025, c. 108**

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