

**2025 LD List**  
**132<sup>nd</sup> Legislature – First Session**  
*(As of 2/27/25)*

**Attachment S-1**

**February 25, 2025**

[LD 774](#) *An Act to Require Bleeding Control Kits in State-owned Buildings* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft)

This bill requires all state-owned buildings to have bleeding control kits and creates a fund to provide grants or reimbursements to schools, businesses or other organizations that place bleeding control kits on their premises or offer bleeding control training programs.

[LD 758](#) *Resolve, to Update Flood Mapping in the Sandy River Watershed to Federal Emergency Management Agency Standards* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This resolve directs the Maine Office of Community Affairs, in collaboration with the federal government and state agencies, to develop and implement a pilot project to update flood modeling and mapping within the Sandy River watershed.

[LD 757](#) *Resolve, to Study and Oversee Water in the State of Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This resolve establishes the 17-member Commission to Study the Role of Water as a Resource in the State of Maine, which includes a representative from a municipal water utility district. The commission is directed to review a 2021 report on the role of water and develop recommendations to ensure that there is adequate clean, safe and accessible drinking water for Maine residents and to meet the needs of commercial and business interests now and in the future. No later than December 3, 2025, the commission is further directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026. No later than November 1, 2025, the bill also directs the Maine Public Drinking Water Commission to adopt major substantive rules regarding the transfer of a permit or contract in a sale of assets of an entity engaged in the exporting from the state water extracted in Maine which must be reviewed by the study commission.

[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 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 753 *An Act to Support an Aroostook Adult Treatment and Recovery Court* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill establishes an adult treatment and recovery court in Aroostook County and provides \$1 million in ongoing funding for the maintenance of the program

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)

This bill appropriates \$660,000 annually in ongoing funding to support the Bridging Rental Assistance Program.

LD 746 *An Act to Authorize a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Municipalities and Affordable Housing* (Sponsored by Rep. Friedmann of Bar Harbor)

This bill authorizes municipalities to impose a 2% sales tax on taxable lodging sales. The tax assessed is payable to the state, with 10% of the revenue transferred to the Maine State Housing Authority to fund rural housing programs and an additional 2% to cover administrative costs, before the remaining funds are remitted to the generating community.

LD 745 *An Act to Allow a Municipality to Sell Tax-acquired Property in Any Manner Authorized by the Municipality's Legislative Body* (Sponsored by Rep. Lemelin of Chelsea)

This bill allows a municipality to sell tax-acquired property in any manner authorized by the municipality's legislative body after the expiration of the relevant period for commencement of a title action, provided the municipality pays the former owner any excess sale proceeds as calculated under current law.

LD 744 *An Act to Remove Certain Wharves and Piers from the Laws Governing the Current Use Valuation of Working Waterfront Land* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick)

This bill amends the definition of "working waterfront land" in the laws governing the current use valuation of working waterfront land by removing from the definition wharves and piers used primarily or used predominantly by people engaged in commercial fishing activities.

LD 741 *An Act to Increase Preparedness for Solar Power Adoption in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Skold of Portland)

This bill requires the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board to ensure that the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code includes standards for the construction of new commercial buildings contained in Appendix CB of the 2021 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code. The bill also requires the board to define "new commercial buildings" to exclude buildings that have received all necessary permits and approvals before July 1, 2026, and any buildings that receive funding from the Maine State Housing Authority.

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

This bill appropriates \$750,000 in one-time funding to reimburse the City of Ellsworth for 50% of the costs to build an access road to a new Hancock County courthouse.

LD 737 *An Act Regarding a So-called Clean Slate Initiative for Arrest and Conviction Records* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This concept draft bill proposes to establish a so-called clean slate initiative for arrest and conviction records.

LD 735 *An Act to Protect Sand Dunes on Sears Island and to Establish Criteria for Legislation Regarding Land Development* (Sponsored by Rep. Paul of Winterport)

This bill repeals the authority granted to the departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation facilitating the construction of an offshore wind terminal on Sears Island in the Town of Searsport or because it will impact the island's coastal sand dune system. The bill also provides that any legislation that conflicts with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations can only be sponsored by a member of the House or Senate who represents the impacted district, which must be enacted by a two-thirds majority vote of the legislature.

LD 734 *An Act to Promote Voter Registration for Students in Maine's High Schools* (Sponsored by Rep. McCabe of Lewiston)

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, this bill requires a secondary school to organize and facilitate voter education and registration activities, including a voter registration drive. The school is required to designate a school employee or invite a third party, including a town clerk, to serve as the registration drive coordinator and notify the Secretary of State of the name and title of the selected coordinator. The bill also requires the registration drive coordinator

to deliver or mail completed voter registration applications to the appropriate town clerk or to the Secretary of State within five days of the conclusion of the drive and no later than the close of business on the 21st day before election day.

[LD 733](#) *An Act to Make Changes to the Law Based on a Pilot Project Conducted by the Maine State Housing Authority Regarding Efforts to Improve Access to Credit for Low-income Renters* (Sponsored by Rep. Zager of Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to make changes to the law based on the results of a Maine State Housing Authority pilot project to facilitate rent payment history reporting to credit reporting agencies for purposes of establishing or improving the credit ratings of low-income residential tenants.

[LD 731](#) *An Act to Prohibit Municipalities from Barring the Creation of Homeless Shelters* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill prohibits municipalities from enacting or enforcing ordinances that prohibit the creation or operation of a homeless shelter.

[LD 726](#) *An Act to Protect Municipalities' Investment in Law Enforcement Officers* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This bill doubles the reimbursement levels that a law enforcement agency must pay when a full-time law enforcement officer is hired by another governmental agency within five years of graduating from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. As proposed in the bill, the percentage of the training cost that must be reimbursed is 200% in the first year; 160% in the second year; 120% in the third year; 80% in the fourth year; 40% in the fifth year after graduation.

[LD 723](#) *An Act Requiring the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a Nonresidential Basic Law Enforcement Training Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Lajoie of Lewiston)

Beginning July 1, 2027, this bill requires the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to provide a nonresidential law enforcement training program.

[LD 722](#) *An Act to Fund an Administrative Structure of an Emergency Medical Services Education Program in the Community College System* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook)

This bill appropriates \$5 million annually in ongoing funds to establish and maintain an emergency medical services education administrative structure as required by Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services rules and external accreditation standards.

[LD 719](#) *An Act to Amend the Share of State Funding for the County Jail Operations Fund* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook)

This bill provides that state funding for the County Jail Operations Fund must be appropriated annually in an amount equal to 35% of the total cost of operations for county jails as necessary to meet the standards for county jails as established by the Commissioner of Corrections or otherwise required by law. The bill further provides that county jails may provide services that exceed the standards established by the commissioner or otherwise required by law, but the cost of providing such services must be funded by the counties or from other sources outside of the County Jail Operations Fund.

LD 718 *An Act to Require Municipal Clerks to Issue Absentee Ballots Only to Residents of That Municipality and to Eliminate Ongoing Absentee Voter Status* (Sponsored by Rep. Adams of Lebanon)

The bill repeals the provisions allowing for application for ongoing absentee voter status. This bill also requires a municipal clerk to issue an absentee ballot only to a person who is registered to vote in that municipality, including the voter, an immediate family member or a third person designated by the voter to deliver the ballot on the voter's behalf.

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)

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 amendment does not eliminate the property tax fairness credit available under current law.

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 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 711 *An Act to Facilitate the State Meeting Its Climate Goals While Protecting Farms* (Sponsored by Rep. Collamore of Pittsfield)

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules to establish a process by which an entity proposing the development of a distributed generation resource for net energy billing on non-fertile land may appeal a denial of a good-cause exemption related to delays. The bill requires the commission to find that delays related to site inspections and local government approvals are external delays outside of the entity's control. The bill defines "non-fertile land" as land that cannot be used for or is not capable of use without substantial modification for production of agriculturally related products, including, but not limited to, crops, livestock, poultry, dairy products and sod.

LD 710 *An Act to Expand Access and Reduce Barriers to Access to Naloxone Hydrochloride and Other Opioid Overdose-reversing Medications* (Sponsored by Rep. Zager of Portland)

This bill expands access to opioid overdose-reversing medications by allowing municipalities to provide vending machines for use by the public in response to an opioid-related drug overdose. The bill also provides additional immunity protections to an individual who administers an opioid overdose-reversing medication to another when they believe the other individual is experiencing an opioid related drug overdose. Lastly, the bill incorporates other opioid overdose-reversing medications in the provisions governing naloxone hydrochloride.

LD 708 *An Act to Allow for Rescission of a Site Location of Development Permit When a Development Is Decommissioned* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta)

For developments other than a subdivision, this bill adds to the laws governing when the state can rescind a site location of development permit to include cases where the development has been fully decommissioned. The bill also defines “fully decommissioned” as when all components of a development have been physically removed, the site has been restored to preconstruction grade, any previously vegetated areas have been revegetated with native vegetation similar to nearby native vegetation, and all waste has been recycled or disposed of at a facility authorized to accept the materials for recycling or disposal.

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 702 *An Act to Designate January 6th as A Day to Remember and to Preserve the Accounts of Witnesses to the Events of January 6, 2021* (Sponsored by Rep. Macias of Topsham)

This bill designates January 6 as A Day to Remember and an opportunity to reflect on the values of democracy, civic responsibility and the importance of protecting constitutional governance and encourages educational institutions, civic organizations and public libraries to observe the day with discussions, events and programming to educate citizens about the importance of civic engagement and the rule of law. The bill also directs the State Archivist, in collaboration with the Maine Historical Society, to collect and preserve firsthand accounts from individuals who witnessed or were involved in the events of January 6, 2021 in Washington, D.C.

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 698 *An Act to Sustain Emergency Homeless Shelters in Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill appropriates \$5 million annually in ongoing funding to support emergency homeless shelters.

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 692 *An Act to Increase Support for Statewide Emergency Broadcast Messaging* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill appropriates an additional \$350,000 annually in ongoing funding to align the state more closely with the statutory requirement to provide emergency broadcast messaging for public safety.

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 687 *An Act to Assert State Ownership over Ocean Waters up to 12 Nautical Miles and Submerged Lands and Marine Resources up to 24 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast and to Direct the Attorney General to Study That Ownership* (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Oxford Cty.)

This concept draft bill exerts the state's ownership and jurisdiction over all waters within the rise and fall of the tide seaward 12 nautical miles and all submerged lands and the harvesting of marine resources from the coastline for a distance of 24 nautical miles. The bill also requires the Office of the Attorney General to study the legal issues regarding state ownership and sovereignty over marine resources beyond the 12-nautical-mile territorial sea limit.

LD 686 *Resolve, to Rename the Kezar Falls Bridge Between Porter and Parsonsfield the Kezar Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2432 on Federal Road between the Town of Porter and the Town of Parsonsfield the Kezar Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 685 *Resolve, to Rename the Mill Pond Bridge the Sebago Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 6230 on Sebago Road in the Town of Sebago the Sebago Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 684 *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Liquor and Lottery Operations* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing liquor and lottery operations.

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

This bill provides one-time funds for the Maine Fire Service Institute 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 677 *An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of "Machine Gun" and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill modifies the provision of the Maine Criminal Code defining "machine gun" to include any part or combination of parts designed and intended for use in converting a weapon into a machine gun. The bill also makes it a Class D crime for a person to knowingly possess a rapid-fire device without authority to do so.

LD 676 *An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill provides a placeholder for a one-time allocation to replace tracks on 31 miles of the rail corridor between the towns of Fryeburg and Standish per the recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council.

LD 673 *An Act to Better Support the Educational Attainment of Low-income and Moderate-income Communities by Providing Additional Funding to Certain School Administrative Units* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill creates the Educational Opportunity Grant Program to provide grants to school administrative units in which the average personal income of the member municipalities is below the state average for programs designed to raise educational standards.

LD 672 *Resolve, to Rename the Salmon Falls Bridge Between Buxton and Hollis the Salmon Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3708 on Route 202 between the Town of Buxton and the Town of Hollis the Salmon Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 671 *An Act to Abolish the Maine Income Tax and Establish a Zero-based Budget* (Sponsored by Rep. Libby of Auburn)

Beginning on January 1, 2026, this bill eliminates the Maine income tax and requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to review provisions of law that refer to income tax and submit a report, including suggested legislation in 2026 identifying necessary changes to implement the elimination. The bill also requires the development of a new budgeting system in which agencies would be subject to zero-based budgeting every eight years and in the interim years be subject to review and alternative budget requirements.

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

This concept draft bill proposes to change certain labor laws.

LD 668 *An Act to Abolish Ranked-choice Voting* (Sponsored by Rep. Underwood of Presque Isle)

This bill repeals the laws governing ranked-choice voting.

LD 667 *An Act to Modernize the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and the Law Governing Inspection Fees* (Sponsored by Rep. Parry of Arundel)

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 and to exempt from this requirement an inspection station that demonstrates economic hardship. It also authorizes an inspection station to charge a fee not more than 2 1/2 times the state's minimum wage 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 not more than 2 1/2 times the state's minimum wage for each school bus inspected.

**LD 661 Hopper (TRNS-RG)** *An Act to Amend Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements*  
(Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor)

Unless damaged in a collision or natural disaster or if ownership changes, this bill provides that a new motor vehicle that a holder of a Class C license is authorized to operate is not required to have an inspection until three years from the last day of the month in which the vehicle was manufactured.

**LD 659** *An Act to Reduce Housing Costs by Not Requiring Fire Sprinkler Systems for Single-family Homes and Duplexes* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

This bill prohibits a municipality from adopting or enforcing a provision of a building code that requires the installation or use of fire sprinkler systems in a single-family dwelling or duplex.

**LD 658** *An Act to Lower Property Taxes by Increasing the Homestead Property Tax Exemption*  
(Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

For property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2025, this bill increases the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

**LD 657** *An Act to Modify the Law Governing Municipal General Assistance by Designating Broadband Internet Access Service and Wireless Access Point Technology as Basic Necessities*  
(Sponsored by Rep. Simmons of Waldoboro)

This bill modifies the provisions of law governing municipal general assistance to designate broadband internet access service and wireless access point technology as basic necessities.

**LD 656** *An Act to Save Tax Dollars in Maine's Elections by Amending the Laws Governing When a Ranked-choice Voting Count Must Be Conducted* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This bill provides that, for the purposes of the ranked-choice voting procedure, if there are two or fewer continuing candidates, the candidate with a majority of the votes cast in that round is declared the winner of the election.

**LD 652** *An Act to Provide Qualifying Downtown Businesses and Developments with Assistance Paying Flood Insurance Premiums* (Sponsored by Rep. Rollins of Augusta)

This bill authorizes municipalities or plantations with established downtown tax increment financing districts to use funds to finance flood insurance assistance programs, provided no more than 25% of the tax increment is used; and the program is limited to businesses or developments that meet eligibility criteria established by the municipality or plantation.

**LD 650** *An Act to Support Municipal Public Health* (Sponsored by Rep. Graham of North Yarmouth)

This bill amends the law governing the authority to appoint local boards of health by directing municipalities to make every effort to maximize gender representation and cultural diversity on the board. The appointees must have significant knowledge and experience in medicine or public health, including but not limited to community mental health, public health nursing, public and community health and education and communications. The bill further

provides that the board shall prioritize activities overseen by the local health officer and may: (1) in consultation with CDC educate the public about health issues; (2) propose ordinances promoting general health; (3) advise councils, selectboards, and staff on public health issues; and (4) collaborate with nonprofit organizations and businesses to support local public health work.

LD 647 *An Act Regarding Telephone and Video Call Access in Detention and Correctional Facilities and Jails* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

Of municipal interest, this bill requires sheriffs to provide jail residents with reasonable opportunities to call relatives and friends, except that the sheriff may restrict or prohibit calls when necessary for the security of the jail. The sheriff must provide a resident who has less than \$50 in the jail account with 90 minutes of free telephone and video calls per week, as well as free calls to their attorneys.

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

This emergency resolve creates the Commission to Study How to Address Unregulated Storm Water Pollution, which includes a representative from municipal government, and directs the commission to study and analyze existing scientific literature and data on storm water pollution gathered from stakeholder input and how it has affected or potentially will affect the state's valuable waters, habitats and species along the coast. 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 641 *An Act to Support Diversion Efforts to Address Homelessness in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford)

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

LD 639 *An Act to Improve Training Opportunities for Law Enforcement Officers* (Sponsored by Rep. Crockett of Portland)

This bill removes the requirement that the law enforcement training program provided by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy must be a residential program.

LD 637 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Evaluate the Municipal General Assistance Program Database* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford)

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate the feasibility of upgrading the database to allow for the determination of whether a general assistance program applicant who is disqualified is seeking assistance in another municipality. By December 3, 2025, the department must issue a report on the evaluation, including a timeline for implementation of the upgrade or new database, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, which may advance legislation in 2026.

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 of

the Maine Municipal Association, Maine Town and City Clerks' Association, and seven municipal officials representing communities of varying populations. The commission is directed to meet at least twice and no more than four times in 2026 and 2027 to review unfunded and outdated mandates, provide recommendations for eliminating or amending the mandates, and no later than December 1, 2027, submit findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters.

LD 632 *An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing* (Sponsored by Rep. Skold of Portland)

This bill authorizes municipalities to impose a 2% sales tax on taxable lodging sales for the sole purpose of funding affordable housing programs. The tax assessed is payable to the state, with 15% of the revenue transferred to the Maine State Housing Authority to fund rural housing programs and an additional 2% to cover administrative costs, before the remaining funds are remitted to the generating community monthly.

LD 630 *An Act to Implement Portions of the "Protecting Maine's Beaches for the Future: 2017 Update" Report Regarding Beach Nourishment and Dune Restoration Projects* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Foley of Wells)

The emergency concept draft bill proposes to implement certain recommendations related to beach nourishment and dune restoration projects made in the "Protecting Maine's Beaches of the Future: 2017 Update" report.

LD 626 *An Act to Explicitly Allow the Department of Corrections to Charge Room and Board to Residents Who Perform Remote Work in Detention and Correctional Facilities and to Amend the Laws Governing Rehabilitative Programs* (Sponsored by Rep. Nutting of Oakland)

This bill allows the Commissioner of Corrections to charge room and board to residents who perform remote work in a facility under the commissioner's control and amends the laws governing rehabilitative programs to add references to education release, public service release and remote work.

LD 622 *An Act to Implement a Surcharge on Electric Vehicle Registration* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This bill directs the Secretary of State to require the owner of an electric vehicle to pay an electric vehicle registration surcharge of \$250 per year. The money collected from the surcharge must be transmitted to the Treasurer of State to be credited to the Highway Fund.

LD 621 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Mattawamkeag the Mattawamkeag Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Quint of Hodgdon)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2522 on Main Street in the Town of Mattawamkeag the Mattawamkeag Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 619 *An Act Related to Marine Resources and Maine's Working Waterfront* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing marine resources and working waterfronts.

LD 617 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Waterboro the Waterboro Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Eder of Waterboro)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3830 on Main Street in the Town of Waterboro the Waterboro Veterans Memorial Bridge.

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 614 *An Act to Modify Current Property Tax Assessment Methods to Make Property Taxes Affordable for Longtime Property Owners* (Sponsored by Rep. Foster of Dexter)

This concept draft bill proposes to modify the methods of assessing property taxes on residential properties to help residents retain their homes.

LD 611 *An Act to Allow the Secretary of State to Collect Excise Taxes on Motor Vehicles Owned by Residents Who Are Unhoused* (Sponsored by Rep. Sayre of Kennebunk)

This bill allows an individual resident of the State who has no residing place to pay excise tax on a motor vehicle directly to the Secretary of State.

LD 610 *Resolve, to Designate a Portion of Route 234 in the Town of New Vineyard and the Town of Anson in Honor of Corporal Andrew L. Hutchins* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate a portion of Route 234 in the Town of New Vineyard and the Town of Anson the Corporal Andrew L. Hutchins Way.

LD 609 *An Act Making Certain Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government* (Sponsored by Rep. Gattine of Westbrook)

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 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 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 603 *An Act to Ensure That the Exemption of Certain Agricultural Buildings from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Includes Maple Sugarhouses* (Sponsored by Rep Cooper of Windham)

This bill exempts buildings used primarily to process or store maple sap or syrup from the provisions of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

LD 601 *An Act to Remove State-imposed Referendum Requirements Regarding Nuclear Power* (Sponsored by Rep. Paul of Winterport)

This bill repeals a provision in state statute that requires voter approval at a statewide referendum to construct or operate nuclear power plants, waste disposal or storage facilities or to enter into compacts or agreements with other states or the federal government regarding the disposal or storage of low-level radioactive waste.

LD 600 *An Act to Initiate Recounts in Tied Election* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford)

This bill amends the election laws to require the Secretary of State, for statewide elections, and municipal clerks, for local elections, to automatically initiate a recount when there is an apparent tie.

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

This bill 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.

LD 598 *An Act to Require Minimum Pay for Reporting to Work* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

Except for public employers, this bill provides that on any day an employee reports to work at the request of an employer and the employer cancels or reduces the number of hours worked, the employee must be paid the lesser of two hours of pay at the employee's regular hourly rate of pay or the total pay for the shift for which the employee was scheduled. An employer that makes a documented good faith effort to notify an employee not to report to work is not liable to pay wages.

LD 597 *An Act Concerning Energy, Utilities and Technology* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

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

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

This bill allocates \$10 million annually to the Land of Maine's Future Trust Fund.

LD 591 *Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study MaineCare Estate Recovery* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This emergency resolve creates the Commission to Study MaineCare Estate Recovery, which is directed to review the: (1) history of the MaineCare estate recovery procedures; (2) reasons behind the establishment of the procedures as they exist currently; (3) allowable flexibilities in the administration of Medicaid estate recovery programs, including any possible Medicaid waivers; (4) recovery models employed by other states; and (5) best practices and innovations in Medicaid estate recovery. By December 3, 2025, the commission is also directed to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 583 *An Act to Support Informed Community Self-determination in Emergency Medical Services Planning* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This bill appropriates \$200,000 annually to the Maine Emergency Medical Services Community Grant Program established to facilitate community led, informed discussions around emergency medical service challenges and opportunities for regional approaches.

LD 575 *An Act to Ensure Equitable Access to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program by Removing the Requirement That Leave Must Be Scheduled to Prevent Undue Hardship on the Employer* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill amends the paid family and medical leave law to repeal the provision that requires leave to be scheduled to prevent an undue hardship on an employer.

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 573 *An Act to Improve Penalty Collection for Labor Protection Violations* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend provisions of law as necessary to improve the collection of penalties for violations of labor protection law.

LD 572 *An Act to Improve Maine's Workers' Compensation Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This concept draft bill poses to amend provisions of the workers' compensation laws as determined necessary by the Labor Committee.

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 570](#) *An Act to Provide an Additional Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption Based on Income* (Sponsored by Sen. Remy of Lincoln Cty.)

Beginning on April 1, 2026, this bill provides an additional \$75,000 homestead exemption, for a total of \$100,000, to homeowners whose federal adjusted gross income in the previous year was less than: (1) \$200,000 for joint filers; (2) \$150,000 for heads household; and (3) 100,000 for individual filers.

[LD 569](#) *Resolve, to Rename the Shapleigh Bridge the Shapleigh Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3637 on Route 11 in the Town of Shapleigh the Shapleigh Veterans Memorial Bridge.

[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 565](#) *An Act to Amend the Definition of "Homestead" Under the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill repeals the homestead exemption eligibility requirement providing that trust property must be held in a revocable living trust.

[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 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 559](#) *An Act to Provide Property Tax Stabilization for Older Maine Residents* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

This bill authorizes municipalities to impose a 1% sales tax on taxable prepared food and lodging sales for the sole purpose of funding a local property tax stabilization program for seniors. The tax assessed is payable to the state, which may retain no more than 2% of the revenue generated to cover administrative costs and remit the remaining revenues to the generating community monthly. The bill also establishes the parameters associated with the stabilization program, which at a minimum requires eligible participants: (1) to be at least 62

years of age; (2) have owned a homestead in Maine for at least 10 years; and (3) apply for the program annually. Municipalities are authorized to adopt stricter eligibility requirements.

## **February 11, 2025**

[LD 557](#) *An Act to Allow All-terrain Vehicles to Be Used on a Public Way* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

Beginning January 1, 2026, this bill allows the operation of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on a public way as long as the ATV is registered and meets specified safety equipment requirements, and the operator is licensed and insured. The bill requires the payment of the resident or nonresident ATV application fee to register an ATV for operation over a public way and prohibits the operation of an ATV on a public way with a posted speed limit of more than 50 miles per hour. The Department of Transportation is authorized to adopt rules, or a municipality or county may adopt an ordinance, to restrict or prohibit the operation of an ATV on a public way if the department, county or municipality determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary for public safety purposes.

[LD 556](#) *An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor* (Sponsored by Sen. Harrington of York Cty.)

This bill provides that unless authorized by statute, a municipality may not adopt an ordinance or regulation that prohibits the use of a safe and commercially available heating or energy system to serve the individual's or entity's heating or energy needs, including the heating or energy needs of a motor vehicle, or that prohibits the individual or entity from engaging the services of a person or energy distributor to install, connect, service or resupply such a system. As used in this section, "energy distributor" means an individual or entity allowed to distribute or supply oil, propane, natural gas or wood or renewable resources or other related energy services to consumers.

[LD 553](#) *An Act to Assert State Sovereignty over Ocean Waters and Marine Resources up to 12 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Oxford Cty.)

This emergency bill provides that, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the state owns and may exercise jurisdiction over and control all waters within the rise and fall of the tide seaward 12 nautical miles and makes other changes to the law governing the state's sovereignty over and ownership of offshore waters, submerged lands and the harvesting of marine resources.

[LD 551](#) *An Act to Restore Balanced Emergency Powers* (Sponsored by Sen. Harrington of York Cty.)

Of municipal interest, this bill provides that emergency orders issued by a state or local official that binds, curtails or infringes on the rights of private parties must be narrowly tailored to serve a compelling public health or safety purpose, and further provides that only the governor can issue an order that infringes on a constitutional right. The bill also gives a state court jurisdiction to hear cases challenging the legality of the exercise of emergency powers and requires the court to expedite consideration of the case to the extent practicable.

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.)

This emergency bill: (1) directs the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish, operate and maintain a sexual assault forensic examination kit tracking system; (2) requires law enforcement agencies that receive, maintain, store or preserve sexual assault forensic examination kits to complete an inventory of all kits in its possession and report its findings to DPS; (3) allows a victim who has not reported an alleged offense to a law enforcement agency to request that a completed kit be transported to the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory to be processed by signing a consent form, and the results of the analysis must be kept anonymous; and (4) requires that, beginning January 1, 2027, and every five years thereafter, all completed kits that identify an alleged victim and are being stored by a law enforcement agency be transported to the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory and processed on a rolling basis, beginning with kits most recently stored.

LD 548 *An Act Regarding Intoxicating Hemp Products* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing hemp to establish a mechanism for the state to regulate the sale of intoxicating hemp products and require that products sold in Maine be produced by a licensed adult use cannabis products manufacturing facility and sold at licensed adult use cannabis stores.

LD 547 *An Act to Modify Maine Motor Vehicle Inspection Standards to Permit Exterior, Nonstructural Corrosion That Does Not Directly Affect the Passenger Compartment* (Sponsored by Rep. Ardell of Monticello)

This bill amends the motor vehicle safety inspection laws by prohibiting the existence of exterior, nonstructural corrosion as a reason for a failed inspection, and defines exception as corrosion that has resulted in a hole or aperture in the body component, that does not compromise the integrity of the frame or any mechanical component of the motor vehicle necessary for safe operation, which includes but is not limited to corrosion of a hood, trunk, hatch, door, fender, rocker panel or pickup bed. The bill further authorizes the Chief of the State Police to adopt the rules necessary to implement the proposal.

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

This resolve directs the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry to contract with an appropriate consultant to: (1) establish between five and eight building types that municipalities may adopt as preapproved building types to reduce the time associated with processing permit applications; (2) develop preapproved building types with units that can be rented at 30% of the county's area median income; (3) ensure public engagement in developing the building types; (4) work with the Office of the State Marshal to determine compliance with life safety codes; and (5) create a catalog of preapproved building types. No later than November 4, 2026, the bill directs the bureau to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters with findings, which must include recommended legislation to ensure that when a municipality adopts preapproved building types, applications for permits must be deemed

administratively approved when the development is located along existing streets or within designated growth areas served by public water and sewer.

[LD 542](#) *An Act Regarding Municipal Property Tax Levy Limits* (Sponsored by Rep. Adams of Lebanon)

This bill reinstates the so-called LD 1 municipal property tax levy limit law that was repealed as of August 9, 2024.

[LD 539](#) *An Act to Repeal the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield)

Retroactive to October 25, 2023, this emergency bill repeals the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act; directs the Department of Labor to refund employers for contributions made to the fund; and requires employers to return to employees related payroll deductions.

[LD 537](#) *An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This bill prohibits a person from engaging in doxing a minor and authorizes a family member, legal guardian or representative of a minor who is a target of doxing to bring a civil action on behalf of the minor for injunctive relief, actual, compensatory, and punitive damages, or any combination of those remedies. As defined in the bill, doxing is the knowing disclosure of personal identifying information, without that person's consent, and when that disclosure is intended to either directly or indirectly cause: (1) a course of conduct that constitutes stalking; (2) physical harm to that person; (3) serious damage to the property of that person; or (4) a reasonable fear for physical safety.

[LD 536](#) *An Act to Establish Net Neutrality* (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to establish net neutrality for internet customers.

[LD 531](#) *An Act Regarding Dam Ownership* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing the ownership of dams.

[LD 529](#) *An Act Regarding Dams* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing dams.

[LD 528](#) *An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies in Animals by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in consultation with the Animal Welfare Advisory Council, to appoint one or more persons in each county to administer rabies vaccines to animals.

[LD 526](#) *An Act to Reduce the Time Period for Challenging the Validity of a Property Tax Lien on Commercial Real Estate* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford)

Beginning with a tax lien recorded after June 30, 2026, this bill prevents a person from commencing an action against the validity of a governmental taking of commercial real estate for nonpayment of property taxes upon the expiration of a two-year period immediately following the expiration of the period of redemption. The bill also defines “commercial real estate”

property used primarily for business purposes including, without limitation, apartment buildings with five or more rental or lease units, mobile home parks, office buildings and recreational facilities.

[LD 525](#) *An Act to Strengthen Maine Citizens' Second Amendment Rights by Allowing the Discharge of Firearms on Private Property That Is Within 500 Feet of School Property in Certain Circumstances* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner)

This bill provides that the current prohibition on the discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of a school does not apply to a person acting pursuant to the laws governing the use of force in defense of premises.

[LD 523](#) *An Act to Change How the Office of the Attorney General Investigates Officer-involved Shootings* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This concept draft bill proposed to change how the Office of the Attorney General investigates officer-involved shootings.

[LD 521](#) *An Act to Prohibit Discrimination in Housing Based on Source of Income, Veteran Status or Military Status* (Sponsored by Rep. Julia of Waterville)

This bill amends the Maine Human Rights Act to prohibit housing discrimination on the basis of an individual's military status, veteran status or source of income and further defines, in part, "source of income" to include income from any federal, state or local public assistance program.

[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 516](#) *Resolve, to Name the Bridge Between Milford and Old Town the Alton L. Drinkwater Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2630 on Center Street between the City of Old Town and the Town of Milford the Alton L. Drinkwater Memorial Bridge.

[LD 512](#) *An Act to Provide Educational Opportunities for Students in Secondary Schools with 200 or Fewer Students* (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill authorizes a secondary student whose parents reside in a school administrative unit (SAU) that has a secondary school resident student count of 200 or less to enroll in another SAU upon acceptance from that school. The student's parents must notify the resident school of the intent to enroll in another school by April 1st and provide the resident SAU with an acceptance letter from the receiving school by May 1st. The receiving SAU must invoice the sending unit for payment at the per-pupil rate, which may not exceed the state maximum allowable tuition rate.

LD 511 *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council* (Sponsored by Sen. Duson of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, subject to available funding, permitting and municipal agreements, to remove state-owned inactive existing railroad track along the section known as the Berlin Subdivision between the Cities of Portland and Auburn and to replace the track with an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail surfaced with pavement or gravel or stone dust on the existing rail bed.

LD 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.)

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.

LD 502 *An Act to Promote Clean and Affordable Maine-sourced Bioenergy by Amending the Law Regarding Outdoor Wood Boilers and Outdoor Pellet Boilers* (Rep. Ardell of Monticello)

This bill amends the laws regulating outdoor wood boilers, including pellet boilers by: (1) allowing an outdoor wood boiler meeting a particulate matter emission limit of 0.32 pounds per million British Thermal Units heat output to be exempt from property setback requirements as long as it meets applicable stack height requirements under Department of Environmental Protection rules; and (2) prohibiting the adoption of department rules that ban the emission of a smoke plume from an outdoor wood boiler, regardless of whether emissions remain on the property of the owner of the outdoor wood boiler or crosses onto any adjacent land or buildings not owned by the owner.

LD 501 *An Act to Fairly Fund School Administrative Units for Economically Disadvantaged Students* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

Beginning fiscal year 2026-2027, this bill increases the weighted count in the school funding formula for economically disadvantaged students from 0.15 to 0.25.

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).

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 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.

LD 498 *Resolve, to Improve Standards for Animal Rescue Entities* (Sponsored by Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft)

This resolve requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to adopt rules that set standards for animal rescue entities that specify staff-to-animal ratios and govern animals that are returned multiple times and resold or placed in multiple homes.

LD 497 *An Act Regarding the Department of Environmental Protection* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This concept draft bill proposes to update the laws regarding the Department of Environmental Protection.

LD 496 *An Act Regarding the Time Frame for Issuing a Silver Alert and to Require Silver Alerts for All Persons Missing from Certain Inpatient Facilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This bill requires Silver Alerts to be issued immediately to all police departments, hospitals, homeless shelters, soup kitchens and public libraries within 24 hours. When a person who is the subject of an alert is not located, the alert must be reissued after two weeks and every two weeks thereafter.

LD 494 *An Act to Update and Clarify Certain Provisions of State Liquor and Lottery Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor)

Part D of this state agency bill repeals the laws governing liquor signs, with the exception for wholesalers, by limiting signage to no more than five located on the outside of a licensed premises, building, or grounds under that person's control and contiguous or adjacent to the licensed premises that advertises: (1) a liquor is on sale; (2) the price of the liquor, or (3) any other advertising that includes more than the name and logo of the premises or an image appearing on a patio umbrella in an outside seating area.

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

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 to disclose 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.

LD 492 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for Parental Rights* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This resolution seeks voter approval for a constitutional amendment that provides that the natural, inherent and unalienable rights of minor children are held by their parents or guardians until the age of majority or a grant of emancipation and the state, political subdivisions and all governmental entities may not infringe on that authority of parents to direct the upbringing, education and care for the physical, mental and spiritual health of their children, absent abuse or neglect by the parent or guardian or criminal acts by the minor.

LD 491 *Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convey and Release the State's Interest in Certain Real Property Located in the Town of Richmond* (Sponsored by Rep. Cluchey of Bowdoinham)

This resolve authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey to Wilhelmine Dennis Oakes located in the Town of Richmond.

[LD 490](#) *An Act to Provide for a 5-year Automatic Repeal of Agency Rules* (Sponsored by Rep. Smith of Palermo)

This bill amends the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to provide that any agency rule that is finally adopted or amended after January 1, 2026, is automatically repealed five years from the date of final adoption. An agency that has adopted or has jurisdiction over a rule subject to automatic repeal may submit to the legislature a request for renewal, which protects the rule from repeal for an additional five year period. Eighteen months before the automatic repeal of a rule, the bill also directs the Secretary of State to inform the state agency with oversight responsibility notice that the rule will be repealed.

[LD 488](#) *An Act to Protect Coastal Property by Allowing Property Owners to Protect Their Existing Dwellings* (Sponsored by Rep. Hall of Wilton)

This bill amends the Natural Resources Protection Act to authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to issue a permit for the fortification of a residential building located wholly or partially in, on or over a coastal sand dune system or coastal wetland as long as certain specified conditions are met.

[LD 487](#) *Resolve, Directing the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to Apply for Federal Funding for the Purpose of Identifying the Rail Corridor Connecting Portland to Orono as an Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor* (Emergency) (Sponsored Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield)

This emergency resolve directs the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to apply for funding through the federal corridor identification and development program for the purpose of identifying the rail corridor that extends from Portland through Auburn, Lewiston, Waterville and Bangor to Orono, with other station locations determined to be appropriate, as an intercity passenger rail corridor. The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority is directed to apply for this funding during the 2025 application period.

[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 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 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 481](#) *An Act to Allow a Water District Created by Special Act of the Legislature to Borrow Money and Issue a Warrant Prior to a Default* (Sponsored by Rep. Beck of South Portland)

This bill provides that if a water district, prior to a default in the payment on a note, bond or other evidence of indebtedness, makes a determination that the district's anticipated revenues from the normal payment of water charges will not be sufficient to pay the district's anticipated operating expenses, the water district may borrow money to pay the principal and interest and other transaction costs related to the borrowing and may issue the district's warrant immediately to those portions of the municipality or municipalities that constitute the district to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest.

LD 478 *An Act to Reduce Maximum Speeds on Roads Close to Residences* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford)

Except when conditions or other regulations require a lower speed, this bill sets the maximum rates of speed for a public way where at least one residence is located within 15 feet, as: (1) 25 miles per hour for a snowplow and equipment used by the Department of Transportation exclusively for the removal of snow on the public way; (2) 25 miles per hour for a vehicle with at least five axles; and (3) 35 miles per hour for all other vehicles.

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.

LD 476 *An Act to Ban the Sale of Polystyrene Packing Peanuts in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Tepler of Sagadahoc Cty.)

This bill prohibits the sale of loose polystyrene pieces used for packing material, commonly called packing peanuts.

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 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 473 *An Act to Support Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to support agriculture, conservation and forestry in Maine.

LD 472 *Resolve, Directing the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission to Examine Restoring Passenger Rail from Boston to Montreal* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin Cty.)

This resolve directs the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission to examine restoring passenger rail from

Boston, Massachusetts to Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The commissions are directed to submit a report with their findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by December 3, 2025.

[LD 470](#) *An Act to Require School Administrative Units to Adopt Mentoring Programs for Teachers and to Improve Existing Programs* (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.)

This bill requires the Department of Education to develop peer support and teacher mentoring programs to be adopted by school administrative units (SAU); authorizes SAUs to develop their own programs subject to department approval; and requires programs to be capitalized by a \$5,000 stipend per school year.

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

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 465](#) *An Act to Update Waste Discharge License Fees* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.)

Of municipal interest, this bill amends the state's waste discharge license fees by adding a license for general permit coverage for municipal separate storm sewer system and establishing an annual fee of \$1,306.

[LD 464](#) *Resolve, to Rename the Brackett Mill Bridge in Denmark the Brackett Mill Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 5410 on West Main Street in the Town of Denmark the Brackett Mill Veterans Memorial Bridge.

[LD 463](#) *Resolve, to Rename the New Ten Mile River Bridge on Pequawket Trail in Brownfield the Brownfield Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Senator Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 5860 on Pequawket Trail in the Town of Brownfield the Brownfield Veterans Memorial Bridge.

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

This emergency bill provides funding for four Maine State Trooper positions to conduct rural patrols in Washington County.

[LD 460](#) *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Newfield the Dam's Mills Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 5313 on Bridge Street in the Town of Newfield the Dam's Mills Veterans Memorial Bridge.

[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 453 *An Act to Require the State to Pay 90 Percent of All General Assistance Expenses of Municipalities and Indian Tribes* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill increases from 70% to 90% the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe.

**February 4, 2025**

LD 451 *An Act to Require Testing of Solar and Wind Energy Developments for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination* (Sponsored by Rep. Paul of Winterport)

This bill requires the operator of a solar or wind energy development to conduct testing for PFAS contamination at the development site in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection. If PFAS contamination is discovered, the department must issue a written determination as to whether the contamination was reasonably caused by the construction, operation or components of the development. If the department determines the contamination was reasonably caused by solar or wind energy development, then the development no longer meets the eligibility requirements as a renewable resource or renewable capacity resource for the purposes of energy procurement or other contracting under state statutes or for participation in state net energy billing programs.

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 447 *An Act to Expand Ferry Service to Matinicus Isle* (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland)

This bill amends the law regulating state ferry service to Matinicus Isle to require at least 36 trips per year, with additional service authorized as agreed upon by the residents of Matinicus Isle and the Department of Transportation.

[LD 445](#) *An Act to Stimulate Housing Production by Increasing the Threshold Before Participation in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Is Mandatory* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

This bill increases from 4,000 to 10,000 the population threshold for municipalities mandated to enforce the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

[LD 441](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Fish and Wildlife* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws regarding fish and wildlife.

[LD 440](#) *Resolve, to Study the Economic Effects of Instituting a Seasonal Sales Tax* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

This resolve directs Maine Revenue Services (MRS) to conduct a study on the effects of a seasonal sales tax, including an: (1) estimate of the revenue that would be collected and share of the revenue collected from year-round residents; (2) analysis of the effects on the economy, consumer spending, businesses and tourism; and (3) investigation of the impacts in other states that have adopted seasonal sales tax schemes. No later than December 3, 2025, MRS is also directed to submit a report to the legislature.

[LD 439](#) *An Act to Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage and Enhance Sporting Opportunities for Maine's Youth by Allowing Maine's Youth to Hunt on Sunday* (Sponsored by Rep. Ardell of Monticello)

This bill allows individuals enrolled in secondary school who hold valid hunting licenses to hunt wild animals and birds on Sundays.

[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 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)

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 eight 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.

[LD 433](#) *An Act Relating to Requirements for School Bus Drivers* (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford)

This bill clarifies the law governing school bus operator endorsements by providing that the endorsement is contingent on the applicant meeting certain federal requirements only if there is no waiver of those requirements in place. It also clarifies that the requirement that the applicant pass an examination regarding the ability to operate a vehicle of comparable type to a school bus does not include an ability to operate a combination vehicle consisting of a truck tractor and semitrailer. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to seek from the U.S. Department of Transportation a waiver of the engine compartment component of the pre-trip vehicle inspection skills testing requirement known as "the under-the-hood" component, as well as a waiver of the requirement that the state administer this portion of the pre-trip vehicle inspection skills test in accordance with a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration pre-approved examiner manual.

LD 432 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow Municipalities to Apportion Real and Personal Property Taxes on the Basis of Property Classification* (Sponsored by Rep. Mastraccio of Sanford)

This resolution amends Maine's constitution by authorizing municipalities to apportion property taxes based on the property's classification as defined by and according to the process enacted in statute.

LD 430 *An Act to Impose Moratoria on Hydropower Dam Removal and on Water Release from Nonhydropower Dams and to Make Other Changes to the Laws Regulating Such Dams* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington)

This emergency bill amends the laws governing hydropower and non-hydropower dams by: (1) until January 1, 2027 prohibiting the Department of Environmental Protection from approving an application for a permit to remove a dam that is part of a hydropower project, as well as prohibiting the department from issuing an order to a dam owner to release water from the dam or, at the request of the dam owner, approving the removal of a non-hydropower dam; (2) amending the laws governing release from ownership and water level maintenance for non-hydropower dams to extend by 30 days certain deadlines relating to the required consultation process to determine whether a change in dam ownership is available and relating to the assessment of certain public values associated with the dam by certain state agencies; and (3) directing the department to evaluate options for implementing processes, programs or initiatives to address negative outcomes that may be experienced by municipalities, businesses and property owners upon the removal of, or significant change in, water flows from a hydropower or non-hydropower dam, including, but not limited to, interruptions in or loss of water supply for adjacent municipalities and businesses and damage to or impairment of public and private property and infrastructure resulting from dam removal or change in water flows. On or before January 1, 2026, the bill also directs the department to submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources a report outlining its evaluation and including its recommendations, along with draft legislation, as necessary.

LD 427 *An Act to Prohibit Mandatory Parking Space Minimums in State and Municipal Building Codes* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor)

This bill prohibits the state or municipalities from adopting or enforcing any rule, code or ordinance, including the Maine Uniform Building Code, that imposes a minimum parking requirement on new development, land use or occupancy of land or a building. The bill also

provides that the state or municipalities may make recommendations regarding the amount of parking necessary.

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 425 *An Act to Establish a Conviction Integrity Unit in the Attorney General's Office* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This bill establishes, within the Attorney General's (AG) Office, the Conviction Integrity Unit directed to review convictions to determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence of innocence. The unit is authorized to review facts and evidence of innocence, constitutional violations, prosecutorial misconduct and interests of fairness of justice, and investigate and review all files, evidence, work products, notes, records possessed or obtained by the state. If credible evidence of prosecutorial misconduct is found, the unit must submit the evidence to the Board of Overseers of the Bar and report its findings to the AG, who is authorized to file a petition for post-convention review. By March 1 annually, the bill also directs the AG to provide a report highlighting the unit's work to the joint standing committee of the legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters.

LD 424 *An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by an Individual Who Is 18 Years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age* (Sponsored by Rep. Collins of Sidney)

This bill allows an individual who is at least 18 years of age to carry a concealed handgun, provided the individual is not otherwise prohibited from doing so.

LD 423 *An Act Regarding Technical Violations* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This concept draft bill proposes to update the laws governing certain technical violations.

LD 422 *An Act to Require the State to Obtain Municipal Approval Before Placing Noncitizens in the Municipality* (Sponsored by Rep. Swallow of Houlton)

This bill prohibits the state from placing a noncitizen, defined as a person who is not a U.S. citizen, in a municipality without receiving prior authorization from the municipality and further authorizes municipalities to limit the number of noncitizens placed in the community.

LD 421 *An Act to Eliminate Barriers to Reentry into the Community After Incarceration by Repealing Certain Driver's License Suspension Provisions* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This bill repeals provisions in the Maine Criminal Code that authorizes the suspension of a person's driver's license for up to five years if the person used a motor vehicle for trafficking or furnishing a scheduled drug, counterfeit drug, or cannabis.

LD 418 *An Act to Remand Individuals with Pending State Probation Violations to the Department of Corrections Following Initial Proceedings* (Sponsored by Rep. McIntyre of Lowell)

This bill provides when a violation of probation occurs, and the individual cannot make bail or if bail has not been set, the person must be remanded to the custody of the Department of Corrections until the court proceeding or final disposition.

[LD 413](#) *An Act Regarding Disclosure by Sellers of Residential Real Property of Notices of Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Violations* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

Current law requires the seller of residential real property to disclose information regarding an actual or alleged violation of a shoreland zoning ordinance. This bill amends the law to require disclosure only in cases of an actual violation.

[LD 411](#) *An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

Current law requires that forfeited firearms used in commission of a murder or unlawful homicide crime be destroyed by the state. This bill extends the requirement to all firearms that have been forfeited as mandated by the general sentencing provisions of the Maine Criminal Code. The bill also eliminates one of the exceptions to mandatory forfeiture applying to cases in which the firearm subject to forfeiture is rightfully owned by another person. The bill also directs the attorney general to update rules governing the disposition of forfeited firearms under state law.

[LD 407](#) *An Act to Prohibit the Use of Aqueous Film-forming Foam at the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick)

Beginning on January 1, 2026, this bill prohibits the use of aqueous film-forming foam on any property leased or owned by the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, including the former Brunswick Naval Air Station.

[LD 406](#) *An Act to Repeal the Laws Providing for Paid Family and Medical Leave and to Reimburse Taxpayers* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner)

Retroactive to October 25, 2023, this emergency bill repeals the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act; directs the Department of Labor to refund employers for contributions made to the fund; and requires employers to return to employees related payroll deductions.

[LD 405](#) *An Act to Define "Solitary Confinement" for the Laws Governing Jails and Correctional Facilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill defines "solitary confinement" as the isolation of a client from the general population of the jail or correctional facility where the client is detained by confinement in a cell or other place for 22 hours or more within a 24-hour period.

[LD 401](#) *An Act to Support Removal of Overboard Discharge Systems* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

The bill amends the laws governing pollution control in the following ways: (1) requires the seller of residential real property to disclose the use of an overboard discharge system and provide a summary of the transfer requirements for such a system; (2) changes the cost of a municipal or quasi-municipal pollution abatement construction program for which the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) may pay up to 90% of the expense from \$100,000 to 250% of the median household income in the state; (3) changes the income limits

for individual pollution abatement projects serving single-family dwellings, seasonal dwellings or commercial establishments for which the commissioner may pay a percentage of the cost; (4) changes the income limits used to determine the portion of an overboard discharge replacement project that is eligible for grant funding; and (5) requires that in order to be eligible for grant funding, the owner of an overboard discharge system and contractor must certify that the removal project has been completed, including proper abandonment of the overboard discharge system, and the local plumbing inspector must certify that an alternative disposal system has been installed.

LD 400 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal to Compile a Statewide Inventory of Aqueous Film-forming Foam Concentrate* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick)

This resolve directs the Office of the State Fire Marshal to initiate a one-year program to collect information regarding the aqueous film-forming foam concentrate possessed by any public entity in the amount of five or more gallons, and a two-year program for collecting the same information from private entities. No later than July 1, 2028, the office is further directed to submit the inventory to the joint standing committee of the legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources and criminal justice and public safety matters.

LD 399 *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Retention of Proceeds from Municipal Foreclosures* (Sponsored by Rep. McIntyre of Lowell)

This bill amends a provision of the tax lien foreclosure by providing that if excess proceeds from the sale of tax acquired property are not claimed in a timely fashion, then the municipality retains the revenue rather than transferring those funds to the Unclaimed Property Fund.

LD 398 *An Act to Amend the Definition of "Transient Occupancy" in the Laws Governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Guerrette of Caribou)

This bill changes the definition of "transient occupancy" in the laws governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission to mean occupancy that does not exceed 150 days, rather than 120 days as in current law, in a calendar year.

LD 397 *An Act to Require a Voter to Show Photographic Identification* (Sponsored by Rep. Paul of Winterport)

This bill requires voters to present photographic identification when voting in person, and to include a copy of a photographic identification when submitting an absentee ballot, which includes a Maine issued valid driver's license or nondriver identification card, a U.S. passport, a military identification, or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued under Title 25, chapter 252 provided the permit includes a photograph. An identification issued by a college or university does not qualify as eligible identification. Additionally, the use of an official document, such as a bank statement, as well as a student identification is repealed from the list of acceptable documents for verifying an applicant's identity. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to provide voters with a special photograph identification card, which must be issued free of charge, and can be used to participate in an election, as well as to develop the notice informing that a copy of a valid photographic identification must be submitted with an absentee ballot.

[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 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 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 392](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Cannabis* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing cannabis.

[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 389](#) *Resolve, to Increase Transparency and Evaluate Emergency Response Through a COVID-19 Review Commission (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This emergency resolve establishes the COVID-19 Review Commission to review and study the state's response to the pandemic and laws, rules and policies governing that response and further directs the commission to submit its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than December 3, 2025.

[LD 387](#) *An Act to Prohibit the Governor from Relocating Illegal Immigrants to This State* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill prohibits the governor from relocating or taking actions intended to authorize, approve or otherwise assist in the relocation or transportation a person who is not lawfully present in the U.S.

[LD 386](#) *An Act Regarding Information That May Be Shared by Law Enforcement Entities with a School Superintendent or a Principal* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin Cty.)

This bill allows a law enforcement officer or criminal justice agency to share information with a school superintendent or principal pertaining to a juvenile when the information is credible and indicates a substantial danger with the use of a firearm or dangerous weapon.

[LD 383](#) *An Act to Facilitate the Consolidation of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission into a Single Combined Entity* (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Oxford Cty.)

This bill implements statutory changes and other provisions necessary to transition the Maine Land Use Planning Commission from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Environmental Protection.

[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.

## **February 3, 2025**

[LD 373](#) *An Act to Provide Comparable Compensation and Benefits for Deputy and Assistant District Attorneys, Assistant Attorneys General and Public Defenders* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin)

This bill requires that a district attorney, subject to the approval of the Attorney General and the Governor, must provide compensation and benefits comparable to those received by assistant attorneys general and public defenders when establishing the compensation package for assistant district attorneys.

[LD 367](#) *An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues to Improve Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway Modes of Transportation* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

This bond bill seeks voter approval for two \$100 million bonds, issued in November 2025 and November 2026, to provide funding for improvements to roads and bridges and other modes of transportation.

[LD 365](#) *An Act to Respond to the Housing Affordability and Accessibility Crisis in Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This concept draft bill amends the laws addressing housing affordability and accessibility issues.

[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 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 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 358](#) *An Act to Increase Fees Paid to Registers of Deeds* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill increases the fees paid to a county register of deeds by: (1) implementing a flat fee of \$45 for receiving, recording and indexing instruments that do not already have a specific fee; (2) increasing to \$45 the fee for recording, indexing and preserving plans; (3) adjusting from \$5 to \$10 per page the rate for paper copies of plans; and (3) repealing the \$13 fee for requests for more than one previously recorded instrument. The bill reduces from 500 to 100 the number of images or electronic abstracts per calendar year a user can receive at no cost. The bill also makes subject to a committee request, rather than an annual requirement, the submission of a report from the register of deeds in each county to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters regarding the amount surcharge funds raised and expended and the use of those funds.

[LD 356](#) *An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This emergency bill prohibits a person from using pesticides outdoors within 500 feet of an abutting property unless written notification is provided at least seven days prior to the pesticide application. The bill also explicitly prohibits the handling, transporting, storing, displaying, distributing, or disposing of pesticides in a manner that endangers or causes injury to pets.

[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 353](#) *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Ingwersen of York Cty.)

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

[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 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 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 349](#) *An Act to Repeal the Laws That Allow Same-day Voter Registration* (Sponsored by rep. Bagshaw of Windham)

This bill repeals same-day voter registration authority, and replaces it with a requirement that eligible residents register to vote by the close of business on the Thursday before an election.

[LD 347](#) *An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales Tax and Excise Tax Revenue* (Sponsored by Rep. Lee of Auburn)

This bill establishes the Local Government Cannabis Revenue Fund and requires that 12% of the revenue generated from the sales and excise taxes assessed on adult use cannabis and related products be distributed to municipalities where cannabis establishments are operating.

[LD 345](#) *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Strout of Harrington)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3964 on Johnson Cove Road in the Town of Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge.

[LD 341](#) *An Act to Amend the Definition of "Oversized ATV" to Increase the Minimum Weight Requirement* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Guerrette of Caribou)

This emergency bill increases the minimum weight of an oversized all-terrain vehicle from 2,000 to 3,500 pounds.

[LD 340](#) *An Act Regarding Speedy Trials* (Sponsored by Rep. Moonen of Portland)

This bill establishes the Maine Speedy Trial Act by establishing different time limits for the commencement of a defendant's criminal trial depending on when the complaint, indictment or information was filed and for the class of crime. Any case that does not meet the established

timeline following charge will result in a dismissal with or without prejudice upon motion, or findings by the court. A victim may object to a dismissal motion and the objection shall be considered by the court. A court may not consider congestion of the court's calendar or a lack of preparation on the part of the attorney for the state as weighing factors for the purpose of enlarging the established time limits.

LD 337 *An Act to Repeal the Sunday Amateur Sports Law, the Law Allowing Municipalities to Permit the Operation of Movie Theaters on Sundays and the Law Imposing a Fine or Imprisonment for Playing Games and Sports with Admission Charges on Memorial Day* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner)

This bill repeals the municipal authority to adopt ordinances prohibiting the engagement in outdoor recreational or competitive amateur sports between the hours of 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sundays, as well as the authority to adopt ordinances preventing theaters from showing movies between the hours 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on a Sunday. The bill also repeals a provision in statute that makes engaging in any public outdoor game or sport, where admission is charged, before 3:30 p.m. on Memorial Day punishable by a fine of not more than \$25 or by imprisonment for not more than 10 days, or both.

LD 334 *An Act Regarding County Jail Funding* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing county jail funding.

LD 333 *An Act Regarding County Jails* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing county jails.

LD 330 *Resolve, to Create an Advisory Council to Oversee the Review and Technical Revision of the Maine Criminal Code and Other Statutes Establishing Criminal Offenses* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This resolve creates an advisory council to select an outside consultant to review the Maine Criminal Code and other statutes establishing criminal offenses to identify unused and obsolete provisions, clarify confusing language, eliminate inconsistencies, consolidate or eliminate redundant provisions and reorganize or restructure the Maine Criminal Code and other statutes establishing criminal offenses. It also directs the advisory council to submit a report, including recommendations, to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 329 *An Act to Increase the Fine for Passing a Stopped School Bus* (Sponsored by Rep. Cluchey of Bowdoinham)

This bill increases the minimum fine for a driver's failing to stop on meeting or overtaking a school bus from \$250 to \$1,000.

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

Beginning on April 1, 2026, this bill increases from \$4,000 to \$10,000 the residential real estate property exemption for residents who are legally blind.

[LD 325](#) *An Act Related to the Disbursement of Revenue Generated from the Harvesting of River Herring* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta)

This bill adds to the list of eligible recipients of Migratory Fish Fund revenue, municipalities where river herring harvesting rights have been granted or where known migration of river herring has occurred and further authorizes municipalities to donate funds for the purpose of supporting programs designed to restore or protect the quality of the environment of river herring. The bill also directs the Department of Marine Resources to study how to equitably distribute funds to municipalities, and by December 3, 2025 report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

[LD 320](#) *An Act to Repeal Certain Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements* (Sponsored by Rep. Fredericks of Sanford)

With the exception of the requirements placed on commercial motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, and fire trucks, this bill repeals the requirement that motor vehicles registered in Maine be inspected annually.

[LD 319](#) *An Act to Allow Residential Housing on Church Property Located in Commercial Zones* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This concept draft bill proposes to allow the development of residential housing on church property located in commercial zones.

[LD 318](#) *An Act Regarding School Funding and General Purpose Aid for Local Schools* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing funding and general purpose aid for local schools.

[LD 313](#) *An Act to Improve Voter Confidence in Electronic Ballot Counting by Requiring Ballots to Contain Unique Identifiers* (Sponsored by Rep. Foster of Dexter)

This bill requires each ballot prepared by the Secretary of State to contain a unique identifier and further provides that voting devices used in state elections must be able to record the identifier assigned to each ballot and any votes cast for any person or question listed on that ballot. The bill also prohibits the information from being recorded in way that connects a voter to the ballot. The clerk is required to post on the municipality's publicly accessible website, as soon as practicable after the election return is prepared, a list of votes cast, organized by unique identifier. The provision does not apply to paper ballots counted using other methods.

[LD 312](#) *An Act Regarding the Rates of Speed at Which School Buses Travel* (Sponsored by Rep. Swallow of Houlton)

With the exception of traveling on international highways, current law limits the speed at which school bus can travel to 55 miles per hour if the bus is not transporting students and at 45 miles per hour when transporting students to and from school. This bill would repeal the limits and allow school buses to travel at the posted speed limit.

[LD 309](#) *An Act to Allow a Political Party to Determine How That Party's Nominee Is Selected in a Primary Election* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This bill authorizes a political party convened at the state convention to determine and incorporate into party rules the method (e.g., ranked-choice voting or alternative way) the for conducting the party's primary election, and no later than October 1 prior to the primary, notify the Secretary of State that an alternate approach will be used in the following June to elect primary candidates.

LD 308 *An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Administration of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council* (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

This bill directs the Animal Welfare Advisory Council to meet at least every other month and authorizes the chair to delegate council duties to individual members or subcommittees.

LD 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 306 *An Act to Stabilize Rural Maine Emergency Medical Services Departments* (Sponsored by Rep. Wadsworth of Hiram)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend laws to stabilize rural Maine's emergency medical services departments.

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

This concept draft bill amends the laws governing transportation.

LD 304 *An Act Regarding the Department of Transportation* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

This concept draft bill amends the laws governing the Department of Transportation.

LD 303 No municipal impact.

LD 302 *An Act Regarding Maine's Cannabis Industry* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing the cannabis industry.

LD 301 *An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Establish Performance-based Metrics and Rate-adjustment Mechanisms for a Public Utility in Any Proceeding* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This bill provides that the Public Utilities Commission is authorized to establish performance-based metrics and rate-adjustment mechanisms for a public utility in any proceeding.

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

This bill would increase the head count of Behavioral Health Coordinators to 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 297 *An Act Regarding the Management of Oversized Bulky Waste from Wastewater Treatment Plants* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta)

This emergency bill: (1) extends the temporary allowance for the disposal or placement of oversized bulky waste into a landfill from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2028; (2) repeals the provision that deems as not being waste generated within the State the residue resulting from the processing of bulky waste that exceeds 25,000 tons in a 12-month; (3) provides that excess residue associated with the processing of bulky waste that is used as alternative daily cover is waste generated within the State; and (4) makes all the proposed changes retroactive to June 23, 2023.

LD 296 *An Act to Appropriate Funds to the Department of Environmental Protection, Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta)

This bill provides \$2 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 as one-time funding for projects that meet specific criteria and improve or maintain the quality of lake waters in the State.

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

This concept draft bill proposed to enact measures regarding education.

LD 294 *An Act to Expand Municipal Volunteer Program Eligibility Requirements in the Municipal Property Tax Assistance Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Bunker of Farmington)

Under current law, municipalities are authorized to adopt ordinances enabling volunteers who are at least 60 years of age to earn up to \$1,000 or 100 times the minimum wage as a benefit on the taxes assessed on their homesteads. Beginning January 1, 2026, this bill expands that authority by allowing municipalities, via ordinance, to extend the benefit to volunteer firefighters, volunteer municipal firefighters or volunteer emergency medical services persons.

LD 293 *An Act to Eliminate the Debt Limit of the Boothbay Region Water District* (Sponsored by Rep. Stover of Boothbay)

This bill removes the debt limit for the Boothbay Region Water District.

LD 290 *An Act to Remit 15 Percent of the Fine for a Violation of the Motor Vehicle Laws to the Municipality in Which the Violation Occurred* (Sponsored by Rep. Blier of Buxton)

This bill requires that 15% of a fine collected for a violation of a motor vehicle law must be remitted to the municipality in which the violation occurred if the fine resulted from a summons issued by a municipal law enforcement agency.

LD 289 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Bingham the Barry A. DeLong Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3236 on Bridge Street in the Town of Bingham the Barry A. DeLong Bridge.

LD 288 *An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine's Tax Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

Of municipal interest, the bill proposes technical changes to property tax related laws, including: (1) requiring fulltime property assessors to be certified by Maine Revenue Services as having “the basic knowledge required to perform the assessing function” rather than certified as “professionally trained assessors;” (2) repealing the requirement that Maine Revenue Services provide municipalities with printed homestead exemption applications; (3) correcting a conflict in the payment due date in the state’s homestead property tax deferral program; and (4) making changes to conform with current drafting standards.

## **January 28, 2025**

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

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

LD 286 *An Act to Allow County Commissioners Greater Flexibility When Establishing a Payment Schedule for Municipalities to Pay County Tax Bills* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta)

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

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

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

LD 283 *An Act to Expand Local Revenues by Including Meals and Lodging Sales Tax Revenue Under the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This bill creates an additional revenue-sharing resource for municipalities by establishing the Local Government Hospitality Fund and distributing 1% of meals and lodging sales tax revenue to the municipalities where the tax was collected in proportion to the amount of meals and lodging tax collected by each municipality.

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

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

LD 274 Part A & Language *An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, Highway Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027* (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

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

LD 269 *Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 375: No Adverse Environmental Effect Standards of the Site Location of Development Act, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This emergency resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 375: No Adverse Environmental Effect Standards of the Site Location of Development Act, a major substantive rule of the Department of Environmental Protection.

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

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

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

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

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

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish an 18-month pilot project providing operators of nonmedical transportation services up to \$2,000 for the nonmedical transportation services provided to an individual qualifying for certain MaineCare services when the individual has no other means of transportation. No later than December 3, 2025, the bill also directs the department to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, including an assessment of the program's long-term viability. The committee is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**January 21, 2025**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to permanently designate the crossing at railroad mile marker 49.10 on Main Street in the Town of Wiscasset as the James Weldon Johnson Crossing.

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

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

LD 241 *An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Approve Rate Adjustments for Low-income Water Utility Ratepayers* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

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

LD 238 *An Act to Protect Emergency Medical Services Persons' Right to Work in Multiple Health Care Settings* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Environment and Natural Resources reports outlining findings and recommendations of the evaluation of the former Jay paper mill and Juniper Ridge Landfill agreement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LD 224 *An Act to Expand the Definition of "Terrorism" in the Laws Governing the Maine Emergency Management Agency* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield)

This bill updates the definition of "terrorism" in the laws governing the Maine Emergency Management Agency to include acts against non-physical infrastructure, including,

but not limited to, information and telecommunications technology infrastructure, systems or services or critical infrastructure. The bill also defines the term "cyberattack" to mean the act of targeting the state's information and telecommunications technology infrastructure, systems or services or critical infrastructure, for the purpose of disrupting, disabling, destroying or maliciously controlling such infrastructure, systems or services or destroying the integrity of the data or stealing the information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**January 14, 2025**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2976 on Main Road in the Town of Carmel the Kevin M. Howell Memorial Bridge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This bill allows revenues distributed to municipalities under the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) to be used not only for capital improvements, as the program currently provides, but also for the maintenance of roadway infrastructure, bridges and structures. The bill also amends the provision of law governing the distribution of urban compact assistance funds to allow distribution of funds for all other public roads maintained by a municipality located inside

an urban compact area. Funds are distributed at a rate of \$600 per year per lane mile except that funds for seasonal public roads are distributed at a rate of \$300 per year per lane mile.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **January 8, 2025**

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

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

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

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

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

This resolve establishes a 12-member Commission to Study the Constitution of Maine, which consists of eight legislators, the Secretary of State, a constitutional law scholar, and representatives of a federally recognized Indian tribe and a national civil liberties organization. The commission is tasked with reviewing the constitution and developing recommendations to: (1) strengthen Maine's Declaration of Rights, Article I of the Constitution of Maine; (2) remove procedural minutiae from the constitution that are better left to statute; (3) enable the popular election of constitutional officers; (4) establish four-year terms for Senators; (5) reduce the number of members of the Legislature; (6) establish a unicameral Legislature; (7) allow constitutional amendments to be initiated directly by the people; and (8) examine any constitutional resolutions introduced in the 132nd Legislature. No later than November 4, 2026, the commission is required to submit its report and recommendations, including suggested amendments to the constitution, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2027.

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

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

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

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

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

Of municipal interest, this bill creates the Maine Vegetable Garden Protection Act, designed to protect an individual's constitutional authority to cultivate vegetable gardens on a person's property or, with permission, on the property of another person, in any political subdivision, including municipalities, plantations and counties, which cannot prohibit or regulate vegetable gardens, permaculture, edible landscaping, food forests or community gardens in a way that is inconsistent with the act. The garden protection proposal also authorizes political subdivisions to develop and implement programs to promote permaculture and establish edible landscaping, food forests and community gardens in public spaces and further authorizes entities to seek and accept funds from public and private sources to support those efforts. The bill also amends the Food Sovereignty Act by: (1) adding to the list of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry duties the responsibility to protect the constitutional right to food; (2) defining the terms consumer, food producer, food sovereignty and traditional foodways; (3) establishing six principles to further preserve rural life and values and to protect the right to food, including focusing on people, valuing producers, localizing food systems, promoting local control, building knowledge and skills and working with nature; and (4) extending the authority of municipalities to adopt food sovereignty related ordinances to those regulating traditional

foodways and further providing that the law does not require municipalities to adopt a specific form or framework in the process of adopting traditional foodways or direct producer-to-consumer transactions. As defined in the bill, “traditional foodways” are cultural, social and economic practices related to the production and consumption of food, including the conveyance of knowledge regarding food production, preservation, preparation and presentation.

LD 123 *An Act Regarding Licensure of Emergency Medical Services Persons* (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill amends the law governing the minimum requirements for licensing and relicensing of emergency medical services persons by removing the requirement that a person seeking licensing or relicensing must have successfully completed the practical evaluation of emergency medical treatment skills approved by the Emergency Medical Services' Board and replacing it with a requirement that the person must have successfully completed an assessment of emergency medical treatment skills approved by the board.

LD 121 *An Act to Include Brush and Yard Debris in the Definition of "Litter"* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

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

LD 119 *An Act to Include the Declaration of an Emergency by the President of the United States as a Basis to Allow the Governor to Provide Disaster Relief to Local Government* (Sponsored by Sen. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.)

This bill includes the declaration of an emergency by the President of the United States as a basis to allow the Governor to provide disaster relief to local governments.

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

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

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

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

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

This bill amends the charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority to allow the authority to operate under the assumed name of the Lewiston Auburn Clean Water Authority.

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

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

[LD 110](#) *An Act to Require Reporting on the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds by Certain Municipalities and County Governments* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

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

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

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

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

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

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

In large part, this bill amends the medical cannabis law by creating the regulations and standards necessary to require registered caregivers, registered dispensaries and manufacturing

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

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

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

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

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

LD 99 *An Act to Clarify Information Sharing Between the Department of Health and Human Services and Schools with Respect to Investigations of Child Abuse or Neglect* (Sponsored by Rep. Murphy of Scarborough)

This bill clarifies that an investigation team of the Department of Health and Human Services may share information with the superintendent of a school administrative unit, the chief administrator of a private school or a public school not in a school administrative unit when there is an indicated or substantiated finding of out-of-home child abuse or neglect against an employee of or a student registered in that school administrative unit.

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

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

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

Under current law, a person is required to submit to a blood or urine test selected by a drug recognition expert if that drug recognition expert has probable cause to believe that the person is under the influence of a specific category of drug, a combination of specific categories of drugs or a combination of alcohol and one or more specific categories of drugs. The bill changes this provision by broadening the probable cause to include impairment caused by "a drug" or "drugs" generally, replacing "drug recognition expert" with "law enforcement officer" and modifying the requirements pertaining to the type of test or tests required under the provision. The bill also adds a provision clarifying that the Secretary of State is required to immediately suspend the driver's license of a person who fails to submit to and complete a test under the provision of law governing drug impairment assessments in accordance with existing procedures

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

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

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

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

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

In part, this bill allows the residents of a municipality within a community school district to petition and vote to withdraw from the district in the same manner afforded to residents in a regional school unit.

LD 83 *An Act Concerning the Filing of Marriage Licenses and the Recording of Intentions as Part of the Electronic Vital Records System* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

This bill amends the laws regarding the management of marriage licenses by requiring: (1) completed applications to be attached to the marriage record stored in the State Register of Vital Statistics' electronic system; (2) in situations where licenses have been erroneously issued and the couple as not yet married, the state register or municipal clerk to inform parties that they cannot marry until the judge of probate approves the marriage; and (3 ) marriage licenses returned later than 90 working days following the marriage be marked as delayed in filing. The bill also repeals the provision in statute requiring the municipal clerk to provide applicants of a marriage license a Department of Health and Human Services brochure concerning the effects of alcohol and drugs on fetuses.

LD 82 *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Laws by Extending Indefinitely the Presumption Applying to Law Enforcement Officers, Corrections Officers, E-9-1-1 Dispatchers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons Diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder* (Sponsored by Rep. Mathieson of Kittery)

This bill repeals the October 1, 2025 repeal of a provision in the Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 that makes a post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from a workplace injury and suffered by a law enforcement officer, corrections officer, E-9-1-1 dispatcher, firefighter or emergency medical services person a rebuttable presumption.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Of municipal interest, this bill changes from April 1 to May 1, the date by which the owner of business equipment tax exemption (BETE) property files a report with the assessor describing the property for which an exemption is claimed and repeals the automatic 30-day extension for filing the report. Instead, the bill authorizes assessors who receive a written request for an extension before taxes are committed to grant, for good cause, additional time to file the report, provided the extension does not exceed three months. The bill also authorizes the State Tax Assessor to provide access to BETE applications, rather than provide copies of the applications.

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

This bill amends the definition of "coastal wetlands" in the Natural Resources Protection Act by clarifying that coastal wetlands include all tidal and subtidal lands that are subject to tidal action during the highest astronomical tide as determined by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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

This bill amends the Department of Environmental Protection's process regarding the release of dam ownership by requiring the owner to provide sufficient information to enable individuals and groups who own property abutting the dam site, commissioners from the

Departments of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, director of the MEMA, and representatives of tribal government, municipal officers and county commissioners in the area where the dam is located to determine whether to assume ownership of the dam. The bill also amends the laws governing the timing of a municipal public meeting regarding the release of ownership from no later than 60 days to 180 days after receiving notice of such an action.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This bill requires voters to present photographic identification when voting in person, which includes a Maine issued valid driver's license or nondriver identification card, a U.S.

passport, a military identification, or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued under Title 25, chapter 252 if that permit includes a photograph. An identification issued by a college or university does not qualify as eligible identification. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to provide voters with a special photograph identification card, which must be issued free of charge, and can be used to participate in an election.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, subject to available funding resources, permitting and municipal agreements, to remove state-owned inactive existing railroad track along the Lower Road between the Town of Brunswick and the City of Gardiner to the existing Kennebec River Rail Trail, and a portion of the rail line in the City of Hallowell, and to replace the track with an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail surfaced with pavement or stone dust on the existing rail bed.

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

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

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

This bill amends the laws governing the authority of a resident or a member of the resident's immediate family to hunt without a license on a resident's property to clarify that the property does not have to be used exclusively for agricultural purposes and to permit hunting via use of a firearm. The bill also amends the statutes allowing for fishing without a license to clarify that the property does not have to be used exclusively for agricultural purposes and to provide that the parcel must be more than 10 contiguous acres in size.

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

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

LD 24 *Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Public Land Parcels in Lincoln Plantation and Sandy River Plantation* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This resolve authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey leased lots in Lincoln Plantation and exchange a small-leased parcel in Sandy River Plantation for a deeded right-of-way across an adjacent parcel.

LD 20 *An Act Regarding the First Judicial District and the District Court Locations in the Judicial Divisions of Androscoggin and Western Aroostook* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Of municipal interest, this bill amends existing laws impacting elections in communities with populations of 15,000 or more by requiring a ballot question committee that not only makes expenditures exceeding \$5,000 to influence a municipal referendum, but also receives contributions exceeding \$5,000, to register and file finance reports with the ethics commission.

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

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

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

Current law authorizes the year-round observation of eastern daylight time, provided it is both authorized by federal law and observed by all states in the eastern time zone, including the District of Columbia. This bill repeals these conditions and allows for the observation of eastern daylight time in Maine.

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

Current law authorizes the year-round observation of eastern daylight time, provided it is both authorized by federal law and observed by all states in the eastern time zone, including the District of Columbia. This bill amends the law to allow Maine to observe eastern daylight time year-round, provided federal law or regulation permits it.

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

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

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

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

Part B of the emergency bill creates the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund as a dedicated, non-lapsing fund administered by the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The fund is used as the state's match for the Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster and hazard mitigation revolving low-interest loan program, which is designed to support municipal and tribal government infrastructure projects that reduce future storm and other hazards risks. The bill also transfers \$750,000 from available

balances within the insurance bureau to fund the mitigation loan program, transfers an additional \$10 million from the bureau to capitalize the Disaster Recovery Fund, and directs MEMA to adopt the rules necessary to administer the fund.

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

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## **No LD # Legislation**

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

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

No LD #3 *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal and Educational 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 of the Maine Municipal Association, Maine Town and City Clerks' Association, and seven municipal officials representing communities of varying populations. The commission is directed to meet at least twice in 2026 and 2027 to review unfunded and outdated mandates, provide recommendations for eliminating or amending the mandates, and no later than December 1, 2027, submit findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters.