

To: MMA's Legislative Policy Committee
Justin Poirier, Chair

Fr: Kate Dufour, Director, Advocacy & Communications

Re: Survey...The Quid Pro Quo Edition

Date: March 11, 2025

Thank you for your continued participation in these in-between LPC meeting surveys. Because committees are scheduling hearings as bills are printed, I'm afraid requests of this nature will become the norm. While the full LPC will be able to reconsider positions established via polls at subsequent meetings, the direction and comments you provide allow staff to participate in hearings and offer informed testimony on a timely basis.

To that end, below you will find a request for feedback on bills that have hearings scheduled for Thursday and during the week of March 17. ***Due to hearing schedules, your response by noon tomorrow, March 12, is greatly appreciated.*** In turn, the results from the March 7 survey can be reviewed [here](#).

Thank you.

March 11 Poll

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

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

the takings of tribal lands for public use; (5) Provides that the tribes, as well as their officers and employees, are immune from suit to the same extent as other federally recognized Indian tribes and their officers and employees under federal Indian law; (6) With respect to the regulation of natural resources, the bill: (a) Recognizes the exclusive authority of the tribes to regulate fishing, hunting, trapping and other taking of wildlife by both tribal and nontribal citizens within their respective Indian territories and trust land; (b) retains the authority of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission under current law to regulate fishing on boundary waters; and (c) authorizes the state, solely for conservation purposes, to regulate tribal members engaged in fishing, hunting, trapping and other taking of wildlife off Indian territory or trust land to the extent permitted under federal Indian law and consistent with reserved tribal treaty rights; (7) Combines within one section of the Maine Implementing Act the authority of law enforcement officers appointed by the tribes to enforce laws within their respective territories and trust land and that tribal courts have exclusive jurisdiction over criminal and juvenile laws in their respective tribes; (8) With respect to civil jurisdiction, the bill recognizes the exclusive authority of the tribes to: (a) exercise civil regulatory authority on their respective territories or trust land and over their respective tribal members and tribal entities; (b) exercise civil regulatory authority on their respective Indian territory or trust land over persons and entities who are not tribal citizens or tribal entities; (c) exercise adjudicatory jurisdiction over civil actions arising on the Indian territory or trust land; (9) Requires the development of a dispute resolution process to facilitate the resolution of disputes between the State of Maine and tribes; and (10) Provides that except for any provision of federal Indian law that conflicts with the Maine Implementing Act's provisions, tribes may conduct gaming activities only in accordance with state law and not under the authority of the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act or its implementing regulations.

On LD 785, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Downgrade to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

[LD 907](#) *An Act to Amend the Law Governing Zoning Ordinance Variances for Persons with Permanent Disabilities* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends the municipal land use regulation law governing zoning variances by removing restrictions on the type of vehicle a person with a permanent disability may own in order for that person to obtain a zoning ordinance variance to construct a structure for the storage and parking of the vehicle. It also removes restrictions on the size of the structure.

On LD 907, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Downgrade to a track position.

- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

LD 934 *An Act to Provide 100 Percent of the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption Amount to Seniors and Veterans* (Sponsored by Rep. Wood of Greene)

For property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2026, this bill extends the full amount of the homestead exemption, currently \$25,000, to homeowners who are either 65 years of age or older or veterans of the U.S. Armed Services, regardless of the municipality's assessment ratio. The bill also directs the state to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the lost property tax revenue associated with the proposed change.

On LD 934, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Downgrade to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.

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

This bill doubles the current limit under the medical cannabis laws by allowing a caregiver to cultivate up to 60 mature cannabis plants, up to 120 immature cannabis plants, up to 1,000 square feet of mature plant canopy and up to 2,000 square feet of immature plant canopy. The bill also amends the medical cannabis and adult use cannabis laws to extend registration and license periods from one to two years and updates the license renewal process for registrants and licensees without any violations of those laws in the previous year to require only the payment of the license or registration fee to the Office of Cannabis Policy for a new active license to be issued.

On LD 948, MMA should:

- Support the bill.
- Oppose the bill.
- Take a “neither for nor against” stand on the bill.
- Downgrade to a track position.
- Take no position on the bill.

Please provide the reasons why you support the selected position.