

2025 LD List
132nd Legislature – First Regular & Special Sessions

May 5, 2025

No LD/LR 289 *An Act to Revise Growth Management Program Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This bill revises Maine’s Growth Management Act by: (1) amending several definitions, including the term “placetype” as a definable geographic settlement pattern, identifiable by the type of activities that occur in the area; (2) encouraging municipalities to focus new development growth in areas to enable efficient use of public services and existing infrastructure; (3) promoting land use policies and ordinances that encourage the development of affordable housing in areas that are located in reasonable proximity to employment and services; (4) based on guidance provided by the state, requiring municipalities to establish processes for active participation to gather public input on the comprehensive plan; (5) establishing growth management elements, including inventory and mapping, designation and mapping, needs analysis, goals, and strategy and implementation; and (6) providing that certified comprehensive plans must comply with goals and requirements. The bill also directs the Maine Office of Community Affairs to convene a 17-member stakeholder group, including three representatives from municipalities of varying populations and a representative from a statewide municipal association, to solicit input on the rules necessary to implement the changes proposed in the bill.

LD 1897 *An Act Regarding Sun-grown Cultivation in the Medical Use and Adult Use Cannabis Industries* (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono)

This bill amends the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and the Cannabis Legalization Act by: (1) defining "sun-grown cultivators" under the medical use cannabis provisions and "sun-grown cultivation" under the adult use cannabis provisions; (2) increasing the number of cannabis plants and expanding the area of canopy of cannabis plants that a medical use caregiver who is a sun-grown cultivator and who registers based on annual plant count or canopy may cultivate; (3) establishing a registration fee for such caregivers; (4) creating requirements for the outdoor cultivation of cannabis for medical use; (5) allowing medical use caregiver assistants and contractors, employees and other support staff of adult use cannabis licensees a 30-day grace period to assist, work or perform services after submitting an application for an individual identification card; (6) repealing the prohibition on cannabis collectives under the medical use of cannabis provisions; and (7) repealing the mandatory testing requirement for yeast and mold for adult use cannabis and cannabis products.

LD 1895 *An Act to Require the Removal from a Property Tax Lien the Name of a Previous Owner Who Paid Prorated Property Taxes* (Sponsored by Rep. Arata of New Gloucester)

This bill requires the municipal treasurer to prepare and record a discharge of the tax lien against the seller if the seller provides proof of payment of the seller's pro rata share of all taxes owed by the seller. The discharge is only for the seller; the lien remains against the real estate.

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

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

LD 1887 *Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Newly Constructed Schools* (Sponsored by Rep. Arata of New Gloucester)

This resolve amends Resolve 2021, chapter 114 by requiring the Department of Education to amend its rules to require air quality and ventilation standards for only newly constructed public schools.

LD 1885 *An Act to Create a State Property Tax Directed Toward 2nd Homes for the Purposes of Funding Education, Early Childhood Programs and the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund* (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland)

This bill imposes a statewide property tax of five mils on taxable real estate and establishes an exemption of up to \$1 million in assessed value on resident homesteads. The bill also distributes: (1) 50% of the revenue to the Fund for Essential Programs and Services to provide funds to school administrative units that do not achieve the annual target for the state share percentage of the statewide adjusted total cost of the components of essential programs and services, provided that certain conditions are met; (2) 40% of the revenue to the Early Childhood Education Fund to provide funds for the purpose of expanding or developing early childhood education programs, as determined by the Commissioner of Education; and (3) 10% to Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund.

LD 1884 *Resolve, to Increase the Number of Kennebec County Commissioners* (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales)

This resolve proposes to increase the number of commissioners for Kennebec County from three to five and puts the question out to the voters in November 2026.

LD 1882 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Conduct Rulemaking Regarding Significant Vernal Pools* (Sponsored by Rep. Cluchey of Bowdoinham)

This resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to amend its rules under the Natural Resources Protection Act regarding enhanced protection for significant vernal pools, including: (1) updating definitions to include "significant vernal pool buffer" as the portion of the critical terrestrial habitat within 100 feet of the spring or fall high-water mark of the vernal pool depression; (2) updating the habitat management standards for significant vernal pool habitat to include no disturbance within the significant vernal pool buffer; (3) updating the habitat management standards for significant vernal pool habitat so that critical terrestrial habitat bisected by property boundaries is afforded the same protections as properties where vernal pool depressions are present; and (4) adjusting dates related to drying under significant vernal pool habitat identification criteria to July 15 for vernal pools located in northern Maine and July 1 for vernal pools located in southern Maine.

LD 1880 *An Act to Require Photographic Identification for Voting* (Sponsored by Rep. Libby of Auburn)

This bill requires photographic identification for in-person and absentee voting, which includes an unexpired Maine driver's license, nondriver identification card, interim identification form issued by the Secretary of State, U.S. passport or passport card, and military identification cards. The bill directs the secretary to provide free nondriver identification cards for photographic identification. The bill also: (1) allows voters without photographic identification to complete a challenged ballot and within four days after the date of the election appear before the registrar of voters and present photographic identification; (2) provides an exception for voters with religious objections to being photographed; (3) removes provisions of law that allow voters to make telephone applications for absentee ballots and that allow voters to automatically receive absentee ballots for each election without submitting a separate request for each election; (4) provides that a municipality can only have one secured drop box for the return of absentee ballots; and (5) requires that a secured drop box be monitored at all times by a surveillance camera and that the video be accessible to a resident of the municipality in which the secured drop box is located.

LD 1879 *An Act to Support Maine's Agricultural Economy by Increasing Revenue from the Corporate Income Tax and Providing Property Tax Exemptions* (Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

Beginning on or after January 1, 2026, this bill imposes an additional 1.07% tax on incomes in excess of \$3.5 million. The bill also exempts agricultural buildings from the property taxes, and uses the revenue, to the extent available, from the income tax increase to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the lost revenues.

LD 1876 *An Act to Increase Use of State Tax Credits* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. DeBrito of Waterville)

In part, this emergency bill creates the Working Group to Study and Recommend Strategies to Increase the Utilization of Individual Tax Credits, which includes one member representing municipal interests. The working group is charged with determining the rate at which eligible individuals are using tax credits, identifying and assessing current barriers that may be negatively affecting the use of credits, and developing recommendations to address disparities. No later than December 15, 2025, the working group is directed to submit a report to Joint Standing Committee on Taxation which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1875 *An Act to Create Equity in Maine's Highway Funding by Imposing a Road Use Fee for Electric Vehicles* (Sponsored by Rep. Ardell of Monticello)

This bill imposes a road use fee on battery and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles based on the number of miles the vehicle is driven in a year and requires a person registering an electric vehicle to complete a form stating the mileage of the electric vehicle and submit the form to the municipality in which the electric vehicle is registered. The fee assessed on battery electric vehicles is 1.0¢ per mile and for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles 0.5¢ per mile. The bill also requires the revenue to be used to temporarily suspend the gasoline tax for the number of days equivalent to a ratio of fees to total gasoline tax revenue.

LD 1874 *An Act to Enable the Maine Pilotage Commission to Oversee Pilots Operating in Portland Harbor* (Sponsored by Rep. Crockett of Portland)

This bill transfers jurisdiction over pilots operating in Portland Harbor from the Board of Harbor Commissioners for Portland Harbor to the Maine Pilotage Commission, changes the description of the coastal zones in the laws governing the commission, and, in the case of Portland Harbor, provides that certain vessels are exempt from the laws governing the Maine Pilotage Commission.

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

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

LD 1869 *An Act to Lower Property Taxes by Allowing a Local Option Sales Tax on Recreational Cannabis Sales* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill authorizes municipalities, via referendum, to implement a local option sales tax of no more than 1% on cannabis products, the revenue of which can only be used to fund public safety and education initiatives.

LD 1867 *An Act to Prohibit Financial Institutions from Using Merchant Category Codes to Identify or Track Firearm Purchases or Disclose Firearm Purchase Records* (Sponsored by Sen. Harrington of York Cty.)

In part, this bill prohibits a government entity or official, agent or employee of a government entity or any other person, other than the owner or owner's representative, from knowingly and willfully keeping a list, record or registry of a privately owned firearm or owners of that firearm, except as necessary during the regular course of a criminal investigation and prosecution.

LD 1864 *An Act to Facilitate the Reconstruction of Storm-damaged Commercial Fisheries Facilities and Infrastructure* (Emergency) (President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This emergency bill allows an individual or business owner whose dock, pier or wharf was damaged by the severe storms and flooding that occurred from January 9-13, 2024 to be granted a variance from the shoreland zoning and floodplain management ordinances in Harpswell to enable the individual or business owner to conduct repairs in time to take advantage of the federal funds available pursuant to an emergency declaration.

LD 1857 *An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Survivors and to Modify Certain Corporate Tax Expenditures* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill, in part provides: (1) a \$5,000 property tax exemption to all veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Services; (2) \$6,000 exemption to veterans who are 65 years of age or older; and (3) an exemption of between \$10,000 and \$50,000 based on a disabled veteran's service-connected disability rating.

April 30, 2025

[LD 1852](#) *An Act to Promote Equitable Property Taxation by Reducing Valuation Based on Nearby Clean Energy Projects* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo)

Beginning on April 1, 2026, this bill requires a tax assessor, when establishing the valuation of improved real property that abuts a solar energy development or grid-scale wind energy development, to reduce the value of the property due to its proximity to the development.

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

This bill implements recommendations for the improvement of dam safety as identified in the report required pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 176, which in part requires a state dam inspector to assess all significant and high hazard potential dams at least once every five years.

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

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

[LD 1845](#) *An Act to Establish the Working Waterfront Advisory Council* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook)

This bill creates the Working Waterfront Advisory Council and requires the council to submit a report by February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic and community development matters and marine resources matters on the status of the condition of, the current and future challenges concerning and recommendations related to working waterfronts. The bill also requires the Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs to submit a report by February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over initiatives proposed by the Maine Office of Community Affairs regarding working waterfronts, including information from coalitions, task forces and engagements with municipal and tribal governments.

[LD 1841](#) *An Act to Modify the Process of Selling Tax-acquired Properties* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This bill amends the process for selling tax-acquired property by authorizing municipalities to offer a deed in lieu of foreclosure as an alternative to the established sales

process. The bill also amends the existing sales process by allowing the municipality to sell tax acquired property via sealed bid, provided: (1) the opportunity to bid is advertised in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is located for three consecutive weeks; (2) the established minimum bid reflects what is owed to the municipality; (3) all bids are sealed; (4) the sale is awarded to the highest qualified bidder; and (5) any excess funds are paid to the former owner.

[LD 1840](#) *An Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill amends the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and among other changes amends the section of law governing local regulation by prohibiting the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, except where explicitly authorized or directed by law, from requiring a registered caregiver, registered dispensary, cannabis testing facility or manufacturing facility to use a form issued by the department to comply with the requirements of the law. The bill also prohibits the department from denying an application, if prior to January 1, 2026, a municipality authorized a cannabis facility without having adopted a warrant article or ordinance allowing operation of the facility within municipal boundaries.

[LD 1838](#) *An Act to Provide Opportunities and Sustainable Revenue for Maine Farms, Agricultural Fairs, Wabanaki Tribes and Veterans' Homes* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

This bill authorizes the licensed operation of electronic wagering terminals for historical horse races, to purchase virtual sealed tickets and to conduct electronic beano by federally recognized Indian tribes, certain off-track betting facilities and commercial tracks and organizations eligible to conduct certain games of chance, which is subject to municipal approval and must be licensed by the Gambling Control Unit. The bill also requires that 1% of net terminal income to be annually distributed to municipalities where the electronic wagering terminals are located.

[LD 1831](#) *An Act to Support Small Adult Use Cannabis Businesses by Establishing a Micro Cannabis Facility License* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This bill amends the Cannabis Legalization Act to establish the micro cannabis facility license, allowing the cultivation of up to 1,000 square feet of plant canopy and the manufacturing and sale of adult use cannabis that are subject to the same requirements and restrictions applicable to other cultivation facilities, manufacturing facilities, and cannabis stores.

[LD 1830](#) *Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Protect Firefighters from Cancer* (Sponsored by Rep. Bagshaw of Windham)

This bill directs the Department of Public Safety to establish a firefighter early detection cancer screening pilot program available to all active and retired firefighters and further directs the department to convene a working group consisting of representatives from associations of professional firefighters and fire chiefs to develop and present an initial plan for administering the pilot program.

LD 1829 *An Act to Build Housing for Maine Families and Attract Workers to Maine Businesses by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal Land Use Decisions* (Sponsored by Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford)

This bill establishes within the Administrative Office of the Courts the three-member Housing Development Resolution Board, to hear appeals regarding final decisions made by a municipal reviewing authority that impact housing developments. The board is directed to hear and affirm, reverse or modify the final decisions of a municipal review authority, only with respect to errors of law or if the board is persuaded that the decision was unreasonable, and concerning: (1) subdivisions, site plans, variances, special exceptions, administrative appeals and ordinance administration; (2) the use of innovative land and growth management and interim growth management controls; (3) historic district, heritage and conservation commissions; (4) other municipal permits and fees applicable to housing and housing developments; and (5) mixed-use combinations of residential and nonresidential uses. An appeal must be filed within 14 business days, with notice provided to the municipal review committee, which must within 14 business days submit to the review board a certified record of its proceedings. The board is then directed to hold a hearing on the merits of the appeal within 60 days and issue a written decision within 30 days thereafter. Appeals of local decisions may also be brought to the board by any other aggrieved or injured party that demonstrates legal standing. The bill provides that any party that brings an action before the board waives the right to bring an action in Superior Court. The bill also requires planning committee members to attend training on land use planning offered by a state agency or statewide association representing municipalities within 180 days of appointment. Additionally, the bill: (1) prohibits municipalities from enacting ordinances that limit the rate of growth of residential development in designated areas; (2) requires municipalities to authorize in all areas where residential development is allowed: (a) two dwelling units per lot if located on a lot not in a designated growth area; (b) four units per lot if located in a growth area; (c) four units on lots served by public water and sewer; and (d) two additional units on a lot with an existing dwelling unit; (3) requires municipalities to allow an affordable housing development to exceed any height restrictions but by no more than 14 feet; and (4) prohibits the establishment or enforcement of ordinances that: (a) include dimensional requirements that differ from those established of single-family units, and (b) establish minimum lot size requirements greater than 5,000 square feet per dwelling. Finally, the bill provides that a municipality only has the authority to conduct an administrative review for an affordable housing density bonus or when the project has four or fewer units.

April 29, 2025

LD 1828 *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

Of municipal interest, this bill amends the public access law to clarify that the personal contact information of applicants for county and municipal employment is confidential.

LD 1827 *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Requests* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

The bill permits a public body or official to deny a request or a series of requests for inspection or copying of a public record on the basis that requests are unduly burdensome or oppressive. The bill also allows the body or official to seek protection from an unduly

burdensome or oppressive request by filing for a protection order in the Superior Court in the county where the request was made. The action must be filed within 60 days of receipt of the request or, in the case of a series of requests, within 60 days of the point at which a body or official determines that the series of requests is unduly burdensome or oppressive.

LD 1825 *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services Regarding the Confidentiality of Attorney-Client Communications in Jails and Correctional Facilities* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill implements the recommendations of the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services by prohibiting the interception of oral or wire communications between an attorney and a client when the client is confined in a county jail or state correctional facility provided the jail or facility has actual or constructive notice at the time the communication is made and is notified of the telephone number from which the communication will occur. The bill also prohibits jails and facilities from assessing a fee for communication occurring between an attorney and client and requires the Department of Corrections and each sheriff's office to send an electronic communication to each attorney on the list, confirming the attorney's name and contact information.

LD 1824 *An Act to Prohibit the Public Release of Information Regarding a Railroad Fatality* (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.)

This bill excludes from the definition of "public record" reports of a law enforcement agency regarding an accident resulting in a fatality involving a railroad or railroad line and all records of communication between the law enforcement agency and a railroad company employee involved in that accident, which applies only during the course of an investigation of the accident.

LD 1823 No municipal impact.

LD 1822 No municipal impact.

LD 1821 No municipal impact.

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

This bill amends the Cannabis Legalization Act and the laws governing personal adult use of cannabis by: (1) eliminating the individual identification card requirement for licensees, cannabis purchase limits, requirements regarding the inspection of licensed premises, and cannabis and product labeling requirements; (2) amending provisions regarding cannabis delivery transactions, including allowing licensees to use the tracking system established by the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) to track delivery transactions and sales at specified events; and (3) prohibiting OCP from requiring licensees to sign forms waiving rights that are protected under constitutional, statutory or common law privilege.

LD 1818 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Limit Taxes, Spending or Debt Without Approval by the Voters* (Sponsored by Rep. Foster of Dexter)

This resolution proposes an amendment to Maine's constitution prohibiting any new or increases in taxes, including taxes on income and property, in spending beyond the rate of inflation and increases in debt unless those taxes or increases are approved by the voters of the state or by the voters in the municipality or county affected by the tax, fiscal spending or debt, as determined by a process enacted by the Legislature in statute.

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

This emergency bill directs the Department of Public Safety to establish, operate and maintain a sexual assault forensic examination kit tracking system for all completed kits regardless of whether the alleged offense related to the kit was reported to a law enforcement agency and further requires by June 1, 2026 a law enforcement agency that receives, maintains, stores or preserves sexual assault forensic examination kits to complete an inventory of all kits in its possession and report its findings to the department. The department must compile all agency reports and present findings of the inventory by January 1, 2027, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters and post the report on the department's publicly accessible website.

[LD 1815](#) *An Act to Require a Blood Test for Drugs for Drivers Involved in a Motor Vehicle Accident That Results in Serious Bodily Injury or Death* (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill: (1) requires an operator of a motor vehicle to submit to a blood test for drugs when the operator is involved in an accident where there is probable cause to believe that death or serious bodily injury has occurred or will occur as a result of the accident; (2) allows the blood test to be admissible at trial if the court reviews all available evidence; and (3) requires the Secretary of State suspend an operator's license for one year if the operator fails to submit to a blood test.

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

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

[LD 1813](#) *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning State Boards and Commissions* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

The bill requires state boards and commissions to designate public access officers and requires members to complete a course of training on the requirements of the laws relating to public records and proceedings.

[LD 1809](#) *An Act to Further Stabilize Highway Fund Revenue* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick)

This bill provides three additional sources of revenue for the Highway Fund by: (1) directing the Maine Turnpike Authority to impose \$1 surcharge on passenger vehicle that are not

registered in Maine; (2) assessing an annual registration fee of \$200 battery electric vehicles and \$100 on plug-in hybrid electric vehicles; and (3) assessing a delivery fee of 50 cents per delivery of at least \$100 of tangible personal property tax that is subject to sales tax.

LD 1807 *An Act to Expand the Sales Tax to Luxury Services and Adjust the Sales Tax on Rental Cars* (Sponsored by Rep. Skold of Portland)

This bill increases the sales tax rate on short-term automobile rentals from 10% to 15%; d eliminates the exemption for short-term automobile rentals associated with car dealership-initiated loaner vehicles; and creates new categories of luxury services subject to sales tax.

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

This bill creates a residential rental unit registry and directs the Secretary of State to publish on its website a searchable database of affordable rental units that are available or rent for a period of more than 30 days. The owner or a rental unit must register annually with the secretary and provide: (1) the name, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of the owner, manager and any entity that has a parental or subsidiary relationship with the owner of the residential rental unit; (2) emergency contact information of the owner; (3) the physical address of the residential rental unit for enhanced 9-1-1 services; (4) mailing address of the residential rental unit if different from the physical address; (5) total number of residential rental units on each property of the owner, including the number of occupied residential rental units at the time of registration; and (6) the total number of residential rental units on each property not available for occupancy, whether under construction or under renovation. The bill also authorizes the secretary to assess and collect an initial registration fee to cover the expenses associated with administering the registry and exempts certain owners from paying the fee, including properties subsidized by state or federal programs or already required to rent restrictions adopted under federal, state or local law, rule or ordinance. The bill also directs the secretary to: (1) adopt routine technical rules implement the program; (2) provide a publicly accessible online portal or form for an owner of a residential rental unit to submit the required registration information; (3) provide a publicly accessible, searchable database of residential rental units; and (4) develop a process by which a municipality can receive residential rental unit data pertaining to that municipality. Finally, the bill prohibits a landlord who does not register from terminating a tenant's lease for nonpayment or serving the tenant with a notice of termination for nonpayment of rent less than 120 days after registering. Additionally, failure to register is a civil violation for which a fine in the amount of three times the rent of the unit must be adjudged.

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

This bill amends laws to prescribe authority and responsibility over funding over transportation related issues by: (1) establishing that the Transportation Committee has jurisdiction over highway related appropriations and allocations, as well as minimum levels of funding for bridges, highway lights and multimodal transportation, which must be adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index each biennium; (2) increasing from 40% to 60% the percentage of automobile-related sales and use taxes transferred to the Highway Fund and adding automobile-related sales and use taxes to the revenues allocated to the Highway Fund; (3) requiring the Bureau of State Police to be wholly funded by the General Fund; (4)

adding multimodal transportation to the list of allowable uses of the Highway Fund; (5) redefining “transportation infrastructure;” (6) removing the designation of project-specific and non-project-specific procurement and retaining the provision that the Department of Transportation has full power to purchase all supplies, materials and equipment that are incidental to, or necessary for, construction, improvement or maintenance of transportation infrastructure; and (7) beginning March 1, 2026, requiring the department and the Maine Turnpike Authority to submit biennial reports in each even-numbered year, summarizing the procurement activities over the preceding two calendar years.

April 24, 2025

[LD 1798](#) *An Act to Increase Revenue Sharing and to Control Property Taxes* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill provides additional revenue sharing to municipalities that adopt and implement a program to impose a no more than 2% limit on the property taxes assessed on homes owned by residents who are at least 65 years of age and qualify for the homestead exemption. The additional distribution is 20% of the amount that the municipality would receive before the additional distribution.

[LD 1797](#) *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Denials of Public Records Requests* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

The bill requires that a written notice of a denial of a public records request cites the statutory authority used as the basis for the denial.

[LD 1795](#) *An Act to Change the Calculation for Municipal Service Charges for Tax-exempt Organizations* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

Beginning on January 1, 2027, this bill authorizes municipalities to impose a service charge on the owner of property exempt from taxation equal to the actual cost of providing municipal services to the property, which is defined as all services other than education and welfare. The bill also provides that the charge levied by a municipality may not exceed 20% of the assessed value of the property.

[LD 1794](#) *An Act to Provide Protection from Unfair Parking Tickets on Lots Accessible to the Public* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill requires that a notice of a parking violation on property accessed by the public must be provided at the time of the violation and provides that the failure of the owner of a motor vehicle to pay the assessed fee may not be reported to a credit reporting agency. A person harmed by a violation is authorized to bring an action in court, provided the person has first filed a request for mediation with the Office of the Attorney General, which is directed to enforce the law. A person or entity that violates these provisions is subject to treble damages and a penalty not to exceed \$5,000 per occurrence.

[LD 1793](#) *An Act to Improve Management and Reduce the Volume of Solid Waste* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.)

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to ensure that solid, hazardous, special and other waste materials are managed in accordance with the state’s solid

waste management hierarchy, food recovery hierarchy and state goals for recycling and waste disposal reduction, which includes: (1) developing and implementing rules, policies, programs and incentives designed to reduce the volume of solid waste; (2) providing technical and financial assistance and guidance to municipalities, regional entities and other persons in the management of waste; (3) administering grants and other programs to support reduction initiatives; and (4) collaborating with other state agencies and stakeholders to advance solid waste management solutions. The bill also directs the department to convene a task force to identify and recommend cost-effective waste management practices, develop plans to assist municipalities and others in implementing waste reduction strategies, and before January 15, 2027, to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which is authorized to report out legislation. Beginning January 1, 2026, the bill requires waste facility license applicants to describe efforts to collaborate with communities surrounding the facility and to solicit and accept community input regarding the operation of the facility, as well as plans for conducting comprehensive reviews of any input received for implementing cost savings and waste reduction strategies. The bill also requires facility operators to submit annual reports providing information on the origin, volume and disposition of waste materials managed by the facility. The bill amends the eligibility criteria for grants distributed under the Maine Solid Waste Diversion Grant Program to include hiring or contracting with consultants or specialists in the process of conducting feasibility studies and promoting collaborative regional efforts. Finally, the bill directs the department to implement a pilot program designed to evaluate innovative solid waste management solutions and no later than January 15, 2027, submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which is authorized to report out legislation.

[LD 1792](#) *An Act Regarding the Energy Policy of the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to make changes to the laws governing Maine's energy policy.

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

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

[LD 1787](#) *An Act to Strengthen the Maine Clean Election Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This bill allows candidates for district attorney, sheriff and county commissioner to participate in the Maine Clean Election Act and directs the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to specify the terms of participation by rule. The bill also increases the amount transferred to the Maine Clean Election Fund each year and increases the contribution limits for gubernatorial seed money contributions to \$500 per individual

[LD 1786](#) *An Act to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Provide Certain Information Regarding Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to the Public and Private Drinking Water Well Owners* (Sponsored by Rep. Arford of Brunswick)

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to post on its publicly accessible website the more stringent of the current federal Environmental Protection Agency standards or the state maximum contaminant level for PFAS in drinking water, measured in parts per trillion. The bill also requires the department to provide information regarding PFAS by mail and e-mail, if possible, when the department has knowledge or suspects that a private drinking water well may be contaminated by PFAS or when the owner of a private drinking water well requests the information by telephone, in writing or by e-mail.

[LD 1784](#) *An Act to Require Police Departments to Publish and Make Accessible Their Policies and Procedures and Require Training of Officers* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

By January 1, 2026, this bill requires all law enforcement agencies to publish on an accessible website and in printed form a description of policies and procedures in place, including summaries of policies on use of force, de-escalation techniques, and pursuit; a comprehensive list of rules governing officer conduct; and contact information for requests for access to the posted information. The bill further provides that amendments to a policy or procedure must be posted within 60 days of the revision. No later than January 1 of each year, the chief administrative officer of the agency is required to certify to the board of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy that the agency is complying with posting requirements.

[LD 1783](#) *An Act to Clarify Municipal Affordable Housing Tax Increment Financing* (Sponsored by Rep. Salsbury of Westbrook)

This bill makes changes to the laws governing municipal affordable housing development districts, including: (1) amending the duration of affordable housing development programs to be the earlier of either 30 years after the project is placed in service or 35 years after the district is approved; (2) authorizing public safety improvement project costs for the construction, expansion, or operation of public safety facilities, equipment and personnel costs directly related to the operation of the program; (3) providing for the retention or return of tax increment revenues remaining in an affordable housing development fund upon expiration of the district; and (4) authorizing the legislative body of a municipality to delegate to a municipal officer the reporting responsibilities required by law.

[LD 1782](#) *An Act Regarding Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Planning and the Juniper Ridge Landfill in the City of Old Town* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Dill of Old Town)

This emergency bill updates the Juniper Ridge Landfill host community compensation agreement to adequately pay the City of Old Town for hosting the state-owned landfill. The bill further directs the Bureau of General Services and the Department of Environmental Protection to immediately investigate and address, through preparation of a solid waste management plan,

several critical issues and developments in the state's solid waste management system involving the Juniper Ridge Landfill that have created a crisis for approximately 159 central and northern municipalities and for sewer and utility districts and departments all across Maine.

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

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

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

This bill creates the Trust for a Healthy Maine Act to receive all tobacco settlement funds and to redistribute revenue to state agencies or designated agents of the state to fund tobacco use prevention and control at levels recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to ensure adequate resources for other disease prevention efforts and promoting public health. The purposes of the trust also include supporting state agencies in planning and delivering public health and prevention programs, promoting multilevel planning and coordination among state, district and municipal decision-making and advisory boards, and providing training and technical assistance to local health officers, boards of health and municipal leaders providing public health services.

[LD 1771](#) *An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

This bill shifts responsibility for issuing kennel licenses from municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and specifies the department's authority to refuse to issue or renew, suspend or revoke a facility license for an animal shelter, kennel, boarding kennel, breeding kennel or pet shop.

April 23, 2025

[LD 1770](#) *An Act to Provide Immediate and Long-term Property Tax Relief to Maine Households (Emergency)* (Sponsored by President Daughtery of Cumberland Cty.)

This emergency bill creates the 13-member Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force, including a member with expertise in assessing property and two municipal officials with expertise in municipal government, taxation, finances or property valuation, to contract with an entity for research and analytical support, with the goal of determining the source of the problems with the current system of property taxation, who is most negatively affected by the current system and how those persons are negatively affected. The task force is authorized to meet at least four, but no more than eight times, and by December 15, 2025, to submit a report to

the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026. Beginning on January 1, 2025, the bill also increases the property tax fairness credit from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for property taxpayers under 65 years of age and from \$2,000 to \$2,500 for taxpayers 65 years of age and older.

LD 1768 *An Act to Protect Residents of Mobile Home Parks by Amending the Real Estate Transfer Tax* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

Beginning with fiscal year 2026-27, this bill redirects the real estate transfer tax revenues generated from the sale of mobile home parks to Maine Housing Authority's Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund.

LD 1767 *An Act to Amend the Waldo County Budget Adoption Process and Allow Residents Who Are Not Municipal Officers to Serve on the Waldo County Budget Committee* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This bill amends the law governing the members of the Waldo County Budget Committee to allow a resident to serve on the committee when a municipal officer is not available to serve, provided that two of the three members in each district are municipal officers. The bill also requires that after a public hearing, the budget committee adopt a final budget for submission to the county commissioners who are prohibited from amending the budget except by unanimous vote. The amendments made by the commissioners may be rejected by two-thirds of the budget committee, who have final authority over the budget.

LD 1765 *An Act to Ensure Affordability and Stability in Housing for Mobile Home Park Residents* (Sponsored by Rep. Julia of Waterville)

This bill prohibits an owner or operator of a mobile home park from increasing rent or fees more than once in a 12-month period and limits increases to no more than the lesser of the change in Consumer Price Index plus 1% or 5% annually, and only to cover actual operating and maintenance costs. The bill also requires an owner or operator to provide notice of rent increases to tenants via certified mail and to submit to the municipal officers an affidavit attesting that rents were increased in compliance with state limits and notice requirements. The bill also authorizes municipal officers to waive the 5% annual increases limit, if the owner or operator demonstrates a substantial, unforeseen expense or capital improvement or compliance with newly enacted regulations would result in a significant financial burden without the increase allowed by the waiver.

LD 1763 *An Act to Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This bill implements a prohibition on the placement or use of a nonwater-dependent floating structure in, on or over inland waters or coastal waters. As defined in the bill, a "nonwater-dependent floating structure" is a waterborne structure that is supported wholly or partially by the structure's own buoyancy and that supports a nonwater-dependent use. "Nonwater-dependent uses" are defined as those uses that can function in a location other than the surface waters of the state and that do not require, for their primary purpose, location on submerged lands or direct access to inland waters or coastal waters. The prohibition includes exceptions for functionally water-dependent uses, swimming structures, water toys, ice fishing

shacks and aquaculture facilities. The bill also clarifies the regulation of houseboats and homemade watercraft under the laws regulating watercraft.

April 22, 2025

[LD 1762](#) *An Act to Protect Recreational Trails by Establishing the Trails for the Future Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Blier of Buxton)

This bill establishes the Trails for the Future Fund and authorizes the Land for Maine's Future board to make matching grants to state agencies and cooperating entities, including local governments and municipal conservation commissions, to acquire property or interests in property that is designed to protect public access to recreational trails. The bill also creates the Trails for the Future Program to help protect public access to established recreational trails, including snowmobile trails and all-terrain vehicle trails, through the acquisition of property and the establishment of easements. The bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to administer the program and provides the department a permanent right of first refusal on any property with an established recreation trail acquired in fee or protected by covenant at a price determined by an independent appraiser based on the value of the property at the time of consideration of purchase and assign the right to a suitable organization or a local government.

[LD 1759](#) *An Act to Allow Firefighters to Be Eligible for State College Funding* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo)

This bill reduces by \$800,000 the funding provided to Maine's seven community colleges for free tuition in fiscal year 2025-26 and appropriates \$800,000 in one-time funding for the Maine Fire Service Institute.

[LD 1756](#) *An Act to Establish a Statewide Transportation Project Selection Prioritization Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Lee of Auburn)

This bill establishes the Transportation Project Selection Council and directs the council to: (1) advise the Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority on the development of a prioritization process, in accordance with federal transportation requirements, and in cooperation with municipalities, counties and other planning organizations; (2) review projects and strategies to determine consistency with assessment of capacity needs outlined in the department's or the authority's long-range transportation plans; (3) weigh key goals for each of the state's federally designated planning organization regions; and (4) solicit input from municipalities, counties and other planning organizations, transit operators, environmental groups, active transportation groups, economic development groups and other stakeholders in the development of the prioritization process. The bill further directs the council to report annually to the governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters.

[LD 1755](#) *An Act to Increase the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit in Rural Areas* (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor)

This bill amends the income tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic property by increasing the benefit for projects conducted in rural areas, provided at least 33% of the structure's aggregate square footage is used for apartments, dwellings or other living spaces.

The bill also applies retroactively to January 1, 2024, and defines rural areas as any area within a municipality that has a population of less than 17,500.

[LD 1752](#) *An Act to Exempt Broadband Equipment from Sales and Use Tax* (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

Beginning on January 1, 2026, this bill exempts broadband communication including video programming services and machinery and equipment to provide broadband communications from the sale and use tax.

[LD 1751](#) *An Act to Improve the Growth Management Program Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

This bill amends the Growth Management Act (GMA) program by: (1) updating several definitions; (2) clarifying that an adopted plan remains in effect until amended or repealed; (3) authorizing municipalities to use the same processes used to published public information when complying with provisions in the GMA requiring public inspection of a proposed comprehensive plan; (4) requiring a comprehensive plan to include a needs assessment section that identifies existing or desired conditions necessary to support housing, economic growth and development; protect public health, safety and welfare; and protect the environment and critical resources and describe the public input received to determine identified needs; (5) requiring that the implementation strategy section of a plan include a capital investment plan identifying the replacement and expansion of public facilities and services required to meet projected growth and development; (6) requiring a comprehensive plan to include a future land use plan that identifies and designates geographic areas as growth and rural areas, as well as areas appropriate for medium-density development that does not require expansion of municipalities facilities; (7) clarifying that a municipality is not required to identify growth areas if it demonstrates that it is not possible to accommodate future residential, commercial or industrial growth, the community has experienced minimal or little growth, or the municipality does not have a downtown or densely developed area; (8) in the process of developing an implementation plan, requiring municipalities to establish development standards and timely permitting procedures, ensuring that needed public services are available, and preventing inappropriate development in natural hazard areas, as well as discouraging incompatible development in rural areas; (9) extending from 10 to 12 years state certification of a comprehensive plan; (10) amending deadlines associated with certifying a comprehensive plan; and (11) repealing portions of the GMA regarding inventory and analysis requirements, guidelines for policy development and implementation strategies.

[LD 1747](#) *An Act to Repeal and Replace the Charter of the Yarmouth Water District* (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth)

This bill repeals and replaces the charter of the Yarmouth Water District, subject to voter approval.

[LD 1743](#) *An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms Within Their Municipal Buildings and Voting Places and at Their Municipal Public Proceedings* (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 at public

proceedings 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 municipal proceedings held within the community. 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.

[LD 1742](#) *An Act to Prohibit a State Social Media Platform Account from Restricting User Comments* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This bill prohibits the administrator or official of a state agency, county or municipal social media account from restricting a user's ability to comment on posted content. The bill also clarifies that the account owner may adopt and enforce rules related to the type and removal of content shared on the platform.

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

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

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

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

[LD 1738](#) *An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

This bill creates the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to fund hypodermic apparatus mitigation and collection efforts, which may be issued to community-based organizations and municipalities, including municipal health departments. The grant revenues must be used to purchase and install disposal boxes, hire and train staff to collect and dispose of improperly discarded apparatuses, and to support other innovative or evidence-based strategies to mitigate and prevent improper disposal.

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

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

[LD 1732](#) *An Act to Allow a Municipality to Waive the Excise Tax on an Antique Automobile Owned by a Person 65 Years of Age or Older* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford)

This bill allows a municipality to waive the excise tax on antique automobiles when the registered owner is 65 years of age or older.

[LD 1729](#) *An Act to Increase the Rate of Reimbursement to Municipalities for Revenue Lost as a Result of the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

Beginning in 2026, this bill increases the reimbursement rate to municipalities for revenue lost under the homestead property tax exemption by three percentage points each year, until the reimbursement rate is 100%.

April 17, 2025

[LD 1714](#) *An Act to Create a New Pathway to Licensure to Drive School Buses* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill creates a license specifically for the operation of a school bus, which must conform with the requirements of the federal Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 and clarifies that a holder of a commercial license with a school bus endorsement is authorized to operate a school bus. The bill also requires a school bus learner's permit holder to complete a driver's license skills course taught by an instructor who has at least three years of school bus

driving experience and has completed a skills instructor course, which may be offered in conjunction with a commercial driver's license instructor course.

LD 1712 *An Act to Amend the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program to Balance Support of Businesses and Employees* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

This bill makes the following changes to the paid family and medical leave benefits program by: (1) providing examples of what type of conditions constitute undue hardship for an employer; (2) requiring an employer to deduct from an employee's wages 50% of the payroll premium, but allows an employer to pay any amount of the employee's share of the payroll premium; (3) establishing a benefit amount, regardless of income, of 65% of an employee's average weekly wage; (4) requiring an employee to file an application for family leave benefits no more than 15 days after the start of family leave and to file an application for medical leave benefits no more than 30 days after the start of the medical leave; (5) changing the fine imposed for failure or refusal by an employer to make premium contributions to a maximum of \$50 per employee; and (6) allowing an employer who is found to have failed or refused to make premium contributions to retroactively deduct the employers share from employee wages.

LD 1710 *An Act Regarding the Authority to Transport Prisoners Confined in Jail and the Use of Physical Force with Respect to Prisoners and Persons Who Have Been Arrested* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook)

This bill: (1) authorizes corrections and transport officers to transport prisoners to and from court and to provide custody at the court; (2) extends the prohibitions on using deadly force and use of laser pointers against a law enforcement officer to transport officers, corrections officers and corrections supervisors; and (3) extends the exception to the prohibition on using electronic weapons to transport officers.

LD 1709 *An Act Regarding Antique Automobiles* (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales)

This bill reduces from 35 to 25 years the age that an automobile or truck must be to be considered an antique auto and requires a person registering an antique auto to show proof of registration and insurance for the motor vehicle used as that person's primary mode of transportation and to maintain the registration and insurance during the term of registration of the antique auto. A person who violates this provision commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$2,500 may be adjudged and for which the Secretary of State may immediately revoke the registration for the antique auto.

LD 1707 *An Act to Require a Person to Be a United States Citizen to Receive State or Local Financial Assistance and to Ensure Municipal Compliance with Federal Immigration Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales)

This bill requires an individual to be a U.S. citizen to receive any form of financial assistance from the state or a municipality, except for funding for general purpose aid for education. The bill also provides that a municipality is ineligible to receive municipal general assistance and state-municipal revenue sharing if that municipality prohibits or restricts, formally or informally, the exchange of information with federal immigration authorities or any other federal, state or local government entity regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual or the maintenance of such information.

LD 1706 *An Act Regarding Notification of Appointment of Legal Representation for Indigent Clients in Custody* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This bill requires assignment of competent defense counsel to an accused person who is indigent within 24 hours of incarceration.

LD 1702 *An Act to Amend Election Polling Place Candidate Restrictions* (Sponsored by Rep. Cooper of Windham)

This bill prohibits a candidate, or candidate's representative, for public office within 250 feet of the entrance of the voting place or within the voting place from: (1) collecting or soliciting voter signatures on a petition in support of the candidate's candidacy or campaign contributions under the Maine Clean Election Act for an office the candidate is seeking in that election year; and (2) attempting to influence a voter's decision regarding a candidate for an office that is on the ballot for the election, whether or not the candidate's name is on the ballot.

LD 1701 *An Act to Support the Implementation of Learning Standards and Results in Public Schools* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This bill creates the Learning Results Implementation Advisory Committee within the Department of Education to make recommendations on curricula, resources and staff training related to the study of racial and ethnic studies, financial literacy, civics and health care and to make recommendations on topics to be measured by learning indicators or to adjust learning indicators to reflect best practices. The bill also appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 to provide grants to school administrative units and nonprofits to implement programs and learning activities based upon the committee's recommendations.

LD 1698 *An Act Regarding Changes of Ownership of Dams* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

In part, this bill requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to review the economic impact on surrounding communities, including private and municipal interests, in determining whether the best interest of the public requires the department to assume ownership of a dam.

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

This bill creates the 17-member Commission to Study Maine's Absolute Dominion and Beneficial Use Laws Relating to Water Rights, which includes a representative of a municipal water utility, and directs the commission to develop recommendations regarding the legal status of groundwater rights and ownership to promote the equitable and sustainable management of the state's water resources. By December 3, 2025, the commission is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1695 *An Act to Provide Law Enforcement Agencies with an Anti-sex-trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Protocol* (Sponsored by Rep. Arata of New Gloucester)

This bill directs the Department of Public Safety to adopt a model protocol for law enforcement agencies to adopt for the treatment of a person who is experiencing or has experienced human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation.

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

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

[LD 1689](#) *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care and Education* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield)

This bill requires public elementary schools constructed after October 1, 2025, to include an area to be used for preschool instruction or childcare. The bill also directs the Department of Education to: (1) revise the essential programs and services funding formula to fund preschool instruction; (2) study early childhood educators and providers credentialing procedures and policies; and (3) study the standards and rules across all early childhood educators and providers and reduce barriers to the expansion of preschool programs and early childhood education services.

[LD 1685](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Concerning the Direct Initiative Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Collamore of Pittsfield) **DEAD**

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine by allowing for the enactment of an amended version of a citizen initiative by a two-thirds majority of the legislature and further clarifies that an amended measure adopted by majority vote must be sent to the voters. The resolution also clarifies that if the Governor vetoes the measure, and the veto is sustained by the legislature, the measure must be referred to a referendum.

[LD 1683](#) *An Act to Make a Freedom of Access Act Request Free of Charge upon Petition* (Sponsored by Rep. Chapman of Auburn)

This bill amends the Maine Freedom of Access Act by: (1) prohibiting an entity from assessing a fee when a public information request is accompanied by a petition signed by at least 150 registered voters; and (2) requiring the entity to provide status updates every 30 working days until the request is fulfilled.

[LD 1681](#) *An Act to Consider Municipal Shelter Facilities and Housing Projects Essential for Public Health, Welfare and Safety by Updating the Definition of "Public Service Infrastructure"* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill amends the Maine Municipal Bond Bank Act to add municipal shelter facilities and housing projects managed and operated by a municipality or a municipal housing authority to the definition of "public service infrastructure."

[LD 1680](#) *An Act to Establish a Permanent Ferry Oversight Committee to Ensure Sustainable and Equitable Ferry Operations* (Sponsored by Rep. Eaton of Deer Isle)

This bill creates the 10-member Ferry Oversight Committee, which includes four members with expertise in relevant infrastructure, emergency services, economic development and education to: (1) review proposals submitted by the Department of Transportation related to

ferry operations, including berthing changes; and (2) examine the effects of changes in ferry services on student access to education, emergency service response, service reliability and the economic vitality of island communities. By December 31 of each year, the commission is required to report findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

LD 1676 *Resolve, to Study Ways to Improve Recruitment and Retention of Rural Emergency Medical Services Personnel Through Access to Health Insurance* (Sponsored by Rep. Eaton of Deer Isle)

This bill directs the Commissioner of Public Safety to convene a seven-member commission, including two EMS providers and a representative of a statewide association of municipalities to study ways to improve the recruitment and retention of EMS personnel in rural areas by providing access to health insurance. By December 3, 2025, the commission is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1675 *An Act to Provide Just Compensation in Cases of Taking by Eminent Domain by Transmission and Distribution Utilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Flynn of Albion)

This bill updates the laws regarding damages paid to owners of property taken by eminent domain by a transmission and distribution utility for the construction, rebuilding or relocation of a transmission line by requiring the utility to set aside 1% of the total revenue generated from the project to be paid annually as damages to the owner of a property taken by eminent domain. The 1% of the revenue set aside for damages must be distributed to property owners based on the acres of property taken and in the form of an annual installment provided over the course of 20 years from the operation date of the transmission line.

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

This emergency resolve establishes a pilot project to facilitate the inclusion of economic impact statements in the legislative process.

LD 1672 *An Act to Allow Participation in the Adult Use Cannabis Tracking System to Be Voluntary* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This bill provides that a cannabis establishment licensee may voluntarily elect, but is not required, to use the tracking system for adult use cannabis and products implemented and administered by the Office of Cannabis Policy. The bill also prohibits the office from renewing, extending, negotiating or entering into any contract or other agreement with a third-party entity for the administration of the tracking system.

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

This bill requires that a law enforcement agency disclose to a prosecuting attorney's office when a law enforcement officer who is a potential witness in a criminal prosecution has engaged in certain specified conduct that calls into question the credibility of the officer as a witness. Law enforcement agencies must notify the law enforcement officer when disclosing the credibility information to a prosecuting attorney's office. The prosecuting attorney's office must

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

[LD 1669](#) *An Act to Establish the Cannabis Advisory Council* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill creates the 10-member Cannabis Advisory Council, including one member who is a municipal official from an opt-in community, to determine: (1) how best interested parties can work together to improve and maintain the quality of the state's medical and adult use cannabis industry; and (2) address matters of interest to the industry, including changes to the tracking system contract, public health protection, and federal legalization.

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

This bill provides ranked-choice voting for both general and special elections for the offices of governor and legislature, clarifies the definition of ranked-choice voting by changing the use of the terms "vote" and "ballot," and provides that the winner of an election in which ranked-choice voting is conducted is the winner by a plurality of the votes.

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

Beginning on or after January 1, 2025, this bill increases the benefit under the property tax fairness credit for income tax filers to: (1) \$2,450 for single individuals; (2) \$3,200 for joint filers; (3) \$3,250 for heads of households with one child; (4) \$4,250 for heads of households with more than one child; and (5) \$4,250 for individuals 65 years of age or older. The bill also directs Maine Revenues Services (MRS) to convene a working group, including municipal officials, to study the property tax fairness credit program and make recommendations on how to make the program easier to understand and to simplify the process of applying for the credit. By December 3, 2025, MRS is further directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

April 15, 2025

LD 1662 *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Zoning and Land Use Restrictions to Limit Certain Requirements to Municipalities with Populations of More than 10,000* (Sponsored by Rep. Soboleski of Phillips)

This bill limits the applicability of the housing and zoning related recommendations from the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine (LD 2003) adopted as PL 2021, c. 672, to municipalities with populations over 10,000.

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

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

LD 1660 *An Act Creating a Private Right of Action Against a Government Employer* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This bill creates a private right of action for a person against a government employer for an injury caused by an act or omission of a government employee who violates a right of another person under the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Maine.

LD 1659 *An Act to Raise Revenue to Fund Firefighting Equipment Purchases and Training Related to Electric Vehicle Fires Through a Fee on Electric Vehicles* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo)

This bill establishes the Electric Vehicle Firefighting Fund to provide funds to fire departments to purchase equipment and provide training related to electric vehicle fires. The bill also establishes a fee of \$250 on the sale of new and used electric vehicles by a dealer and requires the revenue to be deposited into the fund.

LD 1657 *An Act to Expand the Use of Tax Increment Revenue for Affordable Housing by Adding Authorized Project Costs* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

This bill expands the use of tax increment revenue for affordable housing by adding authorized project costs, including costs for the development, sale, purchase, financial support and operation of affordable housing and for the creation, maintenance and administration of a municipal loan or grant program to provide assistance to qualifying purchasers of affordable housing.

LD 1656 *An Act to Facilitate Compliance with Federal Immigration Law by State and Local Government Entities* (Sponsored by Rep. Soboleski of Phillips)

This bill prohibits the state, counties, municipalities and law enforcement agencies from adopting a law, rule, ordinance or policy that prohibits law enforcement agencies from complying with or assisting in the enforcement of federal immigration law. The bill also provides a process enabling a resident to submit a complaint to the Attorney General asserting a violation of the prohibition, as well as process for a state, county or local government official or

law enforcement officer to report a violation, which is protected under the federal Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989.

LD 1655 *An Act to Allow the Keeping of Chickens on Private Residential Property* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt an ordinance regulating the raising of chickens on private residential land, provided the ordinance does not prohibit the activity. The bill also: (1) limits the number of chickens to 36; (2) requires chickens to be housed in a coup that is located at least 15 feet from all property lines, is enclosed with predator-proof mesh wire and a door with a latch, and provides four square feet of inside space per chicken and at least 10 square feet of secure outdoor space per chicken; (3) prevents trespassing and disturbing abutters with noise or order; and (4) requires owner to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents.

LD 1654 *An Act to Allow a Grace Period for the Payment of Excise Tax for Adult Use Cannabis Cultivation Facilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This bill extends from 30 to 120 days the period of time an adult cannabis cultivation facility licensee has to submit a return to the State Tax Assessor and pay all excise taxes incurred from sales to other cannabis licensees.

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

This emergency resolve establishes the 12-member Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Operation of the Legislature, which includes two members with expertise in government relations who are registered with the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. The commission is tasked with studying the existing structure and operations of the legislature, including the: (1) size; (2) number of terms and the frequency of elections; (3) training and education of legislators and staff; (4) use of policy research and data in the legislative process; (5) assurance of transparency; (6) reorganization of the legislative calendar; (7) allowing the introduction of legislation, both before and after cloture; (8) number of bills in a legislative session and in a legislative biennium; (9) requirements for drafting legislation; (10) use of concept draft legislation; (11) fiscal impact statement process; (12) structure of joint standing committees, member appointment process and responsibilities, including procedures for public hearings and work sessions, scheduling public hearings and work sessions and the rules for testimony; and (13) process for forming and approving the state budget, including participation in budget hearings and work sessions. By December 3, 2025, the commission is required to submit a report and possible solutions for consideration in 2026.

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

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

April 11, 2025

[LD 1645](#) *An Act to Improve Legislative Access to Public Information* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill amends the Freedom of Access Act by requiring a request submitted by three or more legislators to be complied with within 20 working days, provided that at least three of the requestors serve on the Government Oversight Committee, with one serving as chair. Current law requires the agency or official that receives the request to make a good faith effort to comply with the request within a nonbinding estimate of time.

[LD 1644](#) *An Act to Require Train Axle Bearing Sensors to Be Installed on Passenger Rail Lines* (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.)

Beginning January 1, 2027, this bill requires the installation of a hotbox detector every 20 miles on a railroad line on which a passenger train operates.

[LD 1641](#) *An Act to Allow Municipalities to Implement a Local Option Sales Tax* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill allows a municipality to impose a year-round local option sales tax on the sale of any good or service allowed to be taxed at the statewide level providing the authority is validated at a municipal referendum held during the regular November election and the question describes how the revenue will be used.

[LD 1637](#) *An Act to Reform the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill makes several changes to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, including amending the governing board's membership to require that at least four members be residents, town officials or business owners from Brunswick; an additional member be appointed by the chair of the Brunswick town council, and the member of the Senate or House, who serves as a non-voting member, represent either a portion of Brunswick or Topsham.

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

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

[LD 1635](#) *An Act to Streamline Municipal Referenda Recount Initiation* (Sponsored by Rep. Arata of New Gloucester)

This bill requires an automatic recount to be conducted when a municipal referendum passes or fails by less than 1% of all the votes cast, including any blank ballots.

LD 1633 *An Act to Promote the Recycling and Reuse of Construction Materials* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Ellsworth)

This bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection to establish by rule a streamlined process for the certification of a construction materials reclamation facility, is defined as a facility that exclusively accepts construction and demolition debris and sorts, refurbishes and sells materials reclaimed from the debris for reuse in construction. The bill also establishes the non-lapsing Construction Materials Reclamation Fund within the department to provide grants, loans or other funding to any public or private entity to support the development and certification of reclamation facilities, training programs for individuals operating and employed at those facilities and public outreach and education initiatives regarding those facilities. Beginning January 1, 2026, this fund will receive a new \$10 per ton fee imposed on the landfill disposal of construction and demolition debris and residue from the processing of the debris. The bill also capitalizes the fund with General Fund appropriations of \$1 million in fiscal years 2026 and 2027. The bill establishes a new state goal requiring by January 1, 2036, to reduce by 25% the total tonnage of construction and demolition debris annually disposed of at solid waste landfills.

LD 1632 *An Act to Provide Incentives and Amend Laws Regarding Access to Protect Rural Highway Capacity and Promote Long-term Economic Development* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This bill provides that all state highways, rather than only controlled access highways, are subject to Department of Transportation access management rules and authorizes the department to waive access management rules and issue a permit for a driveway only if the property is located within a locally designated growth area identified in a state approved comprehensive plan. The bill also reestablishes the program within the department, which is to be funded on a pilot project basis, providing technical assistance and incentive grants to municipalities to prevent new development along state highways and reduce the cost of future highway improvement projects. The bill specifies an incentive grant can be used to purchase rural lands adjacent to the highways to secure access rights and to plan the development of a public way or a town way within a municipality.

LD 1630 *An Act to Amend the Open Space Tax Law* (Sponsored by Rep. Sayre of Kennebunk)

This bill: (1) increases the amount of the reduction of property taxes that land enrolled as open space is eligible for from 20% to 45% and reduces the additional reduction of property taxes that permanently protected open space land is eligible for from 30% to 25%; (2) eliminates the additional percentage reduction in property taxes for forever wild open space land and managed forest open space land; and (3) provides an additional 25% reduction for enrolled land governed by an approved wildlife habitat management plan or forest climate resilience and carbon management plan. The bill also defines: (1) a wildlife habitat management plan as a written document prepared by a licensed professional forester or a wildlife biologist from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife that: (a) describes activities to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat on a parcel; (b) identifies and describes specific activities, including silvicultural and other practices to meet the plan's goals; and (c) includes a map of forest types or natural community types and locations of all water bodies and wetlands; and (2) a forest climate resilience and carbon management plan as a written document prepared by a licensed professional forester that: (a) describes activities to enhance, on forested land or farm woodland,

climate resilience or the storage or sequestration of forest carbon; (b) identifies and describes specific activities, to meet the plan's objectives; (c) includes schedules, specific forest stand locations and acres and silvicultural prescriptions for recommended practices; and (c) includes a forest type map and locations of all water bodies and wetlands. The bill allows a nonprofit landowner to apply for classification for more than an aggregate total of 15,000 acres under the laws governing the valuation of open space land.

LD 1628 *An Act to Allow Municipalities to Regulate Exterior Lights* (Sponsored by Rep. Quint of Hodgdon)

This bill allows municipalities to adopt ordinances to regulate exterior lights to prevent undue annoyance or adversely affect the health or safety of a member of the public or enjoyment or use of another property, including requiring the exterior light to be positioned downward or equipped with a shield to narrow the beam of light projected by the exterior light.

LD 1627 *An Act Regarding Workforce Development, Education Reform and Talent Retention* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Ellsworth)

Beginning January 1, 2027, this bill requires all high school students to complete an internship, apprenticeship or cooperative education experience that allows the student to attain workforce skills. The bill also directs the Department of Education to: (1) develop and implement a career exploration module for middle and high school students that emphasizes the state's high-demand fields; (2) remove incentives for school administrative units that disproportionately steer students toward four-year postsecondary education institutions; (3) provide all high school students with information on a variety of post-graduation options, including local employment opportunities; (4) redirect funds to upgrade career and technical education facilities; (5) expand access to extended learning opportunities program coordinators and prioritize underserved and rural areas; (6) establish a competitive grant program for employers to partner with schools, career and technical education centers and the Maine Community College system to create new training opportunities to address workforce gaps; (7) coordinate with other state agencies to develop tax incentives for workforce investments and coordinate labor shortages in underserved regions by offering temporary housing and commuting stipends for workers who take jobs in the rural areas; (8) conduct audits of workforce education and identify inefficient programs; and (9) by December 3, 2025 submit a progress report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1625 *An Act Regarding the Preservation of Working Waterfronts* (Sponsored by Rep. Mathieson of Kittery)

This bill establishes the Maine Working Waterfront Preservation Program and the Maine Working Waterfront Preservation Fund to preserve significant working waterfront property from redevelopment for purposes that are not related to working waterfront uses and whose continued availability to commercial fisheries businesses is essential to the long-term future of the economic sector. The bill also directs the Department of Marine Resources to administer the program either directly or by contract with a suitable organization and provides the department a permanent right of first refusal on any working waterfront property acquired in fee or protected by covenant at a price determined by an independent appraiser based on the value of the property

as a commercial fisheries business at the time of consideration of purchase and assign the right to a fisheries business or a local government.

[LD 1621](#) *An Act to Allow Municipalities to Use Tax Increment Financing Revenues to Support Lake Restoration and Protection Activities* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta)

This bill allows municipalities to use tax increment financing revenue for lake restoration and protection projects.

[LD 1618](#) *Resolve, to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Dedicated Family Court in Maine* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This emergency resolve establishes and directs the Study Group to Research the Feasibility of Establishing a Dedicated Family Court in Maine to evaluate the feasibility, potential benefits and challenges associated with establishing a dedicated family court system.

[LD 1616](#) *An Act to Eliminate Requirements for Drivers to Surrender Their Physical Driver's Licenses During a Temporary Suspension* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

This bill eliminates requirements for an individual whose license has been temporarily suspended to surrender a driver's license and instead allows the person to keep their identification documentation. The bill also eliminates provisions establishing crimes and traffic infractions associated with the display or possession of a suspended driver's license.

[LD 1612](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Solicit Proposals for the Utilization of Unused State-owned Railroad Lines* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell)

This resolve requires the Department of Transportation to develop and issue requests for proposals for each unused railroad line owned by the state no later than 180 days after the effective date of this resolve and evaluate proposals based on criteria including financial feasibility and potential economic benefits to the state, consistency with environmental and community development objectives and a proposer's qualifications and ability to execute the proposed project.

[LD 1610](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Apportion Differentiated Tax Rates on Real Property According to Use* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to authorize municipalities to apportion differentiated tax rates on real property according to homestead residence, non-homestead residence and commercial property uses.

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

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

LD 1608 *An Act to Counter Unlawful Cannabis Cultivation* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft)

This bill allows the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to deny a registry identification card or registration certificate to any person authorized under that registration to cultivate cannabis at a location that has been the site of repeated violations under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis or Cannabis Legalization acts. The bill also allows the department to place a moratorium not to exceed 10 years on these locations for the purpose of issuing or renewing a registration and authorizes the Office of Cannabis Policy to place a moratorium not to exceed 10 years on any location that has been the site of repeated violations under both acts for the purposes of issuing or renewing licenses under the adult use act.

LD 1607 *An Act to Require Law Enforcement Agencies to Adopt Written Policies Regarding Compliance with Certain Constitutional Obligations Related to Disclosure of Evidence* (Sponsored by Rep. Bunker of Farmington)

By January 1, 2026, this bill requires law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies to assist prosecuting agencies in complying with constitutional obligations to disclose evidence as provided under *Brady v. Maryland* (1963) and *Giglio v. United States* (405 U.S. 150 (1972)), and to comply with mandatory disclosures to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

April 10, 2025

LD 1604 *An Act to Protect Groundwater and Surface Waters from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances from Landfill Leachate* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill requires a person licensed by the Department of Environmental Protection to discharge wastewater to groundwater or any waters to maintain a record of and annually report to the department data regarding the origin, volume and final disposition of leachate collected from a solid waste landfill delivered to or otherwise accepted by the licensee for treatment or other management. Beginning June 1, 2026, the bill also prohibits the discharge of wastewater containing leachate collected from a solid waste landfill unless the effluent satisfies PFAS limits adopted by department rule. The bill requires a licensed solid waste landfill that has installed a landfill leachate collection system to ensure that its leachate is tested on a quarterly basis by an independent third-party entity for PFAS contamination in a manner directed by the department. The leachate testing results must be made available on the department's publicly accessible website and further provides that if the department receives a written request from a property owner abutting a licensed solid waste landfill, the landfill licensee is required to conduct sampling and analysis for PFAS in a private water supply well used by the owner for drinking water.

LD 1603 *An Act to Eliminate the Property Tax on Business Equipment With a Value of No More Than \$50,000* (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Oxford Cty.)

Beginning with the April 1, 2026 property tax year, this bill exempts all business equipment with a value of no more than \$50,000 from the personal property tax and prohibits a political subdivision from imposing a tax on such business equipment. The bill also requires the Bureau of Revenue Services to develop and provide guidance to municipalities and businesses regarding compliance with the proposed exemption.

LD 1600 *An Act to Provide Regional Support Funding for Municipal Police Departments to Support Special Response Teams* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick)

This bill creates the Special Response Team Fund to reimburse municipalities that maintain and operate special response teams that rapidly respond to high-risk law enforcement operations and conduct criminal investigations that exceed the capabilities of standard law enforcement agencies and require specialized training, equipment and tactics. The bill also requires: (1) each county to contribute annually a pro rata share based upon population of an amount equal to 10% of the previous calendar year's expenses that each municipality spent to maintain and operate a special response team; (2) the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to certify the teams; and (3) requires the Department of Public Safety to adopt rules to manage the fund.

LD 1599 *An Act to Establish the Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook)

This bill creates the 26-member Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission, which includes participants from statewide associations representing municipalities, counties and fire chiefs, as well as an EMS provider representing a community with a population of 10,000 or more and another representing a community with a population less than 10,000. The commission is directed to advise the governor and legislature and annually submit a report of the commission's studies, findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

LD 1595 *An Act to Strengthen Working Waterfronts Against Nuisance Complaints Regarding Aquaculture* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook)

This bill amends the law that prohibits private nuisance actions against a person engaged in a commercial fishing activity or commercial fishing operation to include activities associated with aquaculture and commercial fisheries businesses, which include enterprises concerned with the commercial harvest of wild or aquacultured marine organisms.

LD 1593 *An Act to Require Certain Public Entities to Define Their Use of the Term "Equity"* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill requires public entities, including municipalities, to post on a publicly accessible website the definition of "equity" used to make decisions based on advancing equity.

LD 1591 *An Act to Grant a Municipality Authority to Tax Property According to Use* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick)

Provided the Constitution of Maine is appropriately amended, this bill authorizes municipalities to assess differential mil rates according to property classification, including homesteads, non-homestead residential property and commercial property, which must be taxed consistently across all types of property used for similar purposes.

LD 1586 *An Act to Amend the Regional School Unit Budget Validation Referendum Law* (Sponsored by Bagshaw of Windham)

This bill requires the question for the school budget validation referendum to include the dollar amount of the budget.

LD 1585 *Resolve, to Direct the Maine State Housing Authority to Amend Its Rules Governing the Fuel Assistance Program Regarding Benefit Payments for Wood Fuel* (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford)

This resolve directs the Maine State Housing Authority to amend its rules governing the fuel assistance program to allow benefit payments for wood fuel to be made directly to vendors prior to delivery.

LD 1584 *An Act to Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services to Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2025-26* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

This emergency bill establishes municipal cost components for state and county services provided to the unorganized territory, which forms the property tax assessment. After computing all the appropriations and accounting for the general revenue and educational revenue deductions, the total tax assessment for FY 2026 is \$33.8 million.

LD 1581 *An Act Regarding the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Certain Veterans* (Rep. Nutting of Oakland)

This bill requires that to qualify for the motor vehicle excise tax exemption provided to certain disabled veterans, the name of the qualifying veteran must appear on the automobile's certificate of title.

LD 1579 *An Act to Abolish School Budget Referenda* (Sponsored by Rep. Abdi of Lewiston)

This bill eliminates the requirement for voters to validate a regional school unit budget at a referendum.

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

This resolve establishes the 15-member Commission to Study and Recommend Solutions for Modernizing the Maine State Legislature, including efficiency through technology; improving the legislative process and physical access; increasing transparency and staffing; evaluating remote access and committee meetings; and reducing the size of the legislature and increasing term limits to six or eight terms. By November 4, 2026, the commission is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, which may submit legislation in 2027.

LD 1570 *An Act to Prohibit Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This bill prohibits a public water system from adding fluoride to its water supply and provides that a person who intentionally violates that prohibition commits a civil violation for which a fine of \$1,000 per day for each day of the violation may be adjudged.

LD 1569 *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Economic and Community Development to Form a Stakeholder Group to Analyze and Improve Home Repair Funding Programs in the State* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland) **DEAD**

This emergency resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to convene a nine-member stakeholder group, including a representative of the Maine Municipal Association, to conduct a comprehensive review of existing home repair

funding programs. By December 3, 2025, the bill further directs the department to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

[LD 1568](#) *An Act to Allow the Use of a Siren in a Vehicle Used by a Harbor Master or Deputy Harbor Master* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick)

This emergency bill allows a municipality to authorize the use of a siren in a motor vehicle operated by a harbor master or deputy harbor master when responding to an emergency call.

[LD 1565](#) *An Act to Allow the Use of Certain All-terrain Vehicles on Snowmobile Trails* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo)

This bill provides that when registering an all-terrain vehicle, a person may purchase an endorsement for \$25 that allows them to switch between tires and snow tracks for the registration period to operate on snowmobile trails in the State. The endorsement is in the form of a sticker, which must be displayed on the front and back of the ATV next to the registration number.

[LD 1562](#) *An Act Regarding Municipal Road Standards* (Sponsored by Rep. McIntyre of Lowell)

This bill amends the provision of law that requires legally established highways, town ways and streets to be opened and kept in repair in accordance with standards established by the Department of Transportation and provides that differences in roadway surface and the season of the year must be taken into consideration when determining whether the highway or road is opened and in repair. The bill also repeals the provision of law that provides for a petition process involving the county commissioners when a town liable to maintain a way unreasonably neglects to keep it in repair and instead provides for an updated petition process in accordance with standards established by the department.

[LD 1560](#) *An Act to Address Conflicts of Interest with Municipal Contracts* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo Cty.)

This bill amends the law governing conflicts of interest in the awarding of contracts by making voidable a contract made by a municipality during the term of an official involved in the negotiation or award of the contract who has a direct or an indirect pecuniary interest in the contract even if the contract was obtained through properly advertised bid procedures. The bill also creates an exception to the requirement when the municipality determines that no other option is feasible and the municipality appoints an independent board of three residents to address grievances against the business practices of the selected entity for the life of the contract.

[LD 1559](#) *An Act to Authorize Medical Cannabis Farmers' Markets* (Sponsored by Rep. Chapman of Auburn)

This bill amends the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act to provide for the licensure of a medical cannabis farmers' market, which is defined as a building, structure or place, used by one or more registered caregivers or registered dispensaries and licensed by the Office of Cannabis Policy, for the direct sale of harvested cannabis and products to qualifying patients and for the consumption of harvested cannabis and products purchased by qualifying patients from the registered caregivers or registered dispensaries.

LD 1557 *An Act to Ensure Uniformity in the Regulation of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Pesticides* (Sponsored by Rep. Arata of New Gloucester)

This bill changes the definition of PFAS in the Maine Pesticide Control Act of 1975 to align with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's definition and applies the definition of PFAS for the purposes of the prohibition on the sale of pesticide products containing intentionally added PFAS.

LD 1556 *Resolve, Regarding Increasing the Number of Kennebec County Commissioners* (Sponsored by Rep. Collins of Sidney)

This resolve increases from three to five the number of Kennebec County commissioners.

LD 1553 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require a Supermajority of the Legislature to Approve Raising Taxes* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require that a proposed new or increase of an existing state tax may not be imposed unless by consent of the people via a direct initiative or by a 2/3 vote of the members of the legislature.

LD 1551 *An Act to Support Maine Eating and Drinking Establishments by Allowing Vendors to Operate on the Premises of an Establishment with a Liquor License* (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.)

Under current law, an establishment licensed with the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages is prohibited from allowing outside licensed eating establishments to prepare or sell food or alcohol on its premises. This bill establishes conditions under which a licensed eating establishment vendor may operate within a host establishment licensed with the bureau. It permits the vendor to sell food and alcoholic beverages, as long as the alcohol is supplied exclusively by the host establishment and served in compliance with state training requirements. The bill also requires the vendor to adhere to all relevant health and safety rules and tax reporting obligations and requires the host establishment to maintain an operational schedule.

LD 1550 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend Its Rules to Protect Water Quality by Reducing Nutrient Pollution from Septic Systems* (Sponsored by Sen. Ingwersen of York Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend rules governing subsurface wastewater disposal by: (1) amending the design standards for disposal fields in a manner that addresses short circuiting by reducing nutrient loading from septic tank effluent through natural processes; (2) applying the amended design standards only to soil profiles that pose a high risk of short circuiting due to the presence of sand or gravel layers in lower soil horizons or bedrock fractures; and (3) providing that an area of land suitable for the installation of a disposal field may not be rendered unsuitable due to any changes in the rule amended pursuant to this resolve.

LD 1549 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Use and Oversight of Transportation-related Revenues* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require at least 60% of automobile-related sales and use tax revenue to be transferred to the Highway Fund and expended solely for costs of all modes of transportation.

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

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

[LD 1542](#) *An Act to Amend the Membership of the Washington County Budget Advisory Committee* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This bill amends the membership of the Washington County budget advisory committee by requiring the commissioners to appoint one member who is a resident of the unorganized territory as a voting member to serve a three-year term. The bill also requires the Washington County legislative delegation to select by majority vote, by October 15, 2025, and every October 15 of an odd-numbered year thereafter, one member of the delegation to serve on the budget advisory committee for a two-year term as a voting member.

[LD 1541](#) *An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief for Senior Residents* (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Oxford Cty.)

Beginning with the April 1, 2027 property tax year, this bill reinstates an amended version of the tax stabilization program by providing a complete exemption, including up to one acre of land surrounding the homestead, to a homeowner who is at least 65 years of age and has maintained a permanent residence in Maine for at least 10 consecutive years. The bill also requires recipients to annually file an affidavit with the municipality declaring continued eligibility for the exemption and provides that the benefit is not transferable unless the homestead is jointly owned by the transferee provided the recipient is also eligible for the exemption. The state must reimburse municipalities for 100% of lost revenue associated with the exemption. By January 15, 2031, the bill directs the Office of Program and Evaluation and Government Accountability to submit a report, including the number, amount, and geographic distribution of the exemption, cost to the state and whether the cost is fiscally sustainable, and the potential to expand or modify the exemption.

April 8, 2025

[LD 1537](#) *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Lowering Property Taxes by Revising the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve establishes the 13-member Commission to Study Lowering Property Taxes by Revising the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Program, which includes: (1) a municipal official representing a community with a population less than 10,000; (2) a municipal official representing a community with a population of 10,000 or more; (3) a representative from a statewide association of municipalities; (4) two members of the public with relevant experience in municipal finances, tax policies or state-local fiscal relations; and (5) a representative of county government. The commission is directed to conduct a holistic review of the state-municipal revenue sharing system to identify disparities, address such issues as disproportionate

tax burdens and develop recommendations to streamline the state-municipal revenue sharing system for fairness and sustainability while considering municipal fiscal needs. By December 3, 2025, the commission is further directed to submit its report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1536 *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Bail* (Sponsored by Sen. Haggan of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill repeals the changes made to the Maine Bail Code enacted in 2021 which waived related fees when a defendant is: financially unable to pay the fee; the primary caretaker for another person; being treated for a specified health care need, including mental health; or employed.

LD 1535 *An Act to Reduce Illegal Cannabis Operations by Requiring Permits for High Electrical Usage* (Sponsored by Sen. Haggan of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill requires a permit for the installation or upgrade of electrical service to a total of 300 amperes or more in a residential building. The bill also requires a transmission and distribution electric utility to report suspicious power use to the code enforcement officer when: (1) a 300-ampere or more total service is installed or an existing service is upgraded; (2) a transformer malfunctions; (3) a transformer larger than 25 kilovolt-amperes is installed or upgraded to 25 kilovolt-amperes for a residential customer; (4) there is a month-to-month increase in power consumption greater than 500% for a residential customer; or (5) the transmission and distribution utility finds evidence that power diversion or theft has occurred. The report must state the reason for the power increase if known by the transmission and distribution utility.

LD 1534 *An Act Enabling Municipalities to Protect Tenants and Stabilize Rents* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances imposing limits on annual rent increases for a residential dwelling unit which may not exceed the annual change in the Consumer Price Index or 5% of the base rent, whichever is lower. The bill also allows municipalities to adopt ordinances that limit the eviction of a tenant for just cause, which includes nonpayment of rent, a substantial violation of a term of tenancy, criminal activity, or the removal of the unit from the rental market. Beginning January 15, 2026, municipalities adopting ordinances must annually submit a report to Maine State Housing Authority, including a copy of the ordinance, number of units impacted by the ordinance, and any other information considered necessary by the authority.

LD 1531 *An Act to Better Protect Animal-drawn Vehicles and Motorists on Public Roadways* (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill repeals the current law relating to light and reflective gear requirements for animal-drawn vehicles operated on public ways and replaces it with more detailed requirements for use at all times and additional requirements for times when there is limited visibility. The bill also provides an exception for equipment that is not transporting any livestock or a person other than the operator.

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

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

LD 1529 *An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop a comprehensive, statewide strategy to enhance the conservation of late-successional forests and old-growth forests. As defined in the bill, a "late-successional forest" is a forest stand consisting of native tree species that have predominantly developed through natural processes, structures and dynamics normally associated with late-stage developmental phases of old-growth forests of the same type and show signs of former human activities and an "old-growth forest" as a naturally regenerated forest of native tree species with no visible indications of human activity and no or significant disturbance to the forest's natural processes.

LD 1527 *An Act to Require Postage Prepaid Envelopes Be Provided for the Return of Absentee Ballots* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill requires the Secretary of State to provide municipalities with postage prepaid return envelopes along with absentee ballots.

LD 1526 *An Act to Change the Permissible Hours and Penalties Pertaining to the Use of Consumer Fireworks* (Sponsored by Sen. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.)

This bill reduces the hours in which consumer fireworks can be used from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. to 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and increases the financial penalty for a violation from a minimum of \$50 to \$100 and the maximum fine from \$500 to \$1,000.

LD 1525 *An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep Ray of Lincolnville)

This bill facilitates the establishments of firewood banks to provide free firewood to individuals and families who are in need of heating assistance and further: (1) directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry to provide information to the public to increase awareness of firewood banks and to maintain a list on the bureau's publicly accessible website that lists operating firewood banks; (2) requires the department to develop informational resources to promote the successful operation of firewood banks; (3) provides that any time there are timber or forest harvesting operations on owned state land located within 50 miles of a firewood bank, the state is required to offer a donation of 8 to 13 cords of hardwood to that firewood bank; (4) clarifies that a firewood bank and the municipality or county in which a bank is located is not liable for any damages caused by the taking or use of firewood obtained from a firewood bank; and (5) requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to provide guidance to municipalities and counties concerning management of environmental impacts and solid-waste disposal associated with the operation of a firewood bank.

As amended by the sponsor, this bill facilitates the establishments of firewood banks to provide free firewood to individuals and families who are in need of heating assistance and further: (1) directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry to provide information to the public to increase awareness of firewood banks and the charitable efforts needed to maintain firewood banks and to maintain a list on the bureau's publicly accessible website that lists operating firewood banks; (2) requires the department to develop informational resources to promote the successful operation of firewood banks; and (3) requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to provide guidance to municipalities and counties concerning management of environmental impacts and solid-waste disposal associated with the operation of a firewood bank. Removed from the original language of the bill is the section that clarified that a firewood bank, and the municipality or county in which the bank is located, is not liable for any damages caused by the taking or use of firewood obtained from the bank.

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

This bill makes permanent the eviction prevention pilot program administered by Maine State Housing Authority and appropriates \$25 million annually in ongoing revenue to support the program.

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

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

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

On or before November 1, 2026, this bill requires a producer of electronic smoking devices to submit a plan for the establishment of a stewardship program to manage unwanted electronic smoking devices to the Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval. One hundred eighty days after a stewardship plan is approved by the department, a producer may not sell or offer for sale electronic smoking devices unless the producer participates in an approved stewardship program.

[LD 1518](#) *An Act to Clarify the Amount and Use of Unallocated Balances in a School Administrative Unit Budget* (Sponsored by Rep. Frost of Belgrade)

Under current law, an unallocated balance in excess of 5% of a school unit's previous school budget must be used to reduce the state and local share of total cost in the next school year. This bill provides that the excesses in unallocated balances must be spent on educational programs.

[LD 1517](#) *An Act to Replace Participation Thresholds with Approval Thresholds in Certain School, Municipal and County Measures* (Sponsored by Rep. Sato of Gorham)

This bill reduces voter participation thresholds necessary for the result of the vote to be valid that impacts school, county, municipal, local electric districts and sanitary districts, including reducing the percentage of total votes cast in the previous gubernatorial election for withdrawing from a regional school unit; bonds issued by county commissioners for economic development; new, revised, modified or amended charters; the appointment of a single assessor; municipal revenue bonds; creation of an urban renewal authority, and deorganization, to name a few.

LD 1510 *An Act to Establish Statutory Deadlines for Processing Applications for Emergency Medical Services Personnel* (Sponsored by Rep. Fredette of Newport)

This bill requires the Emergency Medical Services Board to make a decision on a license application for an emergency medical services person, ambulance operator or dispatcher within 30 calendar days of receiving a completed application. The bill allows for a 15-day extension during a state of emergency or if the number of applications received cannot be reasonably reviewed within that time. The bill also provides that if the board does not meet the time frames established for licensing decisions, the Commissioner of Public Safety will assume the board's licensing duties.

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

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

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

This bill increases the personal property tax exemption from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for individually owned personal property.

LD 1505 *An Act to Phase out the Sales and Use Tax* (Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield)

Beginning January 1, 2026, this bill phases out the tax imposed on the sale of tangible personal property, products transferred electronically and taxable services by reducing the tax rate by 1/2 of a percentage point every two years, until the rate is 0%.

LD 1499 *An Act to Revoke the Tax-exempt Status of an Organization That Fails to Report Sexual Assaults Committed by Employees, Board Members, Volunteers or Affiliates* (Sponsored by Rep. Macias of Topsham)

This bill requires an organization that is tax exempt, including a religious, charitable, educational or nonprofit entity, to report all allegations of sexual assault involving that

organization's employees, board members, volunteers or affiliates to law enforcement authorities. If a tax-exempt organization fails to report at least two separate allegations of sexual assault within a 10-year period, as determined by a court or fact finder in an administrative hearing, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services must revoke the organization's tax-exempt status for all activities conducted within the state and provide the organization with the opportunity to appeal that revocation. An organization may apply for reinstatement of tax-exempt status after five years by demonstrating full compliance with reporting laws, implementation of child protection policies and training programs, and cooperation with law enforcement investigations related to prior failures to report.

[LD 1498](#) *An Act to Limit Municipal Impact Fees on Housing Development* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill amends the law authorizing municipalities to enact ordinances requiring the assessment of impact fees or construction of infrastructure improvements by requiring the establishment of policies that describe how the municipality determines that a development necessitates an infrastructure improvement and how the developer's share of the cost of that improvement is determined. The policy must be accessible to the public at the municipal office or on the publicly accessible website. The bill also provides that the developer's share of the cost of infrastructure improvement must be proportionate to the development's use of the infrastructure and only for improvements on land or property that directly abuts the location of the development and that the fees collected be used by the municipality within 180 days of receipt.

[LD 1492](#) *An Act to Fairly Compensate Teachers for Overtime Hours* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill extends paid overtime protections to teachers.

April 3, 2025

[LD 1487](#) *An Act to Support Community Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill authorizes the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of Violence Prevention to seek and accept funds from any source, including, but not limited to, federal, state, county, municipal and private sources.

[LD 1484](#) *An Act Related to Public Access of Records of Certain Disciplinary Actions of Public Employees* (Sponsored by Rep. Bishop of Bucksport) **DEAD**

Under current law, if disciplinary action is taken against a state, county or municipal employee, the final written decision associated with the disciplinary action is not confidential. Under the bill, only disciplinary actions that are of a nature that impose or result in a financial disadvantage, including, but not limited to, termination, demotion or suspension without pay, may become public.

[LD 1483](#) *An Act to Validate Certain Referendum Proceedings Conducted by the City of South Portland* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This emergency bill validates the referendum conducted in the City of South Portland on November 5, 2024, and authorizes the city to issue bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed \$1 million to finance school maintenance and improvements and \$3 million to finance school safety improvements.

[LD 1481](#) *An Act to Amend the Law Governing Stabilization of Property Taxes on Homesteads of Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older* (Sponsored by Rep. Parry of Arundel)

This bill reinstates the property tax stabilization program for senior citizens as of April 1, 2025, and further amends provisions of the law by: (1) requiring a qualifying homeowner to have been a permanent Maine resident for at least 20 years and have a household federal adjusted income of no more than \$75,000; (2) retaining the requirement in current law that a request for stabilization be done annually, but requiring only that it be a written statement that the household is still eligible under the program for stabilization; and (3) removing the ability of an individual who moves from one municipality to another to retain the same stabilized property taxes assessed on the former property.

[LD 1479](#) *An Act to Protect Senior Homeowners in Home-sharing Agreements by Providing for an Expedited Eviction Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Smith of Palermo)

This bill defines the term home-sharing agreement as an agreement between the owner of a residence who is 65 years of age or older who leases another room in that residence and defines the agreement as tenancy at will. The bill further defines the expedited process for eviction, including a forcible entry and detainer against a tenant with seven days' written notice to vacate and deems the tenant as a trespasser after that period with all property and goods considered abandoned. The bill also allows the landlord to request assistance from a law enforcement officer with jurisdiction in the municipality of the residence to evict the tenant.

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

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

[LD 1476](#) *An Act to Support Maine's Homeless Shelters by Imposing a Fee for Booking Hotels, Short-term Rentals and Recreational Vehicle Camping Reservations* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Copeland of Saco)

Beginning January 1, 2026, this emergency bill imposes a \$2 fee on the rental of living quarters in a lodging place or the rental of a recreational vehicle camping site, with the generated revenue credited to the Department of Health and Human Services to fund initiatives that support the operation of homeless shelters.

[LD 1472](#) *An Act to Address Climate Change* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to address climate change.

[LD 1465](#) *An Act to Create the Office of Workforce Advancement Within the Department of Economic and Community Development and Establish Statewide Workforce Advancement Goals* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

This bill creates the Office of Workforce Advancement within the Department of Economic and Community Development and directs the department to establish statewide workforce advancement goals in coordination with the Department of Labor and other stakeholders to grow the state's workforce and economy.

LD 1464 *An Act to Provide for an Alternative Municipal Property Tax Assessment Rate* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford)

Beginning with the April 1, 2026 property tax year, this bill provides for an alternate method of assessment of real property by authorizing an assessor to impose a different rate of taxation on land and any improvements to that land and further provides that the rates must be imposed equally throughout the assessed area.

LD 1462 *An Act to Promote Artisans and the Creative Economy* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This bill prevents municipalities from adopting or enforcing ordinances or regulations that prohibits the vending of expressive matter, except that the municipality may regulate the time, place and manner of the vending of expressive matter provided the restrictions are: (1) directly related to health, safety or welfare concerns; (2) necessary to ensure the public's use and enjoyment of natural resources and recreational opportunities; (3) necessary to prevent undue concentration of commercial activity that unreasonably interferes with the scenic and natural character of a park owned or operated by the municipality; (4) necessary to maintain sanitary conditions; or (5) necessary to ensure compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The bill also provides that municipalities that have an ordinance or regulation in place that substantially complies with the proposed requirement do not have to adopt a new ordinance or regulation. For the purposes of the bill, "expressive matter" is defined as materials or objects created by a vendor with expressive content, including written material, such as newspapers, books or writings, and visual art, such as paintings, prints, photography or sculpture.

LD 1459 *An Act to Make General Assistance Officers Mandated Reporters* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford)

This bill makes municipal general assistance officers mandated reporters of the suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of incapacitated or dependent adults and of the suspected abuse or neglect of children or a suspicious child death.

LD 1458 *An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts for Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

Under current law, the Department of Environmental Protection is required to establish and maintain a compensation fee program to offset the adverse effects of a renewable energy development project and to determine the compensation fee amounts based on criteria established by the department. This bill removes the requirement and instead requires a compensation fee equal to the average value of the undeveloped land occupied by the renewable energy development project, with certain exceptions. The bill also specifies which wildlife habitats the department may consider for purposes of determining an adverse effect, and provides that rules related to these developments are routine technical.

LD 1455 *An Act to Prevent Illegal Cannabis Growing Operations in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill amends the definition of "disqualifying drug offense" in the medical and adult use cannabis laws to provide that a conviction occurring after October 1, 2025, related to the cultivation or distribution of cannabis that is not authorized in Maine statutes is a disqualifying drug offense. The bill also prohibits the Department of Administrative and Financial Services from registering or issuing a registration certificate for cannabis to a facility, as well as the Office of Cannabis Policy from issuing a license to an applicant proposing to operate licensed premises, if the physical location of the facility or person is under investigation by state or federal law enforcement officers for the illegal cultivation or distribution of cannabis or was used by a person convicted of illegal cultivation or distribution of cannabis for those purposes.

LD 1453 *Resolve, to Establish the Innovative Factory-made Housing Working Group* (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill creates the 36-member Innovative Factory-made Working Group, including one member with experience in building and zoning laws and a member representing local code enforcement officers. With respect to factory-made housing communities, the bill directs the working group to consider: (1) questions arising and methods to encourage development of these communities; (2) updating state statutes and rules to meet the current need for innovative housing technologies; (3) examining the scoring metrics used by the Maine State Housing Authority to create incentives for encouraging development; (4) workforce challenges faced by home builders; (5) feasibility of new housing technologies, including potential cost savings; (6) pathways for implementing new housing technologies on a statewide scale; and (7) examining the successes and failures of the industry in Maine and other states and countries. By December 3, 2025, the working group is further directed to submit its recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1452 *An Act to Allow the Emergency Medical Services' Board to Assess Civil Penalties for the Noncompliance of Emergency Medical Services Persons with the Requirement to Administer Naloxone Hydrochloride in Compliance with Trainings and Procedures Developed by the Board* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill amends the law requiring emergency medical services providers to administer and dispense opioid overdose-reversing medication by providing that failure to comply with requirements, as well as adhering to protocols and training mandates is a civil violation for which a fine may be assessed in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per incident.

LD 1451 *An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill creates the Maine Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Management to issue policy recommendations and undertake activities that improve the efficiency, accessibility and availability of transportation for transportation-disadvantaged populations and to advise the Department of Transportation and the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The members of the council include commissioners from the Departments of Transportation, Health and Human Services, Education, Labor, and Economic and Community Development, as well as the executive director of the Maine Turnpike Authority, who are directed to: (1) build interagency

coordination to increase efficiency and coordination of transportation funding; (2) establish a mobility management approach to increase accessibility and sustainability of transportation statewide; and (3) establish eight mobility management hubs across Maine to leverage federal funds for public and community transportation.

LD 1450 *An Act Regarding the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill moves the existing Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program from the statutes governing agriculture to those governing taxation. The current program seeks to protect and support local farms, preserve farmland and reduce the fiscal burden on municipalities resulting from new development in rural areas by authorizing legislative bodies to enter into easement agreements with qualifying landowners and return up to 100% of the annual property taxes assessed on the qualifying property. More substantively, the bill reduces the minimum term of the easement from 20 to 10 years.

LD 1446 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Lower the Voting Age to 16 Years of Age* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to reduce the voting age from 18 to 16 years of age or older.

LD 1441 *Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Future of Recreational Access in Maine* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This resolve creates the 10-member Commission to Study the Future of Recreational Access in Maine and directs the commission to explore strategies, solicit input from interested parties, and assess the current and future status of access to public and private property, with particular attention on the unorganized territory, trail corridors and natural resource destinations of high interest for current and future outdoor recreational activities. By December 3, 2025, the commission is further directed to submit its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1438 *Resolve, Regarding Deer Hunting on Mount Desert Island* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt rules opening Mount Desert Island to deer hunting according to the provisions in state statutes.

LD 1437 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Specify the Qualifications of Electors in State and Local Elections* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to specify that only a person who is a citizen of the United States may vote in a state, county or municipal or other local elections.

LD 1436 *An Act to Update and Clarify Provisions Related to 9-1-1 Services* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This bill makes several changes to the law governing the 9-1-1 system, including: (1) updating terminology; (2) designating the Public Utilities Commission as the entity responsible

for rulemaking instead of the Emergency Services Communication Bureau and making all rulemaking routine technical; (3) reorganizing the provisions of law related to 9-1-1 funding; (4) authorizing the bureau to allow grants, subject to available funds, to be used to consolidate or transfer public safety answering points and dispatch centers; (5) repealing the requirement regarding the inclusion of 9-1-1 information in telephone directories; and (6) expanding the information that must be provided to the commission to maintain the 9-1-1 database and services.

[LD 1435](#) *An Act to Allow a Municipality or Locally Recognized Lake Association to Post Certain Information on the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Information Kiosks Located at State Boat Launch Facilities* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta)

This bill requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to provide reasonable space to display information on the department's informational kiosks located at state boat launch facilities to municipalities, local lake associations and similar nonprofit organizations and disseminate to the public information about these associations and organizations and water quality and invasive species activities.

[LD 1433](#) *Resolve, to Establish a Working Waterfront Infrastructure Engineer Corps Pilot Program and to Conduct a Feasibility Study of a Higher Education Service Corps Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook)

This resolve creates the Working Waterfront Infrastructure Engineer Corps Pilot Program, overseen by the Maine Sea Grant at the University of Maine, to provide expertise in engineering, planning and permitting to restore and protect Maine's working waterfront and other vulnerable infrastructure. The two-year pilot, beginning in 2026, provides five undergraduate or graduate students, each year, with the opportunity to conduct working waterfront vulnerability assessments. By December 1, 2027, the bill further directs the university to provide a report, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and state and local government matters, both of which are authorized to advance legislation following the submission of the report. The bill also directs the Maine Commission for Community Service to conduct a feasibility study examining the expansion of the existing service program and by December 3, 2025, report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

[LD 1431](#) *An Act to Implement an Interstate Voter Registration Cross-check Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Bagshaw of Windham)

This bill authorizes the Secretary of State to collaborate with and cross-check voter registration data with other states to identify voters who may have moved out of Maine and registered in another state, as well as to contract with a private sector data system provider to support a program for the maintenance of voter registration. The bill also ensures that the personally identifying data and other voter information is protected when exchanging data with other states or a private sector data provider.

[LD 1429](#) *An Act to Provide Full Reimbursement for Emergency Ambulance Services Provided to MaineCare Members* (Sponsored by Rep. Fredette of Newport)

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse providers of emergency ambulance services at the full rate provided to MaineCare members, which includes municipal, quasi-municipal and private ambulance services, as well as fire department emergency medical services. The bill also requires the department to adopt rules to implement the reimbursement requirement and beginning on December 1, 2025, to submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services containing data on the number and amount of reimbursement distributed and recommendations for improving reimbursement policies.

[LD 1428](#) *An Act to Increase Access to Child Care for Maine Families* (Sponsored by Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford)

This bill requires municipalities to allow childcare or family childcare facilities to operate in an area that is zoned for residential purposes and further allows facility owners to operate without an outdoor recreational space, provided the facility is within one-quarter of a mile of an outdoor public recreational space. The bill also directs the Maine State Housing Authority to amend its rules governing low-income housing tax credits to allow the community rooms that are required as part of the projects built using the credits to be used as childcare facilities or family childcare providers.

April 1, 2025

[LD 1425](#) *An Act to Improve Access to Sustainable and Low-barrier Trauma Recovery Services* (Sponsored by Sen. Rotundo of Androscoggin Cty.)

This bill appropriates \$3.3 million over the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium in onetime revenue to fund the Maine Resilience Center in Lewiston to support services for residents affected by trauma through connection, information and support.

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

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

[LD 1423](#) *An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill amends Maine's packaging stewardship program by exempting certain commercial, cosmetic, medical, environmental, dangerous, hazardous or flammable and public health and water quality testing product packaging from the requirements of the program and updates the definition of "toxicity" to include the intentional addition of regulated metals or chemicals.

[LD 1422](#) *An Act Regarding Open Primary Elections and Ranked-choice Voting* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill provides for open primary elections for the elections of federal and state offices, which requires all candidates for those offices, including unenrolled candidates, to appear on the same primary ballot. All qualified voters, regardless of enrollment status, are eligible to vote in open primary elections, and results must be tabulated using ranked-choice voting. For state office the two candidates who receive the most votes are declared the winners of the open primary and, for federal office the four candidates who receive the most votes are declared winners. The bill also prohibits voters from casting a ballot for a write-in candidate in a general election that was preceded by an open primary election.

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

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

LD 1417 *An Act to Strengthen the Authority of Local Officials to Enforce Provisions Regarding Dangerous and Nuisance Properties that Constitute a Threat to Public Health and Safety* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill expands the authority of local municipal health and code enforcement officials to enforce laws pertaining to properties that are dangerous, nuisance or abandoned and that constitute a threat to public health or safety.

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

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

LD 1411 *An Act to Modify the Laws Regarding Driver's License Applications* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick)

This bill amends current law by removing criminal penalties for the requirement to obtain a license as a resident of Maine when residing here and licensed in another jurisdiction and placing fines for such a violation in statute. Under the bill language, a person who commits a traffic infraction and who has resided in the state for at least 90 days and has not yet obtained a Maine driver's license, may be fined a minimum of \$150 up to a maximum \$500 for failing to obtain a state license. The bill also modifies the provision of law that requires a person to disclose their social security number on an application for a driver's license or nondriver identification card.

LD 1410 *An Act to Provide Due Process in Confiscation and Destruction of Personal Items of Unhoused Persons* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

This bill prohibits the state, counties, municipalities, school districts and law enforcement agencies from confiscating or destroying the personal property of an unhoused person unless: (1) the property is found on public property; (2) the owner is provided seven days' notice before the property is removed; and (3) the owner is offered the opportunity to attend a hearing regarding

the removal of the property. If the person does not attend the hearing, then the property must be stored at a secure location for at least 90 days and notice of the location provided to the owner.

LD 1407 *An Act to Direct the Board of Occupational Safety and Health to Develop Indoor Air Quality Standards for Buildings in the State in Which Public Sector Workers Work* (Sponsored by Rep. Montell of Gardiner)

This bill directs the Department of Labor, Board of Occupational Safety and Health to adopt routine technical rules creating indoor air quality standards for buildings in which public sector workers work, defined as school buildings and those occupied by state employees, including rules for aerosols that are at least as stringent as the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers standard for the control of infectious aerosols.

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

This resolve directs the State Librarian to convene a 15-member working group, including two representatives of municipal public libraries, to study the: (1) services for specific populations, including persons with disabilities, youth, immigrant and migrant communities and tribal communities; (2) role libraries play in emergency preparedness, cultural diversity, public health and safety and community identity and resilience; and (3) current overall status of public and school libraries. No later than November 1, 2027, the resolve also directs the state librarian to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2028.

LD 1401 *An Act to Repeal the Provisions of Law Requiring Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policies to Cover the Cost of Towing and Storing Certain Vehicles* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner)

This bill repeals laws requiring motor vehicle liability coverage in an amount up to \$500 per accident for towing and storage charges incurred as a result of an accident involving an insured vehicle that is towed at the request of a law enforcement officer.

LD 1400 *An Act to Exempt Certain Public School Districts and Their Employees from the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Carlow of Buxton)

This bill provides that a school district is exempt from the paid family and medical leave benefits program if the school district: (1) provided leave benefits substantially equivalent to those provided in the state law pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement in effect on January 1, 2025; and (2) continually maintains substantially equivalent leave benefits for employees pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or other contractual agreement. The bill also requires the Department of Labor to refund contributions made by a school district and further requires a school district employer to remit that portion of the premium to the employee, if applicable.

LD 1399 *An Act to Allow Action Against a Person Violating the Confidentiality of an Executive Session of a Public Body or Agency* (Sponsored by Rep. Carlow of Buxton)

This bill provides that if a member of a body regulated under the state's executive session laws discloses a matter discussed while in the session, the body is authorized to: (1) initiate and form an ethics committee to conduct an investigation of an alleged violation; (2) conduct a

hearing in executive session; and (3) if based on a preponderance of evidence and a recorded supermajority vote finds that the member violated confidentiality requirements, bar the member from participating in future executive sessions and from having access to confidential information. The board or agency's decision may be appealed within 30 days. The bill also provides that the prohibition from participating in executive sessions may be for a definite or indefinite period.

LD 1396 *An Act to Amend Maine's Municipal Subdivision Standards to Increase the Number of Dwelling Units on or Divisions of a Tract of Land Before the Tract is Considered a Subdivision* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

This bill amends the definition of "subdivision" within the land use laws to exclude from the definition the creation of up to four lots or dwelling units on a parcel of land. The bill provides that the addition or creation of an attached or unattached accessory dwelling unit does not constitute a lot. The bill also amends the exception to the subdivision law for a division of a new or existing structure into three or more dwelling units by allowing the creation of any number of dwelling units, whether by creation of a condominium or through redevelopment of the interior of the structure.

LD 1390 *Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State to Develop a Plan for a Multiyear Registration System for National Car Rental Companies* (Sponsored by Rep. Parry of Arundel)

This resolve requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to develop a plan for the creation of a multiyear registration system for rental passenger vehicles and by December 3, 2025, to submit the plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

LD 1388 *An Act to Replace the Participation Threshold in Votes to Adopt or Alter a Municipal Charter with a Lower Approval Threshold* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta)

This bill provides that for a new municipal charter, revision, modification or amendment to become effective, the number of votes cast in favor of the question must equal or exceed 15% of the total votes cast in the municipality at the last gubernatorial election. Currently, the threshold requires that the total number of votes cast equals or exceeds 30% of the total votes cast in the municipality at the last gubernatorial election.

LD 1387 *Resolve, to Increase the Emergency Medical Workforce by Allowing Military Medical Personnel to Become Eligible for Licensure as Emergency Medical Services Persons* (Sponsored by Rep. O'Halloran of Brewer)

This resolve directs the Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services to establish a process, via rule, allowing individuals who served on active duty in the medical corps in any branch of the U.S. Armed Services to be eligible for licensure as an EMS provider. By December 3, 2025, the department is further directed to submit a related report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

LD 1385 *An Act to Consider Municipalities Meeting Regional Housing Goals in Awarding Transportation Grants* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to consider a municipality's past actions and future plans toward meeting regional housing production goals when considering the award of discretionary grants.

[LD 1384](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation to Examine Motor Vehicle Accidents Involving Pedestrians* (Sponsored by Rep. Macias of Topsham) **DEAD**

This resolve directs the Departments of Public Safety (DPS) and Transportation to review motor vehicle accidents occurring over the last five years that involved pedestrians to determine if the number of accidents are increasing, the causes for the increase, and the most prevalent factors in these accidents. No later than December 3, 2025, DPS is further directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

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

This bill establishes a maximum limit of \$1million per loan application under the Dam Repair and Reconstruction Fund and establishes a loan payback period between five and 30 years, but no longer than the useful life of the proposed project. The bill also allows the department to require an applicant to provide matching funds to be considered for a loan and allows the department to establish a loan forgiveness program.

[LD 1381](#) *An Act to Authorize the Secretary of State to Designate Law Enforcement Officers Employed by the Department of the Secretary of State to Investigate Alleged Violations of Election Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor) **DEAD**

This bill requires the Secretary of State to designate sworn law enforcement officers employed by the secretary to investigate alleged violations of the election laws. The bill also authorizes the Attorney General (AG) to designate a deputy or assistant AG to assist in the investigation.

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

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

[LD 1375](#) *Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Address Regulatory Barriers to Housing Construction* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to convene a working group, represented by organizations with building and engineering expertise, to examine and recommend solutions for regulatory barriers to housing construction. By December 31, 2025, the department is further directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

LD 1372 *An Act to Establish a Special Committee to Review Routine Technical Rules* (Sponsored by Rep. Soboleski of Phillips)

This bill establishes the Special Committee on Regulatory Review, comprised of six members of the House and six members of the Senate to review routine technical rules for necessity, efficiency and benefit to the public, and to approve the rule with or without changes or reject adoption of the rule.

LD 1369 *An Act to Provide Emergency Medical Services Training Through the Maine Community College System* (Sponsored by Rep. Fredette of Newport)

This bill directs the Maine Community College System, within existing resources, to provide comprehensive training and courses in emergency medical services at no cost to attendees.

LD 1368 *An Act to Provide a Property Tax Exemption for Allowing Shellfish Harvester Access to the Intertidal Zone* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook) **DEAD**

This bill provides a \$500 reduction in property taxes to an owner of property adjacent to the intertidal zone who allows access for harvesting shellfish. To qualify, the owner must complete and file an application and proof of entitlement on or before April 1 with the municipal assessor who is further authorized to require the applicant to provide a copy of a plan describing the allowed spatial and temporal use of, including any limitations on, the access to the intertidal zone. The bill also provides that an application and proof of entitlement is confidential and not available for public inspection but must be provided to the State Tax Assessor upon request.

LD 1367 *Resolve, to Study Methods of Gradually Transitioning Individuals from Government Assistance Programs to the Workforce* (Sponsored by Rep. Lanigan of Sanford)

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a study evaluating methods to gradually transition recipients of assistance away from MaineCare and other government assistance programs and by December 3, 2025 submit a report based on its study in 2026.

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

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

[LD 1362](#) *An Act to Establish Parity in Funding Between Recovery Community Centers and Peer-run Recovery Centers* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor) **DEAD**

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to maintain funding parity, within a 10% margin, between peer-run recovery centers and recovery community centers. The bill also the department to submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and requires the department to include in the report an explanation for any variance exceeding the 10% threshold and a plan to achieve compliance with that threshold in the subsequent fiscal year.

[LD 1359](#) *Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Develop Practices Regarding Public Transit* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to develop practices regarding public transit, including: (1) increasing transparency in the allocation and distribution of funding for public transit operators; (2) reducing the local match requirement for funding rural public transit operators; and (3) increasing collaboration and coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services to improve public transit services between health care providers and consumers. By December 3, 2025, the resolve also directs the department to report on its progress and resulting practices to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

[LD 1355](#) *Resolve, to Require the Office of Tax Policy to Study Taxation of Renewable Energy Infrastructure* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield)

This resolve directs the Maine Revenue Services to examine and evaluate the current system of taxation of renewable energy infrastructure, including the history of municipal taxation in Maine and in other states, and possible adoption of a uniform capacity tax for renewable energy infrastructure. The office is required to consult with the Governor's Energy Office, representatives from the renewable energy industry, and municipal and county officials, and to solicit public comments on the study. By December 3, MRS is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

[LD 1351](#) *An Act to Require Antisemitism to Be Considered as Motivation When Determining a Violation of a Criminal or Civil Law* (Sponsored by Rep. Griffin of Levant)

This bill defines "antisemitism" as that adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Plenary in Bucharest, Romania on May 26, 2016, and amends the Maine Human Rights Act to require, when determining whether a violation of the act or any criminal or civil law has occurred, an assessment of whether antisemitism was a motive.

[LD 1349](#) *An Act to Require Legislative Approval for a Contract to Operate the Juniper Ridge Landfill* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill requires the approval of the Legislature for a contract or a contract renewal for the operation of the state-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill, located in the City of Old Town.

[LD 1348](#) *An Act to Increase the Limit on Damages Under the Maine Tort Claims Act for Negligence Involving School Field Trips* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill increases the limit for damages under the Maine Tort Claims Act from \$400,000 to \$5 million for a negligent act or omission by a governmental entity in the planning, transportation, administration, supervision or execution of a school field trip. The bill also

defines a “field trip” as an elementary or secondary school excursion to a location away from the school for educational or recreational purposes, but does not include a sporting, extracurricular, club or other event or activity in which there is an inherent risk of physical injury.

LD 1347 *An Act to Increase the Cap on Liability for Governmental Entities Under the Maine Tort Claims Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This bill increases the limitation on the award of damages against a governmental entity or its employees, or both, under the Maine Tort Claims Act from \$400,000 to \$1.25 million per occurrence.

LD 1346 *An Act Regarding the Supply of Water to the Town of New Sharon* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This emergency bill repeals the charter of the New Sharon Water District and directs the Town of New Sharon to take up the district's assets, liabilities and responsibilities.

LD 1344 *An Act to Improve the Response Time to Tenant Mold Complaints* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

Within 90 days of notice, this bill requires local health officers to investigate complaints of non-surface mold in tenant-occupied units. The bill also provides that if the investigation finds an unhealthy level of non-surface mold, remediation efforts must be initiated by the landlord within five business days of the investigation and requires a local health officer to determine if all surface mold has been remediated. Finally, the bill provides that a tenant may file a complaint under the implied warranty and covenant of habitability laws if the landlord fails to remediate the mold issue within 60 days of the report.

LD 1342 *An Act Regarding Vehicle Inspection and Registration* (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to allow a person who registers a motor vehicle that subsequently fails a state inspection to receive a prorated refund of registration fees and excise taxes, within 90 days, or apply the remaining value as a credit toward the registration of another vehicle.

LD 1340 *An Act to Establish the Municipal Stream Crossing Fund* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill establishes the Municipal Stream Crossing Fund to issue grants to eligible project sponsors to upgrade or replace culverts on municipal roads. Eligible sponsors include local governments, municipal conservation commissions, soil and water conservation districts and private nonprofit organizations. In awarding the grants, the Maine Department of Transportation must consider: (1) impact on native brook trout and sea-run fish restoration; (2) extent to which the project meets Department of Environmental Protection design standards; (3) degree of the project's urgency; (4) expected impact on reducing frequency or severity of flooding; and (5) extent to which the project is an efficient and cost-effective investment. The bill also provides that rules adopted to implement the program are routine technical.

March 27, 2025

[LD 1338](#) *Resolve, Directing State Agencies and Semiautonomous State Agencies to Provide a List of Surplus Properties and Properties Eligible for Redevelopment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **DEAD**

This resolve requires state agencies to submit to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority a list of abandoned, blighted or functionally obsolete properties owned by the agency and potentially eligible for redevelopment. The bill also directs the authority to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development regarding the properties and their potential for redevelopment.

[LD 1336](#) *An Act to Establish the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council* (Sponsored by Rep. Sato of Gorham)

This bill establishes the 14-member Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council, which includes a person with knowledge and experience in government. The council is directed to assess existing activities and exchanges with the Prefecture of Aomori and identify sources of support for sister-state exchanges, programs and projects. The bill also appropriates \$20,000 annually in ongoing funding to support the work of the council.

[LD 1335](#) *An Act to Prohibit Life Sentences* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill) **DEAD**

This bill amends the sentencing provisions under the Maine Criminal Code to provide that on or after January 1, 2026 persons convicted of any crime under that code may not be sentenced to a term of imprisonment for life or for a number of years equivalent to imprisonment for life, which is defined as a sentence that based on the age of the convicted person and other factors determined by the court, is expected to result in the imprisonment for life.

[LD 1333](#) *An Act to Make Changes to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This bill makes the following changes to the paid family and medical leave benefits program, it: (1) requires an employee to be employed with an employer for 120 days before being eligible to take leave; (2) allows employers to have intermittent leave schedules reviewed by the program administrator; (3) prohibits the taking of paid leave unless the employee simultaneously takes any available unpaid leave; (4) reduces the retroactive application deadline from 90 days to 30 days; (5) requires the program administrator to give five days' notice of an employee's leave being approved; (6) requires the Department of Labor to post on its publicly accessible website the dates by which contribution reports and premiums must be remitted as well as appropriate tax forms that employers with approved private plans must provide to employees taking leave; (7) relieves employers with collective bargaining agreements of the obligation to bargain over the employee's share of the premium; (8) allows employers to correct mistakes in the employee share of taxes for up to three months; (9) establishes a 52-week formula for calculating the 15-employee threshold; (10) changes the applications of penalties against employers from mandatory to discretionary; (11) clarifies that an employee who is taking retroactive paid leave and did not notify the employer for more than five days of the employee's absence is not entitled to be restored to the employee's former position; and (12) clarifies that at no time may an employee receive benefits of over 100% of the employee's wages.

[LD 1326](#) *An Act to Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances* (Sponsored by Rep. Shagoury of Hallowell)

This bill establishes maximum levels of PFAS in the drinking water of community and non-transient, noncommunity water systems and allows the Department of Health and Human Services, through rulemaking, to lower the maximum levels of regulated PFAS contaminants or include additional contaminants on the list. Beginning January 1, 2029, the bill also requires the department to direct water systems to implement treatment and notify consumers of PFAS, if contaminants exceed acceptable levels, as well as to submit drinking water samples. Beginning January 1, 2026, all water systems must conduct monitoring of PFAS at detectable levels established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

[LD 1325](#) *An Act to Create Clarity in the Laws Regarding Property Tax Abatement Appeals* (Sponsored by Rep. Daigle of Fort Kent)

This bill prevents an applicant for a property tax abatement from applying to the county commissioners to appeal a decision of the assessors or the municipal officers with respect to nonresidential property having an equalized municipal valuation of \$1 million or greater. Instead, an applicant must appeal the decision to the State Board of Property Tax Review.

[LD 1323](#) *An Act to Prohibit the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and the Use and Sale of Neonicotinoid-treated Seeds* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This bill prohibits certain applications of neonicotinoid pesticides, as well as the use and sale of neonicotinoid-treated seeds for certain crops. The bill also authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, after consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, to waive prohibitions and issue a written exemption order if certain conditions are met. Those conditions include requiring the person seeking an exemption to complete integrated pest management training.

[LD 1320](#) *An Act to Prevent Illicit Cultivation and Trafficking Within Maine's Regulated Cannabis Industry* (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.)

This bill amends the definition of "disqualifying drug offense" in the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and in the Cannabis Legalization Act to provide that a conviction within the three-year period prior to an application for licensure or registration, for a crime related to the cultivation or distribution of cannabis that is not authorized in related statutes, is a disqualifying drug offense.

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

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

[LD 1308](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Establish a Working Group to Explore Opportunities to Maintain Public Access of Land* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene a working group to explore opportunities to work with commercial landowners to establish public-private

partnerships designed to maintain public access to privately owned land. By December 3, 2025, the bill also directs the department to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1307 *An Act to Suspend the Remittance Obligation for Paid Family and Medical Leave Private Plan Users* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Bradstreet of Kennebec Cty.)

This emergency bill immediately suspends the payroll premiums imposed on employers under the paid family and medical leave program until January 1, 2026, but allows an employer that wants to participate in the program to continue to pay the premiums. The bill also requires the Department of Labor to amend its rules to establish an expedited process for approval of an employer's substitute private plan that is substantially equivalent to the program and to waive the payroll premiums during consideration of an employer's application for exemption. The rules must be in effect no later than November 1, 2025.

As amended by the sponsor, this bill requires full reimbursement for remitted paid family and medical leave premium contributions to employers who receive approval for a substitute plan before January 1, 2026. The bill also requires employers who deducted premium payments from employees to return those contributions, with any interest earned, within 30 days of receiving state reimbursement.

LD 1306 *An Act to Continue the Exemption for Polystyrene Foam Disposable Food Service Containers Prepackaged at Wholesale* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Bradstreet of Kennebec Cty.)

This emergency bill repeals the July 1, 2025 ban of the use of disposable food service containers, including products used to contain, transport or package raw, uncooked or butchered meat, fish, seafood and eggs, as well as the ban on the use of polystyrene foam disposable food service containers.

March 25, 2025

LD 1304 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Limit Property Tax Increases for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older and Shift the Tax Burden to State Gaming Revenues* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This resolution amends Maine's constitution by capping at 2% annually the property taxes assessed on the homesteads of residents who are at least 65 years of age and have owned a home in Maine for at least 12 months. The bill also requires the state to reimburse municipalities for 90% of the lost property tax revenue, generated by a 2% tax on lottery and sports betting sales.

LD 1302 *An Act Regarding the Number of Voters of a Municipality Required to Petition for Consideration of Deorganization of That Municipality* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

Under existing law, a petition for consideration of a deorganization must be signed by a number of residents equal to at least 50% of the votes cast in the municipality during the last gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10 residents. This bill repeals the "no less than 10" requirement.

LD 1299 *An Act to Prohibit the Unsecured Storage of Handguns in Motor Vehicles* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill prohibits a person from intentionally or knowingly storing a handgun in an unoccupied motor vehicle unless stored out of plain view in a locked hard-sided container and the motor vehicle, including the trunk, is locked. Law enforcement officers are exempted from complying with storage requirements. A person who violates this prohibition commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$200 and not more than \$500 may be adjudged, except that a person who subsequently violates the prohibition may be adjudged a fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000.

LD 1295 *An Act to Waive Basic Law Enforcement Training Requirements for Full-time Law Enforcement Officers Who Have Successfully Completed Equivalent Courses in Other Jurisdictions* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill requires the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to waive basic training requirements for newly employed law enforcement officers that have completed an equivalent basic law enforcement training course, which is currently a discretionary authority. The bill also directs the board to conduct a study and make suggestions for reducing unnecessary or burdensome requirements that prevent a law enforcement officer from qualifying for a basic training waiver.

LD 1289 *An Act to Amend the Election Recount Process* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill reduces by half the number of votes in an election used to determine the deposit required for a recount and includes the payroll costs of the state workers necessary to conduct the recount in the amount the requesting candidate is required to pay. The bill also requires a refund to be provided to the requesting candidate if the deposit exceeds actual costs and requires the requesting candidate to pay the difference if the actual costs are greater than the deposit paid.

LD 1288 *An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Drug Laws Regarding Heroin, Fentanyl and Cocaine* (Sponsored by Sen. Haggan of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill amends the criminal code by amending definitions regarding trafficking and furnishing heroin and possessing, trafficking and furnishing cocaine.

LD 1287 *An Act to Support Workforce Development by Establishing the Housing Stability Fund* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill establishes the Housing Stability Support Program and the Housing Stability Fund within the Maine State Housing Authority to provide rental assistance, paid directly to a landlord, for tenants with household incomes of less than 30% of the median income for the area and appropriates \$1.9 million annually in ongoing funding to support the program. The bill also requires the authority to delegate program administrator responsibilities to third parties, which includes municipal housing authorities. Rental assistance provided through the program may not exceed \$300 per month, or a maximum of \$3,000 per household.

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

This bill amends the eligibility requirements for grants through the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for the preservation and restoration of historic properties to allow eligibility for properties designated as historic by municipal historic preservation ordinances.

[LD 1278](#) *An Act to Change the Property Tax Appeal Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Underwood of Presque Isle) **DEAD**

This bill prevents an applicant for a property tax abatement from applying to the county commissioners to appeal a decision of the assessors or the municipal officers with respect to nonresidential property having an equalized municipal valuation having an equalized municipal valuation of \$1 million or greater. Instead, an applicant must appeal the decision to the State Board of Property Tax Review.

[LD 1274](#) *An Act to Cap State General Assistance Reimbursement to Municipalities* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from reimbursing a single municipality for general assistance in an amount greater than 50% of the total reimbursement to all municipalities in a fiscal year.

[LD 1273](#) *An Act to Make Paid Family and Medical Leave Voluntary* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This emergency bill repeals the provisions in law that established the paid family and medical leave benefits program; requires the Department of Labor to refund contributions made by employers and self-employed individuals; and requires employers that deducted a portion of the premium from wages to remit those premium payments to employees. The bill also establishes a voluntary paid family and medical leave program for employers of 50 or more employees and allows individual employees whose employers do not participate in the program to voluntarily participate.

[LD 1272](#) *An Act to Address the Housing Crisis by Reducing Barriers to Building More Accessory Dwelling Units* (Sponsored by Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford)

This bill allows up to four single-family, duplex, triplex or accessory dwelling units on a single lot, and exempts only the first accessory dwelling unit on a lot from municipal housing density requirements. The bill also prohibits a municipality from adopting an ordinance or other restriction that requires the owner of the lot to reside in one of the units on the lot or requires a fire sprinkler system to be installed in certain accessory dwelling units and further directs the Department of Public Safety to develop rules to meet a fire resistance standard to for townhouses without a sprinkler system. The bill amends the definition of "subdivision" from a division of a tract or parcel of land into three or more lots to a division of a tract or parcel of land into five or more lots as of December 31, 2025, requires municipalities to amend their subdivision ordinance that conflicts with the new definition by June 30, 2026 and clarifies that an accessory dwelling unit that otherwise complies with applicable state and local zoning requirements must be allowed on a nonconforming lot as long as the unit does not further increase nonconformity. The bill also prohibits a municipality from restricting or limiting the owner's ability to separately sell or transfer and accessory dwelling unit located on the owner's lot.

LD 1266 *Resolve, Directing the Attorney General to Convene a Working Group to Propose a Plan for Expanding the Reach of Treatment Courts* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield)

This resolve directs the Attorney General (AG) to convene a working group, including representation from law enforcement agencies, to plan for expansion of adult drug treatment, family treatment and veterans' treatment courts across Maine by ensuring that defendants in each prosecutorial district and county have access to these specialty court dockets. No later than January 1, 2026, the bill also directs the AG to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1263 *An Act Regarding Penalties for Fentanyl Trafficking When That Trafficking Results in an Overdose Causing Serious Bodily Injury of a Person* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This bill creates a Class A crime of aggravated trafficking of a scheduled drug when serious bodily injury of another person resulting from an overdose is caused by the use of fentanyl powder and trafficking by the defendant is a contributing factor to the injury.

LD 1262 *An Act to Improve Government Transparency and Accountability by Establishing a Process to Allow a Person to Require the State to Enforce Certain Laws and Rules* (Sponsored by Rep. Friedmann of Bar Harbor) **DEAD**

This bill amends the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to authorize a person to petition an agency or the Attorney General to enforce existing law or rule and establishes a Fund for Administrative Oversight in the Office of the Attorney General to provide funds in support for persons seeking to petition or that have petitioned an agency for adoption or modification of rules, petitions seeking to initiate proceedings to enforce an existing law or rule and persons seeking to intervene or participation in an adjudicatory proceeding or licenses actions. The bill also directs the AG to consult with each agency that issues licenses permits or other approvals to individuals to engage in regulated activities relating to the environment, natural resources, public health and safety and freedom of information and government transparency to identify a mechanism for imposing an additional fee amount for the issuance of those licenses, permits or approvals to support activities under the Fund for Administrative Oversight.

LD 1261 *An Act to Support At-risk Families by Establishing the Community Navigator Pilot Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a two-year Community Navigator Pilot Program to award contracts to four child abuse and neglect prevention councils, which in part are directed to provide education and guidance to mandated reporters.

LD 1260 *An Act to Revise the Tax Laws Regarding the Mi'kmaq Nation* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

This bill establishes tax treatment for the Mi'kmaq Nation that is equal to that provided to other tribal entities.

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

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

LD 1255 *An Act to Ensure In-state Tuition for Postsecondary Students Who Are Registered to Vote in the State and to Amend Eligibility Requirements for the Free Community College Tuition Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield)

This bill provides that a student who is registered to vote in Maine is a resident and eligible for in-state tuition rates at postsecondary education institutions. Eligible students include individuals who are eligible to receive the homestead exemption, subject to payment of state income taxes, and eligible to run for state office.

LD 1249 *An Act to Delay Payment of Benefits Under the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This emergency bill delays implementation of the paid family and medical leave program to July 1, 2027, and further delays the processing of claims to November 1, 2027.

LD 1248 No municipal impact.

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

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

LD 1246 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to Convene a Working Group to Review the Process of Setting Impact Fees* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

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

LD 1245 *An Act to Create a Fund to Spread Awareness of Maine's Working Waterfronts* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook)

This bill creates the Working Waterfront Information Campaign Fund, administered by the Maine Office of Community Affairs, to fund an information campaign targeted at tourists

and new residents in coastal and island communities and focused on the importance of working waterfronts and opportunities to protect and preserve the industry.

LD 1244 *An Act to Establish Requirements for Warming Shelters* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill) **DEAD**

Whenever the temperature is expected to drop below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, this bill requires counties and municipalities to make warming shelters available at an accessible and appropriate public venue and open outside normal operating hours.

LD 1242 *An Act to Incentivize the Construction of Solar Carport Canopies and Solar Chargers at Highway Picnic Areas* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell)

This bill allows a person that builds a solar carport canopy that houses at least two electric vehicle charging stations to amortize the sales and use tax assessed on materials and equipment spent on construction of the charging stations. The bill also directs the Department of Transportation to enter into no cost leases for solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations installed at highway picnic areas.

LD 1238 *An Act to Establish a Small-cap Loan Guarantee Program for Affordable Housing Investments* (Sponsored by Rep. Archer of Saco)

This bill creates the Small-cap Loan Guarantee Program, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, to provide a state-backed loan guarantee to an investor or developer that engages in an affordable or low-income housing construction or rehabilitation project of \$1 million or less.

LD 1235 *An Act to Establish Transparency in Opioid Settlement Funds Allocated to Municipalities or Counties* (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor) **DEAD**

Beginning on January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, this bill requires a municipality or county that received funds pursuant to court settlements of the opioid crisis legislation, set forth in the Memoranda of Understanding, to submit a report to the Attorney General detailing the amount of funds received and expended in the previous calendar year.

LD 1232 *An Act to Require Radon Testing for Certain Commercial and Residential Construction* (Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield)

This bill requires a radon permit in cases where a building permit is required for either new construction or renovation to a commercial building or new residential construction. A person registered by the Department of Health and Human Services to test radon must apply for the permit and conduct testing, and if it is determined that radon mitigation measures are required, the person designing and installing the radon mitigation measures must be registered by the department. Residential construction in a municipality without a building code or performed by a homeowner acting as a general contractor and who performs more than 50% of the framing and finishing of the structure are exempt from the permit requirements. Penalties for violations are \$1,000 for commercial construction and \$500 for residential construction.

LD 1231 *An Act Requiring Ferries to Dock Overnight on Certain Islands for Emergency Purposes* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill requires the Maine State Ferry Service to dock a ferry vessel that carries vehicles overnight in the towns of Swan's Island, Vinalhaven, North Haven and Islesboro for emergency medical, fire and law enforcement needs.

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

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

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

This bill establishes the nine-member Residential Construction Board, which includes a municipal code enforcement officer, directed to establish licensing requirements for residential general contractors, as well as practice standards that are consistent with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

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

This bill provides that when a transmission and distribution utility is required by statute to purchase or contract for renewable energy credits, energy storage systems or transmission infrastructure, costs incurred by a utility may not be incorporated into customer electricity rates and instead be funded by the state. The bill also prohibits a customer that participates in an assistance program to be enrolled in a standard-offer service and further provides that the costs associated with required low-income assistance and arrearage programs may not be paid by customers, but rather by the state.

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[LD 1222](#) *An Act to Limit Sovereign Immunity for Schools and School Superintendents* (Sponsored by Rep. Paul of Winterport)

This bill removes immunity under the Maine Tort Claims Act for school superintendents, school administrative units or schools within the school administrative unit's jurisdiction for certain conduct, including negligence, violations of state or federal education law, failure to ensure student safety, failure to report abuse of, neglect of or threats to a student, willful misconduct or criminal activity. The bill also requires school administrative units to indemnify their staff and employees, establish mandatory reporting policies regarding student safety and carry liability insurance. The bill also directs the Department of Education to submit an annual report to the Legislature on the impact and effectiveness of these provisions and establishes an effective date of October 1, 2026.

[LD 1221](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Prohibit the Legislature from Using Paid Family and Medical Leave Program Funds for Any Other Purpose* (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to provide that all revenues relating to a paid family and medical leave benefits program must be expended solely for the cost

of program benefits and administration and may not be encumbered for, or diverted to, other purposes.

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

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

[LD 1215](#) *An Act Regarding Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This bill amends the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Acts of 1999 and 2013 by requiring offenders to comply with municipal residency restriction ordinances adopted pursuant to state statute. The bill also directs the Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory Commission to conduct a study and develop recommendations regarding a statewide residency restriction for sex offenders. By December 3, 2025, the commission is further directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

[LD 1212](#) *Resolve, to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating* (Sponsored by Sen. Harrington of York Cty.)

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

[LD 1210](#) *An Act to Regarding Renewable Electricity Generation by Hydropower Projects* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection, in determining whether to approve or deny a permit, or issue or deny a water quality certification for a hydropower project, to consider the effect of that approval, disapproval, issuance or denial on the state's renewable energy, decarbonization and economic development policies and goals; the environmental and economic benefits of the hydroelectric generation provided by the project; and, taking those factors into consideration, whether approval of the permit or issuance of the certification for the project is permissible notwithstanding the project's effect on wildlife habitat and aquatic life within the waters affected by the project, including affected waters downstream of the project.

[LD 1209](#) *Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study the Safety and Use of Small Lightweight Vehicles on Maine's Roads and Highways, the Systems and Laws Governing Antique Vehicles and the General Improvement of Road Safety* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve directs the Secretary of State to convene a working group to study the potential to allow registration and use by motorists of small lightweight vehicles, including mini trucks, on the state's roads and highways, to review the systems and laws in place for antique vehicles and to study improving road safety generally. The members of the working group include the secretary, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, representatives of a vehicle insurance company and a motor vehicle inspection business, as well as a representative of a business that imports foreign cars for sale in Maine. By December 3, 2025, the secretary is further directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to introduce legislation in 2026.

[LD 1207](#) *An Act to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Monitor Air and Water Temperatures Around Commercial Solar Energy Developments* (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, to adopt rules for and administer a program to monitor air and water temperatures surrounding solar energy developments, which are defined as projects that occupy three or more acres and use a solar energy system consisting of ground-mounted solar panels to convert solar energy to electrical energy for sale or use by a person other than the generator.

[LD 1206](#) *An Act to Control Property Taxes by Increasing the Percentage of the Business Equipment Tax Exemption That Municipalities May Recover* (Sponsored by Sen. Tepler of Sagadahoc Cty.)

This bill amends provisions governing the business equipment tax exemption by increasing from 50% to 60% the amount of lost property tax revenues a municipality may recover from the state for the property tax year beginning on April 1, 2026. The bill also gradually increases the reimbursement rate until it is at 80% for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2030.

[LD 1201](#) *An Act to Protect Maine Agriculture and Farms by Exempting Certain Pesticides from Regulation* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill amends the law providing for exemption of certain veterinary products from the law governing products containing PFAS to allow products approved for use for aerial or land application that are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. The bill also creates an exemption for a pesticide registered by the federal agency and applied by a person licensed by the Board of Pesticides Control as an agricultural basic, private or commercial applicator.

[LD 1196](#) *Resolve, to Require the Towns of Kittery and York to Develop a Boundary Description* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This resolve requires the Towns of Kittery and York to jointly develop a description, in metes and bounds, of the boundary between the two towns based on the assessing maps in each community. The towns are required to provide the description to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, which may report out a bill in 2026 establishing the boundary between the municipalities.

[LD 1194](#) *An Act to Phase Out Vehicle Excise Taxes and Implement a Fee for Infrastructure Funding Based on a Vehicle's Annual Mileage* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Oxford Cty.) **DEAD**

This emergency bill phases out the collection of vehicle excise taxes and instead implements a fee based on annual mileage by: (1) beginning on July 1, 2025, reducing the excise tax by 20% for each fiscal year over five years; (2) beginning July 1, 2027, establishing a usage-based infrastructure fee imposed on a person who owns a motor vehicle for using public ways based on the type of motor vehicle and the annual mileage of the vehicle; (3) specifying that a person or a certified inspection mechanic during an annual motor vehicle inspection must report the annual mileage for the purposes of calculating the usage-base infrastructure fee; (4) establishing the Maine Transportation Fund within the department for the purposes of maintaining and repairing roads and bridges and funding infrastructure projects and transferring funds to the Highway Fund and municipalities according to the requirements in the revenue sharing program; (5) requiring the State Auditor to submit a biennial audit report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters on the financial and operational impact of the usage-based infrastructure fee, including a comparison of municipal funding generated by the fees rather than excise taxes; and (6) requiring the department to submit an annual report on the findings and recommendations regarding the compliance of the usage-based infrastructure fee, the effectiveness and equity of the usage-based infrastructure fee and the costs associated with the transition to and the administration of the usage-based infrastructure fee.

[LD 1192](#) *An Act to Increase the Commercial Insurance Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Services* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill increases the reimbursement rate an insurance carrier must pay for ambulance services to the ambulance service provider's rate or 400% of the Medicare rate, whichever is less.

[LD 1190](#) *An Act to Increase State Funding for Emergency Shelters* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill appropriates \$5 million annually in ongoing General Fund revenues to support emergency shelters.

[LD 1189](#) *An Act to Prohibit Arrest and Detention for Civil Violations and Require an Attorney for the State to Determine Whether to Charge a Class E Offense as a Civil Violation* (Sponsored by Rep. Moonen of Portland)

This bill clarifies that a person may not be arrested or detained for a civil violation. The bill also directs the attorney for the state to determine whether to charge a defendant for a civil violation in place of a Class E crime that is not eligible for probation based upon a variety of factors and with a penalty of no more than \$1,000. The factors involved in the determination are not elements of the criminal offense or civil violation and the determination is not subject to judicial review.

[LD 1187](#) *An Act to Require Certain Mental Health Data to Be Included in Uniform Crime Reports* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This bill adds the number of mental health referrals made pursuant to the extreme risk protection order statutes and the number of individuals who received services pursuant to those

referrals to the uniform crime reports that all law enforcement agencies are required to submit to the Department of Public Safety.

[LD 1186](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to work with island and ferry service stakeholders to study the feasibility of adding ferry service to Monhegan Island and further directs the department to submit a report by December 3, 2025 to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

[LD 1184](#) *An Act to Require Municipal Reporting on Residential Building Permits, Dwelling Units Permitted and Demolished and Certificates of Occupancy Issued* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This bill directs municipalities to provide an annual report on certain housing data to the Department of Economic and Community Development for use in administering the Housing Opportunity Program, including data on residential building permits, dwelling units permitted and demolished and certificates of occupancy or other approvals of housing units issued and certain affordability data.

[LD 1183](#) *An Act to Ensure Rent-to-own Protections Apply to Mobile Home Park Tenants* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This bill modifies the provisions of law governing option contracts to purchase real property through a rent-to-own agreement by clarifying that mobile homes qualify as real property for the purpose of entering into a rent-to-own agreement.

[LD 1182](#) *An Act to Grant the Rockland Port District an Increase in Its Borrowing Capacity and Include Sustainable Aquaculture and Marine Industries in Its Charter* (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland) **Enacted; P & SL 2025, c. 52**

This bill raises the debt limit of the Rockland Port District from \$600,000 to \$6 million and allows the district to purchase, maintain and operate facilities supporting sustainable aquaculture and marine industries.

[LD 1181](#) *An Act Regarding the Designation of Short-term Rental Units as Commercial or Residential in Use* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This bill clarifies that a municipality may require the municipal assessor to assign a land use code to a short-term rental unit that designates the rental unit as commercial in use or residential in use. The bill also defines "commercial in use" as a short-term rental unit that is not claimed as the primary residence of the owner and a "residential in use" as a short-term rental unit that is claimed as the primary residence of the owner.

[LD 1179](#) *An Act to Establish Minimum Safety Standards for the Construction and Use of Temporary Emergency Shelters* (Sponsored by Rep. Macias of Topsham)

This bill requires the Commissioner of Public Safety, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, to establish rules governing life and fire safety for temporary emergency shelters, which

includes a structure or mobile unit designed for short-term habitation during an emergency, but not limited to mobile homes, modular units and other nonpermanent structures.

LD 1178 *An Act to Expedite the Process Involving Municipalities That Illegally Move a Person to Avoid Responsibility for General Assistance Support* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook) **DEAD**

This bill decreases from 30 to 15 working days the period for the Department of Health and Human Services to determine if a municipality has illegally moved an individual to avoid responsibility for general assistance support and also reduces the appeals period from 30 to 15 days after the determination is made. The bill provides for interest on unreimbursed amounts to be paid by the offending municipality, a penalty of up to \$10,000 for a repeat violation within a 12-month period, and creates the rebuttable presumption that if a municipality moves a person to another municipality, the municipality did so to avoid paying general assistance to that person.

LD 1177 *Resolve, Establishing a 3-year Moratorium on the Installation or Reinstallation of Synthetic Turf and Requiring a Study of the Public Health and Environmental Risks of Synthetic Turf* (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This resolve puts a three-year moratorium on the installation or reinstallation of synthetic turf in any park, outdoor playing field or athletic field, indoor athletic facility or similar venue. The bill also directs the Department of Environmental Protection to examine whether synthetic turf is a risk to public health, the surrounding environment and the state's climate emissions goals. No later than November 4, 2026, the department is further directed to submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Legislature in 2027.

LD 1174 *An Act to Allow Gun Shops to Hold Firearms for Veterans of the United States Armed Forces and First Responders* (Sponsored by Rep. Wood of Greene)

This bill allows a gun shop to take possession of a firearm owned by a U.S. Armed Forces veteran or first responder if the gun shop enters into a firearm hold agreement with the owner, keeps the firearm separate from the gun shop inventory and contacts the owner every six months. The firearm hold agreement must indicate a family member or other individual who may lawfully possess a firearm and will take possession of the firearm upon proof of the death of the owner of the firearm during the pendency of the firearm hold agreement.

LD 1172 *An Act to Enact the Passamaquoddy Fisheries and Workforce Development Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Dana of the Passamaquoddy Tribe)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact the Passamaquoddy Fisheries and Workforce Development Act.

LD 1170 *An Act to Make the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority Responsible for the Transfer and Development of State-owned Surplus Land* (Sponsored by Rep. Julia of Waterville)

This bill replaces the Maine State Housing Authority with the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority as the state agency responsible for the transfer and development of state-owned surplus land and removes an outdated report provision regarding the housing authority's first option to purchase surplus lands.

[LD 1169](#) *An Act Regarding Employer Payments for the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Soboleski of Phillips)

This bill amends the Paid Family Medical Leave Act by allowing an employer whose private plan is approved by the department to request a refund of the premiums paid if that employer had a substantially equivalent private plan in place on or before January 1, 2025. The department or administrator, after verifying the amount paid by the employer, is required, within 90 days of receipt of the refund request, to refund the employer the premiums paid, plus interest that accrues to the date the refund payment is issued. The bill also requires the department to make available information regarding the availability of a refund.

[LD 1168](#) *An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Current Use Valuation of Certain Working Waterfront Land with Respect to Commercial Boat Yards* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) **DEAD**

This bill amends the tax laws relating to the current use valuation of certain working waterfront land to clarify that working waterfront land includes commercial boat yards, which are defined as commercial facilities that lease storage, docking or mooring space to watercraft and are used primarily or predominantly by persons engaged in commercial fishing activities.

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

This resolve directs the Maine State Housing Authority to create a pilot program to provide nonprofit housing developers grants of up to \$80,000 per unit to rehabilitate existing aging housing stock for purchase by first-time home buyers who: (1) will occupy the unit; (2) do not earn incomes that exceed 120% of the area's median income; and (3) agree to relinquish a graduated percentage of profit if they sell the unit within the first three years of ownership.

[LD 1165](#) *An Act to Create a Fund for Safe Disposal of Hazardous Fluids from Salvage Yards* (Sponsored by Rep. Cluchey of Bowdoinham) **DEAD**

This bill creates the Vehicle Fluid Waste Fund, capitalized by a \$100 purchase fee on new automobiles, to reimburse owners and operators of automobile graveyards for the costs to properly dispose of fluids extracted from motor vehicles deposited in the automobile graveyards.

[LD 1164](#) *An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for the Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

This bill authorizes each federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band to operate internet gaming pursuant to a license from the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety. Only a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band is eligible to obtain a license and operate internet gaming.

[LD 1159](#) **Hopper (HED-RG)** *An Act to Prohibit Businesses from Refusing to Accept Cash for In-person Payments* (Sponsored by Rep. Rollins of Augusta)

This bill requires a person offering goods or services at retail in person to accept cash for sales of less than \$2,000 and prohibits the person from accepting payment by only an electronic method. These provisions do not apply to transactions conducted remotely by telephone, mail or the internet. The bill also prohibits a person offering goods or services at retail from posting any

sign stating that cash payments are not accepted and from charging a higher price to customers paying with cash instead of by an electronic method.

As amended by a majority of the committee, this bill requires businesses, municipalities and other governmental agencies that charge customers a fee for in-person purchases made by credit card to accept cash payments for goods or services.

As amended by a minority of the committee, this bill requires municipalities and other governmental agencies that charge customers a fee for in-person purchases made by credit card to accept cash payments for goods or services.

LD 1158 *An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards* (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth)

Beginning on or after July 1, 2027, this bill expands the list of items that cannot be sold or offered for sale in Maine, in accordance with Department of Environment Protection rules, to include commercial battery chargers, dishwashers, food steamers, fryers, and ovens; computer server power supplies; gas fireplaces; residential ventilating fans; and water softeners.

LD 1156 *An Act to Allow Military Surplus Vehicles to Be Collected and Used in Patriotic Exhibitions and Parades* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft) **DEAD**

This bill allows military surplus vehicles that are lawfully purchased for civilian use to be registered and operated for participation in parades and other events, club activities and other activities; for transportation to and from these events and activities; and for maintenance, repair, sale and occasional pleasure driving.

LD 1155 *An Act to Ensure Appropriate County Government Operations Relating to the Position of Dedimus Justice* (Sponsored by Rep. Lynn of Albion) **DEAD**

This bill amends the law governing dedimus justices by requiring the appointment of two county employees and one sheriff's department employee in each county to perform the duties of dedimus justice on behalf of county government and the county sheriff, respectively. The bill also requires the Secretary of State to maintain a roster and post of persons designated as dedimus justices and make the roster available on the secretary's publicly accessible website.

LD 1153 *An Act to Change in Statute the Areas Represented by the Members of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Insurance Arena from Sets of Municipalities to the County Commissioner Districts of Cumberland County* (Sponsored by Rep. Ankeles of Brunswick) **Passed to be Engrossed**

This bill changes in statute the geographical areas represented by members of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Insurance Arena from Portland and rather than naming the municipalities from where trustees must be appointed, direct the county commissioners to appoint trustees from each of their districts.

LD 1149 *An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting* (Initiated Bill)

This initiated bill requires the presentation of photographic identification for in-person and absentee voting with acceptable forms including an unexpired Maine driver's license,

nondriver identification card, interim identification form issued by the Secretary of State, U.S. passport or passport card, U.S. military identification card, Maine National Guard identification card and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs identification card. The bill directs the Secretary of State to provide free nondriver identification cards for photographic identification. The bill allows voters without photographic identification to complete a challenged ballot and within four days after the date of the election appear before the registrar of voters and present photographic identification. The bill also provides an exception for voters with religious objections to being photographed. The bill removes provisions of law that allow voters to make telephone applications for absentee ballots and that allow voters to automatically apply for absentee status.

March 18, 2025

[LD 1148](#) *An Act to Improve Access to Absentee Ballots for Municipal Elections for Uniformed Service Voters and Overseas Voters* (Sponsored by Rep. Shagoury of Hallowell)

This bill directs municipalities to provide a copy of their local ballots to the Secretary of State for all municipal elections held on the same date as a statewide election and provides that an application or request for an absentee ballot by a uniformed service or an overseas voter for any municipal election that is to be held on the same date as a statewide election for which the uniformed service voter or overseas voter is eligible, is valid for 18 months, as is currently provided for all federal and state elections. The bill also authorizes the Secretary of State to receive local ballots from municipalities holding such elections, to issue those ballots to uniformed service and overseas voters who are eligible to receive them, and to receive and deliver cast local ballots to municipalities by the close of the polls on election day.

[LD 1145](#) *An Act to Protect Residents Living in Mobile Home Parks* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill gives a group of mobile homeowners or a mobile homeowners' association the right of first refusal to purchase a mobile home park that the owner intends to sell. The bill also requires an owner who intends to make a change in use of the mobile home park to provide notice to owners of mobile homes and, at the owner's expense, facilitate the relocation of the homes within a 25-mile radius.

[LD 1144](#) *An Act to Reinstate the Property Tax Stabilization Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill reinstates the property tax stabilization program and as of April 1, 2026, allows residents who are 65 years of age or older and who have owned a home in Maine for at least 10 years to apply for the benefit. The bill amends the original program by: (1) limiting the stabilization to \$900,000 of the home's assessed value; (2) clarifying that the homeowner can only have the property tax stabilized on one homestead in a property tax year; and (3) allowing municipalities to file for state reimbursement for administrative expenses. The bill retains the provision requiring 100% state reimbursement for lost property tax revenue.

[LD 1143](#) *An Act to Update Language on Setback Variances for Single-family Dwellings and Variances from Dimensional Standards* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill changes references to a "single-family dwelling" to a "dwelling" in the law regarding setback variances. The bill also amends the law governing variances from dimensional

standards to allow a variance when there is a practical difficulty, and the property is not wholly located within a shoreland area.

[LD 1138](#) *An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan* (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill seeks to limit greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector by directing the Department of Transportation to: (1) adopt rules necessary to ensure compliance with gross and net annual greenhouse gas emission reduction levels; (2) develop and, by July 1, 2026, publish a plan that, at a minimum, sets forth strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and (3) beginning July 1, 2026, complete an impact assessment of a capacity expansion project, defined as a project resulting in a modification to improve vehicle travel time or increase maximum throughput, which also applies to the Maine Turnpike Authority. The bill also requires the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules establishing greenhouse gas emissions limits specific to different source categories within the transportation sector that are designed to be achieved through biennial targets imposed over a 10-year period. The bill establishes the Transportation Climate Technical Committee to assist in the development and review of the transportation greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan, as well as to advise the department, authority and legislature of the progress made by the transportation sector in meeting greenhouse gas emission goals.

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

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

[LD 1135](#) *An Act to Permit the Use of Oral Fluid Testing in Determining the Intoxication of Drivers, Aircraft Operators and Hunters* (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill permits the use of oral fluid testing in determining the intoxication of drivers, aircraft operators and hunters.

[LD 1131](#) *An Act to Reform the Process by Which a Person May Petition an Agency to Adopt or Modify Rules Under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Soboleski of Phillips)

This bill changes the number of voter signatures on a petition to require a state agency to adopt or modify an agency rule from 150 to 1% of the total number of votes cast for the governor at the last gubernatorial election.

[LD 1130](#) *An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the State* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This bill amends the state's energy storage goals by providing for the development of at least 300 megawatts of long-duration battery storage by December 31, 2035.

[LD 1127](#) *An Act to Establish Immunity for a Receiver Appointed by the Public Utilities Commission to Oversee the Operations of a Consumer-owned Water Utility* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **Passed to be Enacted**

This bill specifies that a receiver appointed by the Public Utilities Commission to oversee the operations of a consumer-owned water utility must be treated in the same manner as an employee acting on behalf of a governmental entity under the Maine Tort Claims Act. This change provides a receiver, who acts in place of trustees, with the same immunity accorded to trustees.

LD 1126 *An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms* (Sponsored by Rep. Zager of Portland)

This bill prohibits manufacturing, importing, selling or transferring undetectable firearms in Maine, as well as possessing and carrying undetectable firearms in courthouses, schools, voting places or places where municipal, county or state business is conducted and establishes classes of crimes for varying offenses. The bill also establishes requirements for the imprinting of certain firearms and firearm components with serial numbers by federal firearms licensees.

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

This bill provides ongoing funds to provide technical assistance and facilitate MaineCare reimbursements for local school districts.

LD 1122 *An Act to Amend the Law Banning Single-use Carry-out Bags* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) **DEAD**

This bill amends the law banning the use of single-use plastic carry-out bags at retail establishments to incorporate new definitions for recycled paper, reusable fabric and reusable plastic carry-out bags. The bill also increases from 5 cents to 10 cents the fee that a retail establishment must charge for each recycled paper or reusable plastic carry-out bag provided at the point of sale. These changes to the law banning the use of single-use plastic carry-out bags at retail establishments are effective as of January 1, 2026.

LD 1121 *An Act to Ensure Equitable Access for All Caregivers to Diaper Changing Stations in State Buildings Open to the Public* (Sponsored by Rep. Collamore of Pittsfield)

The bill requires that a restroom in a public state building constructed or remodeled after the effective date of this legislation must be equipped with a safe, sanitary and appropriate diaper changing station. The bill also requires that by July 1, 2027, if the only public restroom equipped with a diaper changing station is restricted to a specific gender, another public restroom available to other genders must be equipped with a diaper changing station. The bill provides certain exceptions, including in cases where the construction required to comply with these provisions would not be feasible due to the cost or would not comply with rules adopted by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission or the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

LD 1116 *An Act to Protect the Constitutional Rights of Petition Circulators* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to update certain laws to protect the constitutional rights of individuals who circulate petitions.

LD 1114 *An Act to Provide That Spouses and Children of Corrections Officers Who Die in the Line of Duty Receive a Pension* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook)

This bill requires that spouses or children of corrections officers who die as a result of injury received in the line of duty receive pensions equal to 50% of the pay of the corrections officer, but not less than \$1,000 annually.

[LD 1112](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Requiring Not Less Than 90 Percent State Reimbursement for Residential Real Estate Property Tax Exemptions and to Establish a Minimum Homestead Exemption* (Sponsored by Rep. Matlack of St. George)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require the Legislature to: (1) reimburse municipalities for not less than 90% of the lost property tax revenue associated with residential real estate exemptions extended to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, persons who are legally blind and for qualifying homesteads of residents; (2) establish the minimum homestead exemption at \$50,000, which must be adjusted annually by the percentage change in the consumer price index, or similar inflationary index; and (3) require that at a minimum, no less than 5% of state sales and income tax revenues be shared with municipalities and to protect future increases in the percentage of state sales and income tax revenues distributed to municipalities.

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

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

[LD 1109](#) *An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices* (Sponsored by Rep. Beck of South Portland)

This bill makes possession of a large-capacity ammunition feeding device a Class D crime and defines the device as a magazine, belt, drum, box, tube, feed strip or similar device that has a capacity of, or that can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 10 rounds of ammunition. The bill also extends an exemption to active members of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard; employed federal or state law enforcement officers; owners or sellers of curio, relic or antique devices; and licensed firearms dealers temporarily transporting devices through Maine to be sold or transferred to a person outside the state.

[LD 1107](#) *Act to Create a Working Group to Support Tax Expenditure Evaluation Efforts* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This concept draft bill proposes to establish a working group to support efforts to evaluate tax expenditures.

[LD 1105](#) *An Act Concerning Displaced Civilian Federal Firefighters in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. Mathieson of Kittery)

This bill requires municipalities, when filling an open position for a firefighter, to give priority to civilian federal firefighters who have been displaced due to a reduction in force at or closure of a federal military installation. The bill requires the Department of Labor to establish and maintain a database of displaced civilian federal firefighters in Maine.

LD 1104 *An Act to Limit the Liability of Persons Who Provide Firearm Hold Agreements* (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This bill provides immunity to the holder of a firearm pursuant to a hold agreement who returns the firearm to the owner at the termination of the agreement unless the conduct of the holder is otherwise unlawful. The bill also defines the agreement as a written or oral agreement between a firearm owner and another person in which the person at the owner's request takes physical possession of a firearm lawfully possessed by the owner and holds the firearm for an agreed-upon period of time.

LD 1103 *An Act Regarding Unallocated Balances in a School Administrative Unit School Budget* (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.)

This bill increases from 5% to 9% the amount of unallocated balances from the previous fiscal year's school budget a district can retain before using the remaining revenues to reduce the state and local share of the total allocation for the purposes of computing state subsidy.

LD 1101 *An Act to Address the Limited Availability of Counsel in Courts to Represent Indigent Parties in Matters Affecting Their Fundamental Rights* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Carney of Cumberland)

This emergency bill establishes a new position in the Commission on Public Defense Services to coordinate and facilitate the assignment of counsel to indigent clients across the state, especially defendants who are currently incarcerated. The bill provides for a private attorney to be compensated by the commission when no counsel is available to represent the person, creates five new Assistant District Defender positions, two paralegal positions and one office manager to expand the capacity of the commission.

LD 1096 *An Act to Allow Municipalities That Have Financed Fiber-optic Broadband Infrastructure to Use Loans or Grants to Repay Associated Debt* (Sponsored by Rep. Mingo of Calais)

This bill authorizes the use of Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund revenue to aid municipal entities in repaying debt that was incurred for the construction of a municipally owned gigabit fiber-optic broadband network project. The bill also authorizes the Maine Connectivity Authority to provide loans or grants to municipal entities for the repayment of debt incurred and requires the authority to permit the use of funds for the repayment of debt unless prohibited by the source of the grant or award.

LD 1091 *An Act to Reinforce Free Speech at Town Meetings by Allowing Persons a Minimum Amount of Time in Which to Speak* (Sponsored by Rep. Hymes of Waldo)

This bill requires persons recognized by the moderator at a town meeting to be allowed at least two minutes to speak.

LD 1090 *Resolve, to Form a Working Group to Address Vacancies in Municipal Government Management Positions* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Rollins of Augusta)

This emergency resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to convene a working group to study municipal management recruitment, retention and training challenges. Within 30 days of the effective date of the resolve, the department is directed to appoint the working group members, which must include at least seven members who

have knowledge and experience in municipal government management. At a minimum the working group is directed to consider: (1) the skills needed in municipal careers and methods to attract and retain a diverse municipal government workforce; (2) how to provide municipal government career education in all post-secondary institutions; and (3) the incentives needed to attract people to careers in municipal government. No later than December 3, 2025, the department must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

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

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

LD 1087 *An Act to Increase the State's Share of Major Capital School Construction Costs* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Cape Elizabeth)

Beginning on July 1, 2026, this bill provides that the state's share of the total cost of a school construction project is the greater of: (1) 25% of the total cost of the project; and (2) the percentage equal to the state share percentage of the school administrative unit's total cost of education as determined by the essential programs and services funding formula, whichever is greater. The bill also directs the State Board of Education to adopt or amend related rules as necessary.

LD 1083 *Resolve, to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Assess Existing Water Retention Structures and Water Levels* (Sponsored by Rep. Mason of Lisbon) **DEAD**

This resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to examine water retention structures, including dams, for erosion issues and other effects of rising water levels; assess water levels in lakes and ponds that contain water retention structures; and by December 3, 2025, submit a report based on its assessment for presentation to the Legislature in 2026.

LD 1082 *An Act to Invest in Maine's Families and Workforce by Amending the Real Estate Transfer Tax* (Sponsored by Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford)

This bill exempts the real estate transfer tax from being assessed on participants in the Maine State Housing Authority's first-time home-buyer mortgage loan program. It also increases the real estate transfer tax from \$2.20 to \$5 per \$500 for real estate sales over \$1 million and directs as a priority that the generated revenues be used to meet bond obligations under the Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Program. Of the remaining revenues, the bill directs that 17% is distributed to the Housing First Fund; 15% to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund; 60% to the affordable housing income tax credit program and the authority's rural affordable rental and homeownership program; and finally, to the General Fund.

LD 1081 *An Act to Support Access to General Assistance at Municipal General Assistance Offices and Designated Places* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This bill requires municipalities to designate the hours when GA applications can be obtained, and when those applications will be accepted and processed, which may not be less

than 50% of the municipality's regular business hours. The bill also requires municipalities to post notice informing the public of the: (1) hours when applications can be obtained; (2) hours when applications will be processed; (3) name of the overseer who is available to take applications in an emergency and outside daily business hours; (4) requirement that the municipality issue a written decision within 24 hours of receiving an application; and (5) Department of Health and Human Services' toll-free number for reporting alleged violations of these requirements.

LD 1080 *An Act Prohibiting Public Utilities from Requiring Deposits Based Solely on a Residential Customer's Income* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This bill prohibits a public utility from requiring a deposit based solely on the applicant's income and defines an applicant as a person who has not been a customer of the utility within 30 calendar days of the application. No later than October 1, 2025, the bill also directs the Public Utilities Commission to initiate rulemaking to implement the provisions of the bill.

LD 1078 *An Act to Support Maine's Public Health Objectives by Increasing Access to Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

This bill allows a certified hypodermic apparatus exchange program to operate additional locations within the same county as the certified program provided the state is notified of the additional locations and there is a process in place for the proper disposal of syringes. The bill also requires the program to provide monthly data to the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention on the locations of additional sites, the number of hypodermic apparatuses collected and disposed, and any additional data requested.

LD 1076 *An Act to Hire School Security Officers to Protect Students and Make Schools Safer* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft) **DEAD**

This bill authorizes municipal police departments and county sheriff's offices to hire personnel specifically as school security officers, who must be trained by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and certified as part-time law enforcement officers under the preservice training program.

LD 1075 *An Act to Require Annual Reporting Regarding the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft) **DEAD**

Beginning in 2026, this bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing and economic development matters on the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program. The report must include total funds disbursed, the amount of funds disbursed by fuel type, administrative costs to manage the program, a detailed list of all funding sources and the total number of recipients of assistance by county.

LD 1074 *An Act to Remove the Limit on the Length of Probation That May Be Served for Aggravated Attempted Murder* (Sponsored by Rep. Lajoie of Lewiston)

This bill amends the Maine Criminal Code to provide that the period of probation for a person sentenced for aggravated attempted murder is any term of years.

LD 1073 *An Act to Amend Provisions of the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act to Advance Health Equity and Improve the Well-being of Vulnerable Populations* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor) **DEAD**

This bill requires an applicant for a mining permit to: (1) submit a human health impact assessment report that identifies all potential emission and effects associated with the mining project; (2) demonstrate the ability to implement and fund perpetual treatment and monitoring of mining waste; (3) demonstrate the operation will use clean energy measures and technologies, as practicable; (4) comply with air quality standards and requirements through direct measurement of emissions; (5) provide proof of and maintain comprehensive general liability insurance; and (6) notify surrounding communities of the operations and to attend a public hearing as requested. The bill also prohibits the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing permits for mining operations that: (1) involve the release of PFAS substances; (2) use explosives or blasting materials that contain perchlorate; or (3) do not meet all applicable setback requirements.

LD 1072 *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Land for Maine's Future Program and to Authorize the Use of Options to Purchase at Agricultural Value* (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends the law governing the Land of Maine's Future (LMF) Program to add maintaining working lands for farming, commercial fishing and forestry to the program's mission and defines "interest in property" as both fee and less-than-fee simple interest, including conservation, access and scenic easements in land and long-term leases of at least 99 years. The bill also provides an avenue for purchasing property at the agricultural value, which is defined as an agreement in recordable form between the fee owner of working farmland property and one or more qualified holders, including the municipality where the property is located, and that permits a qualified holder to control, either directly or indirectly, the purchase price of the working farmland property for the primary purpose of making available and affordable, and preserving the permanent availability of that property for working farmland.

LD 1071 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Conduct a Review of the Implementation of Public Law 2021, Chapter 295 and Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Consult with School Administrators Regarding Developing a Plan for Community-based Crisis Receiving Centers* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

The resolve directs the Department of Education to conduct a review of the options for disciplinary response for students who have recently made a threat of bodily harm but do not currently pose an imminent danger of serious bodily injury and report findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The resolve also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to consult with school administrators to examine how community-based crisis receiving centers may be integrated with school mental health and substance use disorder response services and to report findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. Reports are due no later than December 3, 2025, and both committees are authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

LD 1067 *An Act to Improve the Process for Mobile Home Owners to Purchase Their Mobile Home Park* (Sponsored by Sen. Bradstreet of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill increases from 51% to 60% the percentage of homeowners needed to indicate they support making an offer to purchase the mobile home park where they live. The bill also

prohibits a mobile homeowners' association from contacting mobile homeowners more than three times about the purchase of the mobile home park.

LD 1066 *An Act Regarding Limits on Municipal General Assistance Programs* (Sponsored by Sen. Barnard of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill amends the General Assistance (GA) laws by: (1) limiting housing assistance to three months per 12-month period, except for temporary or emergency shelter housing; (2) prohibiting municipalities from exceeding maximum levels of assistance more than 30 days in a 12-month period; (3) extending from 120 to 180 days the period of ineligibility for applicants who quit or are discharged from work; and (4) requiring applicants who are capable of working to perform work for the municipality or a nonprofit organization as a condition of receiving assistance.

March 13, 2025

LD 1065 *An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste* (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill provides that, beginning July 1, 2027, a designated food waste generator may not dispose of its generated food waste at an incineration facility or solid waste landfill and must to the maximum extent practicable reduce the volume of food waste it generates, separate and arrange for the donation of excess edible food and manage the remaining food waste it generates through agricultural use, composting or anaerobic digestion at the point of generation, at a different location or by transferring the food waste to an organics recycler for management. The Department of Environmental Protection may approve a temporary waiver from these requirements for a designated food waste generator based on undue hardship for a period not to exceed three years.

LD 1063 *An Act to Require Competitive Procurement of Electricity from Generators Fueled by Municipal Solid Waste in Conjunction with Recycling* (Sponsored by Rep. Dill of Old Town)

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to direct investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to enter into contracts for energy and renewable energy credits with generators fueled by municipal solid waste in conjunction with recycling.

LD 1062 *An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This bill amends the law governing background checks of firearm buyers to eliminate background checks for private sales of firearms.

LD 1057 *Resolve, to Aid Municipalities, Animal Control Officers and Other Parties in Complying with Electronic Dog Licensing Requirements* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales)

This emergency resolve provides that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may not require a municipality that has chosen to participate in the electronic dog licensing project to implement the use of PetPoint software or any other data management platform for a period of one year. The resolve also directs the department to establish a software user group consisting of municipal clerks, animal control officers, dog licensing agents and other

interested parties from a proportionate number of communities of different populations to assist with transitioning the issuance of dog licenses to a data management platform.

LD 1051 *An Act to Provide Funding to Maintain All-terrain Vehicle Trails* (Sponsored by Rep. Hall of Wilton)

This bill requires that 20% of the funds collected from all-terrain vehicle (ATV) registration fees be allocated to the municipality or unorganized territory of the ATV owner's address as shown on the owner's registration certificate for the purpose of maintaining ATV trails located within that municipality or unorganized territory.

LD 1049 *An Act to Eliminate the Duty to Inform a Law Enforcement Officer When Carrying a Concealed Handgun Without a Permit* (Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This bill repeals the provision in statutes requiring an individual carrying a concealed handgun without a valid permit who comes into contact with a law enforcement officer during the course of any arrest, detainment or routine traffic stop to immediately inform that law enforcement officer of the fact that the individual is carrying a concealed handgun.

LD 1048 *An Act to Require Certain Notice Requirements for Whistleblower Protections* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This bill requires a public utility, competitive electricity provider or utility contractor licensed to do business in this state with one or more employees to provide a written notice each year to each employee advising the employee of the rights, protections and remedies guaranteed under state law relating to testimony presented to legislative committees, the public advocate, and the Public Utilities Commission.

LD 1046 *An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency Requirement for Receiving Municipal General Assistance* (Sponsored by Rep. Quint of Hodgdon) **DEAD**

This bill establishes a 180-day state residency requirement for applicants for municipal general assistance.

LD 1045 *An Act to Expand the Use of Tax Increment Financing District Revenue by Adding Public Safety as an Authorized Project Cost* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

This bill amends the law governing the use of tax increment financing by expanding the list of project costs for public safety improvements, made outside the tax increment financing district, that are authorized project costs. The bill also adds costs related to the expansion and renovation of municipal public safety facilities to the list of authorized project costs and increases, from 15% to 50%, the percentage of TIF district revenue permitted to be used for public safety costs related to economic development activities.

LD 1044 *An Act to Clarify the Qualifying Use of Tax Increment Financing for Extension of a Development District* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

This bill clarifies that to be eligible for a 20-year extension, a tax increment financing district may use TIF revenue for one or both of the permitted uses of affordable housing and transit-oriented development. The bill also amends the definition of "transit-oriented development" to provide that such a development does not have to be located in a transit-oriented development district, area or corridor or a transit-served node.

[LD 1039](#) *An Act Regarding Municipal Authority over Heavy Vehicle Operation (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Rep. Walker of Naples) **DEAD**

This emergency bill creates a Class M license that may be issued to a local unit of government for the operation of a single motor vehicle or combination of vehicles that meet the definition of a Class A or Class B license for the purpose of removing snow or ice from a roadway by plowing or sanding within the boundaries of that local unit of government. A Class M license must be held by that local unit of government and must be assigned to only one individual employed by that local unit of government.

[LD 1036](#) *An Act to Protect Recipients of Public Assistance from Housing Discrimination* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

This bill makes it unlawful to discriminate, in housing or public accommodation, against an individual because of the individual's receipt of public assistance in the same manner as it is unlawful to discriminate against other protected classes.

[LD 1035](#) *Resolve, to Study the Safe Disposal of Single-use Propane Canisters* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor) **DEAD**

This resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to study the current infrastructure for the disposal of single-use propane canisters and make recommendations regarding improvements to allow residents to safely dispose of used canisters and directs the department to research the viability of implementing a statewide ban on propane canisters that are not manufactured to be refillable.

[LD 1034](#) *An Act to Decriminalize Personal Possession of Therapeutic Amounts of Psilocybin for Adults* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill decriminalizes the possession of one ounce or less of psilocybin for persons 21 years of age or older.

[LD 1032](#) *An Act Regarding Court Security* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Guilford)

This bill requires the State Court Administrator to contract for services of qualified individuals to perform court security-related functions if the court operations have been impacted by the lack of court security more the 2% of the scheduled time in a month at the court. The bill further requires that contracts for services be offered to the appropriate sheriff's office before it is offered to another party.

[LD 1029](#) *An Act to Ensure General Assistance for Housing Does Not Reduce Assistance for Other Basic Necessities and to Increase Presumptive Eligibility and State Reimbursement for General Assistance* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends the laws guiding the administration of the General Assistance (GA) program by: (1) requiring the maximum level of assistance provided to be sufficient to provide for both housing and other basic necessities; (2) increasing the period of presumptive eligibility for a person who is in an emergency homeless shelter from 30 days to 180 days; (3) increasing state reimbursement under the GA program from 70% to 90%; and (4) directing the Department

of Health and Human Services to reimburse municipalities and Indian tribes for 100% of direct costs for providing emergency shelter for the homeless.

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

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

[LD 1025](#) *An Act to Allow Federal Civil Service to Count for Purposes of Maine Public Employees Retirement System Benefits*, (Sponsored by Rep. Harrington of York)

This bill allows a member of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System who served as an employee of federal employment service before becoming a member to purchase up to 5 years for the period of time that member served as an employee of federal employment service,

[LD 1024](#) *An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance* (Sponsored by Sen. Haggan of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill amends Maine's Good Samaritan laws concerning drug-related medical assistance by adding possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, unlawful trafficking in scheduled drugs and unlawfully furnishing scheduled drugs to the list of crimes that do not qualify for immunity under those laws.

[LD 1020](#) *An Act to Repeal the Laws Providing for the Construction of a Connector to Gorham and to Resell Land Taken Under Those Laws to Previous Property Owners* (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill repeals the laws that authorize the Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) to construct a connector to Gorham and creates a process for the disposal of the property, which as a first step directs the MTA to resell the land purchased for the construction of the connector to the previous property owner or heirs, assigns or successors. If the previous property owner or the heirs, assigns or successors do not want the land, the land must be transferred at no cost to the municipality in which the property is located, which is then authorized to either retain the property or transfer it to a land trust as a first option and then to dispose of the land via a public auction, if the land trust refuses the property.

[LD 1019](#) *An Act to Provide Funding for Fort McClary* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill appropriates \$60,000 in one-time funding to the Town of Kittery to restore and preserve the Fort McClary State Historic Site in Kittery Point.

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

This bill includes the cost of food provided or served at emergency shelters in the Department of Health and Human Services' reimbursement of general assistance costs to municipalities.

[LD 1016](#) *An Act to Establish the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund* (Sponsored by Sen. Reny of Lincoln Cty.)

This bill creates the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, to support ownership of manufactured housing communities and mobile home parks by owners of manufactured and mobile homes. To support the fund, the bill creates a fee to be paid by certain buyers of manufactured housing communities and mobile home parks, excluding municipal housing authorities, equal to \$50,000 per lot.

[LD 1013](#) *An Act to Protect Taxpayers by Requiring Referenda on Significant Municipal Debt* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill requires a municipality seeking to issue a bond in the amount of \$10 million or more to call a referendum election to approve the bond, which must be held on the first Tuesday in November.

March 11, 2025

[LD 1010](#) *An Act to Amend the State's Vehicle Inspection Law by Requiring Inspections Biennially* (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft)

This bill provides that a motor vehicle required to be registered must have an inspection every other year.

[LD 1005](#) *An Act to Allow Municipal Fire Departments with Trained Personnel to Conduct Sprinkler Plan Reviews* (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill allows a municipal fire department to conduct a sprinkler plan review if the municipal employee conducting the review is certified as a plan reviewer by the National Fire Protection Association and the municipal fire department establishes a review process that includes a thorough evaluation of a plan to ensure compliance with all applicable codes and standards.

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

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

[LD 998](#) *An Act Regarding an Employer's Authority to Prohibit an Employee from Storing a Firearm in the Employee's Vehicle* (Sponsored by Rep. Collins of Sidney)

This bill modifies the provision of law governing an employer's authority to prohibit an employee from storing a firearm in the employee's vehicle by removing the provision that the employee must have a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm.

[LD 997](#) *An Act to Allow Residential Use Development in Commercial Districts* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford)

This bill prohibits a municipality from prohibiting a residential use on a lot solely because the lot is zoned for commercial use.

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

This bill specifies, for purposes of needs-based low-income assistance for electricity customers, that "low-income household" means a household with income of no more than 150% of the federal poverty level. The bill also provides one-time appropriation of \$7.5 million in FY 2026 and FY 2027 for low-income electric ratepayer assistance.

[LD 994](#) *An Act Regarding the Enforcement Provisions of the Law Governing Private Road Maintenance* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This bill provides that if a residential property owner fails to pay that owner's share of the cost of reasonable and necessary repairs and maintenance of a private road, the payment is delinquent if not paid within 30 days after a demand made in writing. The notice must contain the name of the vendor, the purpose of the repair or maintenance and the date the vendor was paid. The bill also requires the notice to be delivered to that owner at the address found in municipal tax records, and a civil action for payment of the amount owed together with interest from the date of the written demand for payment, filing fees and other costs of collection including reasonable attorney's fees may be brought against that owner by a residential property owner or owners who share a common benefit in the road, either jointly or severally.

[LD 993](#) *An Act to Require First Responder Training for Mental Health Crisis and Critical Incident Stress Recognition* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill directs the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement training to be presented every three years to first responders and other similar professions that teaches self-recognition and management of mental health crises and critical incident stress for the participants of the training and for the participants to recognize and manage mental health crises and critical incident stress in others.

[LD 991](#) *An Act to Prevent Conflicts of Interest When Voting on Municipal Employee Compensation* (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Oxford Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits a voter who has a direct pecuniary interest in a city referendum question from voting on that referendum question. For purposes of this subsection, the prohibition involves approving a contract or a budget that directly affects the compensation of the voter, including a budget that amends salary, hourly rate of compensation or employment benefits. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to produce and publicly disseminate guidance for municipal clerks on how to implement this prohibition.

[LD 990](#) *Resolve, Requiring the Office of the Attorney General to Develop and Promote an Optional Online Registry Informing Landlords of Their Rights and Obligations* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This resolve directs the Office of the Attorney General to develop and promote an optional online landlord registry for landlords renting rooms within their primary residences.

[LD 987](#) *An Act Clarifying Exemptions from the Notification Requirements for Products Containing PFAS* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

This bill expands the list of vehicles and equipment exempt from the notification requirement that the products contain PFAS, including any textile article or refrigerant that is included in or as a component part of such products.

LD 986 *An Act to Eliminate the Crime of Felony Murder* (Sponsored by Sen. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill eliminates the crime of felony murder and removes cross-references to that crime in the Maine Revised Statutes.

LD 984 *An Act to Require Every State and Municipal Building to Have at Least One Automated External Defibrillator* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This bill requires all state and municipal buildings to be equipped with at least one automated external defibrillator.

LD 983 *An Act Regarding Service of Notice of Restricted Person Status to Hospitalized Patients* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill authorizes law enforcement agencies to request hospitals, at a time deemed clinically appropriate, to provide access to a patient for purposes of notification of restricted person status for a person taken into protective custody due to likelihood of foreseeable harm.

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

The bill requires the County Corrections Professional Standards Council to implement an automated crime victims notification system. The automated system provides a victim with timely notices of an offender's change in incarceration status, custody and criminal justice proceedings considered to be in the best interest of crime victims and public safety. The bill also provides a one-time appropriation of \$575,000 in fiscal year 2025-2026 to develop, support and maintain the notification system.

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

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

LD 976 *Resolve, to Restore Accessible Public Transportation to Swan Island in Perkins Township* (Sponsored by Rep. Cluchey of Bowdoinham)

This resolve directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to develop a plan to ensure accessible, regularly scheduled public transportation to Swan Island in Perkins Township, which must include suggested legislation for consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The bill also authorizes the committee to submit legislation in 2026.

[LD 972](#) *An Act to Change the Entity Responsible for Operating the Career and Technical Education Center in Machias to Regional School Unit 37* (Sponsored by Rep. Strout of Harrington)

This bill changes the school administrative unit responsible for the career and technical education center in Machias from the Machias school administrative unit to Regional School Unit 37.

[LD 970](#) *An Act to Prioritize Affordable Housing by Expediting Reviews for Affordable Housing Projects Applying for Funding from the Maine State Housing Authority* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford)

For permit applications for the construction of affordable housing for which funding or credits from the Maine State Housing Authority are being sought, this bill requires a municipal licensing authority to provide notice to an applicant as to the completeness of the application within 30 days after receipt. If notice is not provided, the application is considered complete. Once complete, the municipality must act on the application within 120 days. The bill also requires the Department of Environmental Protection to act on site location of development permits for affordable housing construction within 30 days after receipt of the permit application.

[LD 969](#) *An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunities* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell) **DEAD**

This bill directs the Emergency Medical Services' Board to adopt rules allowing municipalities to conduct or host emergency medical services licensing and relicensing training.

[LD 968](#) *Resources* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell)

This resolve directs the Department of Marine Resources to conduct a study to determine the level of stakeholder input involved in the appointment of the commissioner and how that input may be expanded. By December 3, 2025, the department is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, which may submitted related legislation in 2026.

[LD 965](#) *An Act to Require the Automatic Repealing of Agency Rules* (Sponsored by Rep. Libby of Auburn)

This bill provides that all state agency rules adopted or amended after January 1, 2026 are automatically repealed five years from the date of final adoption and that rules finally adopted before January 1, 2026 are automatically repealed as of January 1, 2030. The bill also provides a process by which the Legislature may review and approve a renewal of an adopted rule prior to its automatic repeal, which provides a five-year extension. The bill provides that an agency rule finally adopted after January 1, 2026, must include a statement identifying two existing rules adopted by or under the jurisdiction of the agency that the agency will not seek renewal of prior to the automatic repeal of those rules.

[LD 963](#) *An Act to Standardize Subsidized Housing Application Forms* (Sponsored by Rep. Collins of Sidney) **DEAD**

This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to develop a standard application form for subsidized housing applications and requires municipal housing authorities and

contractors that administer subsidized housing programs to use the standard form to the extent practicable.

LD 962 *An Act to Establish the Offense of Aggravated Operating Under the Influence Resulting in the Death of a Pet* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Ellsworth) **DEAD**

This bill creates the offense of aggravated operating under the influence resulting in the death of a pet and provides that it is a Class C crime with a mandatory fine, a period of incarceration, a court-ordered suspension of a driver's license and mandatory community service related to animal welfare. The bill also requires the offender to provide restitution to the owner of the pet, including veterinary costs, the market value of the pet and a sum for emotional distress.

LD 959 *An Act to Require the Development of Better Cannabis Testing Criteria and Processes* (Sponsored by Rep. Fredericks of Sanford)

This concept draft bill proposes to require the development of better cannabis testing criteria and processes.

LD 958 *An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill amends the Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement and the Mi'kmaq Nation Restoration Act to prevent the taking of land for public uses under the laws of Maine if the land is located within Passamaquoddy Indian territory, Penobscot Indian territory, the Houlton Band Trust Land or the Mi'kmaq Nation Trust Land.

LD 956 *Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council to Create a Multi-use Trail* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.) **DEAD**

This resolve requires, consistent with the majority recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council, that 12.26 miles of inactive existing railroad track material from the Route 214 intersection in Ayers Junction in Pembroke to Route 1 in Calais must be removed and replaced with a multi-use trail on the existing railbed.

LD 953 *An Act to Change the Definition of "Machine Gun" in the Maine Criminal Code* (Sponsored by Sen. Haggan of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill redefines "machine gun," for provisions of the Maine Criminal Code governing offenses involving weapons, to include a weapon that shoots automatically more than one shot and includes parts of a machine gun or a combination of parts from which a machine gun could be assembled.

LD 952 *An Act to Exempt Agricultural Employers and Employees from the Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This emergency bill removes individuals employed in agriculture from the paid family and medical leave benefits program, requires the Department of Labor to refund contributions made by employers, and requires employers that deducted a portion of the premium from employees' wages to remit the portion paid.

LD 949 *An Act to Clarify Licensing Jurisdiction for Manufactured Housing Communities* (Sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell)

This bill requires a municipality to accept a license issued by the Manufactured Housing Board as evidence a manufactured housing community meets all requirements to operate. The bill also prohibits a municipality from assessing additional fees for a manufactured housing community to operate or from assessing a fee for any type of permit for manufactured housing if the manufactured housing or the installation is governed by rules of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Manufactured Housing Board.

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.

LD 945 *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Powers and Responsibilities of the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority* (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This bill amends the laws governing the powers of the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority by providing the redevelopment authority the same powers possessed by a corporation. The bill also changes its ability to acquire property by removing the requirement of needing an agreement with a public entity, changes its authority to enter into an agreement with a federal agency and allows it to enter into an agreement with a private party, which, if the agreement is for the acquisition of property, must have the consent of the municipality in which the property is located. The bill also removes the requirement of the redevelopment authority to use the best practices adopted by the Development Ready Advisory Committee when providing assistance to entities in Maine engaged in redevelopment activities.

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

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

LD 941 *An Act Requiring Employers to Disclose Wage Ranges in Job Postings* (Sponsored by Rep. Archer of Saco) **DEAD**

This bill requires an employer that employs 10 or more employees to include a wage range in any job posting for a position of employment in Maine. An employer acting in good faith may pay an employee a wage different than the wage range based upon factors such as market conditions or the experience or education of the employee.

[LD 939](#) *An Act to Increase the Maximum Permissible Size of Recreational Campfires* (Sponsored by Rep. Jackson of Oxford) **DEAD**

This bill increases the maximum permissible size of a recreational campfire from 3 to 3.5 feet in diameter.

[LD 938](#) *An Act to Implement Certain Local Spending and Sourcing Requirements Regarding the Statewide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Flynn of Albion) **DEAD**

This bill requires a household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to spend at least 10% of each monthly benefit within a 50-mile radius of the household's declared residence. It also provides that, in addition to the requirements established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a retailer participating in SNAP must ensure that at least 10% of all perishable foods in the retailer's inventory are sourced from within Maine.

[LD 936](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Mining Excise Tax* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield)

This bill implements the changes proposed as the result of a review of the state's taxation of metallic mineral mining, including: (1) providing for the refund of sales tax on depreciable machinery and equipment purchases; (2) exempting unextracted minerals from the property tax; (3) simplifying the excise tax imposed on a mining company; (4) repealing the definition of "mineral products" and other definitions no longer needed; (5) clarifying the definition of "tax year" for purposes of the mining excise tax; (6) eliminating credits for payment of certain property taxes and prepayment of taxes; (7) eliminating the Mining Impact Assistance Fund and related provisions; (8) clarifying the imposition and calculation of the mining excise tax; (9) eliminating the Mining Oversight Fund; and (10) requiring 75% of generated mining revenue be deposited in the Mining Excise Tax Trust Fund and 25% in the General Fund.

[LD 935](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Report on Air and Soil Chemical and Metal Levels and on Soil Testing on Solar Panel Farm Sites* (Sponsored by Rep. Qunit of Hodgdon)

This bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection to submit two reports to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, with one providing information on the levels of chemicals and metals, both airborne and in soil, and the other providing information on the before and after installation soil testing conducted by the department on solar panel farm sites. Both reports must be submitted by December 3, 2025.

[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) **DEAD**

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.

LD 933 *An Act to Increase to 100 Percent the State Share of Funding for Special Education Costs of All School Administrative Units* (Sponsored by Rep. Dill of Old Town)

Beginning in fiscal year 2026-27, this bill provides that the minimum state share of a school administrative unit's special education costs under the essential programs and services school funding formula is 100%.

LD 931 *An Act to Amend the Law Allowing Incarcerated Pretrial or Presentence Individuals to Be Credited Time for Participation in Voluntary Work Projects in a Jail* (Sponsored by Rep. O'Halloran of Brewer)

This bill allows an inmate who is detained at a county or regional jail pretrial or presentence to voluntarily participate in a public works-related project or in the improvement of property owned by a charitable organization. A participating inmate may have a sentence prorated at the rate of up to one day for every 16 hours of service, provided the inmate is sentenced on a charge for which the inmate is detained at the jail.

LD 928 *An Act to Maintain Public Access to Town Ways in Maine* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Guilford)

This bill provides that if the municipal officers or county commissioners have declared a town way discontinued by abandonment and have retained a public easement for at least 15 years, the municipality, county commissioners or an abutter on the way may not gate, bar or otherwise obstruct the town way. The bill also provides that if the municipal officers or county commissioners have declared a town way discontinued by abandonment and have retained a public easement for less than 15 years, the municipality, county commissioners or an abutter on the way, acting with the written permission of the municipal officers or county commissioners, may remove any gates, bars or other obstructions in the town way.

LD 925 *Resolve, To Create a License Plate To Recognize the Semiquincentennial of the United States of America* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Carlow of Buxton) **DEAD**

This emergency resolve directs the Secretary of State to design and issue a commemorative motor vehicle registration plate in celebration of the United States of America Semiquincentennial that can be displayed from January 1 to December 31, 2026.

LD 921 *An Act to Expand Use of Electronic Proceedings in the Judicial Branch* (Sponsored by Rep. Fredette of Newport)

This bill requires that certain categories of hearings and other judicial proceedings in the District Court, Superior Court and Supreme Judicial Court be conducted by electronic means, absent a finding that doing so is inappropriate because it would result in a deprivation of due process, fairness or justice. This requirement does not apply to criminal trials or to civil jury trials requiring the presentation of evidence absent the approval of the court and consent of each party to the proceeding. The bill also requires the court to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals with limited access to the technology required to participate by electronic means as well as individuals with disabilities that limit the ability to fully participate by electronic means.

[LD 920](#) *Resolve, to Review Efficiencies in the Licensing of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities by the Department of Environmental Protection* (Sponsored by Rep. Campbell of Orrington) **DEAD**

This resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to review the requirements in statute, rules and policies that apply to the licensing of solid waste disposal facilities and to establish a stakeholder group to advise the department throughout the review. The review must include a general review of the license review process, and a targeted review of the license review process related to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company's waste-to-energy facility in the Town of Orrington. By December 3, 2025, the department is further directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

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

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

[LD 915](#) *An Act to Modernize Deed Duplication from Microfilm to a Digital Image* (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook)

This bill requires a register of deeds to make a record of an instrument recorded in the registry office in the form of a digital image stored on magnetic or optical media, not on microfilm as in current law.

[LD 911](#) *An Act to Modify Ranked-choice Voting with Regard to Candidates Who Withdraw from an Election* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill provides that when a candidate in an election determined by ranked-choice voting withdraws from the election, but the candidate's name remains on the election ballot, a vote for that person may not be counted in any round and instead the next highest ranked continuing candidate must be counted. Each subsequent round must be adjusted in the same manner.

[LD 909](#) *An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Survivors* (Sponsored by Sen. Pierce of Cumberland Cty.) **DEAD**

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

[LD 908](#) *An Act to Eliminate the Sales Tax on Prepared Foods and Support the State's Hospitality Industry* (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Oxford Cty.) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to eliminate the 8% sales tax on all prepared foods, including meals served in restaurants, for the purpose of boosting economic activity. The loss of revenue would be offset by: (1) broadening the items subject to the sales tax and increasing the rate on high-end luxury items; (2) performing an assessment of sales tax exemptions; and (3)

conducting a comprehensive audit of state government programs and expenditures to eliminate inefficiencies and waste.

[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 adjustments 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.

[LD 904](#) *An Act to Exempt from Fees Certain Services Performed by the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory for Criminal Investigations* (Sponsored by Sen. Haggan of Penobscot Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from establishing a fee for substance use testing, determining a blood-alcohol or drug concentration level, or analyzing a substance that is suspected of being an illegal drug when such testing or analysis is conducted pursuant to a criminal investigation.

[LD 903](#) *An Act to Regulate the Advertising of Cannabis Products* (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill amends the provisions of law regarding signs, advertising and marketing for medical and adult use cannabis by prohibiting all forms of marketing and advertising except for: (1) establishing a website or other internet-based presence containing only general information on contact information, location, hours and products available; (2) listings in business directories; and (3) placing signs on the licensee's premises, which cannot appeal to individuals under 21 years of age, promote health and physical benefit claims, be placed within 1,000 feet of the property line of an existing public or private school, except that if a municipality by ordinance amends the limit to no less than 500 feet from a school's property line, or violate any other sign restriction imposed by the state or municipalities via ordinance.

[LD 901](#) *Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority to Negotiate for the Purchase of or Acquire by Eminent Domain the Land and Buildings Commonly Known as the Bangor Mall* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This resolve appropriates \$20.5 million in one-time funds to enable the Maine State Housing Authority to purchase, repair, and fund infrastructure improvements at the Bangor Mall, which must be acquired either via a purchase and sales agreement, and if not executed within 12 months of the effective date of this resolve, by eminent domain. Within six months of acquiring the mall, the authority is required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters detailing the costs of converting the property into affordable housing units and proposing legislation to create the Bangor Mall Housing Authority.

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

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

[LD 894](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Paid Family and Medical Leave* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends the laws governing paid family and medical leave by: (1) clarifying that intermittent leave of an employee of less than one work day may not be taken unless it is agreed to by the employee and the employer; (2) establishing the Bureau of Paid Family and Medical Leave within the Department of Labor to administer the benefits program; (3) establishing remedies for the department to enforce the collection of delinquent premium contributions, penalties and assessments on employers that fail to make payments required by the program; and (4) establishing liability for individuals or organizations with respect to premium contributions, penalties and assessments owed by employers acquired by those individuals or organizations.

March 4, 2025

[LD 892](#) *An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Surviving Spouses, Minor Children and Parents* (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.) **DEAD**

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

[LD 889](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Department of Health and Human Services* (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws regarding the Department of Health and Human Services.

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

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

[LD 885](#) *An Act to Allow Certain Persons with a Permit to Carry Concealed Handguns to Possess or Discharge a Firearm on School Property* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Guilford)

This bill allows a person to possess and discharge a firearm on school property if that person is not a student at that school, is 21 years of age or older and possesses a permit to carry a concealed handgun.

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

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

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

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

LD 876 *An Act to Support Rural Resilience and Emergency Response Through the Maine Service Fellows Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Reilly of Westbrook)

This bill appropriates \$700,000 annually in ongoing funding to fund 20 fellows in the Maine Services Fellows Program. The bill also directs the Maine Commission for Community Services, in conjunction with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, to compile a list of volunteers who are available at the request of the governor during states of emergency to provide emergency response and support services in coordination with the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

LD 873 *An Act to Expand Municipal Authority over Utility Pole Permits* (Sponsored by Rep. Abdi of Lewiston) **Enacted; PL 2025, c. 38**

This bill increases the number of municipalities authorized to revoke the location of a utility pole when required for public safety and welfare by reducing the population threshold from 40,000 to 30,000.

LD 872 *An Act to Ensure Determinations Made by the State Are Free from Unethical, Unsafe or Illegal Interference by Artificial Intelligence* (Sponsored by Rep. Friedman of Bar Harbor)

This bill directs the Office of Information Technology to create, maintain, and ensure the use of a list of approved artificial intelligence (AI) software or systems for procurement and use by the state and prohibits the purchase and use of AI software unless the state maintains control over the behavior of the software to enable compliance with constitutional and legal mandates. The bill also secures the right to due process by guaranteeing that residents affected by a decision made by the state with the assistance of AI software have an accessible and affordable way to understand, review and appeal the decision.

LD 871 *An Act to Exempt All Persons, Including Health Care and Emergency Services Personnel, from COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements* (Sponsored by Rep. Cimino of Bridgton)
DEAD

This bill prohibits the state from requiring any person, including health care facility employees and emergency medical services personnel, to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

LD 870 *An Act Regarding the Membership of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta)

This bill amends the membership of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by increasing the number of members from nine to 13, with the governor appointing the additional

members. The bill also adds qualifications to be considered by the governor and boards of county commissioners when appointing members to the commission, which includes individuals with experience in natural resources industries who either reside, work, or have significant professional experience working within the commission's jurisdiction. Membership is limited to two consecutive four-year terms. The bill also requires the Secretary of State to include information about the members of the commission in its annual report on board appointments, including information on the date of expiration of the term of each member and the authority responsible for appointments or reappointments.

LD 863 *An Act to Exempt Internet Raffles Conducted by Certain Organizations with Prizes of \$2,500 or Less from Registration and Licensing Requirements* (Sponsored by Rep. White of Guilford)

This bill removes the prohibition on an agricultural society, nonprofit organization, volunteer fire department or their auxiliaries to conduct internet raffles in which the total value of the prize offered does not exceed \$2,500, without being required to register with the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit.

LD 862 *Resolve, to Honor Scarborough Veterans by Renaming the Pine Point Crossing Bridge the Scarborough Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)
Finally Passed; Resolves, 2025, c. 17

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 5260 on Pine Point Road in the Town of Scarborough the Scarborough Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 860 *An Act to Require Competitive Electricity Providers to Provide Certain Information to the Public Advocate* (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This emergency bill requires competitive electricity providers to provide the Public Advocate copies of the reports filed with the Public Utilities Commission and authorizes the advocate to make recommendations to the commission or the Legislature, including the reasonableness of rates charged by a public utility or competitive electricity provider.

LD 856 *An Act to Phase Out the Income Tax* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

Beginning in 2026, this bill phases out the income tax over five years and requires that state department budgets be reduced proportionally.

LD 853 *An Act to Replace the Minimum Hourly Wage with a Regionally Based Living Wage* (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland)

Beginning January 1, 2026, this bill replaces the current statewide minimum wage of \$14.65 per hour with a regional living wage as established by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology or a successor organization. The bill also divides the state into three living wage regions, which include the: (1) coastal region - Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, and Waldo counties; (2) northern region - Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, and Washington; and (3) the Portland metropolitan region - Cumberland and York counties.

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

Beginning July 1, 2026, this bill establishes the state share for county jail operations as 20% of the Department of Corrections' total General Fund appropriation for the operation of all state correctional facilities, plus 90% of the cost incurred by county jails in the prior fiscal year necessary to comply with state mandated requirements. The bill also provides that if a jail fails to file required reports with the state by the end of the fiscal year, state revenues distributed to jails on a quarterly basis are forfeited and instead distributed to jails that have met reporting requirements. Finally, the bill requires the department to fund the administrative services costs incurred to support the activities of the County Corrections Professional Standards Council, which is established to evaluate and advise the department regarding jail funding and operations.

LD 850 *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

This bill allows the Secretary of State to adopt rules to administer self-service kiosks for vehicle registration renewals, driver's licenses, and nondriver identification card renewals and imposes a \$1.00 fee on electronic lien titling transactions. The bill also defines the term "electronic temporary registration plate program," which enables the Secretary of State to establish an electronic temporary registration plate program and adopt rules to administer the program and increases the temporary registration plate fee by \$1.00 to support the electronic temporary registration plate program.

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

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

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

[LD 848](#) *An Act Regarding the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford)

This bill allows municipal and county law enforcement officers and firefighters who did not enroll in the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program during the open enrollment period, to do so between October 1 and November 30, 2025. The bill also directs the Office of Employee Health and Wellness to provide electronic briefings regarding the program every two months to newly hired county or municipal employees who are eligible to enroll in the program.

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

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

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

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

[LD 841](#) *Resolve, to Study the Delivery of Emergency Medical Services to and Ferry Service Effects on Island Communities in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This resolve directs the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) to convene a working group to study the delivery of emergency medical services to and ferry service effects on island communities. The eight-member study group includes three members from island communities representing different interests. No later than December 3, 2025, the bill further directs MOCA to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, which can submit legislation in 2026.

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

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

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

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

[LD 835](#) *An Act to Allow Children to Participate in Beano Games Conducted by Nonprofit Charitable Organizations* (Sponsored by Sen. Bernard of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill authorizes nonprofit charitable, educational, political, civic, recreational, fraternal, patriotic, religious or veterans' organizations to conduct beano without a license or without registering with the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit when beano games are offered exclusively to a club, group or organization composed of individuals at least 90% of whom are under 18 years of age or when the games are offered exclusively on the premises of the organization conducting beano and there is no fee charged to participate in a beano game.

[LD 833](#) *An Act to Expand the Earned Paid Leave Exception* (Sponsored by Sen. Bradstreet of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill exempts employers that provide employees with 80 or more hours of paid leave during the calendar year from the laws governing earned paid leave.

[LD 832](#) *An Act to Provide Funds to Reduce the Debt of the Vassalboro Sanitary District* (Sponsored by Sen. Bradstreet of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill appropriates \$2 million in FY 2025 to reduce the debt of the Vassalboro Sanitary District.

[LD 830](#) *An Act to Protect Maine's Scenic Beauty by Requiring Solar Panel Fields to Be Hidden from View* (Sponsored by Sen. Haggan of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill amends the site location of development laws to require that, prior to approving a solar energy development proposal, the Department of Environmental Protection finds that the proposed development will be surrounded by a barrier designed to sufficiently conceal the development from view from abutting properties.

[LD 829](#) *An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns in State Parks* (Sponsored by Sen. Haggan of Penobscot Cty.)

This emergency bill removes the requirement that a person have a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun in state parks, Baxter State Park, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and Acadia National Park and instead provides that any person who is not otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm may carry a concealed handgun in these locations

[LD 827](#) *An Act to Allow the Sale of Polymer-coated Cookware That Is Authorized for Food Contact by the United States Food and Drug Administration* (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill allows the sale of cookware with a cooking surface containing certain PFAS.

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

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

LD 822 *An Act to End the Collection of Certain Probation Fees* (Sponsored by Sen. Beebe-Center of Knox Cty.)

This bill eliminates two conditions of probation under the Maine Criminal Code, including general supervision fees imposed for a person's term of probation and fees related to a person requesting temporary leave from a jurisdiction when a person's probation requires that the person remain in the jurisdiction of the court.

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

This resolution seeks voter approval for a constitutional amendment to provide a right to hunt, fish and harvest game and fish, including by the use of traditional methods, that may not be infringed, subject to reasonable laws and rules to promote wildlife conservation and management and to preserve the future of hunting and fishing, and establishes public hunting and fishing as the preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife.

LD 819 *An Act Concerning the Status of Battery Storage Systems with Regard to the Business Equipment Tax Exemption* (Sponsored by Rep. Sato of Gorham)

This bill provides that a battery storage system with a total capacity of two or more megawatts is ineligible for the business equipment tax exemption. The bill also defines a battery storage system as commercially available technology that uses chemical processes for absorbing energy and storing it for later use.

LD 817 *An Act to Remove Restrictions That Prohibit School Administrative Units from Making Purchases Through Cooperatives* (Sponsored by Rep. Mitchell of Cumberland) **DEAD**

This bill amends the provisions of law related to competitive bids and cooperative purchases made through the Bureau of General Services to allow school administrative units to participate in cooperative purchasing for the purpose of the purchase, repair or alteration of nonbuilding real property, including, but not limited to, an athletic field.

LD 813 *An Act Regarding State Recognition of Native American Tribes* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This bill establishes a process for state recognition of Native American Indian tribes, which is designed to recognize historical and cultural contributions, protect and strengthen the heritage and provide technical assistance to state-recognized tribes and their members related to state and federal programs and activities. It establishes the Maine Commission on Native American Indian Affairs, a five-member panel of experts directed to review and to make recommendations on applications for state recognition of tribes. The bill also provides that state-recognized tribes and their members remain subject to all state laws, and may not be construed to grant right or claim to land or real estate in the state or the right to conduct any gambling activities otherwise prohibited by law.

[LD 812](#) *An Act to Provide State Recognition of the Kineo St. John Tribe* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This bill provides for state recognition of the Kineo St. John Tribe as a Native American tribe. Recognition does not create, extend or form the basis of any right or claim to land or real estate in the state or any right to conduct gambling activities prohibited by law. The Kineo St. John Tribe and the individual members of the tribe remain subject to all the laws of the state.

[LD 811](#) *An Act to Require a Municipal Public Hearing and Vote Before a Sports Wagering Facility May Be Established* (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) **DEAD**

This bill requires an applicant for a facility sports wagering license to request and receive approval from the municipal officers of the community in which the facility is to be physically located before the director of the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety may issue the license. The municipal officers are required to hold a public hearing regarding the request and issue a decision in writing, which must be provided to the applicant and the director. An aggrieved applicant is authorized to appeal the decision of the municipal officers to the director. The bill also provides that the license is valid only at the facility's approved physical location.

[LD 810](#) *An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines* (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

This bill provides that a high-impact electric transmission line proposed by a state agency pursuant to a requirement of law or specific authority that is deemed to substantially alter the land is subject to final approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Legislature.

[LD 808](#) *An Act to Require School Boards and Governing Bodies of Approved Private Schools to Implement Wearable Panic Alert Systems* (Sponsored by Rep. Mastraccio of Sanford)

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year this bill requires schools to implement a wearable panic alert system requiring staff to wear a device that can integrate with local public safety answering points, transmit 9-1-1 calls, and initiate a campuswide lockdown notification.

[LD 807](#) *An Act to Limit the Number of Free Motor Vehicle Registrations That May Be Provided to a Disabled Veteran and Reimburse Municipalities for the Loss of Excise Taxes* (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford) **DEAD**

This bill specifies that only three registered motor vehicles may be exempt from excise taxes for a disabled veteran and requires 100% state reimbursement for the lost excise tax revenue.

[LD 804](#) *An Act to Encourage Election Involvement by Making Election Day a State Holiday in Even-numbered Years* (Sponsored by Rep. Ardell of Monticello) **DEAD**

This bill designates the general November election that takes place in an even numbered year, a state holiday.

[LD 797](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Work Search Efforts for Unemployment Benefits and to Eliminate Benefits for Temporary Unemployment* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill amends the work search requirements under the unemployment laws by requiring individuals to actively seek employment three times weekly. The bill also repeals a provision in existing law enabling the Department of Labor to waive work search requirements and another provision providing unemployment benefits to a person who is temporarily laid off by an employer who has provided a definite return to work date. The bill also defines acceptable work search efforts, which includes, among other requirements, submitting a resume to an employer, attending a job fair, completing an online or in-person job search workshop, taking a civil service exam or participating in job search counseling. Individuals must provide evidence of compliance with work search requirements by completing and submitting to the department a form outlining those efforts. Finally, the bill requires the department to verify that work search requirements have been met prior to remitting weekly benefits to a claimant.

LD 796 *Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Windham and Gorham the Little Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 20**

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2787 on Route 202 between the Town of Windham and the Town of Gorham the Little Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge.

LD 795 *An Act to Exempt Pegmatite Mining from the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act and Establish a Permit-by-rule Process* (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Oxford Cty.)

This bill amends the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act to provide that the Department of Environmental Protection may authorize a person to engage in pegmatite mining through a permit by rule if: (1) the activity is subject to and satisfies the applicable requirements of the quarrying laws; and (2) the area covers 20 acres or less of surface area in total. Pegmatite mining conducted pursuant to such a permit by rule is not subject to the otherwise applicable requirements of the mining law or fees for metallic mineral mining. The bill also defines "pegmatite mining" as the extraction for commercial sale of pegmatite or similar minerals commonly found in pegmatite rock formations, including, but not limited to, gemstones, feldspar, mica and lithium-bearing minerals.

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

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

LD 789 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require Legislative Approval of Any State of Emergency Lasting Longer than 60 Days* (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This resolution seeks voter approval for a constitutional amendment providing that a state of emergency proclaimed by the governor may not continue for longer than 60 days and that each subsequent state of emergency must be approved by the Legislature.

LD 786 *An Act to Promote Public Safety and Retain Essential First Responders by Funding the Maine Length of Service Award Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This bill appropriates \$2.5 million annually in ongoing funding for the Maine Length of Service Award Program to provide service related benefits to eligible volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.

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

This bill amends the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act to ensure that the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation, and Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (tribes) enjoy rights, privileges, powers, duties and immunities similar to those of other federally recognized tribes in the U.S. The bill also: (1) Recognizes that the rights, privileges, powers, duties and immunities of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians apply to "Houlton Band Trust Land," which includes all land and natural resources acquired by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in trust for the band under the federal Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Supplementary Claims Settlement Act of 1986. (2) For the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation, recognizes as Indian territory any land acquired by the secretary in trust for the tribe or nation within specific counties of the state either prior to the effective date of this legislation or after the effective date of this legislation if the land is not located within the borders of a city, town, village or plantation. If trust land acquired after the effective date of this legislation and is located within the borders of a city, town, village or plantation, it may be considered Indian territory if the tribe or nation enters into an agreement with the local government addressing payments in lieu of taxes, allocation of law enforcement responsibility and land use. (3) Includes within Passamaquoddy Tribe territory all lands owned in fee simple by the tribe on the effective date of this legislation if those lands are located within specific counties and are subsequently acquired by the secretary; (4) Repeals the provisions of the Maine Implementing Act regarding the takings of tribal lands for public use. (5) Provides that the tribes, as well as their officers and employees, are immune from suit to the same extent as other federally recognized Indian tribes and their officers and employees under federal Indian law. (6) With respect to the regulation of natural resources, the bill: (a) Recognizes the exclusive authority of the tribes to regulate fishing, hunting, trapping and other taking of wildlife by both tribal and nontribal citizens within their respective Indian territories and trust land; (b) retains the authority of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission under current law to regulate fishing on boundary waters; and (c) authorizes the state, solely for conservation purposes, to regulate tribal members engaged in fishing, hunting, trapping and other taking of wildlife off Indian territory or trust land to the extent permitted under federal Indian law and consistent with reserved tribal treaty rights. (7) Combines within one section of the Maine Implementing Act the authority of law enforcement officers appointed by the tribes to enforce laws within their respective territories and trust land and that tribal courts have exclusive jurisdiction over criminal and juvenile laws in their respective tribes. (8). With respect to civil jurisdiction, the bill recognizes the exclusive authority of the tribes to: (a) exercise civil regulatory authority on their respective territories or trust land and over their respective tribal members and tribal entities; (b) exercise civil regulatory authority on their respective Indian territory or trust land over persons and entities who are not tribal citizens or tribal entities; (c) exercise adjudicatory jurisdiction over civil actions arising on the Indian territory or trust land. (9) Requires the development of a dispute resolution process to facilitate resolution of disputes between the State of Maine and tribes. (10) Provides that except for any provision of federal Indian law that conflicts with the Maine Implementing Act's

provisions may conduct gaming activities only in accordance with state law and not under the authority of the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act or its implementing regulations.

[LD 784](#) *An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Specialized Risk Screening for First Responders* (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

For policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2027, this bill prohibits a health insurance carrier from denying coverage to an enrollee who is a first responder for specialized risk screening recommended by a health care provider. It limits the ability of a health insurance carrier to require prior authorization for specialized risk screening and prohibits a carrier from imposing any out-of-pocket costs for specialized risk screening except for high deductible health plans offered for use in connection with a health savings account to the extent required under federal regulations.

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

This bill appropriates \$190,000 annually in ongoing funding to establish a comprehensive program for foreign-trained workers through the Maine Multicultural Center in Bangor.

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

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

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

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

[LD 779](#) *An Act to Fund the Aroostook County Drug Treatment Court* (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland)

This bill establishes a limited period Assistant District Attorney position to create a drug treatment court in Aroostook County. The bill also provides one-time allocations for the Office of Behavioral Health to contract an entity to provide the required pretrial services and to provide legal representation to participants in the new drug court.

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **Enacted; PL 2025, c. 49**

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.)
DEAD

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.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 12**

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.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 16**

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.) **DEAD**

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.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 15**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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 *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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **Finally Passed; Resolves, 2025, c. 18**

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) **Enacted; PL 2025, c. 2**

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

As amended, this bill makes General Fund appropriations for FY 2025, FY 2026 and FY 2027. Of municipal interest, the bill:

Homestead Exemption Reimbursement (Part A- Page 18). Allocates \$92 million and \$95 million in FY 2026 and FY 2027, respectively for state reimbursement for lost property tax revenue.

County Jail Operations (Part A - Pages 87 & 88). Allocates \$20.3 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 for county jail operations and the cost of providing mandated medication assisted treatment.

General Assistance (Part A - Page 195). Allocates \$10.4 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 for state reimbursement under the General Assistance program.

Revenue Sharing (Part A - Pages 359 -691). Allocates \$265 million FY 2026 and FY 2027 for distribution to municipalities under the revenue sharing program.

School Aid (Part C - Pages 369-374). (1) Establishes the minimum mil rate expectation at 6.10; (2) sets the minimum total cost of funding K-12 education at \$2.74 billion; (3) appropriates \$1.5 billion as the state's 55% share; and (4) appropriates \$285.6 million as the state's contribution to the unfunded actuarial liabilities for Maine teachers' retirement benefits.

Revenue Sharing (Part D - Page 386). Allocates an additional \$11 million in FY 2025 for distribution to municipalities under the revenue sharing program to align with December 1, 2024 revenue projections.

Crisis Receiving Centers (Part R - Page 392). Under existing law, the Department of Health and Human Resources is directed to establish crisis receiving centers in Aroostook and Penobscot Counties to support individuals dealing with behavioral health or substance use issues. This part directs the department to instead locate one of the centers in Androscoggin rather than Aroostook County.

Disaster Recovery Fund (Part GG - Page 396). Directs the state controller to transfer \$5 million of unappropriated General Fund surplus revenues to the Disaster Recovery Fund.

General Assistance (GA) Program (Part SS - Page 400). Requires designated GA administrators to annually complete training and directs the Department of Health and Human Services to annually inform municipal GA administrators about the program's rules, requirements and compliance expectations.

[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) **Enacted; PL 2025, c. 46**

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) **DEAD**

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.) **DEAD**

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. Reny 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.) **Finally Passed; Resolves, 2025, c. 14**

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.) **DEAD**

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.) **DEAD**

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.) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 3**

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.) **DEAD**

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)

DEAD

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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)

Enacted; PL 2025, c. 23

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) **DEAD**

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.) **DEAD**

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.) **On Appropriations Table**

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.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 4**

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.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 5**

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.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 6**

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.) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **Passed to be Engrossed**

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.) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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.) **DEAD**

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) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 7**

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) **Enacted; PL 2025, c. 43**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **Enacted; PL 2025, c. 15**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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.) **DEAD**

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.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 13**

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.) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 8**

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.) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 9**

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) **DEAD**

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.) **DEAD**

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.) **Enacted; PL 2025, c. 1 (effective 6/20/25)**

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.) **Enacted; PL 2025, c. 7**

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.) **DEAD**

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) **Enacted; P & SL 2025, c. 1**

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) **DEAD**

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) **Enacted; PL 2025, c. 6**

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) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 10**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2025, c. 11**

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.) **DEAD**

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.) **DEAD**

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.) **DEAD**

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.

No LD # Legislation