

LPC Zoom Meeting & Poll – April 22, 2025
(N=36)

	LD 1159 Cash Payments	LD 1459 GA Reporters	LD 1525 Firewood Banks	LD 1665 Property Tax FC
Support	21%	45%	59%	81%
Oppose	52%	36%	14%	6%
NFNA	21%	18%	24%	13%
Track	3%	0%	3%	0%
No Position	3%	0%	0%	0%

	LD 1669 Cannabis Council	LD 1671 LEO Disclosure	LD 1675 Eminent Domain	LD 1676 Rural EMS
Support	6%	58%	9%	14%
Oppose	53%	6%	63%	26%
NFNA	22%	30%	17%	40%
Track	3%	0%	0%	9%
No Position	16%	6%	11%	11%

	LD 1681 Municipal Shelters	LD 1683 Free FOAA	LD 1702 Polling Place Limit	LD 1707 GA & Immigration
Support	54%	0%	72%	12%
Oppose	11%	89%	16%	79%
NFNA	23%	8%	9%	6%
Track	0%	0%	0%	0%
No Position	11%	3%	3%	3%

[LD 1581](#), *An Act Regarding the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Certain Veterans* – motion to reconsider LPC position to support failed.

[LD 1428](#), *An Act to Increase Access to Child Care for Maine Families* – motion to reconsider LPC position to oppose failed.

Comments Received by Poll Participants

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

Support

- We should have to accept cash.

NFNA

- The bill appears to seek to ensure that businesses, municipalities, and other governmental entities accept cash payments for in-person transactions, which could benefit individuals who rely on cash. However, we have to recognize that this may present operational challenges for certain entities, particularly those that have moved to cashless systems for

efficiency or security reasons. I think it is important to consider the potential impacts on both public and private entities before taking a definitive stance.

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

Oppose

- I am a General Assistance Officer who meets clients in the office and not in the home. I don't feel like I would have enough information or time to clearly determine if there is abuse or neglect. I would be reporting everyone who has children because of mismanagement of money; unkempt appearance; etc.

NFNA

- While adding General Assistance officers as mandated reporters could help protect vulnerable individuals, it also raises concerns about increased responsibilities, training needs, and potential liability for municipal staff. Further clarification and support would be needed to assess the full impact on local operations.

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

Support

- This bill appears to represent a practical, compassionate, and community-driven approach to supporting Maine families in need. It offers state-level support and infrastructure without imposing undue mandates or costs on local governments or nonprofits. I think a support position is well-aligned with both humanitarian and fiscal responsibility goals.

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

Support

- While I support the goal of easing the property tax burden for Maine families—especially those with dependents or fixed incomes—I remain cautious about how this relief is funded. The bill offers targeted benefits through caps based on income and family status, which is thoughtful and equitable in theory. However, as a Maine taxpayer, I'm concerned that this may simply shift the financial burden elsewhere, potentially through increased taxes or reduced services. Taking a neutral position allows time to assess whether this is genuine relief or a redistribution of costs, and whether the state has a sustainable funding plan in place to support it.
- Provided that the additional requirement is not connected to filing an income tax. Those who don't file do not get the benefit of the tax fairness credit even though they are eligible. Something is broken in the system of taxation. Too many times, individuals that are elderly do not know that they are eligible.

Oppose

- This is income tax relief, and a study to evaluate tax fairness credits. I don't appreciate the misleading title.

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

Support

- Medical and adult marijuana needs to be closely looked at with similar policies and charges available for towns if they opt in. There are too many gray areas and every time you call it depends on who answers the phone. Needs to be clear and concise policies for both adult and medical.

NFNA

- This position allows space to evaluate the potential benefits of a Cannabis Advisory Council without endorsing or opposing the bill outright. Being mindful the council could provide a valuable forum for dialogue among stakeholders and help guide policy improvements in Maine's medical and adult-use cannabis industries but knowing it doesn't *necessarily* affect all communities (those that opted out).

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

Support

- This promotes transparency and accountability in the criminal justice system by ensuring that information related to a law enforcement officer's credibility is disclosed when relevant. This helps protect the integrity of court proceedings, supports fair trials, and strengthens public trust in law enforcement by ensuring that all parties operate on a level playing field when credibility is at issue.
- I would support the bill since I feel that the prosecuting attorney should be aware of any problems with the law enforcement officer that might discredit the law enforcement officer providing the testimony and get the charges dismissed.
- It should be disclosed if they are potentially an uncredible witness.

[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)

Support

- The bill provides a fair and long-term approach to compensating property owners whose land is taken by transmission and distribution utilities through eminent domain. By tying compensation to a percentage of the revenue generated from the project and distributing it annually over 20 years, the bill ensures that landowners receive ongoing, proportional compensation that reflects the continued use and value derived from their property. This approach helps balance the needs of infrastructure development with the rights of property owners.

- I feel that individuals who lose property use should be compensated for their loss. Not sure if it should be 20 years of support. They also should receive a decrease in the tax burden on their property by the town.

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)

Support

- This resolve acknowledges the urgent challenges facing rural EMS services in Maine, particularly around staffing shortages. By studying how access to health insurance could improve recruitment and retention, the state takes a thoughtful, data-driven step toward stabilizing a critical component of rural health care. Exploring affordable insurance options could help attract and retain qualified personnel who might otherwise leave due to lack of benefits, ultimately improving emergency response and public safety in underserved areas.

Oppose

- I don't approve of funding studies that would potentially bring to fruition outcomes that would be adverse to the town I represent.

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)

NFNA

- While recognizing the importance of addressing housing and shelter needs, updating the definition of "public service infrastructure" could carry broader zoning, funding, or regulatory implications that warrant closer examination. Remaining neutral allows space for additional stakeholder input and analysis before taking a definitive stance.

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

Oppose

- There is still a cost to the town to research and provide whatever information is being requested. A fee sometimes decreases frivolous requests.

NFNA

- This position on the bill allows for a balanced consideration of both the public's right to access information and the practical implications for government agencies. While the intent to increase transparency and reduce financial barriers is commendable, waiving all fees based solely on a petition may create challenges for resource-limited agencies, especially if processing complex or large-volume requests. A neutral stance provides room to explore whether the threshold of 150 registered voters is appropriate and how best to support access without overburdening public entities.

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

Support

- It strengthens the integrity and neutrality of the voting environment. By clearly defining "candidate" to include all types of candidates—regardless of party affiliation or write-in status—and by prohibiting political activities such as collecting signatures or soliciting campaign funds within 250 feet of a polling place, the bill reinforces the principle that voting spaces should remain free from political pressure or influence. This ensures that all voters can cast their ballots in a nonpartisan, respectful atmosphere, which is vital to maintaining public trust in the electoral process.
- When I vote, I have already researched the qualifications of those running and made up my mind. I don't want to be harassed by individuals.

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)

Support

- Support as a measure to ensure that state and local financial assistance programs are aligned with federal eligibility standards. Requiring recipients to be U.S. citizens promotes consistency, transparency, and accountability in how public resources are distributed. This bill also supports municipalities in adhering to existing federal immigration laws, helping to clarify roles and responsibilities without placing undue burden on local governments.

Oppose

- I am a General Assistance Officer who tries to help individuals not get evicted from where they are living; to have their power turned off; and have basic necessities. I do not want to be required to prove that they are U.S. citizens. Maybe instead we could expand our program to cover those who are just over the minimum allowed but really need assistance.