

## 2024 Legislative Preview

Below is a list of the municipally relevant carryover bills that MMA staff will monitor until the members of the 131<sup>st</sup> Maine State Legislature are finally adjourned in May of 2024. The list also contains the titles of new bills, designated as LRs, that legislators have requested be considered during the “emergency” second session. However, six members of the Legislative Council (e.g., Senate President, Speaker of the House and the majority and minority leaders from each chamber) must vote to advance the requested legislation.

### Agriculture Conservation & Forestry

#### **Bill Requests**

##### LICENSING

LR 2814 – An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Municipal Kennels by Changing the Licensing Body of Municipal Kennel Licenses from the Municipality to the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry

LR 2930 – An Act to Improve Maine’s Pesticide Use Disclosure Laws

##### FOOD SECURITY

LR 2960 – An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food

### Education

#### **Bill Requests**

LR 2901 – An Act to Provide Statewide Equity in Public Education

LR 2799 – An Act to Require the Return of School Budget Surplus Funds to Their Respective Municipalities

#### **Carried Over (\*From Appropriations)**

LD 1402 - An Act to Provide an Additional Allocation in the School Funding Formula to Cover Tax-exempt Property or a Large Economically Disadvantaged Student Population – *Carried over, LPC voted NFNA.*

LD 154\* – An Act Regarding Special Education Funding for So-called Minimum Receiver School Administration Units

LD 142\* - An Act to Fund Climate-related Service Work

LD 143\* - An Act to Support Rural Service Programming and Promote Volunteerism

### Energy, Utilities & Technology

#### **Carried Over (\*From Appropriations)**

LD 1967 – An Act to Support Municipal Franchise Agreements – *Public Hearing to be held on 10/25, LPC voted to support.*

LD 122 - An Act to Authorize the Efficiency Maine Trust to Establish a Program to Support the Uptake of Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicles by Maine Businesses and to Establish a Medium-duty and Heavy-duty Zero-emission Vehicle-to-grid Pilot Project – *Another concept draft carried over.*

## **Environment & Natural Resources**

### **Bill Requests**

#### SHORELAND ZONING

LR 2898 - An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund

LR 2899 - An Act Regarding Municipal Shoreland Zoning Enforcement

#### MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

LR 2798 - Resolve, to Investigate and Address Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services Issues

#### WATER QUALITY

LR 2849 - An Act to Strengthen Storm Water Infrastructure

LR 2634 – An Act to Reclassify a Section of the Androscoggin River to Class B

### **Carried Over (\*From Appropriations)**

LD 928- Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment – *LPC Opposed*

LD 1009 - An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste – *LPC voted NFNA*

LD 1418 - An Act Concerning Single-use Disposable Water Bottles and Water Refill Stations – *LPC Opposed*

LD 1660- An Act to Provide That Advanced Recycling Facilities Are Subject to Solid Waste Regulation and That Advanced Recycling Does Not Constitute Recycling – *LPC Voted No Position*

## **Health & Human Services**

### **Bill Requests**

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

LR 2942 - An Act to Standardize Municipal Public Health Policies

### **Carried Over (\*From Appropriations)**

LD 75 - An Act to Establish Maximum Contaminant Levels Under the State’s Drinking Water Rules to Prohibit Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – *LPC Opposed*

LD 1426 - An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance – *LPC Voted NFNA*

LD 1664\* - (MMA BILL) An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program  
LD 1675 - An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the General Assistance Program Regarding Eligibility, Housing Assistance and State Reimbursement and to Establish a Working Group – *LPC Opposed*  
LD 1732\* - (MMA BILL) An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program  
LD 599\* - An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons

### **Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (was Taxation)**

#### **Carried Over**

LD 629 - An Act to Improve, Protect and Defend the Individual Civil Right to bear Arms Through Exemption of Firearms and Ammunition from Taxation – *LPC Opposed*

### **Judiciary (but maybe TAXATION...)**

#### **Bill Requests**

LR 2717 - An Act Regarding the Poverty Abatement Timeline

### **Labor & Housing (and Housing Committee)**

#### **Bill Requests**

##### **HOUSING**

LR 2823 - An Act to Ensure That Manufactured Housing May Be Built on Lots Where Single-Family Dwelling Are Allowed

LR 2803 – An Act to Increase Housing Options in Maine Municipal Association

LR 2983 – An Act to Improve the Housing Voucher System

LR 2921 – An Act to Address Maine’s Affordable Housing Crisis (*remove restrictions on limiting minimum size*)

LR 2650 – An Act to Prevent Homelessness During Repairs for Breach of Covenant of Habitability

##### **EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

LR 2769 - An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Earned Paid Leave

LR 2813 - An Act to Encourage Business Growth and Improve Employment Benefits by Implementing a Voluntary Paid Medical Leave Program

##### **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

LR 2912 - An Act to Improve Maine’s Labor Laws by Changing the Laws Governing Collective

## Bargaining Elections for Certain Public Employees

### **Carried Over (\*From Appropriations)**

LD 513 - An Act Regarding Overtime Protections for Certain Maine Workers – *LPC Opposed*

LD 949\* - An Act to Protect Workers from Employment Surveillance – *LPC Opposed*

LD 1152 - An Act to Make Long-Term Disability Insurance Coverage Available to Public Employees – *LPC Opposed*

### **Public Safety Bill Requests (Health & Human Services, Judiciary & CJPS Committees likely)**

#### NEW LAW, TRAINING REQ. OR TOOL

LR 2906 - Resolve, to Require the Establishment of a Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Professionals

LR 2907 – An Act to Exclude Certain Operating Under the Influence Crimes from the Immunity Provisions That Are Triggered When Law Enforcement Is Called for a Suspected Overdose

LR 2560 - An Act to Establish the Animal Response Team (*concept draft in process with a goal of creating regional investigative & response teams and increased training for ACO's at MCJA*)

LR 2831 – An Act to Ensure Safe Dispositions of Forfeited Firearms

LR 2832 - An Act to Support Maine's Public Safety Response to Domestic Violence and Stalking

LR 2802 – An Act Relating to Preventing Suicide by Permitting the Voluntary Waiver of Firearms Rights

LR 2835 – An Act to Protect Access to Emergency Treatment for Injured Law Enforcement Dogs

LR 2936 – An Act to Enhance the Effectiveness of Juvenile Diversion Programs

LR 2624 – An Act to Ban Paramilitary Training Camps (*3 bills same title*)

LR 2838 – An Action to Require Information on Domestic Terrorism to Be Included in the Department of Public Safety's Annual Report and Add Minimum Training Standards on Domestic Terrorism and Hate Crimes to the Standards Established by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for Law Enforcement Agencies

LR 2939 – Resolve, to Review Fatalities Occurring While an Operator was Under the Influence and Subsequent Prosecution of Those Occurrences

LR 2957 – An Act to Protect Victims of Domestic Abuse and Violence

#### COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE

LR 2958 - An Act to Address Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder and Homelessness

LR 2879- An Act to Establish Sanctioned Areas for Emergency Encampments in Certain Municipalities

LR 2940- An Act to Prohibit Clearing of Unhoused Encampments Without Providing Proper Housing Options

LR 2967 – An Act to Prohibit Clearing Encampments of Unhoused Individuals (*again 3 bills with similar themes*)

## FIRE/EMS

- LR 2840 – An Act to Fill All Vacant Seats on the Emergency Medical Services’ Board
- LR 2729 – An Act Regarding Equitable Reimbursement of Training Costs for Newly Trained Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Who Change Governmental Employers
- LR 2871 – An Act to Create the Central Lincoln County Emergency Medical Services Authority
- LR 2851 – An Act to Improve Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters
- LR 2868 – An Act to Support Adequate Staffing in Fire Departments Through Grants
- LR 2869 – An Act to Strengthen Firefighters’ Collective Bargaining Rights
- LR 2876 – An Act to Offset the Cost to Public Agencies and to Municipalities for Training New Emergency Services Personnel
- LR 2857 – An Act to Exempt Buildings Used to Cultivate Crops from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code

## COUNTIES/JAILS

- LR 2747- An Act Regarding the Detention of Juveniles
- LR 2817 - An Act to Allow Detention of Juveniles for Certain Acts
- LR 2860 – Resolve to Ensure Timely Access to Medication Management Across the State
- LR 2905 - 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
- LR 2903 – An Act to Provide Investigative Authority to the Maine State Police, Sheriffs and Local Police Regarding Maine’s Recreational Cannabis Laws and Ordinances to Ensure Proper Enforcement
- LR 2850 – An Act to Reinstate State Police Rural Patrol Services
- LR 2671- An Act to Provide MaineCare Coverage to All Residents of County Jails and Their Dependents
- LR 2878 – An Act to Provide Funding for Dispatchers at the Washington County Regional Communications Center
- LR 2883 – An Act Provide Funding for Positions in the Washington County Sheriff’s Office
- LR 2708 – An Act Protecting the Confidentiality of Attorney- Client E-mail Communication for Residents of Jails and Correctional Facilities

## **Carried Over (\*From Appropriations)**

- LD 444 – (MMA Bill) An Act to Designate First Responders and Other Public Safety Professionals as a Special Risk Population for the Purposes of Improving Insurance Coverage for the Effects of Trauma
- LD 630 – An Act to Ensure Rural Law Enforcement Services in Maine (CD)
- LD 913 – An Act to Support First Responders (CD)
- LD 1409 - An Act to Require Reimbursement When a Municipality Hire First Responders Whose Training Costs Were Incurred by Another Municipality
- LD 1596 – An Act to Facilitate the Creation of an Aroostook County Drug Treatment Court
- LD 1751 – An Act to Maximize Federal Funding in Support of Emergency Medical Services
- LD 1832\*- An Act to Require Reimbursement of Fees for Treatment Rendered by Public and Private Ambulance Services

LD 1857\* – (Amended version of MMA Bill) Resolve, to Establish a Public Safety Health and Wellness Grant Pilot Program  
LD 179 -An Act to Provide Support for Restorative Justice Practices in Maine (CD)  
LD 748 - An Act to Strengthen the Due Process Rights of Persons in Law Enforcement Custody  
LD 1301\* – An Act to Examine the Need for Intensive Case Managers and Improve Consistency Among County Jails Regarding Prisoner Attendance at Funerals, Furloughs, Visitation, Education and Discretionary Accounts  
LD 1086 - An Act To Define the Term “Solitary Confinement” for the Laws Governing a Jail or Correctional Facility  
LD 1721 – An Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations  
LD 1863\* – An Act to Facilitate the Provision of Medically Appropriate Levels of Care for Clients of Correctional Facilities

## **State and Local Government**

### **Carried Over (\*From Appropriations)**

LD 1733 - An Act to Require the Revenue Forecasting Committee to Prepare Economic Impact Statements for Certain Legislation – *Carried over; LPC voted no position.*  
LD 93\* – An Act to Ensure Access for All Caregivers to Diaper Changing Stations in State Buildings Open to the Public  
LD 577\* - An Act to Increase Availability and Security of Election Information on Government Websites

## **Taxation**

### **Bill Requests**

#### **EXCISE TAX**

LR 2622 - An Act to Eliminate the Excise Tax on Certain Recreational Vehicles  
LR 2713 - An Act to Assist Disabled Veterans in Applying for Excise Tax Exemptions  
LR 2788 - An Act Regarding Excise tax on Antique Automobiles  
LR 2821 - An Act to Allow Disabled veterans to Receive an Excise Tax Exemption Regardless of Whether They Have Disabled Veterans Registration Plates  
LR 2852 - An Act to Exempt motor Vehicles of Active Duty Service Members Stationed Out-of-State from Excise Tax  
LR 2950 - An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Excise tax on Camper Trailers

#### **PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION**

LR 2709 - An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Create Lakefront Protection Improvement Districts

#### **PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS**

LR 2653 - An Act to Clarify the Property Tax Exemption for Air Pollution Control Facilities

## FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE

LR 2848 - An Act to Amend the Recapture Penalty Imposed Under the Farm and Open Space Tax Law

## PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

LR 2779 - An Act to Reestablish the Property Tax Stabilization Program for Senior Citizens

LR 2900 - An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Municipal Property Tax Deferral Programs

LR 2922 - An Act to Decrease Property Taxes Through the Property Tax Deferral Program and Homestead Exemption Reimbursement to Municipalities

## PROPERTY TAX PROCEDURES

LR 2718 - An Act Regarding the Property Value Reassessment Process

LR 2833 - An Act to Allow Municipalities to Use Land Value Taxation

LR 2929 - An Act to Support Municipalities by Repealing the Law Limiting the Municipal Property Tax Levy

## **Carried Over (\*From Appropriations)**

LD 191 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Certain Business Equipment Tax Benefits – *LPC Voted NFNA*

LD 996 An Act to Allow a Municipality to Establish a Local Option Sales Tax – *LPC Supported (no PH)*

LD 1153 An Act to Allow Municipalities to Tax Personal Solar Equipment Under 5 Megawatts – *LPC Supported*

LD 1258\* - An Act to Increase the Personal Property Tax Exemption for Farm Machinery – *LPC Supported (supported as written with 100% reimbursement -amended to 50%)*

LD 1298- An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing – *LPC Voted NFNA (no PH)*

LD 1345 - An Act to Permit Municipalities to Establish by Ordinance a Program for Partial Deferral of Property Taxes for Seniors – *LPC Supported*

LD 1493\*- (MMA BILL) An Act to Increase Affordable Housing by Expanding Tax Increment Financing

LD 1538 - An Act to Provide Tax Benefits to Persons Constructing Accessory Dwelling Units – *LPC Voted NFNA*

LD 1648 - An Act to Make Changes to the Farm and Open Space Tax Laws – *LPC Support*

LD 1685 - (MMA BILL) An Act to Increase Acreage Eligibility and Change Requirements for Filing Plans Under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law

LD 1737 - An Act to Provide up to \$5,000 in Property Tax Relief to Veterans – *LPC Voted NFNA*

LD 1893 - An Act to Allow a Municipality to Impose a Fee on Short-Term Rentals for the Benefit of That Municipality – *LPC Supported (no PH)*

\*\*carried over concepts drafts not included

## **Transportation**

**Bill Requests**

LR 2828 – An Act to Assist Municipalities to Maintain Safe Public Ways

**Veterans & Legal Affairs**

**Bill Requests**

LR 2638 – An Act to Update the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in a Municipality

**Carried Over (\*From Appropriations)**

LD 40 – An Act to Amend the Cannabis Laws – *Concept draft carried over to be used as a vehicle for any recommendations that come out of the VLA subcommittee.*

LD 332 - An Act to Amend the State's Election Laws – *Concept draft*

LD 1530 - An Act to Support Patients by Permitting On-site Consumption of Medical Cannabis and Medical Cannabis Products –*LPC voted to oppose.*

LD 1914 - An Act to Enact the Maine Psilocybin Health Access Act –*LPC voted to oppose.*

LD 1952 - An Act to Allow On-site Cannabis Consumption – *LPC voted to oppose.*

LD 1691\* - An Act to Provide Parity in State Energy Rate Relief Payments and Tax Exemptions for Maine Cannabis Businesses