

2021 LD List
1st Session of the 130th Maine Legislature
Prepared by the Maine Municipal Association

Please note that bills are presented in reverse chronological order. To read the full text of the bill, please click on the LD number.

April 15, 2021

[LD 1515](#) An Act To Create a People’s Revisor. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This bill requires the Office of the Revisor of Statutes to provide drafting assistance to persons involved in initiating a people's veto or direct initiative of a bill, resolve or resolution pursuant to the Constitution of Maine or drafting local referenda. This bill also requires the office to provide classes on the drafting of people's vetoes, direct initiatives of legislation and local referenda.

[LD 1514](#) An Act To Provide for Fairness in Property Taxation by Assessing a One-time Tax on Financial Assets. (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill establishes a one-time 0.5% tax on financial assets, including cash and cash equivalents, securities and other financial instruments, with a fair market value in excess of \$5 million. The State Tax Assessor is directed to: (1) determine the amount of tax due; (2) enforce the collection of the tax; (3) adopt routine technical rules necessary to administer and enforce the tax; and (4) transfer 50% of the receipts to the Local Government Fund and 50% to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund.

[LD 1513](#) An Act To Require the Maintenance of a Discontinued Public Road That Provides the Sole Access to One or More Residences. (Sponsored by Rep. Newman of Belgrade)

This bill requires that when a road or a discontinued town way on which a public easement is retained and is the only road that can be used to access one or more residences and the town issues permits for residential use or collects property taxes on those properties, the town is not required to keep the road or way safe and convenient for travelers with motor vehicles, but must provide sufficient maintenance to keep the road or way passable to access the residences on the road or way, as determined by the county commissioners.

[LD 1509](#) An Act to Provide That Maine’s School Bus Drivers Are Eligible for Unemployment Insurance in Certain Circumstances. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.)

This bill provides that a school bus driver is eligible to receive unemployment benefits for any week for which the school does not require the services of that school bus driver due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of that school bus driver.

[LD 1507](#) An Act To Establish a Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program and Allocation. (Emergency) (Governor’s Bill) (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill establishes the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to receive and distribute to units of local government funds received pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

[LD 1505](#) An Act To Restrict the Use of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Firefighting Foam. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This bill prohibits, beginning Jan. 1, 2022, the discharge of firefighting or fire suppressing foam to which perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances have been added when used for testing or training except when the foam is entirely collected for proper disposal. The bill also prohibits, beginning Jan. 1, 2022, the manufacture, sale and distribution of such foam unless federal law requires the inclusion of PFAS substances in the foam. If federal law is changed to allow an alternative to firefighting or fire-suppressing foam to which PFAS substances have been added, then the foam may not be manufactured, sold or distributed. A person that discharges or causes to be discharged into the coastal or inland waters of the state firefighting or fire-suppressing foam to which PFAS substances have been added must notify the Department of Environmental Protection as soon as practicable but no more than 24 hours after the discharge. By Jan. 1, 2022, manufacturers of firefighting or fire-suppressing foam to which PFAS substances have been added must notify their customers of these requirements, recall the foam and reimburse the retailer or other purchaser for the foam. The Department of Environmental Protection is directed to collaborate with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency and interested parties to develop a framework for the collection and safe storage of firefighting and fire-suppressing foam prohibited by this legislation and not returned to the manufacturer until the foam can be safely disposed of and submit a report including the framework to the ng Committee on Environment and Natural Resources by March 31, 2022.

[LD 1504](#) An Act To Enhance Use of Critical Incident Stress Management Teams for Firefighters. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This bill directs the Commissioner of Public Safety to provide critical incident stress management team services to all firefighters in the state by assisting fire departments in establishing critical incident stress management teams individually or in groups, providing critical incident stress management team services to a fire department that does not have a team, providing critical incident stress management training for at least one firefighter in every fire department and providing education, training and promotional programs and materials regarding critical incident stress management teams and services to fire departments. This bill also requires fire departments to have at least one employee or firefighter who has received critical incident stress management training and provide education and access to ongoing behavioral health care related to post-traumatic stress experienced by a firefighter. A fire department is also required, within department resources, to maintain a critical incident stress management team, which may include collaboration with another fire department.

[LD 1503](#) An Act To Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This bill requires manufacturers of products with intentionally added PFAS to report the presence of substances in those products to the Department of Environmental Protection beginning in 2023. This bill also prohibits the sale of residential carpets or rugs, as well as the sale of fabric treatments, that contain intentionally added PFAS beginning in 2023. Additional product categories containing intentionally added PFAS may also be identified by the department and prohibited from sale. Effective in 2030, products containing intentionally added PFAS may

not be sold unless the use of PFAS in a product is specifically designated as a currently unavoidable use by the department. The department is required to create a PFAS source reduction program that provides information, education and, to the extent funds are available, grants to publicly owned treatment works and municipalities to reduce PFAS entering air, water or land.

[LD 1502](#) An Act To Clarify Safety Issues in Schools with Respect to Health-related States of Emergency. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This bill requires school superintendents, during a health-related state of emergency, to comply with any health-related executive orders and proclamations made by the Governor and any directives and guidance issued by the director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the Department of Health and Human Services and, while the state of emergency is in effect, send a monthly report, copied to the school board, on all the steps the school administrative unit is taking to comply with any health-related executive order, proclamation, directive or guidance.

April 14, 2021

[LD 1499](#) An Act To Improve Accountability in Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Reporting. (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris)

This concept draft bill would enact the Seizure and Forfeiture Reporting Act, which is model legislation to provide state lawmakers with the information necessary for basic oversight of law enforcement agencies that seize and forfeit property under state and federal laws. Entities subject to legislative oversight include police force, multijurisdictional task force, prosecuting authority, fire department, or other municipal, county or state agency that (a) has authority under state law or (b) collaborates with a federal agency under federal law to seize or forfeit property. The model envisioned in the bill includes the creation of a Centralized Reporting Authority directed to establish and maintain a case tracking system and searchable public website that includes the 24 data points (e.g., date and estimated value of seizure, location of seizures, method and date of final forfeiture and property disposition, etc.) regarding the property seized and forfeited under state law and any agreement with the federal government.

[LD 1496](#) An Act To Establish the Board of Canvassers for Certifying Election Results. (Sponsored by Rep. Kinney of Knox)

This bill establishes the Board of Canvassers to examine the returns submitted to the Secretary of State by municipal election officials for general and special elections for federal and state offices. The board consists of four members, equally representing the political parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature. The board is charged with submitting a statement of certification to the Governor when three or more members of the board agree that the returns submitted to the secretary are accurate. The board may order a recount of the entire electoral district or of a specific municipality within that district if three or more members determine that the returns from that district are not accurate.

[LD 1493](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development To Create and Administer a Fund To Provide Seasonal and Tourism Industry Recovery Grants. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to create and administer a fund to provide grants to seasonal and tourism businesses to compensate for the loss of revenue and profits due to state-ordered closures or restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, to be funded by any federal funds received by the state in 2021 eligible to be used for that purpose.

[LD 1488](#) Resolve, To Study and Recommend Improvements to Maine's Dam Safety. (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth)

This resolve requires the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to conduct a study of the state's dams and dam safety efforts, including an assessment of the hazard potential and classification of each dam, the potential risk of dam failure to downstream communities and public resources, dam resiliency, and the efficacy of the state's related safety efforts. The department is required to have the Association of State Dam Safety Officials conduct a peer review of the state's dam safety efforts by Dec. 1, 2021 and submit a report on the results of its study, including suggested legislation, and the peer review to the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee by Jan. 14, 2022. The committee is authorized to submit a bill based on the report in 2022.

[LD 1487](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Seek a Waiver for Additional Medication-assisted Treatment for Certain Persons with Substance Use Disorder up to 30 Days Prior to Their Release from Incarceration. (Sponsored by Rep. Stover of Boothbay)

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services, by Dec. 1, 2021, to seek a waiver from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services authorizing federal Medicaid matching funds for additional medication-assisted treatment for persons with substance use disorder who are incarcerated up to 30 days prior to the release of the persons from incarceration.

[LD 1485](#) An Act to Modify the Requirements for Political Action Committees and Ballot Question Committees. (Presented by Rep. Caiazzo of Scarborough for the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices)

In part, this bill amends the laws governing registration and financial reporting by political action committees and ballot question committees by: (1) defining "ballot question committee" to mean a person that receives contributions or makes expenditures aggregating in excess of \$5,000 for the purpose of initiating or influencing a ballot question campaign; (2) requiring a political action committee or ballot question committee to establish a campaign account in a bank or other financial institution that is separate from the other financial accounts of the person that established the political action committee or ballot question committee; and (3) exempting from the definition of "expenditure" payments made for the purpose of initiating a citizen's initiative or people's veto referendum prior to applying to the Secretary of State to initiate the question.

[LD 1484](#) An Act To Enhance the Connect Maine Authority's Capacity To Provide World-class Internet. (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

In part, this bill amends the laws governing the ConnectMaine Authority by: (1) reorganizing the authority as a nonprofit organization with oversight provided by a board of

directors; (2) authorizing the authority to acquire and hold securities, issue bonds, acquire and hold equity investments and enter into agreements or contracts with public and private entities; (3) requiring the authority to submit to the committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters no later than Jan. 15, 2030 a proposal, along with any necessary implementing legislation, designed to facilitate the termination and repeal of the authority by Jan. 15, 2032; and (4) altering the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund to authorize the authority to offer loans to and make direct equity investments in any public or private entity using a proposal solicitation process.

[LD 1482](#) An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth)

This bill removes the requirement that a person own a homestead in this state for 12 months before being eligible for the homestead property tax exemption. This bill also requires the state to provide reimbursement of 100% of the revenue lost by a municipality due to removing that 12-month requirement, but only for the first year of eligibility. If a resident is eligible for the homestead exemption but does not take it until after the first year of eligibility, that exemption is eligible only for 70% reimbursement by the state. After the first year of eligibility, the state reimbursement rate drops to the current rate of 70%.

[LD 1480](#) An act Regarding the Review of Law Enforcement Use of Deadly Force. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill requires the Attorney General (AG) to complete an investigation of and submit the findings regarding the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer to the Deadly Force Review Panel within 180 days of receiving notice of the use of deadly force. The AG is required to provide notice to the panel if the investigation and findings are not complete within 180 days and provide a summary of the investigation up to the date of the notice, identify the reason for the delay and provide an anticipated conclusion date for the investigation and findings, which may not exceed 270 days from receiving notice of the use of deadly force. The bill also excludes from the definition of "intelligence and investigative record information", which is confidential under the law, a video recording of the use of force by a law enforcement officer.

[LD 1479](#) An Act to Make Certain Traffic Infractions Secondary Offenses. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to make certain traffic infractions secondary offenses, including littering from a vehicle, failing to register a vehicle or properly display a vehicle registration, failing to display a valid and current vehicle inspection sticker, failing to wear a seat belt, making unnecessary noise, operating of a defective vehicle, operating a motorcycle without a headlight, operating a vehicle with an obstructed view, operating a vehicle in a 2-way or left lane, or operating a vehicle with a suspended license as a result of failure to pay a fine, license reinstatement fee or a dishonored check.

[LD 1478](#) An Act To Decriminalize Homelessness. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This bill provides a response other than traditional arrest for a person who lacks a home who commits certain listed low-level violations of law including loitering, disorderly conduct and public drinking. The bill requires the Attorney General to adopt a homelessness crisis

protocol to be implemented by law enforcement agencies. The protocol must provide mental health and substance use disorder professionals who are trained in crisis response to respond to the encounter between the law enforcement officer and the person who lacks a home and provide appropriate information and referrals to resources in the community, including, but not limited to, crisis services, emergency and transitional housing and case management services.

[LD 1476](#) Resolve, Directing the Maine Economic Growth Council To Create and Share Measures of Progress. (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This resolve directs the Maine Economic Growth Council, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Community Development, to create measures of social and economic progress in the state and a graphical user interface, referred to as "the dashboard," that provides information about key performance indicators of economic and social progress. The content of the dashboard must measure progress against the seven growth strategies described in the "Maine Economic Development Strategy 2020-2029: A Focus on Talent and Innovation." The dashboard must be accessible on the internet to help citizens and lawmakers understand the state's status on key metrics, show change over time and highlight areas of strength and areas that need improvement. The council is directed to report biannually to the Legislature the results captured in the dashboard and on progress toward achieving the goals described in the economic development strategy.

[LD 1473](#) An Act To Exempt Land-based Aquaculture Facilities from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Requirements. (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Sen. Rosen of Hancock Cty.)

This bill adds land-based aquaculture facilities to the buildings that are not subject to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

[LD 1471](#) An Act To Establish a Stewardship Program for Packaging. (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill facilitates the establishment of one or more stewardship programs in the state for packaging material to be operated by a stewardship organization approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. Under such a program, the plan for which must be approved by the department and annually updated following a department review, participating responsible parties that sell, offer for sale or distribute for sale in or into the state certain products contained, protected, delivered, presented or distributed in or using packaging material are required to pay fees related to the packaging material associated with those products. Responsible party payments received by a stewardship organization are used to offset operational recycling costs incurred by eligible entities or to fund grants to eligible entities, which may include municipalities, refuse disposal districts and regional waste management associations in the state. As of Jan. 1, 2025, the bill preempts municipal authority to adopt ordinances establishing a packaging stewardship program and any ordinance or regulation that violates the preemption is void as of Jan. 15, 2025.

April 12, 2021

[LD 1468](#) An Act To Support All-terrain Vehicle Trail Improvement. (Sponsored by Rep. Stearns of Guilford)

This bill requires all use taxes collected on the rental of all-terrain vehicles to be deposited in the ATV Recreational Management Fund.

[LD 1467](#) An Act To Promote a Circular Economy through Increased Post-consumer Recycled Plastic Content in Plastic Beverage Containers. (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This bill provides that beginning Jan. 1, 2026, a manufacturer of beverages in plastic beverage containers may not sell or distribute in Maine a plastic beverage container unless the total number of plastic beverage containers has, on average and in the aggregate, at least 25% post-consumer recycled plastic. That post-consumer recycled plastic requirement increases to 30% beginning on Jan. 1, 2031. The bill also requires the Department of Environmental Protection to administer and enforce these provisions and authorizes the department to assess administrative penalties against a noncompliant manufacturer based on the pounds of plastic beverage containers sold by that manufacturer that are not in compliance.

[LD 1464](#) An Act To Improve Accessibility of Affordable Housing Data. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford)

This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to report annually to the Legislature information issued by the authority and local public housing authorities detailing the disbursement of federal tenant-based housing choice vouchers. During the period of time federal emergency housing rental assistance is received, the authority is also directed to submit monthly reports to the Labor and Housing Committee detailing information concerning the disbursement of the assistance and if there is an excessive delay in application processing time, the reason, if available, for the delay.

[LD 1461](#) An Act Relating to Heat Illness Prevention. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner)

This bill requires the Department of Labor to develop a safety and education training program for employers, supervisors and employees addressing heat illness prevention and requires the department to make the training available on a publicly accessible website by Dec. 31, 2021. The bill also requires: (1) the department to adopt rules for the implementation of the heat illness prevention training program; (2) an employer who requires an employee to work in a high-heat environment for more than 15 minutes for every hour of the work day to provide annual heat illness prevention training, make the training and all relevant materials available to an employee or supervisor upon request, and provide the training to any new employee working in a high-heat environment and to a supervisor before the supervisor may supervise an employee working in a high-heat environment; and (3) an employer to take the following heat illness prevention measures: (A) provide readily accessible drinking water to an employee working in a high-heat environment; (B) remove an employee exhibiting mild to moderate signs or symptoms of heat illness to a cooling area for 15 minutes and, if the signs or symptoms do not abate, seek medical attention or administer first aid; (C) if the temperature is 80 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, maintain one or more cooling areas sufficient to enable employees to participate in recovery periods; (D) if the temperature is 90 degrees or greater, ensure that an employee working in a high-heat environment is able to easily communicate by voice, gesture or electronic means with an employer or supervisor so that the employee may report signs or symptoms of heat illness or request emergency medical services, regularly remind the employee to consume

drinking water, ensure the employee takes one 10-minute break for every two hours spent working in a high-heat environment and review these measures with the employee before the employee begins working in a high-heat environment.

[LD 1459](#) An Act Regarding a Post-judgment Motion by a Person Seeking To Satisfy the Prerequisites for Obtaining Special Restrictions on the Dissemination and Use of Criminal History Record Information for Certain Criminal Convictions. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill proposes to restrict public access to criminal conviction records for individuals who have served sentences and have not committed a new criminal violations for a specific set of Class C and D offenses excluding convictions for: (1) a current or former Class D crime under Title 17-A, chapter 11 or 24 or Title 17-A, section 852, 853 or 855; (2) stalking under Title 17-A, section 210-A or 210-C; (3) a crime of domestic violence or any crime involving domestic violence, as defined in section 28 1003, subsection 3-A; (4) violations of conditional release less than 20 years old if the offense involved assault against a family member or convictions under Title 19-A, section 4002, 31 subsection 4 that are less than 20 years old regardless if the assault was an element of the crime. Access to these records would be remain available to criminal justice agencies for the purpose of employment.

[LD 1456](#) An Act To Invest in Passenger Rail Expansion. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill proposes to create a long-term plan for the development and expansion of passenger rail service in Maine, including within Androscoggin, Kennebec and Penobscot counties, and to identify potential sources of state and federal funding for the development and expansion of passenger rail service in the state.

[LD 1454](#) An Act To Prohibit Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms. (Sponsored by Rep. Zager of Portland)

This bill regulates the manufacture, distribution and possession of undetectable and untraceable firearms and prohibits the possession of undetectable firearms in a courthouse, school, voting place or place of municipal, county or state business.

[LD 1453](#) An Act To Protect Small Employers by Prohibiting Municipalities from adopting Ordinances Regarding employee Work Benefits Other Than Ordinances Regarding Minimum Wage Rates. (Sponsored by Rep. Bradstreet of Vassalboro)

This bill prohibits municipalities from enacting or enforcing an ordinance, regulation or order regulating wages or benefits of an employee provided by an employer except for an ordinance concerning a life safety matter or establishing a minimum wage rate for a particular class of workers during a particular period of time.

[LD 1449](#) An Act To Provide for Education Funding Reform for More Equitable State Support to Communities. (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland)

This concept draft bill proposes to make changes to the school funding formula to create a more fair and equitable system of state funding for education by: (1) adding a per capita income adjustment to the school funding formula; (2) establishing a state per-pupil contribution rate equal to 46% of the cost of educating each student in each school administrative unit (SAU)

with additional funding provided to units with low property valuations and low per capita income; (3) providing additional funding outside of the school funding formula for service center communities to adjust for disparities created among communities by the school funding formula; or (4) adopting a version of one of the following models: (A) the foundation grant model, in which the state determines a minimum amount that should be spent for each student, calculates the ability of an SAU to pay for each student and provides funding for the difference; (B) the guaranteed tax base model, in which the state guarantees that each municipality will raise a guaranteed amount of funding per student at a given rate of property taxation, with the state providing funding to a municipality for the difference between the guaranteed amount of funding and the amount actually raised; (C) the centralized model, in which a standard property tax rate to fund the cost of education is set by the state and the state provides a standard per-pupil amount of funding to each school administrative unit; or (D) the Vermont model, in which the state sets property tax rates and bills property owners to fund the cost of education with a lower rate for homesteads and the state provides funding for education on a per-pupil basis with certain adjustments, including a poverty adjustment. Local school districts may raise additional funds through property taxation to supplement the funding provided by the state, subject to certain requirements and limits. The bill also proposes, until such time as a more equitable change in the school funding formula takes place, that any money to fund education provided in addition to the money annually directed by the school funding formula, including COVID-19 relief funds, must be apportioned to each school administrative unit on a per-pupil basis.

[LD 1448](#) An Act To Increase State Reimbursement to Municipalities for Revenue Lost Due to the Homestead Property Tax Exemption. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

Beginning with property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2022, this bill increases the state reimbursement for the property tax revenue lost by a municipality due to the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption to 100%. This bill also specifies that the property tax assessed on a homestead eligible for the homestead exemption may not be less than \$100.

[LD 1447](#) An Act To Require Training in Racial Issues, Racial Justice and Social Issues at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and To Establish Additional Requirements for Law Enforcement Officers and Candidates. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This bill requires basic law enforcement training to include education in racial issues and justice, regarding persons with substance use disorder and regarding social issues and law enforcement responses to challenging social situations. The bill requires in-service training for law enforcement officers to include information on behavioral health, substance use disorder, homelessness, racial issues and racial justice and other social situations that might be presented to a law enforcement officer. Beginning with applications for certification and recertification on Jan. 1, 2022, this bill requires an applicant for certification or recertification as a law enforcement officer to be legally authorized to work in this country, to be at least 21 years of age, to possess a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma and an associate degree in criminal justice, sociology, psychology, mental health, substance use disorder or implicit bias, to submit to an extensive criminal history record check and to meet the standards for approval established by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and to have completed at least 60 credit hours of postsecondary education, which may be fulfilled by course work completed in earning an associate degree, in criminal justice or a related field,

including but not limited to courses in sociology, psychology, mental health, substance use disorder and implicit bias.

[LD 1446](#) An Act To Aid Municipalities in the Issuance of Concealed Handgun Permits. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety, Chief of the State Police upon request to provide assistance in conducting a background check for a concealed handgun permit for a municipality that has not designated the Chief of the State Police as the issuing authority for concealed handgun permits.

[LD 1440](#) An Act To Provide Safe Gear for Female Firefighters. (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor)

This bill appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 for the State Fire Marshal to provide grants to municipal fire departments, volunteer fire associations and fire districts to purchase safe and properly fitting personal protective equipment and firefighter turnout gear for female firefighters.

[LD 1439](#) An Act To Clarify All-terrain Vehicle Registration Requirements and Establish Regular Maintenance of Designated State-approved All-terrain Vehicle Trails. (Sponsored by Rep. Theriault of China)

Of greatest municipal interest, this bill amends the ATV laws in the following ways: (1) increases the registration fees for all-terrain vehicles by \$25 for each type of registration and requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to use the fees deposited into the ATV Recreational Management Fund to oversee construction and maintenance of designated state-approved ATV trails; (2) for registration purposes, creates a category of “antique ATV,” which is an ATV over 25 years old, and provides that the registration fee is \$33; and (3) creates a category of “oversized all-terrain vehicle,” which is an ATV that is wider than 65 inches or weighs more than 2,000 pounds according to the manufacturer’s specifications and provides that, when registering an oversized ATV, a registration agent must explain orally and in writing the size and weight restrictions for registering that ATV and provisions of the law regarding the use on designated state-approved trails.

[LD 1438](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Declare the Natural, Inherent and Unalienable Right of Enjoying Personal Privacy. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Augusta)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine by declaring that all people have the natural, inherent and unalienable right of enjoying personal privacy.

[LD 1437](#) An act to Reduce Poisoning from Radon, Arsenic and Other Air or Water Pollutants by Expanding Education, Testing and Mitigation Regarding Those Pollutants. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

In part, this bill authorizes the Housing Opportunities for Maine Program funds to be used to pay for the cost of testing for and mitigation of mold, radon, arsenic, uranium or other air or water pollutants and authorizes the Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Program funds to be used to pay for the cost of testing for and mitigation of mold, radon, arsenic, uranium

or other air or water pollutants. The bill also requires the Real Estate Commission to include in the core educational requirements a program or course related to radon, arsenic, uranium and other air or water pollutants and requires any residential real property to be tested for the presence of radon, arsenic and uranium before it can be conveyed.

[LD 1436](#) An Act To Protect Certain Essential Workers from Infectious Disease. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Connell of Brewer)

This bill requires public and private employers that employ persons who provide direct, in-person services in medical settings or in correctional institutions or that employ firefighters or emergency medical services persons, collectively referred to in this bill as "covered employees," to take certain actions with respect to providing personal protective equipment for those covered employees. The bill requires employers to supply personal protective equipment to covered employees and to ensure these employees use the personal protective equipment in accordance with occupational and safety rules of the Department of Labor. It also requires employers to maintain a stockpile of the following specific personal protective equipment equal to three months of normal use by covered employees: N95 filtering face piece respirators, powered air-purifying respirators with high-efficiency particulate air filters, elastomeric air-purifying respirators and appropriate particulate filters or cartridges, surgical masks, isolation gowns, eye protection and shoe coverings. The bill provides that, on or before Jan. 15, 2022, an employer is required to determine its highest 7-day consecutive daily average consumption of personal protective equipment and to provide this information to the Department of Labor upon request.

[LD 1434](#) An Act Regarding Controlled Entry Areas within Retail Marijuana Stores. (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor)

This bill allows a marijuana store to have a controlled, indoor entry area directly inside the store where the identification of a purchaser can be verified and the purchaser can await entry into the store. The area must be physically separated from the sales area of the store, prevent a purchaser in the area from viewing adult use marijuana or adult use marijuana product displayed for sale in the store and have a means to prevent a purchaser from entering the sales area except as permitted by an employee of the store who is present in the entry area.

[LD 1433](#) An Act To Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair)

Of greatest municipal interest this bill amends the motor vehicle laws in the following ways: (1) provides for the continued use by government entities of off-road vehicles in prohibited areas; (2) authorizes the Secretary of State to use rulemaking to regulate municipal agent training requirements, accounting standards, inventory control processes and the collection and transmission of data and funds between agents and the bureau; and (3) limits the number of active specialty license plates to no more than 15.

[LD 1432](#) An Act To Update the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This bill amends the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund, which is a fund administered by the ConnectMaine Authority to address the need in Maine to access ultra-high-speed broadband infrastructure to: (1) limit the grants to a municipality or group of municipalities; (2) remove the cap on the amount of the grant, but limit the amount of ConnectMaine funds that may be used to 50% of the total cost of a project; (3) maintain the

requirement that a municipality provide at least a 25% cash match but provide that the cash match may not consist of funds from a source other than the municipality; and (4) remove specific reporting requirements for applicants, instead requiring them to meet application requirements established by the authority

[LD 1430](#) An Act Regarding the Waiting Period for Compensation for Incapacity To Work under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992. (Sponsored by Rep. Bryant of Windham)

In part, this bill amends the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 by requiring a state or county correctional facility employee or firefighter to receive compensation from the date of incapacity.

[LD 1429](#) An Act To Implement the Most Time-sensitive Recommendations of the Maine Climate Council. (Sponsored by Rep. Dunphy of Old Town)

This bill implements the most time-sensitive recommendations of the Maine Climate Council by: (1) requiring school administrative units (SAU) to increase the amount spent on local Maine food from 10% of the total amount expended on food purchases to 30% before the beginning of 2026-2027 school year; (2) establishing the Maine Farm and Fish to School Program to promote the sale of food grown or raised by Maine food producers to educational institutions and creating a fund to support the program through grants to SAUs; (3) requiring the state to conduct a comprehensive statewide inventory of natural land and marine systems to sequester or release carbon in order to estimate carbon stock in regards to farm and open spaces and tree growth; (4) adding a declaration to the tree growth program that it is in the public interest to encourage carbon sequestration in the state; (5) directing the Governor's Energy Office to develop a voluntary, incentive-based forest carbon program for forest managers and owners of forested land of 10 to 10,000 acres; (6) creating a \$2,000 fuel efficiency tax credit for commercial businesses in the freight transportation supply chain that participate in the US EPA's SmartWay program; and (7) directing the University of Maine System and numerous state departments to increase their technical service capacity to deliver data, expert guidance and support to communities, landowners, farmers, loggers and foresters for activities that will support the state's climate goals. The bill also allocates: (A) \$1.5 million in ongoing funds to the Electric Vehicle Accelerator Program; (B) \$400,000 per year for broadband infrastructure grant programs for expansion in rural areas; (C) \$400,000 per year for expansion of public transportation options in order to meet the Maine Climate Council's recommendation that the state's public transportation funding reach the national median of \$5 per capita by 2024; (D) \$225,000 per year to relaunch the GO MAINE ride matching program in order to significantly increase shared public community options by 2022; (E) \$1.4 million in ongoing funding to the Efficiency Maine Trust for heat pump and home and business weatherization rebate and incentive programs; and (F) \$7.5 million per year to the Land for Maine's Future Board to leverage matching contributions to be used for the acquisition of land and interest in land.

[LD 1426](#) An Act To Provide for the Equitable Funding of Education Chosen by Maine Families. (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales)

This bill requires each school administrative unit (SAU) to calculate the per-pupil tuition costs for elementary and secondary students who reside in that SAU and provide no more than that amount to a student who resides in but does not attend public school in that SAU and who incurs education costs, such as for attendance at a private school or educational cooperative, for a

tutor or for costs associated with homeschooling. This bill also repeals the restriction in current law on providing public school funds to sectarian schools.

[LD 1425](#) Resolve, To Dedicate a Portion of Route 6 from Lee to Springfield in Honor of Sgt. Blair Emery. (Sponsored by Rep. Javner of Chester)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate a portion of Route 6 in Penobscot County the Sgt. Blair Emery Road.

[LD 1422](#) An Act to Strengthen Laws Protecting Members of Law Enforcement and Promote In-classroom Drug Use Avoidance Education. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill extends the application of the hate crime sentencing laws to a defendant who selects the person against whom a crime is committed because of that person's status as a law enforcement officer or who selects property to damage because of such status of the owner or occupant of that property. It also provides \$1 million in annual funding for the Department of Education for programs that educate students to avoid using drugs.

[LD 1419](#) An Act To Support Health Care Providers during State Public Health Emergencies. (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This bill provides a limitation on civil liability to certain health care professionals, health care facilities, behavioral and developmental services facilities and emergency medical services persons in the event of a declared emergency related to public health. The bill is retroactive to the beginning of the state of civil emergency declared by the Governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[LD 1418](#) An Act To Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Meals and Lodging. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.)

This bill allows a municipality to impose a local option sales tax of no more than 1%, which may be seasonal, on prepared food, not including marijuana or marijuana products, and short-term lodging if approved by referendum of the voters in that municipality. Revenue from the local option sales tax is distributed at the rate of 85% to the municipality and 15% to all other municipalities. Revenue received by a municipality may not be used to reduce or eliminate funding otherwise due the municipality under other provisions of law, such as revenue sharing.

[LD 1416](#) An Act To Limit Qualified Immunity of Law Enforcement Officers in Maine Civil Rights Act Claims. (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill removes the qualified immunity for a government official for a violation under the Civil Rights Act if: (1) at the time of the alleged violation, the government official was a law enforcement officer who allegedly used or threatened to use force or physical violence against the aggrieved person; (2) the law enforcement officer was required to receive either preservice law enforcement training, basic law enforcement training or in-service law enforcement training; and (3) the law enforcement agency employing the law enforcement officer was subject to the requirement to have policies concerning the use of physical force. The bill also limits liability in these cases to \$10,000 per violation.

[LD 1415](#) An Act Regarding Minor Revisions to Existing Site Location Permits, Exemptions for Rerouting Storm Water and Exemptions for New Construction or Modification of an Existing

Licensed Development under the Site Location of Development Laws. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends the site location of development laws administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. It specifies the time in which the department must process minor revisions to permits. It clarifies the exemption for new construction at or modification of an existing licensed development. It adds an exemption for the rerouting of storm water if certain criteria are met.

[LD 1411](#) An Act To Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill establishes the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act and requires that all contracts for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, improvement or maintenance of a public building or public work made by a state agency, board, commission or institution, except for the Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority, contain a provision that any manufactured good valued over \$500, including iron, cement and steel, and any article, material or supply acquired for public use used or supplied in the performance of the contract or any subcontract to the contract must be manufactured in the United States. This requirement does not apply to counties, municipalities or school administrative units.

[LD 1409](#) An Act Regarding High-impact Electric Transmission Lines. (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to require legislative approval for building high-impact electric transmission lines greater than 50 miles long that are not located in a statutory corridor.

[LD 1407](#) An Act To Provide That a Forestry Operation That Conforms to Accepted Practices May Not Be Declared a Nuisance. (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This bill enacts the Right To Practice Forestry Act. The bill provides that a local unit of government that allows a forestry operation to operate in that local unit of government may not regulate that forestry operation in a manner that limits or prohibits any generally accepted forest management practices, which the bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to establish by rule.

[LD 1406](#) An Act To Encourage Relocation to Rural Maine. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill creates a refundable tax credit of up to \$3,000 per year up to a total of five years for a person who moves from outside a rural area to a residence within a rural area, defined as Aroostook County, Somerset County, Piscataquis County and Washington County. The person may receive a tax credit of up to \$1,000 per year as reimbursement for internet connectivity costs and, if the person owns the residence in the rural area, a tax credit of up to \$2,000 per year as reimbursement for the person's property tax bill.

[LD 1404](#) An Act To Legalize Sports Betting and Strengthen Public Education. (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit to regulate sports wagering in the state, with 22% of adjusted gross sports wagering revenues credited to the Department of Education to fund K-12 education.

April 7, 2021

[LD 1403](#) An Act To Protect Maine Businesses, Nonprofits, Educational Institutions and Municipalities during the COVID-19 Pandemic. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford)

This bill provides a limitation against liability for a municipality, educational institution or for-profit or nonprofit business organization from suit alleging personal liability due to exposure to coronavirus if the municipality, educational institution or business organization is following applicable government standards and guidance related to coronavirus exposure.

[LD 1402](#) An Act To Remove a Requirement Regarding Payment of Union Fees. (Sponsored by Rep. Stetkis of Canaan)

This bill removes the authority to require public employees who do not join a union to pay service fees to the union.

[LD 1399](#) An Act To Provide for Remote Notarization. (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This bill provides for remote online notarization by notary publics located in the state.

[LD 1397](#) An Act Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Create a Commission To Develop a Comprehensive Rental Registry for Multifamily Housing. (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This bill directs the Maine State Housing Authority to create a commission to develop, implement and disseminate to municipalities and post on a publicly accessible website a comprehensive rental registry of multifamily housing in Maine. The commission consists of representatives of large and small municipalities, owners and renters of multifamily housing and other interested parties invited by the authority. The authority is directed to report annually to the Legislature on the progress of the registry.

[LD 1395](#) An Act To Suspend Meals and Lodging Taxes until 121 Months after the COVID-19 Civil Emergency. (Sponsored by Rep. Connor of Lewiston)

This bill provides an exemption from the tax imposed on the sale of prepared food and the rental of living quarters during the state of emergency declared by the governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic and for one year after that state of emergency is terminated.

[LD 1388](#) An Act To Require Testing of Public Drinking Water Supplies for Toxic Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and To Establish Maximum Contaminant Levels. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

This bill requires each community water system and non-community water system to send samples of water provided by its system to an approved laboratory to be tested for PFAS on or before Dec. 31, 2022. If such testing detects the presence of certain PFAS at a level equivalent to or in excess of 20 nanograms per liter, the community water system or non-community water system is required to implement necessary treatment measures directed by the Department of Health and Human Services to reduce the levels of those PFAS contaminants below the 20 nanograms per liter threshold. The department is required to administer and enforce these requirements and to adopt implementing rules, which may include rules establishing maximum contaminant levels for PFAS contaminants.

[LD 1387](#) An Act To Remove the Provision of Law Allowing a Legislator Who Resigns from Service as a Town Assessor To Continue To Serve Concurrently as a Selectman and as a Legislator. (Sponsored by Rep. Carlow of Buxton)

This bill removes the provision that a state Legislator who also serves as a selectman and as a tax assessor may continue to serve as a Legislator upon resigning the position of assessor.

[LD 1385](#) An Act To Provide for Timely Placement with Respect to Violent Patients in Hospital Emergency Rooms. (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast)

This bill requires emergency departments of health care facilities to discharge a person exhibiting violent behavior once the person has been medically stabilized and directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish measures to ensure the safety of emergency department staff and provide appropriate treatment to persons admitted to emergency departments who exhibit violent behavior.

[LD 1384](#) An Act To Adopt the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Falmouth)

This bill repeals ranked-choice voting in general elections for U.S. president and instead proposes to adopt an interstate compact to elect the president by national popular vote. Under the compact, the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia is elected. The bill takes effect only if enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes, which is 270 of 538.

[LD 1382](#) An Act To Invest in Maine's Roads and Bridges. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill increases fuel taxes by 4¢ per gallon beginning Oct. 1, 2021, an additional 3¢ per gallon beginning Oct. 1, 2022, an additional 3¢ per gallon beginning Oct. 1, 2023 and an additional 2¢ per gallon beginning Oct. 1, 2024. The bill also establishes a refundable income tax credit for individuals with adjusted gross income that is lower than the federal poverty level.

[LD 1378](#) An Act To Facilitate Compliance with Federal Immigration Law by State and Local Government Entities. (Sponsored by Rep. Lyford of Eddington)

This bill prohibits government entities from restricting the sharing and use of immigration and citizenship information and enforcement of federal immigration law and establishes a complaint process and a duty to report. The bill also provides that if the Attorney General (AG), upon investigation, determines that a government entity is violating these prohibitions, the AG must issue an opinion stating that finding. The government entity has 30 days to appeal the finding to the Superior Court and if the Superior Court agrees with the AG, the court must immediately enjoin the policy or practice. A government entity that continues the policy or practice is subject to a \$500 fine for each day the policy or practice remains in effect. If the Superior Court disagrees, the AG, must immediately certify that the government entity is in compliance with the law.

[LD 1375](#) An Act To Permit Online Absentee Voting. (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham)

This bill allows registered voters to cast absentee ballots by electronic means approved by the Secretary of State.

[LD 1374](#) An Act To Extend the Time Period for Filing a Complaint under the Maine Human Rights Act for Discrimination Based on an Alleged Sexual Act, Sexual Contact or Sexual Touching. (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham)

This bill extends the time period for filing a discrimination complaint with the Maine Human Rights Commission from 300 days to two years after the alleged act of unlawful discrimination if the complaint is based on a sexual act, sexual contact or sexual touching as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 251.

[LD 1372](#) An Act To Collect Data To Assess the Need and Plan for Noise Abatement by the Maine Turnpike Authority. (Sponsored by Rep. Babbidge of Kennebunk)

This bill requires the Maine Turnpike Authority to install devices to collect data measuring noise levels along routes managed by the authority, sets specific criteria for the data that must be collected and requires the authority to report this data to the Transportation Committee no later than Dec. 1, 2022.

[LD 1370](#) An Act To Establish Trail until Rail Corridors. (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth)

This bill authorizes the use of state-owned railroad lines running from Calais to Hancock, Brunswick to Augusta, Standish to Fryeburg and Portland to Auburn for interim use as multi-use trails until train service is restored on those lines.

[LD 1367](#) An Act To Create a Grant Program To Promote Innovation in Municipal Carbon Reduction Initiatives. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

This bill establishes the Maine Municipal Carbon Reduction Initiatives Program for the purpose of providing competitive grants for towns and cities to help fund technology and innovation projects that will reduce carbon emissions in line with Maine's climate action plan.

[LD 1365](#) An Act To Prohibit Municipalities from Prohibiting Short-term Rentals. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill prohibits municipalities from enacting or enforcing ordinances, rules or orders that prohibit short-term accommodation rentals.

[LD 1364](#) Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study and Recommend Incentives for Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

This bill creates a 16-member commission, which includes two members representing a statewide association of professional firefighters, to study whether it is feasible and desirable to provide incentives for developers, building and home buyers to install residential sprinklers. The commission is further directed to submit its report to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety no later than Dec. 1, 2021.

[LD 1363](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Elections. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.)

This bill amends election laws to: (1) reduce the number of signatures candidates for the office of the U.S. President, U.S. Senate and Governor must receive to qualify for inclusion on the ballot and increases the number of qualifying signatures for a U.S. House candidate; (2) describe the security measures that must be in place to utilize absentee ballot drop boxes and

allows a municipality to obtain and use absentee ballot drop boxes at multiple locations within a community's boundaries, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State; and (3) create a process for allowing a voter to cure a discrepancy with a returned absentee ballot.

[LD 1356](#) An Act Regarding the Placement of Temporary Signs. (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This bill reduces the number of days a temporary road sign may be placed within the public right-of-way from no more than six weeks to no more than 30 days between Jan. 1 and June 30 and from no more than six weeks to no more than 30 days between July 1 and Dec. 31.

[LD 1355](#) An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Veterans Who Are Disabled. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill provides a motor vehicle excise tax exemption for veterans who are receiving benefits based on 100% permanent service-connected disability.

[LD 1354](#) Resolve, To Study the Establishment of a System of Voting by Mail. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill directs the Secretary of State to explore options for implementing a vote by mail system in Maine and report its findings to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs by Jan. 1, 2022, which is in turn authorized to submit legislation in 2022. The secretary's report must include a review and comparison of voting by mail systems in other states and a recommended model for implementing the process in Maine.

[LD 1348](#) An Act To Limit the Decibel Level of Fireworks Near Working Farms. (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill prohibits a person from discharging fireworks or consumer fireworks that generates a noise level that exceeds 75 decibels at a boundary of a farm actively engaged in agricultural production and containing livestock.

March 29 & 30, 2021

[LD 1346](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Fees Charged for Responding to Public Records Requests. (Reported by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner for the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary)

This bill implements recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee concerning the fees that an agency or official may charge to cover the costs of responding to public records requests. The bill: (1) extends the time period for which an agency or official may not charge a fee for searching for, retrieving and compiling a requested public record from the first hour of staff time per request to the first two hours of staff time per request; (2) increases the fee that may be charged after the first two hours of staff time per request from not more than \$15 per hour to not more than \$25 per hour; and (3) specifies that an agency may retain any fee or cost charged.

[LD 1345](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee. (Reported by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner for the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary)

This bill implements recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee that were contained in the 2020 annual report. The bill caps the fee to cover the cost of copying a public record at no more than 10¢ per page for a standard 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches black and white copy and clarifies that a per-page copy fee may not be charged for records provided electronically and adds to the committee a member who has legal or professional experience in the field of data and personal privacy, to be appointed by the governor. The bill also makes the following changes to the requirements for training under the Freedom of Access Act to: (1) clarify that an official must complete training within 120 days of assuming the duties of the position; (2) expand the list of municipal officials required to complete training to include code enforcement officers, town managers and administrators and planning board members; and (3) clarify that school superintendents, assistant superintendents and school board members are required to complete training.

[LD 1344](#) An Act To Clarify the Authority of the Department of Health and Human Services during a Public Health Emergency. (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot)

This bill allows the Department of Health and Human Services to impose administrative fines and license suspensions for violations of department rules regarding disease control and public health emergencies. The department is also authorized to close a business or entity when that business or entity directly and repeatedly violates public health control measures during an extreme public health emergency.

[LD 1342](#) An Act To Authorize a Local Option Sales Tax on Lodging and Other Goods and Provide Funding for Tax Abatement and Rental Relief. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This bill allows a municipality to impose a local option sales tax of 1% on lodging that is currently subject to the sales and use tax if approved by referendum of the voters in that municipality. Ninety percent of the revenue from the local option sales tax is distributed to the municipality imposing the local option sales tax and the remaining 10% is distributed to the Maine State Housing Authority, which is required to establish a program of property tax relief and rent relief for municipalities using the revenue. Revenue received by a municipality may not be used to reduce or eliminate funding otherwise due the municipality under other provisions of law. The local option sales tax may not take effect before July 1, 2022.

[LD 1340](#) An Act To Ensure Municipal Compliance with Federal Immigration Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales)

This bill provides that a municipality is ineligible to receive general purpose aid for local schools, municipal general assistance reimbursement 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 immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual or the maintenance of such information.

[LD 1339](#) An Act To Clarify That Municipal Firefighters, Volunteer First Responders and Substitute Teachers Are Excluded from Maine Earned Paid Leave. (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales)

This bill excludes from the law requiring employers of more than 10 employees to provide earned paid leave to municipal firefighters, volunteer first responders and substitute teachers.

[LD 1337](#) An Act To Increase Affordable Housing and Reduce Property Taxes through an Impact Fee on Vacant Residences. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

Beginning on or after 2021, this bill creates a residential vacancy impact fee calculated as 0.5% of the equalized value of the property for certain vacant residential property. The revenue from the impact fee is distributed to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to be used to fund affordable housing activities and to the Local Government Fund to be used to reimburse municipalities for the Maine residents homestead property tax exemption.

[LD 1336](#) An Act to Discontinue the Use of the Terms “Handicap,” “Handicapped” and “Hearing Impaired” in State Laws, Rules and Official Documents. (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville)

This bill amends the Maine Revised Statutes to remove the terms "handicap," "handicapped" and "hearing impaired" where they are used to describe a person or set of persons in statutes and directs all branches of state government to discontinue the use of the terms.

[LD 1333](#) An Act Concerning the Dispensation of Naloxone Hydrochloride by Emergency Medical Services Providers. (Sponsored by Rep. Zager of Portland)

This bill authorizes emergency medical services persons, ambulance services and non-transporting emergency medical services to administer intranasal naloxone hydrochloride if they have received medical training in accordance with protocols adopted by the Medical Direction and Practices Board.

[LD 1330](#) An Act To Join The National Popular Vote Compact. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill repeals ranked-choice voting in general elections for U.S. President and instead proposes to adopt an interstate compact to elect the president by national popular vote. Under the compact, the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia is elected president. The bill takes effect only if enacted by states possessing enough electoral votes to elect a president, which is 270 of 538.

[LD 1322](#) Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Allow Rental Housing Owners To Allow Rental Housing Owners To Apply for Emergency Rental Relief Assistance. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford)

This resolve directs the Maine State Housing Authority to allow rental housing owners to apply for COVID-19 emergency rental relief assistance for lost rental revenue due to tenants who are not current on their rent and are unable or unwilling to apply for assistance on their own.

[LD 1319](#) An Act Regarding Registered Dispensaries and Rules under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act and the Definition of “Resident” in the Marijuana Legalization Act. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill provides that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services may not issue more than 14 marijuana dispensary registration certificates. It also provides that the

Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Marijuana Policy (OMP) may not adopt rules governing the medical use of marijuana until Dec. 31, 2023, after which the OMP may adopt rules governing the medical use of marijuana only if the office, using existing resources and before the adoption of those rules, conducts studies on the economic impact of the rules and how the rules would affect the access of patients to marijuana for medical use. The bill also extends the repeal date of a portion of the definition of "resident" in the Marijuana Legalization Act from June 1, 2021 to June 1, 2025.

[LD 1316](#) An Act To Provide Funding for the Maine Length of Service Award Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville)

This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$2.5 million beginning in FY 22 to the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission for the Maine Length of Service Award Program.

[LD 1315](#) An Act To Protect Firearm Use and Possession Rights during a State of Emergency and Require a Two-thirds Vote by the Legislative Council To Declare or Extend a State of Emergency. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill, in part, declares that the transport, storage, sale and transfer of and other activities involving firearms, ammunition and components and accessories are considered essential businesses and services during a state of emergency declared by the governor and prohibits the regulation, curtailment, seizure or other actions to restrict otherwise lawfully owned and possessed firearms, ammunition and related components and accessories and related activities during a state of emergency. This bill exempts from the provisions a law enforcement officer's seizing a firearm, ammunition or accessories or components while detaining an individual for suspected criminal activity pursuant to a warrantless arrest. This bill also suspends the expiration date for concealed handgun permits for a state of emergency.

[LD 1314](#) An Act To Require Dispatch Units To Employ a Person with a Social Work Background. (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham)

This bill requires public safety answering points receiving 9-1-1 calls to have on staff on a 24-hour basis a licensed social worker to screen 9-1-1 calls to determine whether a 9-1-1 call requires dispatch of social work services or other emergency or law enforcement services.

[LD 1312](#) An Act To Remove Barriers to Accessory Dwelling Units and Allow Accessory Dwelling Units where Single-family Houses Are Allowed. (Sponsored by Rep. Geiger of Rockland)

This bill requires municipalities to allow one accessory dwelling unit to be included within or located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit. It prevents municipalities from imposing any of the following restrictions on accessory dwelling units: setback requirements on accessory dwelling units incorporated within an existing single-family dwelling unit; setback requirements of more than 5 feet for accessory dwelling units not included within a single-family dwelling unit; off-street parking requirements; separate sewer or water systems; or owner occupancy of one of the units unless one of the units is being used for short-term or vacation rentals. A municipality may not restrict use of one of the units on a lot as a short-term or vacation rental. A municipality may not require correction of a non-conforming use when an accessory dwelling unit is incorporated into an existing single-family dwelling unit or of an existing

structure converted into an accessory dwelling unit, but a municipality may require compliance with applicable building and fire safety codes for all accessory dwelling units. A municipality's design standards for accessory dwelling units must be clear and objective. Accessory dwelling units within historical preservation districts must comply with historical preservation standards.

[LD 1309](#) An Act To Address Systematic Racism and Improve Economic Prosperity. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures designed to address systemic racism and to improve economic prosperity within the state.

[LD 1307](#) An Act To Restrict the Sale, Purchase and Use of Fireworks in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

This bill repeals the provisions of law permitting the sale, purchase and use of consumer fireworks.

[LD 1306](#) An Act To Include Crisis Response Services in Emergency Services Offered through the E-9-1-1 System. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This bill amends the law regulating the provision of emergency services under the Maine's E-9-1-1 system by including crisis response services as part of the services offered to individuals experiencing mental health and substance use disorder emergencies for which fire, emergency medical or police services are determined not to be required. It also directs the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Medical Services Communications Bureau to develop protocols and procedures necessary to ensure the efficient dispatch of such crisis response under the system and to submit a report on or before Dec.1, 2021 to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology outlining protocols and procedures and including any recommendations needed to implement those protocols and procedures. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out related legislation in 2022.

[LD 1305](#) An Act To Streamline Requests for Housing Assistance. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to include on certain applications for aid, including those for the statewide food supplement program, the MaineCare program, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, an option for the applicant to request housing assistance from the department or the Maine State Housing Authority.

[LD 1301](#) An Act To Support Transitional Housing for Persons Experiencing Abuse, Dangerous Living Conditions, Economic Insecurity Due to Divorce or Separation, Chronic Homelessness, Substance Use Disorder or Mental Disorders. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate and arrange for transitional housing and services including job training and health care services for persons in need of transitional housing, including those experiencing abuse, dangerous living conditions, economic insecurity due to divorce or separation, chronic homelessness, substance use disorder or mental disorders, including post-traumatic stress disorder, in every county of the state. It also provides an ongoing appropriation of \$8 million beginning in FY 2023.

[LD 1300](#) An Act To Require County Governments To Coordinate with Municipalities To Create Plans To Address Homelessness. (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor)

This bill requires the county commissioners of each county, in consultation and coordination with the Statewide Homeless Council, regional homeless councils and the municipalities in the county, to develop and implement a plan with protocols to address homelessness within the county.

[LD 1298](#) An Act To Provide Funds for Community-based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Services and To Reduce by Half the Funding for the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell)

This bill provides funding for community-based substance use disorder treatment and recovery services by reducing by 50% the funding for the Department of Public Safety, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency.

[LD 1296](#) An Act To Guarantee Housing Rights during a State of Civil Emergency. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill provides that during a state of emergency proclaimed by the governor, the process of forcible entry and detainer may not be commenced or maintained and judgment for forcible entry and detainer may not be granted for failure of a tenant to pay rent. It also provides that a utility regulated by the Public Utilities Commission may not terminate or disconnect utility service for a residential customer during a state of emergency proclaimed by the governor.

[LD 1295](#) An Act To Require Legislative Approval of Certain Transmission Lines, Require Legislative Approval of Certain Transmission Lines and Facilities and Other Projects on Public Reserved Lands and Prohibit the Construction of Certain Transmission Lines in the Upper Kennebec Region. (Initiated Bill)

This initiated bill requires the approval of the Legislature for the construction of high-impact electric transmission lines and provides that high-impact electric transmission lines crossing or utilizing public lands must be approved by two-thirds of the members of the Legislature. This initiated bill also prohibits the construction of high-impact electric transmission lines in the Upper Kennebec Region. These provisions apply retroactively to Sept. 16, 2020, the date of filing of this initiative. Retroactive to Sept. 16, 2014, this initiated bill also requires the approval by two-thirds of the members of the Legislature for the use of public lands for transmission lines and facilities and certain other projects.

[LD 1291](#) An Act To Reduce Fire Response Time by Eliminating Standardized Dispatch Protocols for Fire 9-1-1 Calls. (Sponsored by Sen. Woodsome of York Cty.)

This bill eliminates the funding for and required standardized dispatch protocols for fire 9-1-1 calls.

[LD 1290](#) An Act To Amend the Statement of Purpose of the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982 To Include Emergency Responses That Do Not Require Transportation. (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

This bill amends the statutory purpose of the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982 to provide that the treatment and non-transport of the sick and injured is a key element of an emergency medical services system.

[LD 1283](#) An Act To Amend the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law To Encourage Public Access. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake)

This bill excludes from benefits under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law a parcel of land to which public access for recreational use is limited or prohibited.

[LD 1276](#) An Act To Ensure All Legal Voters Are Able To Participate in Elections. (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

This bill provides that a municipality may obtain and deploy one absentee ballot drop box or drop slot outside the municipal office building for use by voters of that municipality to return their voted ballots without requiring contact with an election official. The bill sets standards for a drop box or slot including that it be securely located and clearly labeled, that it provide a secure method for the deposit of ballots, that the contents be accessible only to the municipal clerk or the clerk's designee and that ballots be periodically retrieved by the municipal clerk or the clerk's designee.

[LD 1274](#) An Act Regarding 2021 Municipal Elections and Town Meetings. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

Retroactive to Jan. 15, 2021, this bill provides municipalities with the tools necessary to safely adopt budgets and conduct municipal elections, including: (1) permitting municipal assessors to commit property taxes on the basis of a municipal budget deemed approved; (2) permitting a municipal treasurer to disburse money on the authority of a warrant drawn for that purpose seen and signed individually by a majority of the municipal officers outside of a public meeting; (3) authorizing municipal officers during the calendar year 2021 to postpone the date of a scheduled secret ballot election for which nomination papers have already been issued; (4) suspending during the state of emergency the requirement under Title 30-A, section 5721-A, subsection 7, paragraph A for a written ballot to exceed or increase the property tax levy at an open town hall meeting and permits the use of either a show of hands or a voice vote; and (5) suspending Title 30-A, section 2528, subsection 1 to allow the municipal officers of any municipality that has not voted to accept secret ballot voting to do so during the state of emergency and allowing elected officials in those municipalities to remain in office until an election is called pursuant to Title 30-A, section 2525. The authorities granted in the bill are repealed on Jan. 15, 2022.

[LD 1269](#) An Act To Preserve Fair Housing in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill amends the municipal housing authority development laws by requiring the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) to ensure that public funds are used to affirmatively further fair housing, which is defined as to engage actively to address barriers to and create opportunities for full and equal access to housing without discrimination on the basis of a protected class, familial status or receipt of public assistance. The bill requires MSHA to develop a plan and report back to the Committee on Labor and Housing by Jan. 15, 2022.

March 26, 2021

[LD 1258](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group Convened by the Emergency Medical Services' Board Related to Reimbursement Rates for Ambulance Services by Health Insurance Carriers and To Improve Participation of Ambulance Service Providers in Carrier Networks. (Reported by Rep. Tepler of Topsham for the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services)

This bill requires: (1) insurance carriers to reimburse ambulance service providers rendering covered emergency services based on a certain percentage of Medicare reimbursement rates. The bill states that ambulance service providers participating in an insurance carrier's network will be reimbursed at the ambulance service provider's rate or 200% of the Medicare rate for that service, whichever is greater. For out-of-network providers, the reimbursement rate is 180% of the Medicare rate. The bill also permits carriers to add an adjustment to increase reimbursement for providers in rural areas. The laws governing those requirements are repealed Dec. 31, 2023; (2) insurance carriers to offer a standard contract to ambulance service providers with certain minimum requirements related to the length of the contract, the ability to terminate the contract and the time period in which ambulance service providers may submit claims for payment; (3) the Emergency Medical Services' Board to adopt rules and protocols to evaluate the need for any new ambulance service in this state before granting a license; (4) the Emergency Medical Services' Board to establish by rule a program for collecting and reporting cost and performance metrics related to emergency services, including ambulance services; and (5) directs the Emergency Medical Services' Board to convene a stakeholder group to review issues related to financial health and costs of ambulance service providers and the delivery of services by ambulance service providers in this state. The stakeholder group is required to report to the committee having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters no later than Feb. 1, 2023.

[LD 1257](#) An Act To Encourage Inclusionary Zoning in Municipalities by Increasing Revenue Sharing. (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill creates a new level of state-municipal revenue sharing funded with an additional 0.25% of state sales and income tax revenues to provide revenue to municipalities that adopt inclusionary zoning in an effort to increase the availability of affordable housing. "Inclusionary zoning" is defined as municipal planning ordinances applicable to residential and mixed-use zones that are classified by the state as urban and that encourage affordable housing in at least 25% of the areas located in residential or mixed-use zones within the municipality and designated for residential housing by policies, including, but not limited to, allowing greater density in development of residential housing units, permitting workforce housing development, reducing minimum lot sizes, allowing for accessory dwelling units and reducing the percentage of neighborhoods zoned for single-family dwellings.

[LD 1256](#) An Act Requiring Climate Impact Notes on Proposed Legislation and Agency Rules. (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill requires a climate impact note on every rule proposed by a state agency and on all legislation that would have an apparent significant climate impact if implemented.

[LD 1255](#) An Act To Prohibit Evictions until 90 Days after the End of the Governor's Declaration of Emergency. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill provides that a judgment for forcible entry and detainer may not be granted until 90 days after the expiration of the public health emergency initially proclaimed by the governor on March 15, 2020 in any case in which the grounds for termination of tenancy are nonpayment of rent, expiration of the term of the lease or termination of a tenancy at will.

[LD 1254](#) An Act Shielding Fire Departments That Install Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors from Liability. (Sponsored by Rep. Pebworth of Blue Hill)

This bill provides immunity from liability to a fire department in the residential installation or delivery of a smoke or carbon monoxide detector or batteries for a smoke or carbon monoxide detector if the installation or delivery is performed in the fire department's official capacity.

[LD 1250](#) An Act To Allow Law Enforcement Officers with Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act Clearance To Carry a Concealed Weapon. (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner)

This bill allows a qualified active or retired law enforcement officer who possesses a current federal identification under the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 to carry a concealed weapon in areas in which the carrying of concealed weapons is prohibited by law or rule.

[LD 1247](#) An Act to Place a Moratorium on Property Revaluations for Tax Purposes during a State of Emergency. (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill requires a municipality or state department or agency to temporarily halt a property revaluation required by state law during a state of emergency and to resume the revaluation upon the termination of the emergency.

March 25, 2021

[LD 1246](#) Resolve, To Study Best Practices and Different Area Needs for Development of Affordable Homes and Expanding Home Ownership in Maine Communities. (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This resolve creates the 13-member Commission to Study Best Practices and Different Area Needs for Development of Affordable Homes and Expanding Home Ownership in Maine Communities. Members of the commission include Legislators and others with interest or experience in affordable housing and financing in the state. The commission's duties include studying: (1) the extent of need for affordable housing; (2) variations in housing markets, local conditions, housing costs and area incomes; (3) best practices in local efforts to meet the need for affordable housing; and (4) the potential for new state resources to address the need for affordable housing in a manner that leverages local efforts and other available resources. The commission is required to submit its report to the Labor and Housing Committee no later than Dec. 7, 2022.

[LD 1245](#) An Act To Ensure the Provision of Adequate Personal Protective Equipment to Firefighters Who Are Women. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth)

This bill requires a municipal fire department, volunteer fire association or fire district to provide and equip a female firefighter with personal protective equipment and turnout gear, including boots, that are properly fitting either due to being sized correctly or being tailored for

the female firefighter and meet the requirements of the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration or the National Fire Protection Association, whichever are more stringent.

[LD 1241](#) An Act To Establish More Transparency, Due Process, Education and Understanding between the Department of Health and Human Services and Certain Maine Businesses. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Augusta)

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a standard procedure for investigating complaints against eating establishments, lodging places, recreational or sporting camps, campgrounds, youth camps, public pools and public spas. The bill provides that certain information must be shared with the owner or person in charge of an establishment that is the subject of such an investigation, including the name of the complainant, the name of the department employee investigating the complaint, the laws, rules, executive orders or policies not being complied with, a corrective action plan, possible accommodations as alternatives to requirements and the appeals procedures. The department is required to issue a finding with respect to compliance. The bill also requires any scientific or educational materials that are unrelated to licensing requirements to be clearly identified this way. If a representative of the department visits an establishment to discuss these materials, advance notice must be provided and the visit must take place during ordinary business hours. Municipalities that are delegated authority of licensing and inspection by the department are subject to the same requirements.

[LD 1240](#) Resolve, To Review Barriers to Regional Solutions for Housing Choices. (Sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to conduct a review of barriers to regional solutions to making housing affordable, accessible, available, functional and compatible with strategies outlined in the Maine Climate Council's plan and providing its finding to the Labor and Housing Committee by Dec. 1, 2021. The office is further directed to include in its report: (1) proposals to update the planning and land use regulation laws pertaining to growth management with a focus on regional solutions; (2) an assessment of the implication of housing choices of state and regional transportation investments and policies; (3) identification of regional approaches to address significant mil rate differentials between rural and urban service center hubs and surrounding communities that increase living expenses; and (4) strategies for offering choices to local government about how to meet statewide housing goals through their comprehensive plans and land use codes.

[LD 1237](#) An Act To Allow the Governor To Declare a Limited State of Emergency for Federal Aid Purposes. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

This bill allows the governor to declare a state of emergency for the sole purpose of requesting the President of the United States to declare a major disaster for part or all of Maine in order to make available federal aid. If the governor declares this type of state of emergency, the governor is prohibited, pursuant to that declaration, from using the same powers under a state of emergency declared because of a disaster or civil emergency.

[LD 1235](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Connect Maine with a World-class Internet Infrastructure. (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

The bond bill issues \$100 million to provide funding for a world-class affordable high-speed internet infrastructure that will reach 98% of homes and businesses in the state within five years.

March 24, 2021

[LD 1234](#) An Act To Allow Lemonade Stands and Other Food and Nonalcoholic Beverage Sales by Minors. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Augusta)

This bill prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services, the State Tax Assessor and municipalities from requiring a license or a permit or charging fees or sales taxes for the operation of a stand on private property operated by a person under 18 years of age for the occasional sale of prepackaged food, baked goods, lemonade or other nonalcoholic beverages.

[LD 1233](#) An Act To Determine How Many Employees of Large Companies in Maine Receive Public Benefits. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This bill requires the Department of Labor with the assistance of the Department of Health and Human Services to gather data regarding the number of persons who are employed by businesses in this state that have 50 or more employees and who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, MaineCare, municipal general assistance; Section 8 housing assistance, and the Bridging Rental Assistance Program. The data gathering process must respect the privacy rights of individual employees, and the data gathered may not identify individual employees. The department must report its findings to the committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters no later than December 1 of each year.

[LD 1231](#) An Act Concerning Climate and Community Investment Projects. (Sponsored by Rep. Cuddy of Winterport)

This bill requires contractors of projects involving the construction of renewable energy generating systems receiving at least \$50,000 in state assistance to meet certain requirements, including: (1) establishing a workforce development program that provides employees from disadvantaged communities opportunities for skill development and that also provides apprenticeship training through a registered apprenticeship program for each trade in which the employer employs craft workers; (2) if the assisted project involves a renewable energy project with a generation capacity of 50 megawatts or more, ensuring that a project labor agreement is executed between the entity directly responsible for construction of the project and a labor organization supplying skilled craft workers in all crafts needed for the project; and (3) adopting any hiring policies established by the Department of Labor by rule that require employers working on assisted projects to adopt and maintain hiring policies that attract and retain a diverse workforce. The department may adopt incentives for adopting such policies rather than establishing requirements.

[LD 1230](#) An Act To Enhance Traffic Safety with Regard to the Operation of Bicycles on Public Ways. (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This bill requires bicyclists operating on a roadway to ride in single file while being overtaken by motor vehicles and makes the failure to do so a traffic infraction.

[LD 1228](#) – An Act To Promote Transparency and Public Safety When Public Servants Request Towing Services. (Sponsored by Rep. Bryant of Windham)

This bill requires the Central Fleet Management Division within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to develop standards governing requests for roadside assistance or towing services.

[LD 1227](#) An Act To Provide Equity in the State Income Tax Deduction for Certain Public Employees Retirement System Pensions. (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast)

This bill establishes an income tax exemption for taxpayers who receive civil service retirement plan benefits who do not participate in the federal Social Security program in recognition of the fact that the current law provides an income tax exemption for all Social Security benefits in addition to a \$10,000 pension exemption for retirement plan benefits. The bill phases in greater parity in the treatment of the two types of pension systems by increasing the civil service pension deduction amount by \$5,000 per year until 2025 when it reaches the maximum annual benefit that an individual retiring at retirement age would receive under the federal Social Security Act.

[LD 1222](#) An Act To Reduce Property Taxes of Seniors in an Amount Equal to the Cost of Education. (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

Beginning on or after April 1, 2021, this bill provides a property tax exemption for individuals 65 years of age or older equal in value to the taxes paid to fund public schools in the municipality where the real estate is located.

[LD 1220](#) An Act To Require a Two-thirds Vote of the Legislature Every 2 Weeks To Maintain a State of Emergency Declared by the Governor. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris)

This bill provides that a state of emergency may not continue for longer than 30 days unless approved by a 2/3 vote of the Legislature every 14 days after the initial 30-day period. If the Legislature is not in session, approval may be obtained via member poll.

[LD 1219](#) Resolve, To Facilitate the Modernization and Streamlining of the Utility Pole Attachment Process. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

This resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to convene a stakeholder group to develop recommendations for the implementation of third-party administration of utility pole attachment joint use, which must include frameworks for: (1) ensuring that third party administrators do not own and are not affiliated with any entity that provides retail telecommunications services in Maine; (2) divesting providers of retail telecommunications services of all ownership interest in utility poles; and (3) performance-based regulation of utility pole ownership and the administration of utility pole attachment. On or before Dec. 1, 2021, the commission is further directed to submit a report, including proposals and recommendations, to the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee.

[LD 1216](#) An Act To Amend the State Tax Laws. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham)

Of municipal interest, this bill repeals the real estate and personal property tax exemptions on solar and wind energy equipment. The bill also: (1) reduces the declared ratio

accuracy threshold from within 20% to within 10% of the most recent state valuation ratio used to provide state reimbursement for the homestead exemption; (2) authorizes the Property Tax Bureau to audit municipal records to ensure compliance with the laws pertaining to reimbursement for property tax exemptions, similar to the process provided for homestead exemption reimbursement; and (3) authorizes the bureau to offset payments if it is determined that a BETE exemption was improperly approved. Under current law, the bureau is authorized to offset payments for any of the three years immediately preceding the determination that an exemption was improperly approved.

[LD 1215](#) Resolve, To Require the State Auditor To Report on Corrective Actions Regarding the Administration of Federal Grants. (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison)

This resolve requires the State Auditor to issue a report to the Legislature on a list of outstanding corrective actions for the past five years resulting from audits of state agencies regarding the administration of federal grants.

[LD 1211](#) Resolve, To Create the Study Group To Research Balancing Development and Conservation in Maine's Coastal Waters and Submerged Lands. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor)

This resolve establishes a 25-member study group directed to research balancing development and conservation in Maine's coastal waters and submerged lands. Five of the members must represent each bay community, including Casco Bay, Penobscot Bay, Blue Hill Bay, Frenchman Bay and Cobscook Bay. Specifically, the group must: (1) review existing shoreland zone and coastal waters laws in other states; (2) review current state laws governing watershed districts, river corridor commission, mandatory shoreland zoning; and (3) review models for local representation, participation and empowerment in regional planning. The study group's report and recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2021.

[LD 1209](#) An Act To Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services To Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. (Emergency) (Reported by Rep. Terry of Gorham for the administrator of the unorganized territory)

This bill establishes the municipal cost components for state and county services provided to the unorganized territory (UT), which forms the basis of the property tax assessment. After computing all the appropriations and accounting for the general revenue and educational revenue deductions, the total UT tax assessment for FY 2022 is \$28.4 million (not counting overlay or county taxes).

[LD 1208](#) An Act To Amend the State's Electronic Waste Recycling Law. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill amends the state's electronic waste recycling law by requiring that no later than Jan. 1, 2023, manufacturers of computer monitors, televisions, printers and video game consoles, individually or collectively through a manufacturer clearinghouse, design and implement a statewide manufacturer electronic waste program to provide for the collection, transportation, consolidation and recycling of these collected electronic devices in the state. The Department of Environmental Protection is directed to review and approve plans for the implementation of such a program and enforce program requirements. Each municipality that chooses to participate in a statewide manufacturer electronic waste program must annually provide notice of collection sites

within the municipality that may be available for use in the program. A municipality with a population of less than 10,000 residents may participate by committing to provide up to two one-day collection events within in the municipality in lieu of a permanent collection site. Participating municipalities must sort all covered electronic devices by category and package for transportation all devices from collection sites or one-day collection events. The bill also repeals or amends certain provisions of the existing electronic waste recycling law to align those provisions with the new program requirements.

[LD 1207](#) An Act To Maintain the Current Level of Education Funding. (Emergency)
(Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.)

This bill provides that for the 2021-22 fiscal year, if a school administrative unit's student enrollment has declined from the previous allocation year, the commissioner is required to use the pupil count from the previous allocation year for the determination of operating costs.

March 22, 2021

[LD 1203](#) An Act To Amend the Application of the Excise Tax on Noncommercial Watercraft Temporarily in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond)

This bill reduces from 75 to 28 days the length of time certain noncommercial vessels may be in Maine without being subject to the watercraft excise tax.

[LD 1201](#) Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Engage Stakeholders in an Examination of Fair Chance Housing Policy Options. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This resolve directs the Maine State Housing Authority in collaboration with stakeholders to examine fair chance housing policies considered or adopted in other jurisdictions to evaluate options for the state to adopt that would address housing issues and expand housing opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals without placing an excessive burden on housing providers. The bill requires the authority to submit a report to the Committee on Labor and Housing that includes findings and recommendations, as well as: (1) summaries of meetings; (2) a list of participants; (3) suggestions to increase the awareness among housing providers of the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in finding housing; (4) and any other relevant information. The committee is authorized to report out legislation based on the report.

[LD 1198](#) An Act Authorizing an Increase to the Maximum Annual Fund Balance for Public School Districts. (Sponsored by Rep. Carlow of Buxton)

This bill provides that a school board may carry forward unallocated balances in excess of 15% of the previous year's school budget, instead of 3% as current law provides.

[LD 1195](#) An Act To Increase Funding to Qualifying Municipalities by Sharing Adult Use Marijuana Sales and Excise Tax Revenue. (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

This bill allocates 5% of the gross sales and excise tax revenue generated by adult use marijuana establishments in the state to the municipalities where the revenue was generated.

[LD 1193](#) An Act To Exempt Certain Disabled Veterans from the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. (Sponsored by Rep. Brooks of Lewiston)

This bill provides a motor vehicle excise tax exemption for veterans who are receiving benefits based on 100% permanent service-connected disability.

[LD 1192](#) An Act Concerning the Composition of the Criminal Law Advisory Commission. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

This bill amends the membership of the Criminal Law Advisory Commission to require that at least one member be a state law enforcement officer and at least one member be a county or municipal law enforcement officer. It also requires the chair of the commission to provide written notice of each commission meeting to every state, county and municipal law enforcement agency in the state.

[LD 1190](#) An Act To Support the Provision of Universal, Affordable Broadband Internet. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to support the provision of universal, affordable broadband internet.

[LD 1188](#) An Act To Include Librarians and Career and Technical Education Teachers in the Minimum \$40,000 Salary Initiative. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth)

This bill includes school librarians and career and technical education teachers in the minimum \$40,000 salary for teachers' initiative.

[LD 1185](#) An Act To Distribute Tax Revenue To Offset Costs Incurred by Adult Use Marijuana Host Municipalities. (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor)

This bill establishes the Local Government Marijuana Revenue Fund capitalized by 12% of revenue from the sales and excise tax on adult use marijuana and related products. The fund must be distributed to a municipality where marijuana establishments are operating in proportion to the ratio of revenues generated by the sales and excise taxes within the municipality to the revenues generated by all marijuana establishments operating in the state.

[LD 1183](#) An act To Establish a License Plate in Support of Multiple Sclerosis Programs. (Sponsored by Rep. Wadsworth of Hiram)

This bill creates the support multiple sclerosis programs special registration plate to support multiple sclerosis programs.

[LD 1181](#) An Act To Reduce Property Taxes on the Primary Residence of Veterans who Are 100 Percent Disabled Due to Service-connected Disabilities. (Sponsored by Rep. Wadsworth of Hiram)

This concept draft bill proposes to reduce property taxes on the primary residences of veterans who are 100% disabled due to service-connected disabilities.

[LD 1180](#) An Act To Prohibit Discrimination in Housing Based on a Person's Participation in a Rental Assistance Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill amends the Maine Human Rights Act to include as prohibited acts the discrimination against a tenant because the tenant participates in a federal, state or local tenant-based rental assistance program.

[LD 1179](#) An Act To Restrict Maine Law Enforcement Participation in Federal Firearm Confiscation of Buy-back Programs without Legislative Approval. (Sponsored by Rep. Corey of Windham)

This bill requires a majority vote of each house of the Legislature and approval by the governor for any use of a law enforcement officer or agency in a federal firearm confiscation or buy-back program. This bill applies to any firearm or ammunition legally owned on or before Jan. 1, 2021.

[LD 1178](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Prohibit the Consideration of a People's Veto at a Presidential Primary. (Sponsored by Rep. Corey of Windham)

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the consideration of a people's veto at a presidential primary election.

[LD 1175](#) An Act To Prohibit Excessive Telephone, Video and Commissary Charges in Maine Jails and Prisons. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Kinney of Knox)

This bill prohibits the Department of Corrections, county jails and municipal detention facilities from accepting a commission or charging a fee for the provision of services from an outside provider to incarcerated individuals, including telephone, video and commissary services. This bill also requires the department to negotiate contracts for services, allowing county jails to opt in, at the lowest cost to the client. A contract for services may not include a connection fee. A contract for telephone services may not exceed a rate of 11¢ per minute and must allow incarcerated individuals to receive two 15-minute telephone calls per week at no charge.

[LD 1174](#) An Act To Allow Municipalities To Send Separate Tax Bills for Municipal, County and School Taxes. (Sponsored by Rep. Ordway of Standish)

This bill permits municipalities to issue separate bills for the portion of their tax commitments attributable to education, county operations and all other municipal costs.

[LD 1171](#) An Act To Curtail No-knock Warrants. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Augusta)

This bill requires a law enforcement officer, prior to forcibly entering a location that is the subject of a search warrant, to announce the law enforcement officer's authority to execute the warrant and purpose for which the warrant was issued. This requirement does not apply if the authority issuing the warrant clearly states that providing such notice would create an imminent risk of death or bodily harm to a law enforcement officer or an individual in the location that is the subject of the warrant.

[LD 1167](#) An Act Relating to Fair Chance in Employment. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill prohibits an employer from requesting criminal history record information on an initial employee application form or prior to determining a person is otherwise qualified for the position that a person with a criminal history may not apply or will not be considered for a position. The bill provides exceptions to those prohibitions, including instances in which federal or state law, regulation or rule mandates for a position that a criminal conviction disqualifies an applicant, or imposes an obligation on an employer not to hire an applicant who has been

convicted of a certain type of offense, or requires that an employer conduct a criminal history record check. An employer who violates this prohibition is subject to a penalty of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for each violation to be enforced by the Department of Labor.

[LD 1166](#) An Act To Increase the Property Tax Exemption for Veterans by 50 Percent. (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast)

For tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2022, this bill increases by 50% the exemption for all categories of eligible veterans other than paraplegic veterans receiving a \$50,000 exemption for specially adapted housing units.

[LD 1165](#) An Act To Provide Secured Drop Boxes for Absentee Ballots. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

This bill authorizes the Secretary of State to provide each municipality with a secured absentee ballot drop box that is accessible by only the municipal clerk.

[LD 1164](#) An act To expand the Application Period for Absentee Ballot Requests and Allow Early Processing of Absentee Ballots. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

This bill requires a municipal clerk to issue an absentee ballot to any voter, immediate family member or third person designated by the voter whose request for an absentee ballot is received in the municipal office after the third business day before election day.

[LD 1162](#) An Act To Dedicate a Percentage of the Sales and Use Tax on Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Parts to the Highway Fund. (Sponsored by Rep. Cebra of Naples)

This bill provides that 20% of the sales or use tax on motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts must be transferred to the Highway Fund beginning in 2022.

[LD 1161](#) An Act Concerning Marina-based Restaurants in the Shoreland Zone. (Sponsored by Rep. Cebra of Naples)

This bill adds marina-based restaurants to the list of "functionally water-dependent uses," which is defined as a restaurant located on marina premises that is an accessory to the primary use of the premises.

[LD 1159](#) An Act To Amend the Membership Requirements of the Board of Pesticides Control. (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono)

This bill amends the membership eligibility of the Board of Pesticides Control's two public members to require a demonstrated interest in environment protection, rather than practical experience and knowledge of the methods of sustainable indoor and outdoor pest management.

[LD 1158](#) An Act Regarding the Application of Certain Pesticides for Nonagricultural Use. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill prohibits the use of persistent synthetic pesticides except those used in the production of agricultural products. The bill also directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a working group to review the composition of the Board of Pesticides Control with respect to whether the board equitably represents public, environmental and industry interests and to identify whether the service of any of the board

members gives the appearance of a financial conflict of interest and provide findings and recommendations to committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

[LD 1155](#) An Act To Require Election Transparency and Audits. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth)

This bill requires the Secretary of State to: (1) produce and publicly disseminate a guide to election procedures; (2) develop an election complaint process; and (3) report to the Legislature on certain election issues after a general election. The secretary is further directed to conduct a pilot post-election audit following the November 2022 election, to include: (1) a study of best practices in post-election ballot audits; (2) recounts and the intersection of audits with recounts; and (3) a review of security protocols related to hardware, software and paper ballots. In conducting the pilot audit, the secretary may consult with state and municipal election officials, election security advocates and other experts in the field of election audits and recounts. By Feb. 1, 2023, the secretary must submit a report on the pilot audit with any recommended legislation to the committee having jurisdiction over veterans and legal affairs, which may report out a bill in 2023.

[LD 1154](#) An Act To Improve the Safety of Prisoners and Jail Staff by Limiting Work Hours of Jail Employees. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill requires county jail employees to receive eight hours off duty for every 16 hours worked on duty.

[LD 1153](#) An Act To Restrict Combustion Engines on Webber Pond in Bremen. (By Request) (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

This bill prohibits the use of any watercraft equipped with an internal combustion engine on Webber Pond in the Town of Bremen, except that it allows current residents with a valid registration on the effective date of the provision to continue to use and operate watercraft with a four-stroke engine that is no more than six horsepower.

[LD 1146](#) An Act To Protect Maine's Ocean Waters and Support Regulatory Oversight and the Long-term Health of the Aquaculture Industry. (Sponsored by Rep. Alley of Beals)

This concept bill proposes to amend existing laws to protect Maine's ocean waters, support robust regulatory oversight and the long-term health of the aquaculture industry and advance the interests of the people of the state.

[LD 1145](#) An Act To Eliminate the State Income Tax on Maine Public Employees Retirement System Pensions. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell)

Retirement benefits under state, local or federal government retirement plans that are based on employment compensation for which contributions are not made to the federal Social Security system result in reductions in the amount of Social Security benefits that a retiree is eligible to receive under the federal windfall elimination provision. This bill provides an income tax exemption for those retirement benefits.

[LD 1142](#) An Act To Prohibit the Unequal Restriction of essential Businesses during a State of Civil Emergency. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Augusta)

This bill prohibits the governor from restricting the operation of a private business during a state of emergency unless all private businesses are restricted in the same manner.

[LD 1137](#) An Act To Limit the Governor's Emergency Powers by Requiring a Two-thirds Vote of the Legislature To Continue an Emergency after 90 Days. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Lemelin of Chelsea)

This bill requires the governor to convene the Legislature if a declared state of emergency is to be in effect for longer than 90 days. If the legislature does not, by a 2/3 vote in each house, vote to extend the state of emergency, the governor may not declare a similar, subsequent state of emergency. The bill also requires the governor to convene the legislature if, after a state of emergency is declared, an order or rule issued by the governor is to be in effect for longer than 90 days. The legislature must, by a 2/3 vote in each house, vote to extend the governor's authority to extend that order or rule.

[LD 1133](#) An Act To Amend the Transportation Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair)

This bill authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to convene a 15- member rail corridor use advisory council, which may include one or more municipal officials from communities located on a rail corridor, to advise and make recommendations each time one or more governmental entities that represent communities along a state-owned rail corridor request that the department review a non-rail recreational use or non-recreational transportation use of that rail corridor. The bill also: (1) revises the priority classifications and goals for the state's public highways; (2) prohibits the department from dismantling or making changes to state-owned railroad track for a non-rail use without going through the advisory council process and obtaining legislative approval; (3) amends the law governing appeals to awards made by the State Claims Commission to clarify the appeals filing process; and (4) defines "roundabouts" and includes them in the laws governing the use of traffic circles and rotaries.

[LD 1132](#) An Act To Encourage the Renovation of Available Housing Stock. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

The purpose of this bill is to make more affordable housing available by allowing the clearing of title of tax-acquired abandoned property within one year of the acquisition rather than the existing five years. This bill also directs the Maine State Housing Authority to develop a program to purchase tax-acquired properties that have been renovated and make them available for rent or for sale to first-time home buyers.

[LD 1129](#) An Act Relating to the Valuation of Retail Sales Facilities. (Sponsored by Rep. Matlack of St. George)

This bill provides that, in establishing the just value of retail sales facilities, consideration must be given to three recognized approaches to valuation of commercial property and that the assessor must consider the value of reasonably similar properties with regard to age, condition, use, type of construction, location, design, physical features and economic characteristics.

[LD 1127](#) An Act To Prohibit the Use of "No-knock" Warrants. (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor)

This bill prohibits law enforcement officers and any employee of the state or a political subdivision from using no-knock warrants and participating in or providing material support for the execution of a federal no-knock warrant. A political subdivision of the state is prohibited from adopting a rule, ordinance, order or policy that allows the execution of no-knock warrants, a violation of which is subject to a loss of state funding for the entire fiscal year in which the political subdivision is determined to have intentionally committed the violation. A law enforcement officer who violates the prohibition against no-knock warrants commits a Class E crime and is subject to a mandatory sentence of six months in a correctional facility.

[LD 1126](#) An Act To Update the Voter Registration Process. (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This bill requires the Secretary of State to create a process for accepting online voter registration applications beginning Jan. 1, 2023, which uses a valid Maine driver's license, non-driver identification card number or the last four digits of the applicant's social security number to verify the identity of an online applicant. The deadline for receipt of online voter registration applications is midnight on the 21st day before election day. The bill further directs the secretary to create an online process enabling a previously registered voter whose name is changed by marriage or other process of law or who has moved within a municipality to notify the appropriate registrar of voters of the voter's new name or address through the online voter registration, as well as processes for a registered voter to change party enrollment or to withdraw from a party. In addition, the bill directs the secretary submit a report by June 30, 2022 to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs on the feasibility of and progress made toward implementing a system for third-party organizations to collect and to submit electronic voter registration applications to the secretary.

[LD 1124](#) An Act To Change the Threshold for Creating a Specialty License Plate from 2,000 Prepaid Orders to 1,000 Prepaid Orders and To Extend by One Year the Time Allowed for Gathering Signatures. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill makes changes to the law relating to specialty license plates by lowering the number of signatures a sponsor of a proposed specialty license plate is required to submit to the Secretary of State from 2,000 to 1,000. The bill provides that if the sum of contributions from supporters of a proposed specialty license plate is less than \$50,000, the sponsor is required to provide the difference between the amount collected and \$50,000 to the secretary. The bill also increases from two to three years the amount of time allowed for a sponsor to collect signatures of supporters of a proposed specialty licensee and applies the changes retroactively to Sept. 1, 2019 and to sponsors currently in the two-year window of meeting the specialty license plate requirements.

[LD 1122](#) An Act To Promote Public Safety by Allowing Lighted Signs on Certain Vehicles. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill authorizes the display of illuminated signs on delivery vehicles that transport customers or property as long as the only information on the sign is the name and telephone number of the company providing the delivery. It also amends the law to clarify that an illuminated sign with the same information may be affixed to the roof of a vehicle for the conveyance of passengers.

[LD 1121](#) An Act To Create an Open and Streamlined Primary System. (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill provides for open primary elections by requiring all candidates for federal and state offices to appear on the same primary ballot. All qualified voters, regardless of enrollment status, are eligible to vote in open primary elections. The votes in an open primary election must be tabulated using ranked-choice voting, except that the two candidates who receive the most votes are declared the winners and their names must appear on the ballot for the general election. Voters may not vote for a write-in candidate in a general election that is preceded by an open primary election. The bill also changes the date of the state's presidential primary election from the Tuesday after the first Monday in March to the second Tuesday of June of the presidential election year.

[LD 1118](#) An Act To Promote Reliable Rural High-speed Internet. (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This bill provides an income tax credit for high-speed internet service providers who engage in a project approved by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development that provides high-speed internet service where the average number of potential customers per mile does not exceed 20 and the cost to the customers does not exceed the Consumer Price Index cost for high-speed internet service in a metropolitan area.

[LD 1116](#) Resolve, To Require Review of the Outcomes of Utility Restructuring and Electricity Generation Divestiture. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This resolve directs the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology to hold at least three public hearings in 2021 to hear testimony on lessons learned from the restructuring of Maine's electric utilities, the required divestiture of utility-owned generation and the creation of ISO-New England in 2000. It also requires the Public Utilities Commission to hire an independent consultant to conduct a high-level review of and report on current proposals to better align the clean energy and de-carbonization objectives adopted by New England states with the emphasis on reliability, efficiency and resource neutrality favored in the New England wholesale electricity markets and how these proposals can benefit consumers in the state through the improvement of electric energy generation and delivery. It also requires the commission to submit a report to the committee by Jan. 15, 2022 and allows the committee to report out a bill to the Legislature in 2022.

[LD 1114](#) An Act To Require the State To Meet the Mandatory 55 Percent Contribution to Schools. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill increases the targeted state share of K-12 education as calculated by the essential programs and services to 55% beginning in FY 22 and continuing at that rate annually.

[LD 1110](#) An Act To Clarify the Authority To Manage Electric Bicycle Access to Off-road Trails. (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill clarifies that a municipality, local authority or governing body of a public agency has the discretion to permit the operation of Class 1 and Class 2 electronic bicycles on bicycle paths or trails designated for non-motorized traffic.

[LD 1109](#) An Act To Align Equipment Requirements for Electric Bicycles with National Manufacturing Standards. (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill restricts the speedometer requirement for electric bicycles to Class 3 electric bicycles to align the requirement with national manufacturing standards.

[LD 1108](#) An Act To Promote Legislative Oversight of Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill requires that an expenditure proposed by the governor from discretionary funds not otherwise earmarked for use by the state that are received directly by the federal government due to the COVID-19 pandemic must be approved by a majority vote of both houses of the Legislature.

[LD 1107](#) An Act To Create Needed Broadband Infrastructure in Rural Maine through the Establishment of a Satellite-based Broadband Grant Program. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill establishes a satellite-based broadband grant program, to be developed and administered by the Public Utilities Commission, to provide grants of up to \$500 to individuals for installation costs and other advance costs associated with the initial acquisition of broadband access from a satellite-based broadband provider. Under the program, grant priority is to be given to applicants from unserved or underserved areas of the state. This grant program is capitalized under the bill through a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$1 million.

[LD 1104](#) An Act To Increase the Time for Which a Temporary Motor Vehicle Registration Plate Is Valid. (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

This bill increases from 14 to 30 the number of days a person may operate a motor vehicle or trailer with a temporary registration plate without payment of a regular registration plate fee.

[LD 1103](#) An Act To Allow a 5-year Open Enrollment in the Participating Local District Retirement Program for Certain Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and Other Municipal Employees. (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

This bill allows employees in a participating local district to enroll in the Participating Local District Retirement Program up to and including in that employee's fifth year employment anniversary through an annual open enrollment. It also provides a one-time election for participating local district employees whose five-year work anniversary has passed to join the Participating Local District Retirement Program.

[LD 1099](#) An Act Regarding Election Reform. (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This bill amends the election laws by: (1) prohibiting incarcerated persons from voting; (2) requiring ballots to be in paper form; (3) requiring photo identification to vote; (4) prohibiting the receipt of ballots after the polls close; (5) prohibiting the buying of a vote by another person for money or any other thing of value; and (6) allowing absentee voting only for a person who is unable to vote, the reason for which is certified by the person, and requires two other persons to collect and deliver the ballot, each of whom must certify the collection and delivery.

[LD 1097](#) An Act Regarding the Definition of “Development of State or Regional Significance That May Substantially Affect the Environment.” (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

The purpose of this bill is to ensure that the site location of development law subjects to review those projects that are truly of state or regional significance. It requires the application of the law to residential subdivisions only if they contain at least 100 dwelling units. It increases the threshold for review by modifying the definition of "structure" to include at least five non-vegetated acres, increased from three acres. It exempts solar energy projects generating less than 10 megawatts from review, even if the project covers more than 20 acres.

[LD 1094](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Reduce Homeowner and Municipal Energy Bills through Increased Efficiency and Weatherization Projects. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.)

This bond bill issues \$20 million to be administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust and used to reduce energy costs for senior citizens, low-income residents, municipalities and schools through investments in weatherization and energy efficiency.

[LD 1092](#) An Act To Expand the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy To Include 6 Members of the Public Who Are Not Employed as Any Type of Law Enforcement Personnel and To Require a Public Review of the Training Syllabus. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill adds three members to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy (MCJA) for a total of six members who are not and have never been sworn members of a law enforcement agency, with two each appointed by the Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House. This bill also requires that any change or adoption of an element of the MCJA basic law enforcement training program be considered only after public comment, with the members of the board of trustees required to acknowledge receipt of the comments, and that a complete review of the basic law enforcement training program by this process be accomplished within 12 months of the enactment of this bill with the three new members present on the board.

[LD 1089](#) An Act To Increase Municipal Oversight in the Site Location of Development Laws. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

This bill amends the laws governing municipal review of developments under the site location laws by removing the acreage limits on developments that a municipality may review.

[LD 1088](#) An Act To Allow Nonresidents Who Own Property To Speak at Town Meetings on Local Issues. (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This bill allows a nonresident individual who owns residential real property in a town to speak at a town meeting to the same extent as a resident of the town.

March 11, 2021

[LD 1087](#) An Act To Save Maine Businesses. (Sponsored by Rep. Prescott of Waterboro)

This concept draft bill would make changes to state law in order to help save Maine businesses

[LD 1086](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade Customs Facilities at the Portland International Jetport and the Bangor International Jetport and the Bangor International Airport To Promote International Tourism and Commerce. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

This bond bill issues \$14 million to construct a United States Customs and Border Protection facility at the Portland International Jetport to allow international commercial passenger service and a temperature-controlled, United States Customs and Border Protection bonded warehouse at Bangor International Airport to allow international cargo service.

[LD 1084](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create Energy-efficient and Affordable Homes for Maine People. (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This bond bill issues \$50 million to build new energy-efficient, affordable homes for low-income households through construction of new structures and adaptive reuse of existing structures, which will be matched by an estimated \$82.5 million in private and other funds.

[LD 1083](#) An Act To Create a Voter Identification System. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill requires of photographic proof of identity in order to vote in person. The bill defines the acceptable forms of identification (e.g., driver's license, Maine non-driver card; U.S. passport, etc.) and explicitly prohibits the use of a Maine college or university issued identification as acceptable verification. The bill also allows a person who does not possess photographic identification document to request a free special voter card from the Secretary of State.

[LD 1079](#) Resolve, To Review the Effects of the Deregulation of Maine Utilities. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This resolve requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish a commission to review the effects of policies enacted in Maine relating to the deregulation and restructuring of the state's electric industry. The PUC must report its findings to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology no later than Dec. 1, 2021, and the committee may report out legislation on the subject matter of the report to the Legislature 2022.

[LD 1078](#) An Act To Promote Traffic Safety in Emergency Situations. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill enables a trained unsworn member of a law enforcement agency to serve as a public safety traffic flagger to control vehicular traffic at emergency scenes in the same manner as firefighters and members of emergency medical services control vehicular traffic.

[LD 1076](#) An Act To Support the Operations of Youth Shelters in Maine. (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Androscoggin Cty.)

This bill amends the definitions of "emergency children's shelter" and "shelter for homeless children" to extend from 30 to 90 consecutive days or overnights the length of time a child may stay at such a facility. The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules for the licensure of shelters for homeless children to allow a child to be admitted for up to 30 days without first notifying the child's guardian. The bill requires the department to also amend its rules for the licensure of emergency shelters for children to allow

the admission of a child into care for up to 30 days without obtaining the permission of the child's guardian. The bill also increases the funding provided to homeless youth shelters from \$2 million annually to \$2.5 million annually.

[LD 1075](#) An Act To Protect Public Lands. (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to adopt rules that establish an objective evaluation process for determining if a proposed activity on designated land would cause the land to be reduced or substantially altered and designates those rules as major substantive rules.

[LD 1073](#) Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Research Effective Strategies and Efficiencies of Legislatures. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This resolve establishes the eight-member Commission To Research Effective Strategies and Efficiencies of Legislatures tasked with studying the overall structure, including the number of legislators; process for allowing the introduction of bills; number of bills in a legislative session and biennium; structure of committees; budget process; term limits; and pay structure. No later than Dec. 1, 2021, the commission must submit its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Legislature in 2022.

[LD 1071](#) An Act To Reduce Property Taxes for Maine Residents. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.)

For property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2021, this bill increases the homestead property tax exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and increases reimbursement to municipalities from 70% to 100%.

[LD 1069](#) An Act To Provide Program Solvency, Clarity, Consistency and Flexibility in Routine Public Health Licensing Activities. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.)

In part, this bill amends public health laws to: (1) correct a conflict regarding municipal fees in state statutes; (2) make changes to require a complete application to operate any eating establishment, lodging place, recreational camp, youth camp, campground, public pool or public spa, remove the 90-day conditional license period and replace it with a conditional license period of up to one year and limit issuance of a conditional license to only one per applicant; and (3) update the laws governing eating establishments, lodging places, recreational camps, youth camps, campgrounds, public pools and public spas to detain or embargo food found to be adulterated or misbranded.

[LD 1068](#) An Act To Restrict Access to Weapons Pursuant to Court Order in Cases of Harassment. (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill allows a court, in a protection from harassment order, to direct a defendant not to possess a firearm, muzzle-loading firearm, bow, crossbow or other dangerous weapon for the duration of the order. The bill also authorizes the court direct the defendant to relinquish, within 24 hours after service of the order on the defendant or such earlier time as the court specifies in the order, all firearms, muzzle-loading firearms, bows, crossbows and specified dangerous weapons in the possession of the defendant to a law enforcement officer or other individual for the duration of the order. If the weapons are relinquished to an individual other than a law enforcement officer, the defendant shall file, within 24 hours after relinquishment, with the court

or local law enforcement agency designated in the order a written statement that contains the name and address of the individual holding the weapons and a description of all weapons held by that individual. The court may subsequently issue a search warrant authorizing a law enforcement officer to seize weapons at any location if there is probable cause to believe such weapons have not been relinquished.

[LD 1065](#) An Act To Clarify the Qualifications and Oversight of Sheriffs. (Sponsored by Rep. Pickett of Dixfield)

This bill requires a candidate for sheriff or someone serving as sheriff to have met and continue to meet any statutory requirements of preservice, basic or in-service law enforcement training required for certification or continued certification as a law enforcement officer. This bill also provides that any person who served as a full-time law enforcement officer employed by a state agency, including the University of Maine System, on or before July 1, 1990 is considered to have met the standards required by this bill.

[LD 1058](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Popular Election of the Treasurer of State. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

Beginning in 2022, this resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that provides for the direct popular election of the Treasurer of State biennially.

[LD 1057](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

Beginning in 2022, this resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that provides for the direct popular election of the Secretary of State biennially.

[LD 1056](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Popular Election of the Attorney General. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

Beginning in 2022, this resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that provides for the direct popular election of the Attorney General biennially.

[LD 1052](#) An Act To Protect the Firearm Use and Possession Rights of Maine Citizens during an Emergency. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris)

This bill declares that the transport, storage, sale and transfer and other activities involving firearms, ammunition and components and accessories are considered essential businesses and services during a state of emergency declared by the governor and prohibits the state or political subdivision from regulating, curtailing, seizing or other actions to restrict otherwise lawfully owned and possessed firearms, ammunition and related components and accessories and related activities during a state of emergency. This bill excludes from the restrictions a law enforcement officer's seizure of a firearm, ammunition or accessories or components while detaining an individual for suspected criminal activity pursuant to a warrantless arrest. This bill also suspends the expiration date for concealed handgun permits for a state of emergency.

[LD 1051](#) An Act To Promote Civic Engagement and Voter Participation for Young People by Lowering the Voting Age for Municipal Elections to 16 Years of Age. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This bill lowers the voting age for municipal elections to 16 years of age.

March 10, 2021

[LD 1047](#) An Act To Create an Alternate Minimum Wage Applicable to Student Employees Who Are under 20 Years of Age and to Employees Who Are under 18 Years of Age. (Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield)

This bill provides a minimum hourly wage of \$9.75 starting Jan. 1, 2022 for an employee who has not attained 20 years of age and is a student at a secondary or postsecondary school and an employee who has not attained 18 years of age. On Jan. 1, 2023 and each January first thereafter, this minimum hourly wage must be increased the cost of living.

[LD 1043](#) An Act Concerning the Unannounced Execution of Search Warrants. (Sponsored by Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield)

This bill requires law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies regarding the unannounced execution of search warrants. Such policies must meet the minimum standards adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

[LD 1040](#) An Act To Require Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training or Implicit Bias Training for school Resource Officers. (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill requires a school resource officer to complete diversity, equity and inclusion training or implicit bias training at least once during that officer's first year of employment as a school resource officer.

[LD 1039](#) An Act To Safeguard the People's Voice in a State of Emergency. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

This bill amends the provisions of law regarding the termination of a state of emergency by removing the governor's authority to renew a state of emergency after 30 days and instead provides that the renewal of a state of emergency must be approved by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature upon request by the governor. The state of emergency may be renewed for up to 30 days at a time, and the renewal process may be repeated indefinitely. If the legislature is out of session at the time the request is issued by the governor, the governor must give at least three days' notice for the legislature to convene to consider the request. If the state of emergency is terminated for any reason, the governor may not declare another state of emergency for the same emergency or set of circumstances underlying the first state of emergency. The governor's powers as Commander in Chief of the military forces of the state are not affected by this bill. The bill authorizes the legislature to terminate any specific emergency order by the governor by a 2/3 vote in each house of the legislature. This bill also allows the legislature during a state of emergency to vote on a proclamation or executive order made during that emergency remotely by electronic or other means.

[LD 1038](#) An Act To Facilitate a Timely Revision Process in the Site Location of Development Laws. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

This bill provides that the processing period for each type of permit or license application submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection may not exceed 90 days. It applies the processing period to both new and revised applications.

[LD 1032](#) An Act To Promote the Sustainability of the State's Unemployment Insurance System by Linking the Duration of Benefits to the State's Average Unemployment Rate. (Sponsored by Rep. Stetkis of Cannan)

This bill links unemployment insurance benefits to the state average unemployment rate. An employee may receive: (1) 12 weeks of unemployment insurance if the state average unemployment rate is at or below 5 1/2%; (2) one additional week added to the 12 weeks for each 1/2% increase in the state average unemployment rate above 5 1/2%; and (3) up to a maximum of 20 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits if the state average unemployment rate is over 9%.

[LD 1028](#) An Act To Ease Business Expansion by Increasing the Number and Applicability of Permit Exemptions under the Site Location of Development Laws. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

Under current law, new construction at a licensed manufacturing facility and new construction at or modification of a campus of an educational institution and of an existing licensed development is exempt from review under the laws governing site location of development if certain criteria are met. This bill amends those exemptions by increasing the square footage criteria under the exemptions.

[LD 1027](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Local Bridges. (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to notify a municipality when a bridge for which a municipality has maintenance responsibility requires a posting or closure and requires the municipality to carry out the posting or closure. The bill also provides that in order for the department to accept certain responsibilities for an improved bridge or for a new bridge, the department must approve the design of the improvements or construction before the improvements are made or the bridge is constructed. The design of the improvements or construction must meet standards set by the department and be sealed by a professional engineer.

[LD 1024](#) Resolve, Directing the Workers' Compensation Board To Study the Impact of Workers' Compensation Laws on Certain Public Sector Employees. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuttle of Sanford)

This resolve directs the Workers' Compensation Board to study the fiscal impact of certain workers' compensation laws providing a rebuttable presumption that certain employees received injuries in the course of their employment on municipalities and to devise a high-risk pool to protect the municipalities from that impact.

[LD 1023](#) An Act To Define Intentional Balloon Releases as Litter. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington)

This bill prohibits the intentional release outdoors of balloons.

[LD 1022](#) An Act To Make Agricultural Workers and Other Workers Employees under the Wage and Hour Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner)

In part, this bill provides that agricultural and seasonal employees are subject to the laws that place limits on mandatory overtime.

[LD 1019](#) An Act To Promote Transparent Emergency Management. (Sponsored by Rep. Bradstreet of Vassalboro)

This bill requires an order issued by the governor following the declaration of a state of emergency to expire 30 days following the issuance of the order; termination of the state of emergency by the governor or the Legislature; or declaration of a different state of emergency by the governor, whichever occurs first.

[LD 1018](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Allow the Citizens of the State To Elect the Secretary of State, Treasurer of State and Attorney General. (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris)

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that provides for the direct popular election of the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the Attorney General biennially.

[LD 1017](#) An Act To Let the Citizens of the State Choose Their State Auditor. (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris)

Beginning in 2024, this bill provides for the popular election of the State Auditor every four years.

[LD 1016](#) An Act To Ensure That Assemblies, Protests and Demonstrations in Maine Remain Peaceful. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris)

This bill amends the definition of "terroristic intent" in the Maine Criminal Code to include: (1) destroying public property or works of art, including but not limited to statuary; (2) destroying business infrastructure or committing theft in connection with the destruction of business infrastructure; (3) using fire, fireworks, combustible materials, body fluids, frozen liquids, bottles, bricks, rocks or other objects that, in the manner they are used or threatened to be used are capable of producing death or serious bodily injury; (4) starting a fire on the property of another during a public protest, demonstration or assembly; or (5) assaulting a law enforcement officer or public servant during a public protest, demonstration or assembly. The bill also provides that a person is guilty of the Class B crime of aggravated reckless conduct if the person with terroristic intent engages in the willful destruction of public or private property.

[LD 1014](#) An Act To Repeal the School Bus Reimbursement Formula and Replace it with Essential Programs and Services Funding. (Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood of Wales)

This bill repeals the provision of law relating to commissioner approval of school bus purchases and includes school bus purchase costs in transportation operating costs in the Essential Programs and Services funding formula.

[LD 1013](#) An Act To Provide Absentee Ballot Tracking for Maine Voters. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

This bill requires the Secretary of State to maintain the absentee ballot tracking service implemented by the secretary that allows a voter who requests an absentee ballot to track the status of the voter's ballot from when the ballot was requested to when it is ultimately accepted or rejected by the municipal clerk.

[LD 1010](#) An Act To Establish the Maine Service Fellows Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Reilly of Westbrook)

This bill establishes the Maine Service Fellows Program under the Maine Commission for Community Service. The program is designed to engage program participants in devoting a year of service to Maine communities. The commission is directed to seek to design and implement the program in a manner that will increase the opportunities for citizens to devote a year of service to Maine communities; attract to and retain in Maine motivated adults who have completed a college degree within the prior five years to apply their skills and abilities to projects for the benefit of Maine citizens; provide rural and underserved Maine communities a resource to address critical health and human, public safety, education and environmental needs; and strengthen civic engagement of both the program fellows and community residents through solutions based in whole or in part in volunteer service. To the extent funds are available, program fellows receive a stipend, a completion bonus and other benefits.

[LD 1009](#) Resolve, To Create a Health Care Ombudsman Position To Serve in Maine's County Jails. (Sponsored by Rep. Madigan of Waterville)

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to designate an intensive case manager working in the county jails to serve as a health care ombudsman to oversee county jail inmates with medical and mental health care needs and connect them to the health care services for which they qualify. The health care ombudsman also assists county jail inmates in receiving the medications they need in a timely fashion.

[LD 1008](#) An Act To Require Joint Use Entities To Establish Permanent Liaisons with All County Emergency Management Agencies. (Sponsored by Rep. Tepler of Topsham)

This bill requires a joint use entity, which includes a public utility, voice service provider, dark fiber provider, wholesale or retail competitive local exchange carrier, cable television system, unlit fiber provider, telecommunications service provider or information service provider, to designate a permanent liaison with each county emergency management agency in the state in counties in which the joint use entity has facilities in order to assist in the coordination of efforts during a disaster or civil emergency.

[LD 997](#) An Act To Support Maine's Corrections Officers and E-9-1-1 Dispatchers. (Sponsored by Rep. Pebworth of Blue Hill)

Of municipal significance, this bill adds corrections officers and E-9-1-1 dispatchers to the list of employees for whom there is a rebuttable presumption under the laws governing workers' compensation that when the employee is diagnosed by a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist as having post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from work stress that was extraordinary and unusual, the post-traumatic stress disorder is presumed to have arisen out of and in the course of the worker's employment.

[LD 993](#) An Act To Prevent the Spread of Infectious Disease in Schools. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. White of Waterville)

This bill requires school administrative units to provide a total of 80 hours of paid sick leave per academic year for public school employees affected by COVID-19. The bill establishes criteria for rate of pay during the leave period and provides that part-time employees are eligible

for leave based on the average number of hours worked. The bill requires school administrative units to offer leave regardless of the length of employment of the employee.

[LD 992](#) An Act To Prevent the Denial or Revocation of a Professional or Business License for a Violation Not Related to That Profession or Business. (Sponsored by Rep. Newman of Belgrade)

In part, this bill prohibits municipalities from denying or revoking a business license if the denial or revocation is for a violation unrelated to the conduct of the business. It requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to submit to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business a report identifying existing statutes that allow for such denial or revocation and give the committee the authority to report out legislation in 2022.

[LD 991](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Complete a Feasibility Analysis To Initiate a Commuter and Passenger Train Service between Portland and the Lewiston and Auburn Area. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, interested municipalities and planning organizations, to complete a feasibility analysis to implement passenger rail service from Portland to downtown Lewiston. The bill also appropriates \$250,000 in FY 22 for the feasibility analysis.

[LD 990](#) An Act Regarding Veterans License Plates. (Sponsored by Sen. Rosen of Hancock Cty.)

This bill allows a veteran who applies for a special veterans registration plate for an automobile or a motorcycle to pay the registration fee only once for the first set of plates issued. Any additional issuance of plates requires payment of the fee annually.

[LD 988](#) An Act To Increase Economic Development by Expanding the Special Fee Application Review Process of the Department of Environmental Protection. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

This bill requires the department to adopt rules identifying the relevant factors the commissioner of Environmental Protection must consider in determining if a particular application is subject to special fees. The bill also authorizes the department to assign a project a category and establish an appropriate fee and timeline for the project based on the complexity of the project.

[LD 987](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Portland Harbor Commercial Revitalization Project's Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell and Dredging Projects. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.)

This bond bill issues \$28 million to construct a confined aquatic disposal cell within Portland Harbor and engage in a maintenance dredge of the marine facilities of Portland and South Portland in order to promote commercial economic growth, maintain the working waterfront and improve the sediment and water quality of the harbor.

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[LD 985](#) 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 proposes a constitutional amendment that provides that a state of emergency proclaimed by the governor may not continue for longer than 60 days unless approved by the Legislature every 60 days.

[LD 983](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote Land Conservation, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This bond bill issues \$80 million to provide funds for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands (\$20 million) and the Land for Maine's Future Board (\$60 million).

[LD 982](#) An Act To Protect against Discrimination by Public Entities. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill amends the state's Human Rights Act to prohibit public entities from denying participation in or access to services, programs or activities on the basis of an individual's race, color, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin.

[LD 980](#) An Act To Establish Balance in the Governor's Emergency Powers. (Sponsored by Rep. Sampson of Alfred)

This bill places limitations on the powers of the governor to issue and maintain powers pursuant to an emergency proclamation. Of municipal significance, the bill requires the emergency powers exercised by the governor, a person within the executive branch or a municipal official that bind, curtail or infringe on the rights of private parties to be narrowly tailored to serve a compelling health or safety purpose and to be limited in duration, applicability and scope to reduce any infringement of individual liberty. The bill also gives a state court jurisdiction to hear a case challenging the legality of the exercise of emergency powers and requires the court to expedite consideration of the case to the extent practicable. Inequality in the applicability of impact of emergency orders on analogous groups, situations and circumstances may constitute one ground among others for a court to invalidate or enjoin an emergency order, or some of its applications, on the basis that it is not narrowly tailored to serve a compelling public health or safety purpose.

[LD 971](#) An Act To Require the Public Utilities Commission To Open an Inquiry Regarding Notification of the Sale of an Investor-owned Transmission and Distribution Utility. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to consider the potential benefits of providing more local control over electricity service and whether local control is feasible before issuing an order of authorization for the sale or merger of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility. It allows the commission to adopt routine technical rules to implement this proposed change. The bill allow directs the PUC to open an inquiry to examine and make recommendations regarding a process to provide timely notification to entities authorized to own a transmission and distribution plant of any proposed sale of an investor

owned transmission and distribution utility and to provide the opportunity for the notified entities to bid on the sale. The PUC is further directed to submit the results of this inquiry to Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by Feb.1, 2022.

[LD 970](#) An Act To Base the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax on Actual Sale Price. (Sponsored by Rep. Connor of Lewiston)

This bill provides that for a motor vehicle purchased after Dec. 31, 2022, the motor vehicle excise tax must be based on the purchase price for the motor vehicle if purchased from a new vehicle dealer or a used car dealer. For other motor vehicles, the excise tax continues to be based on the maker's list price.

[LD 969](#) An act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Construction of a Convention Center in Portland, Improvements to the Augusta Civic Center and a Competitive Grant Program for Capital Improvements to Public Venues across the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

The bond bill issues \$115 million for the construction of a convention center in Portland; improvements to the Augusta Civic Center; and a competitive grant program for capital improvements to public venues across Maine.

[LD 968](#) Resolve, To Expand Mental Health Crisis Intervention Mobile Response Services. (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor)

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to expand mental health crisis intervention mobile response services to provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to the entire state. The department is directed to do this using funding provided for a request for proposal for behavioral health crisis center services.

[LD 966](#) Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study Fair, Equitable and Competitive Tax Policy for Maine's Working Families and Small Businesses. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Tepler of Topsham)

This resolve establishes the 14-member Commission To Study Fair, Equitable and Competitive Tax Policy for Maine's Working Families and Small Businesses, which includes a member from a statewide organization representing municipalities. The commission is directed to develop recommendations to ensure the state's tax policy promotes fair and equitable funding for all government services and no later than Nov. 4, 2021 to submit recommendations and findings for the Legislature's consideration in 2022.

[LD 965](#) An Act Concerning Nondisclosure Agreements in Employment. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner)

This bill prohibits an employer from requiring an employee, intern or applicant for employment to enter into a: (1) contract or agreement that waives or limits any right to report or discuss discrimination, retaliation or harassment occurring in the workplace or at work-related events; or (2) settlement, separation or severance agreement that limits an individual's right to (a) report, testify or provide evidence to a federal or state agency that enforces employment or discrimination laws; (b) prevents an individual from testifying or providing evidence in federal and state court proceedings in response to legal process; or (c) prohibits an individual from reporting conduct to a law enforcement agency. This bill allows a settlement, separation or

severance agreement, under certain circumstances, to include a provision that prevents the subsequent disclosure of factual information relating to a claim of discrimination, retaliation or harassment. It also provides the Department of Labor with the duty to enforce these provisions and allows an individual to receive liquidated damages or to be employed or reinstated with back wages when an employer discharges or refuses to hire an individual who declines to enter into a contract or agreement that waives or limits any right to report or discuss discrimination, retaliation or harassment occurring in the workplace or at work-related events.

[LD 964](#) An act To Expand Access to Certified Substance Use Disorder Recovery Residence Services. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Augusta)

This bill requires recovery residences to be certified according to the standards set by a nationally recognized organization that supports persons recovering from substance use disorder in order to receive contracts from the department or receive housing vouchers or housing assistance under the municipal general assistance program. The bill also prevents an applicant for general assistance from being denied aid for the sole reason that the person is living in a recovery residence.

[LD 963](#) An act To Create Culturally Sensitive Treatment and Recovery Halfway Houses for Immigrants Transitioning out of the Juvenile Justice System. (Sponsored by Rep. Brooks of Lewiston)

This bill requires the Commissioner of Corrections to establish treatment and recovery halfway houses for youth in the state to provide halfway house services and substance use disorder treatment, mental health treatment, education and job training and employment and job opportunity services for youth transitioning out of the juvenile justice system who are immigrants or whose families have immigrated to Maine. The commissioner is directed to work in partnership with a nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of involving immigrants in the civic work of their communities, local immigrant community members and associations and local, state and federal agencies to provide halfway house services and other services in a culturally sensitive manner. The halfway houses must be assigned to only one gender and must provide housing services, referrals to community based services and supports and education and employment resources. The halfway houses must be funded with contributions from the department with any grants, donations and private funding received for this purpose.

[LD 960](#) An Act To Require of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, PFAS, in Products and of Discharges of Firefighting Foam Containing PFAS. (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond)

This bill requires manufacturers of products with intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances to report the presence of those substances in those products to the Department of Environmental Protection beginning in 2023. This bill also requires any person who causes a discharge of aqueous film-forming foam into waters of the state to report that discharge to the department within 24 hours.

[LD 959](#) An Act To Protect Small Businesses by Ensuring That a Prevailing Wage Is Paid on Public Works Construction Projects. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill expands the definition of "construction" under the laws governing preference to Maine works and contractors, which include provisions requiring the payment of prevailing

wages, to include contracts for any construction, reconstruction, demolition, improvement, enlargement, painting, decorating or repair of any public works under which work is performed at an off-site location within 350 miles of the public works or where at least 10% of the contracted work is performed.

[LD 955](#) An act To Narrowly Tailor Emergency Powers of the Governor and Other Public Officials. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

This bill requires the emergency powers exercised by the governor, a person within the executive branch or a municipal official that bind, curtail or infringe the rights of private parties to be narrowly tailored to serve a compelling health or safety purpose and to be limited in duration, applicability and scope to reduce any infringement of individual liberty. Only the governor may issue an order that infringes a right guaranteed under the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Maine, including, but not limited to, freedom of travel, assembly, work, speech, religion, contract and purchase and possession of arms and ammunition, and that order must be narrowly tailored to serve a compelling health or safety purpose limited in duration, applicability and scope to reduce any infringement of a constitutional right. This bill also gives a state court jurisdiction to hear a case challenging the legality of the exercise of emergency powers and requires the court to expedite consideration of the case to the extent practicable. Inequality in the applicability of impact of emergency orders on analogous groups, situations and circumstances may constitute one ground among others for a court to invalidate or enjoin an emergency order, or some of its applications, on the basis that it is not narrowly tailored to serve a compelling public health or safety purpose.

[LD 954](#) An Act To Provide Equal Access to the Benefits of the Maine Food Sovereignty Act. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

This bill includes plantations and unorganized territories under the municipal home rule authority and compliance provisions of the Maine Food Sovereignty Act. This bill also authorizes plantations to enact ordinances under the Maine Food Sovereignty Act and directs counties to provide for the unorganized territories the services under the Act that municipalities provide.

[LD 953](#) An Act To Improve Affordable Housing Options and Services To Address Homelessness. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty.)

This bill permits tax increment financing to be used by a municipality to cover costs associated with the development of affordable housing in and outside development districts, for the use in supporting housing services for persons who are homeless, and for the purpose of providing an incentive for development within the municipality.

[LD 946](#) Resolve, To Authorize Maine as the Nonfederal Sponsor with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for the Shore Damage Mitigation Project in Saco. (Sponsored by Rep. Copeland of Saco)

This bill requires the governor to take all the steps necessary for the state to be the nonfederal sponsor with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for the shore damage mitigation project for the Saco River and Camp Ellis Beach in Saco.

[LD 944](#) An Act To Simplify Dual Registration of Snowmobiles and All-terrain Vehicles. (Sponsored by Rep. Skolfield of Weld)

This bill creates a dual registration option for an all-terrain vehicle equipped with tracks to be registered as both an all-terrain vehicle and a snowmobile. Currently, an all-terrain vehicle with tracks can be registered as both, but must be registered separately.

[LD 941](#) An Act To Protect the Privacy of Absentee Voters. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill requires an absentee ballot issued to a voter to be wrapped in a blank, opaque sleeve of paper or other material of sufficient thickness to prevent the writing on the ballot from being visible when placed in the ballot's return envelope.

[LD 939](#) An Act To Support Maine's Medical Marijuana Program and Ensure Patient Access. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

This bill amends several regulations under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act to:

- (1) allow caregivers to employ assistants who are 18 years of age or older and under 21 years of age if they are also a member of the family of the caregiver;
- (2) allow registered caregivers and dispensaries to transfer and accept from another registered caregiver or a dispensary an unlimited amount of their marijuana plants and harvested marijuana in a wholesale transaction;
- (3) allow caregivers to accept a digital image of a written certification for the purposes of initiating a transaction for harvested marijuana and requires the caregiver to verify the written certification in person before transferring any harvested marijuana to the qualifying patient;
- (4) allow registration identification cards and criminal history record checks to be valid for one year regardless of employment status;
- (5) add a fee structure for a caregiver cultivating based upon plant canopy;
- (6) repeal the prohibition on marketing marijuana plants or harvested marijuana to any adult use marijuana market within the same sign, advertisement or marketing material;
- (7) repeal a current provision in law and replace it to authorize the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to adopt rules allowing advertising or marketing using location-based services if such marketing includes a permanent and easy opt-out feature and the owner of the device is 21 years of age or older;
- (8) change the period of time registered caregivers, registered dispensaries, marijuana testing facilities and manufacturing facilities must keep records from seven years to two years; and
- (9) repeal the requirement that registered caregivers, registered dispensaries, marijuana testing facilities and manufacturing facilities have annual audits by an independent third party.

[LD 938](#) An Act To Ensure Maine Workers' Right To Request a Schedule Change at Their Places of Employment. (Sponsored by Rep. Wood of Portland)

This bill creates a right of an employee to request a change of schedule. The employer is not required to grant the request but must describe in writing the reason for the denial. The employee's right to request a schedule change does not apply to employers with 10 or fewer employees. Failure to adhere to the proposed provision is a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$5,000 may be adjudged.

[LD 937](#) Resolve, To Facilitate the Provision of Incentives for Soil Carbon Storage. (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono)

This resolve directs the co-chairs of the Maine Climate Council to convene a stakeholder group to develop recommendations for the establishment of programs and policies designed to incentivize the effective sequestration of carbon in soils by landowners and land managers in the state, including but not limited to the identification and distribution of financial incentives for that purpose. On or before Dec. 1, 2021, Maine Climate Council co-chairs are required to submit a report outlining the stakeholder group's recommendations to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which in turn is authorized to submit legislation for review in 2022.

[LD 936](#) An Act To Amend State Laws Relating to Net Energy Billing and the Procurement of Distributed Generation. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws relating to net energy billing and the procurement of distributed generation.

[LD 933](#) An Act To Facilitate the Expansion of Broadband to Unserved Areas of the State. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This bill authorizes the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to adopt rules establishing a mechanism or process by which utility pole joint use rates are required to be reduced or capped in a manner designed to encourage broadband expansion in unserved areas and joint use rates in areas of the state that are not unserved areas are required to be increased. The bill also requires the PUC, in consultation with the ConnectMaine Authority, to study methods of promoting broadband expansion in unserved areas through a limited-period reduction in utility pole attachment rates for broadband providers that agree to deliver new high-speed internet service in those unserved areas in conjunction with a limited-period increase in utility pole attachment rates in areas of the state that are not unserved areas. No later than Jan. 1, 2022, the PUC is required to submit a report to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology describing the findings of that study and any recommendations, including proposed legislation, resulting from that study. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation for consideration by the Legislature in 2022.

[LD 928](#) An Act To Require Adequate Training for Police Officers Who Use Speed Measurement Devices. (Sponsored by Rep. Lemelin of Chelsea)

This bill requires the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to provide in the basic law enforcement training course instruction on the use of speed measurement devices and methods, including training from the manufacturer of every speed measurement device authorized for use in the state. The bill also requires a law enforcement officer to be trained in a speed measurement method or device in the basic law enforcement training course or in service law enforcement training before using the device or performing the method to measure the speed of motorists.

[LD 925](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Develop a Plan To Redevelop Exit 5 of Interstate 295 in Portland. (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to develop a plan by Jan. 1, 2023 to redevelop Exit 5 on Interstate 295 in Portland that eliminates redundant and unnecessary on-ramps and off-ramps and prioritizes restoring the land to be used for housing or neighborhood amenities.

[LD 920](#) An Act To Promote Oversight of and Competitive Parity among Video Service Providers. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

This bill amends the laws governing municipal cable television systems and franchise authority to clarify that existing laws also apply to video service providers (VSP), which as defined in the bill includes cable system operations. The bill also: (1) prohibits a VSP from providing services within a municipality unless the provider has entered into a franchise agreement or contract; (2) requires a VSP to pay the municipality on a quarterly basis 5% of the annual revenue generated from operations in the community; (3) clarifies that all costs associated with public, educational, governmental (PEG) facility equipment and used to maintain PEG access channels within the franchising municipality, including technology upgrade costs are the responsibility of the VSP, over and above payments of required franchise fees; (4) authorizes the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to oversee and enforce provisions relating to the municipal franchising of VSP and assess a fee not to exceed 25 cents per month per subscriber to pay for administrative costs; (5) authorizes the Attorney General, as well as a municipality to bring an enforcement action against a noncompliant VSP under the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act; (6) clarifies that existing consumer protection provisions apply; and (7) establishes a resolution process overseen by the PUC for disputes that arise between a franchising municipality and a VSP.

[LD 919](#) An Act To Advance Maine's Economic Growth by Investing in Innovative, Next-generation Technology and Research. (Sponsored by Rep. Collamore of Pittsfield)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures in response to the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee's recommendations for growing and sustaining Maine's economy. The measures will enhance Maine's production of bioproducts through its agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries working in collaboration with research centers throughout the state and create commercially viable, next-generation technologies. The measures will also enable the state to leverage its assets in industry, research universities, community colleges and public sector partnerships to adopt innovative, commercially viable technologies and increase workforce development, including the creation of retraining opportunities using the current workforce's skills to encourage Maine residents to stay in Maine instead of taking their skills and knowledge to another state.

[LD 918](#) An Act To Transition from a Fossil Fuel-based to an Electrical Energy Economy. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill proposes to support the transition from a fossil fuel-based to an electrical energy economy.

[LD 916](#) An Act To Protect Data Privacy and Security in Elections. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco)

This concept draft bill proposes to protect data privacy and security in elections.

[LD 914](#) An Act To Meet the State's Obligation To Pay 55 Percent of Education Costs. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuttle of Sanford)

This bill provides state funding for 55% of the total cost of K to 12 education by applying up to 100% of all lottery and alcohol revenues toward the state's share.

[LD 911](#) An Act To Prohibit the Reception of Foreign Waste Plastic in Maine Ports. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill prohibits a port on navigable waters in the state from receiving from a vessel of plastic waste originating from another jurisdiction or country.

[LD 910](#) An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

Beginning on July 1, 2022, this bill requires the state to reimburse municipalities for 90% of the direct aid provided under the General Assistance program that is in excess of .0003 of a municipality's most recent state assessed value. Municipal general assistance costs below the state value threshold continue to be reimbursed at 70%.

[LD 909](#) An Act Regarding the depth of Phillips Lake in the Town of Dedham. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. O'Connell of Brewer)

Under current law, the Lucerne-in-Maine Village Corporation in the Town of Dedham is required to construct, operate and maintain a dam at the north end of Phillips Lake at no higher than 227 feet above sea level. The bill removes that height restriction and instead requires the dam to be constructed, operated and maintained at a height adopted by the Lucerne-in-Maine Village Corporation at an annual meeting.

[LD 908](#) An Act To Protect Maine Residents and Organizations from Unreasonable and Illegal Surveillance, Monitoring or Tracking. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This bill proposes to protect Maine residents and organizations from unreasonable and illegal surveillance, monitoring or tracking.

[LD 907](#) An act Concerning State Pension Funds and Climate Change. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill proposes to change certain laws concerning state pension funds and climate change.

[LD 906](#) An Act To Provide Passamaquoddy Tribal Members Access to Clean Drinking Water. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Newell of the Passamaquoddy Tribe)

This concept draft bill proposes to provide clean drinking water to the Passamaquoddy Reservation at Pleasant Point and to nearby municipalities.

[LD 901](#) An Act To Assist Maine Residents Negatively Affected by Climate Change. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures designed to protect those Maine residents who are disproportionately negatively affected by climate change and to ensure that their safety is prioritized in the development of environmental policies.

[LD 900](#) An Act To Facilitate the Recycling of Clean Energy Equipment. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures related to the challenges of and opportunities for recycling clean energy equipment such as solar panels, wind turbines and

battery energy storage systems in the State. It also establishes a funding mechanism for the Public Utilities Commission to subsidize start-up costs for such recycling.

[LD 897](#) An Act To Protect Maine Veterans from Unfair Consequences of Taxation Policy. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill would protect Maine veterans from the unfair consequences of property taxation laws.

[LD 895](#) An Act To Make Necessary Changes to State Law. (Sponsored by Rep. Dunphy of Old Town)

This concept draft bill proposes to make necessary changes to state law.

[LD 894](#) An Act To Increase Government Accountability by Removing the Restriction on the Dissemination of Information Regarding Investigations. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell)

This bill repeals the law prohibiting a Maine criminal justice agency from confirming the existence or nonexistence of confidential intelligence and investigative record information to any person or public or private entity that is not eligible to receive that information.

[LD 892](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee. (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to implement the recommendations of the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee within the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future.

[LD 891](#) An Act To Eliminate or Forgive Fines and Penalties on Persons and Business Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. (Sponsored by Rep. Hutchins of Penobscot)

This concept draft bill would eliminate or forgive fines and penalties on persons and businesses due to the pandemic caused by coronavirus disease 2019.

[LD 890](#) An Act To Protect Maine Consumers and Decrease Environmental Pollution. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to protect Maine consumers by removing incentives that lead to an increase in carbon emissions.

[LD 889](#) An Act Concerning Proportional Representation. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill would amend the law to provide for proportional representation.

[LD 882](#) An Act To Amend the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.)

This bill amends the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act by authorizing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to: (1) place an administrative hold on marijuana plants and harvested marijuana or impose an administrative hold on certain registry identification cardholders and registration certificate holders; (2) permanently revoke issued registry identification cards and registration certificates; and (3) assess fines for misconduct by a

registered caregiver retail store, dispensary, manufacturing facility or person authorized to engage in marijuana extraction using inherently hazardous substances of up to \$10,000. It authorizes the department to assess fines for misconduct by registered caregivers or assistants or other authorized agents of a registered caregiver, caregiver retail store, dispensary, manufacturing facility or person authorized to engage in marijuana extraction using inherently hazardous substances of up to \$2,000.

[LD 881](#) An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.)

This bill makes the following changes to the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act: (1) repeals and replaces the definition of "immature marijuana plant" and amends the definitions of "marijuana plant" and "seedling," and (2) requires a registered caregiver operating a caregiver retail store to acquire a separate registration certificate for the caregiver retail store and to pay a separate registration fee for the caregiver retail store. It changes the fee for caregiver registration based on the plant count to a fee for caregiver registration based either on plant count or plant canopy.

[LD 876](#) An Act To Promote Efficiency in County and Municipal Government. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty)

This bill allows county and municipal governments and officials to meet the requirement to provide public notice in a newspaper by electronic posting on the county's or municipality's publicly accessible website.

[LD 874](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require the Popular Election of Maine Constitutional Officers. (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment providing for direct popular election of the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the Attorney General beginning in 2022.

[LD 870](#) Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations To Study the Impact of Policies Regarding Agriculture, Access to Land, Access to Grants and Access to Financing on African-American and Indigenous Farmers in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

This resolve directs the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations to study the impact of policies regarding agriculture, access to land, access to grants and access to financing on African-American and indigenous farmers in the state. It directs the commission to report its findings and allows it to submit legislation that serves to create equity in representation and access to agricultural programs, land, grants and financing in the state to the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee by Jan. 17, 2022. It also provides a one-time allocation of \$20,000 in FY 22.

[LD 867](#) An Act To Prohibit Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations for 5 Years To Allow for Safety Testing and Investigations into Reproductive Harm. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Quint of Hodgdon)

This bill prohibits mandatory vaccinations for coronavirus disease 2019 for five years from the date of a vaccine's first emergency use authorization by the USFDA in order to allow for safety testing and investigations into reproductive harm.

[LD 866](#) An Act Concerning Advance Refrigeration Technology. (Sponsored by Rep. Lyford of Eddington)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures concerning advanced refrigeration technology that reduces climate super-pollutant and energy use and bring advanced refrigeration technology into financial parity with solar technology rebates on a cost per environmental benefit basis.

[LD 859](#) An Act To Allow Municipalities To Use Ranked-choice Voting in Municipal Elections. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This concept draft bill would allow municipalities to use ranked-choice voting in municipal elections.

[LD 857](#) An Act To Create a Municipal Grant Program To Promote Sustainable Economic Development. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

This bill establishes a fund to provide competitive grants funding for cities and towns for projects that further the goals of sustainable economic development as outlined by the Maine Economic Growth Council in the council's annual "Measures of Growth" report and by the economic development strategy for the state as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. The bill provides for the transfer of \$250,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 from state-municipal revenue sharing to support the fund.

[LD 856](#) An Act To Balance Renewable Energy Development with Natural and Working Lands Conservation. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This concept draft bill would balance renewable energy development with the conservation of natural and working lands.

[LD 855](#) An Act Regarding the Issuance of a birth Certificate Following a Gender Marker Change. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner)

This bill amends the laws regulating the amendment of vital statistics records and the issuance of new certificates of birth to allow application for gender marker change.

[LD 854](#) An Act To Ensure Continued School-based Services for Children with Disabilities. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot)

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to provide school-based services in developmental preschools for children from birth to five years of age. It designates any rules adopted as major substantive rules and directs the department to convene a stakeholder group when drafting those rules that take into account the findings from the independent review of the state's early childhood special education services.

[LD 848](#) An Act To Increase High-speed Internet In Rural Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Collamore of Pittsfield)

This concept draft bill would provide incentives to companies that expand high-speed internet access to rural communities with populations under 2,500. Incentives would come in the form of tax breaks, which become available once 90% of the citizens of a community are connected to internet service.

[LD 846](#) An Act To Promote Benefit Corporations. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to increase public awareness of benefit corporations and proposes a tax incentive to offset the cost of establishing and maintaining these corporations.

[LD 845](#) An Act To Make a Vehicle Registration Violation a Secondary Offense. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This bill prohibits the enforcement of registration violations unless the operator of a motor vehicle has been stopped for violation of another law.

[LD 841](#) An Act Regarding Probation and Deferred Disposition. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell)

This bill provides a presumption of probation as the sentence for certain Class C crimes, including the misappropriation of municipal trust funds by a trustee, and provides for penalties for first of imprisonment of up to 60 days, imprisonment of up to 120 for second violation and the potential revocation of the presumption for a third violation of probation.

[LD 838](#) An Act To Exempt Substitutes, Coaches and Temporary Employees in the Education System from Paid Sick Leave Requirements. (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This bill exempts substitute teachers, other substitute employees, coaches and temporary employees in school systems from being covered by the law that requires employers to offer earned paid leave to employees.

[LD 836](#) An Act To Enhance Compliance with Motor Vehicle Insurance Requirements. (Sponsored by Rep. Stearns of Guilford)

This bill requires: (1) a company providing liability insurance for a motor vehicle registered in this state to immediately notify the Secretary of State when that insurance coverage is cancelled, terminated or lapses and is not replaced with alternate coverage; (2) the secretary to notify the motor vehicle owner whose insurance has been cancelled, terminated or lapsed that the owner has 15 days to provide evidence of financial responsibility in the form of a reinstatement of coverage or new coverage; (4) the secretary to suspend the registration certificate and plates for a motor vehicle if evidence of financial responsibility is not provided within that 15-day period; and (4) directs the secretary to develop by rule standard procedures for a company to use in providing notice.

[LD 835](#) An Act To Allow Citizens To Petition Government Agencies To Repeal or Modify Occupational Regulations. (Sponsored by Rep. Andrews of Paris)

This bill requires, by Jan. 1, 2022, all state agencies and other units of government to review rules regarding a person's ability to use an occupational title or work in an occupation, trade or profession to determine whether the rule is necessary and carefully tailored to protect health, safety and welfare and does not unnecessarily burden a person's ability to enter an

occupation, trade or profession. After review, the agency is required to repeal or modify every rule that does not meet the standard of review or recommend to the Legislature the necessary steps to repeal or modify the rule if it is not within the agency's authority to do so. Any person can at any time petition the agency or the District Court to repeal or modify a rule that does not meet the standard of review required by this legislation.

[LD 832](#) An Act To Promote Immigrant Workforce Development and Community Integration. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This bill establishes an interagency task force to develop a statewide plan to assist immigrants who need housing, job training, language skills and transportation. The bill also provides funds to contract with community-based organizations for language acquisition and workforce development programs for persons who have recently come to this state as immigrants, refugees or asylum seekers.

[LD 830](#) An Act To Restructure the Taxation of Adult Use Marijuana. (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor)

This bill repeals the excise tax on adult use marijuana on Jan. 1, 2022 and raises an estimated equivalent amount of revenue by increasing the sales tax on adult use marijuana and products to 20% on Jan. 1, 2022.

[LD 829](#) An Act To Promote Highway Safety by Restricting the Use of Marijuana and Possession of an Open Marijuana Container in a Motor Vehicle. (Sponsored by Rep. Pickett of Dixfield)

This bill establishes as a traffic infraction, for which a fine of \$100 must be adjudged, for consuming marijuana or a marijuana product or possessing an open marijuana or marijuana product container in the passenger area of a motor vehicle.

March 3-5, 2021

[LD 824](#) An Act To Extend the Protections Provided to State Employees upon the Expiration of Labor Contracts to Other Public Sector Employees. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.)

This bill extends the same state employee protections to municipal, judicial and public higher education employees that require employees to remain eligible for and receive merit or step increases in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in an expired collective bargaining agreement, during the period between the expiration of one contract and the adoption of a new contract.

[LD 822](#) An Act To Affirm That Food Seeds Are a Necessity in Maine. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

This bill adds seeds to the definitions of "necessities" in the law prohibiting profiteering during supply disruptions and "basic necessities" in the law governing municipal general assistance.

[LD 821](#) An Act To Improve the Investigation and Prosecution of Cases That Involve Vulnerable Road Users. (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill requires a law enforcement officer who investigates a reportable accident involving a vulnerable user or an allegation of a criminal violation that endangered a vulnerable user or the property of a vulnerable user to inform a district attorney of relevant jurisdiction about the investigation and any evidence relevant to the potential prosecution of an alleged criminal violation resulting from the investigation within 60 days of the accident. Under the traffic laws, a vulnerable user is a person on a public way who is more vulnerable to injury than a person in a motor vehicle.

[LD 820](#) Resolve, To Convene a Working Group To Develop Plans To Protect Maine's Agricultural Lands When Siting Solar Arrays. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a working group of stakeholders to develop plans and consider ways to discourage the use of land of higher agricultural value and encourage the use of more marginal agricultural lands when siting a solar array. The department must submit its report and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Energy, Utilities and Technology; and Environment and Natural Resources Committees no later than Jan. 14, 2022.

[LD 818](#) An Act To Limit Spam Texting. (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to provide a process for a person to opt out of receiving text messages from certain political, referendum and advocacy campaigns and a do-not-text registry for a person who does not want to receive political text messages.

[LD 817](#) Resolve, To Establish the COVID-19 Review Commission. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Kiem of Oxford Cty.)

This resolve establishes the COVID-19 Review Commission, whose members include four Maine senators and eight representatives, to study the state's response to COVID-19 and laws, rules and policies governing that response. The commission must submit a report that includes findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Health and Human Services Committee no later than Dec. 6, 2021.

[LD 816](#) An Act To Improve Communication between School Boards and Educators by Requiring Notice of Discussion of Labor Matters. (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.)

This bill requires that any meeting between a school board and representatives of public employees that is requested by representatives of the employees must occur at a regularly scheduled school board meeting and that public notice must be given at least 10 days prior to the school board meeting. The bill also provides that negotiations between a school board and representatives of public employees regarding personnel matters may not be open to the public and must be held in executive session. This is an exception to current law, which allows negotiations between the representatives of a public employer and public employees to be open to the public if both parties agree to conduct negotiations in open sessions.

[LD 815](#) An Act To Support School Decarbonization. (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.)

Current law requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to develop and administer a school energy savings program. This bill changes the program to a school decarbonization program and

requires the trust to provide technical and financial support to help kindergarten to grade 12 schools become carbon neutral. The bill also repeals the school solar energy program administered by the trust.

[LD 807](#) An Act To Ensure Equitable Access to Mobile Hotspots for Maine Students. (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to ensure equitable access to mobile internet access through portable wireless access points, or mobile hotspots, for Maine students through federal funding for establishment and maintenance.

[LD 806](#) An Act To Clarify That Municipal Officers May Accept a Proposed, Unaccepted Way for Pedestrian, Bicycle and Other Nonmotorized Use. (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill provides that municipal officers may accept a proposed, unaccepted way for pedestrian, bicycle and other non-motorized uses.

[LD 805](#) An Act To Allow Municipalities To Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill authorizes municipal officers to prohibit the possession and display of firearms at voting places on election day, with exceptions for firearms secured in locked vehicles and certified law enforcement officers.

[LD 802](#) An Act To Ensure Decommissioning of Solar Energy Developments. (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This bill requires a person to obtain approval of a decommissioning plan from the Department of Environmental Protection or from the Maine Land Use Planning Commission in the case of a solar energy development located in the unorganized and deorganized areas before constructing or operating a solar energy development with ground-mounted solar panels occupying three or more acres.

[LD 800](#) An Act To Amend Credit and Debit Card Surcharges Imposed by Governmental Entities. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill explicitly allows a state department or agency to impose a surcharge for payments made by credit card or debit card for taxes, fines, charges, fees, and licenses or the provision of a specific service or good. It also amends the Maine Consumer Credit Code – Truth-in-Lending to allow a governmental entity to impose a surcharge for payments made by credit card or debit card for registration fees and goods and includes under the definition of "governmental entity" a state department or agency.

[LD 797](#) An Act To Create a Registry To Improve Access to Automated External Defibrillators. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty.)

This bill requires the Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services to establish a registry of publicly accessible automated external defibrillators located within the state for the purpose of assisting a person or a law enforcement officer, firefighter or emergency medical services provider who calls for assistance in an emergency situation. The bill authorizes the director to accept grants, funds, equipment and services to establish, operate and maintain the

registry and requires the Department of Public Safety to adopt routine technical rules regarding the registry.

[LD 793](#) An Act To Include as a Factor in Sentencing the Selection of a Victim Based on the Victim's Employment as a Law Enforcement Officer. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.)

Current law on sentencing in criminal cases allows consideration of the selection of the victim based on bias against certain specific populations. This bill adds to the list of biases the employment of the victim as a law enforcement officer.

[LD 789](#) An Act To Expand Administration of Lifesaving Opioid Medication. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington)

This concept draft bill would legalize the installation and use of emergency opioid overdose antidote kits for use by the public.

[LD 787](#) An Act To Comprehensively Address Homelessness and Affordable Housing in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to comprehensively address homelessness and affordable housing in the state.

[LD 783](#) An Act Regarding the Membership of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Advisory Board. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco)

In part, this bill adds a representative of law enforcement and an additional sexual assault nurse examiner to the membership of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Advisory Board.

[LD 781](#) An Act To Strengthen Maine's Economy. (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to strengthen the state's economy.

[LD 780](#) An Act Regarding Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Sites. (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond)

This bill amends the state's uncontrolled hazardous substance sites law by providing a limited exemption from liability for publicly owned treatment works and public water systems based on the contribution of effluent or sewage sludge or water treatment residuals to an uncontrolled site. Exemptions from limited liability protections include: (1) failure to follow best management practices; (2) failure to comply with an information request or administrative subpoena; or (3) impediment of the performance of a response action or natural resource restoration at the uncontrolled site. The bill also requires that, on or before Jan. 15, 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters the uncontrolled hazardous substance sites where the department has used its authority to require responsible parties to investigate or remove hazardous substances that are pollutants or contaminants and, for each site, information identifying the substance involved.

[LD 779](#) An Act To Extend the Time Allowed for Selling, Distributing and Displaying the State of Maine Bicentennial Commemorative License Plate and To Allow the Maine Bicentennial

Commission To Continue To Serve in 2021. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Bryant of Windham)

In part, this bill allows the sale, distribution and display of a commemorative vehicle registration plate celebrating the state's bicentennial until Dec. 31, 2021.

[LD 778](#) An Act To Enable Electronic Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect for Certain Mandated Reporters. (Sponsored by Rep. Madigan of Waterville)

This bill amends outdated language regarding electronic submission of reports of suspected abuse or neglect to the Department of Health and Human Services by authorizing reports to be submitted through a portal linked to the department's comprehensive child welfare information system. The bill also expands the types of mandated reporters who may report electronically to include school personnel.

[LD 775](#) An Act To Include within the Definitions of “Public Employee” and “Judicial Employee” Those Who Have Been Employed for Less Than 6 Months. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This bill provides that a person who has been an employee of the state or another public employer for less than six months is considered a public employee. A person who has been an employee of the state or another public employer for less than six months may be dismissed, suspended or otherwise disciplined without cause during the probationary period. Termination of an employee or any other disciplinary action against an employee during the probationary period is not subject to the grievance and arbitration provision of the collective bargaining agreement.

[LD 774](#) An Act To Promote Minimum Wage Consistency. (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner)

This bill prohibits a municipality or other political subdivision of the state from enacting an ordinance regulating the minimum wage that an employer must pay an employee.

[LD 771](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake)

This bill modifies the laws governing the wastewater treatment plant operator certification program administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. It changes the procedure for revocation of a wastewater treatment plant operator certification, provides authority for suspension of a wastewater treatment plant operator certification, clarifies how the department may administer the program, updates outdated terminology and eliminates outdated provisions. It also clarifies the department's existing authority with respect to licenses and wastewater treatment plant operator certificates.

[LD 757](#) An Act Concerning Large-scale Water Extraction. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This bill amends laws concerning contracts and agreements for the large scale extraction and transportation of water by requiring any such contract or agreement to be approved by a vote of the legislative body of each municipality located within the watershed from which water is to be extracted and transported pursuant to that contract or agreement. It also provides that a consumer-owned water utility may not enter into any contract or agreement with another entity for the large-scale extraction and transportation of water with a term longer than five years.

[LD 755](#) An Act Regarding Monhegan Plantation. (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)
This bill proposes to enact measures regarding Monhegan Plantation.

[LD 754](#) An Act To Promote Municipal Climate Action. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco)
This concept draft bill would create a program to help municipalities set ambitious climate goals and achieve them with state support.

[LD 753](#) An Act To Increase Transparency in the Legislature by Removing Certain Freedom of Access Act Exemptions. (Sponsored by Rep. Connor of Lewiston)

This bill repeals a provision of the Freedom of Access Act that all records, working papers, drafts and interoffice and intraoffice memoranda used or maintained by any legislator, legislative agency or legislative employee to prepare proposed Senate or House papers or reports for consideration by the Legislature or any of its committees are not considered public records during the legislative session or sessions in which the papers or reports are prepared or considered or to which the paper or report is carried over. The provision in current law that exempts from the definition of "public records" legislative papers and reports until signed and publicly distributed is retained.

[LD 746](#) An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Municipal Meetings. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford)

This bill authorizes boards, commissions, agencies and municipalities to conduct meetings remotely provided: (1) the entity determines the public may participate by remote means; (2) the notice of the public proceeding includes the method by which the public may attend; (3) each member of the body is able to hear and speak to all other members and members of the public are able to hear all members of the body; and (4) all votes are taken by roll call.

[LD 744](#) An Act To Extend the Right-of-way Surrounding Power Lines for the Purpose of Tree Trimming. (Sponsored by Rep. Pickett of Dixfield)

This concept draft bill proposes to clarify and expand the ability of transmission and distribution utilities or entities to trim, cut or remove trees located within or encroaching upon the public right-of-way when necessary to ensure safe and reliable service.

[LD 743](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Invasive Aquatic Species. (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond)

This bill adds new species to the existing list of invasive aquatic plants. The bill also changes the consent requirement in order for chemical control agents to be used on a water body that is a water supply from prior written consent of each public water supplier using that water body to prior written consent of a regulated community public water system or a regulated non-transient, non-community public water system using that water body

[LD 741](#) An Act To Establish a Bill of Rights for Maine Residents 65 Years of Age and Older. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill proposes to establish a bill of rights for residents 65 years of age and older.

[LD 740](#) An Act To Provide Municipalities a Percentage of the Revenue Generated from the Taxes Imposed on the Sale of Recreational Marijuana in Those Municipalities. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Connell of Brewer)

This bill requires 25% of adult use marijuana sales and excise revenue to be distributed to municipalities where marijuana establishments are located in proportion to the ratio of the revenue generated in the municipality to the total revenue generated by adult use marijuana establishments statewide.

[LD 736](#) An Act To Enhance the Ecological Reserve System. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth)

This concept draft bill proposes to assess the status of the ecological reserve system and consider changes for supporting wildlife, sequestering and storing carbon, providing scenic and recreational value and serving as long-term ecological research sites.

[LD 735](#) An Act To Establish a Funding Mechanism To Protect Private Roads Endangered by Climate Action Impacts. (Sponsored by Rep. Blume of York)

This concept draft bill proposes to provide financial support for privately developed roads and areas that have infrastructure that needs to be protected from climate action effects in order that residents may continue to live there and contribute to the local tax base.

[LD 734](#) An act To Set a Minimum Wage for School Support Staff. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill establishes a minimum hourly wage of \$16 per hour for school support staff for school years beginning after June 30, 2022. The bill requires the state on a one-time basis, for the school year beginning after June 30, 2022, to provide funds to school administrative units to make up the difference between what a school administrative unit currently pays school support staff and what the unit is required to pay under the minimum wage requirement.

[LD 733](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require Constitutional Officers To Be Elected by Statewide Election. (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.)

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that provides for direct popular election beginning in 2022 of the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the Attorney General.

[LD 731](#) An Act To Establish a Program To Assist Regional Firefighter Training Programs, To Provide Tax Credits to Businesses That Employ Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons and To Provide Benefits to Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill establishes a program administered by the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to provide grants to municipalities for regional fire service training. It also provides an income tax credit for employers who permit employees who are volunteer first responders to be absent from work for firefighting or emergency response activities without a reduction in pay. The bill allows a municipality to adopt a program providing a financial benefit of up to \$1,000 or 100 times the state minimum hourly wage to residents who are 60 years of age or older and who serve as volunteer first responders, which is subject to 100% state reimbursement.

[LD 730](#) An Act To Protect Economic Competitiveness in Maine By Extending the End Date for Pine Tree Development Zone Benefits. (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill changes the date after which a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business in a tier 1 location may not be certified from Dec. 31, 2021 to Dec. 31, 2024. It also changes the date that all Pine Tree Development Zone benefits are terminated from Dec. 31, 2031 to Dec. 31, 2034.

[LD 728](#) Resolve, Directing State Agencies That Maintain Public Lands for Recreation To Make Certain Information Readily Accessible to the General Public. (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This resolve requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) to make readily accessible to the public information on activities allowed and applicable rules for each parcel of land under the bureau's jurisdiction and for each parcel of land under the jurisdiction of IF&W.

DEAD

[LD 726](#) An Act To Combat Climate Change and Address Its Impact in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes actions to take as identified by the Maine Climate Council to combat and mitigate the impacts of climate change on the state's environment and economy.

[LD 725](#) An Act To Improve Transparency in State Code and License Violations by Making Public the Names of Complainants. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford Cty.)

This bill requires under the Freedom of Access Act the name or identity of any person who files a complaint alleging a violation of an order, code, license provision or any other requirement placed upon a person by a government official or agency under the laws or rules of the state or any government subdivision to be made public upon request.

[LD 724](#) An Act To Base the Vehicle and Mobile Home Excise Tax on Actual Value. (Sponsored by Rep. Ordway of Standish)

This bill requires that the excise tax for all motor vehicles, mobile homes and camper trailers be based on the actual value of the vehicle or mobile home as determined by sources approved by the State Tax Assessor. The bill also requires the state to reimburse a municipality for the difference in the amount of excise tax that would have been collected by the municipality using the manufacturer's suggested retail price instead of the actual purchase price.

[LD 723](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Establishing Regional School Units. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws establishing regional school units.

[LD 722](#) Resolve, To Study the Establishment of the Maine Climate Corps. (Sponsored by Rep. Reilly of Westbrook)

This resolve directs the Maine Commission for Community Service to study and identify short-term projects and tasks in state agencies that could be made into service projects for young

citizens of Maine to, in part, provide the basis for an establishment of the Maine Climate Corps as proposed in the Maine Climate Council's climate action plan. The bill also directs the commission to identify potential hosts for the corps and possible public and private partnerships and report its findings to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee by Jan. 31, 2022.

[LD 720](#) An Act To Provide Funds to Aroostook County for Broadband Development. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake)

This bill provides a one-time \$500,000 appropriation to the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund to be used to develop broadband infrastructure in Aroostook County.

[LD 715](#) An Act To Make Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This concept draft bill proposes to make unified General Fund appropriations and allocations for FY 22 and FY 23.

[LD 712](#) An Act To Eliminate the Requirement for an Inspection for a Noncommercial Vehicle Less Than 20 Years Old. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill exempts a non-commercial motor vehicle that is less than 20 years old from inspection. **DEAD**

[LD 711](#) An Act To Allow Certain Police Officers To Return to Participation in the Maine Employees Retirement System. (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

Current law states that a member of the Participating Local District (PLD) Retirement Program on the date on which an employer offers an alternative retirement program may make a one-time irrevocable election to remain under that program or to join the alternative retirement plan offered by the employer. This bill allows police officers to make a one-time election to rejoin the PLD Retirement Program under certain conditions.

March 2, 2021

[LD 708](#) An Act To Increase the Homestead Exemption to \$50,000. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

On or after April 1, 2021, this bill increases the property tax exemption for homesteads from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

[LD 707](#) An Act To Promote Student Health by Requiring School Administrative Units To Offer Extracurricular Sports as a Requirement of Receiving State Education Funds. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

In order to receive state aid for education, this bill requires a school administrative unit to offer a program of extracurricular sports if there is a sufficient number of students willing to participate.

[LD 706](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Lower the Voting Age to 16 Years of Age. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco)

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

[LD 705](#) Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Maine's Public Schools. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth)

This resolve directs the Department of Education to adopt major substantive rules governing air quality and ventilation in all public schools and apply the standards no earlier than July 1, 2022 and no later than July 1, 2026. The department is directed to present the provisionally adopted rules for final adoption to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee by Jan. 4, 2022.

[LD 704](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Culvert Replacement. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner)

This bill makes the cost of replacing a culvert abutting town ways and state and state aid highways within the compact area the expense of the abutter.

[LD 702](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth)

This bond bill issues \$30 million to recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund for public school renovations and capital repairs.

[LD 695](#) An Act To Allow Municipal Utility Expansion under Certain Conditions. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This bill limits the approval by the Public Utilities Commission of a municipal power district's proposal to furnish service in a municipality or municipalities in which another utility is already furnishing service to the determination that: (1) there is no proven net harm to other ratepayers associated with the loss of customers by the transmission and distribution utility; and (2) the municipal power district was created in conformance with existing laws, which includes a favorable municipal vote to create the district. The bill also specifies that the transmission and distribution utility furnishing service in the municipality or municipalities where a municipal power district is created and approved by the commission must facilitate the transfer of property and be provided just compensation, as determined by the commission, for that property.

[LD 687](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote the Conservation of Land, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation. (Sponsored by Rep. Corey of Windham)

This bond bill issues \$30 million to be used by the Land for Maine's Future Board for the acquisition of land for water access; wildlife and fish habitat, including deer wintering areas; outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing; and working farmland and waterfront preservation; and \$5 million for capital improvements to state parks and historic sites.

[LD 682](#) An Act To Ensure the Viability of the Northern Maine Electric Transmission Grid. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This concept draft bill ensures the viability of the northern Maine electric transmission grid by implementing the recommendations of the stakeholder group convened by the Governor's Energy Office pursuant to Resolve 2019, chapter 71.

[LD 678](#) An Act Regarding Timelines for Permitting by the Department of Environmental Protection. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

This concept draft bill impacts the Department of Environmental Protection laws governing permitting by amending: (1) requirements for who may intervene in a department application review; (2) deadlines for and limitations on submitting public comments for complex projects; (3) duration of public comment periods during the permit application process; and (4) requirements on the ability to appeal a decision of the department.

[LD 677](#) An Act To Improve Public Sector Labor Relations by Amending the Laws Governing Arbitration under Certain Public Employees Labor Relations Laws. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill amends the rules of arbitration for public employees. Of municipal significance, the bill makes controversies over salaries, pensions and insurance binding in the process of arbitration. Failure by the public employer to enter into an agreement or take necessary action results in the ability of the public employees represented by the bargaining agent, except for public safety personnel, to engage in a strike. In the process of resolving the controversy the arbitrator must consider: (1) interest and welfare of the public and the financial ability of the employer to fund the proposed items; (2) wages, hours and working conditions of other employees performing similar services in the public and private sectors; (3) need for qualified employees; (4) need to maintain appropriate relationships between different occupations in public employment; and (5) need to establish fair and reasonable conditions in relation to job qualifications and responsibilities. Decisions resulting in added costs to the public sector must be included in the budget following the year the agreement is ratified. The arbitrator used to settle a controversy must be selected from a list appointed by the governor that includes not more than 10 impartial arbitrators all of whom must reside in Maine.

[LD 676](#) An Act To Reclassify Part of the Androscoggin River to Class B. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.)

This bill reclassifies from Class C to Class B the lower section of the Androscoggin River from Gulf Island Dam to a line formed by the extension of the Bath-Brunswick boundary across Merrymeeting Bay in a northwesterly direction.

[LD 672](#) Resolve, To Study the Feasibility of Building a Trail on the Mountain Division Rail Line. (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to coordinate with the Department of Transportation and the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation to conduct a feasibility study of the costs and benefits of completing a paved multi-use trail on the approximately 28 miles of state-owned railroad track on the Mountain Division Line connecting the Towns of Standish and Fryeburg. DECD is required to submit a report by Dec. 31, 2021 for presentation to the Legislature in 2022.

March 1, 2021

[LD 669](#) An Act To Ensure Public Ways are Compliant with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This bill requires that any state or municipal project for construction, maintenance or repair of a road maintain the compliance of, or bring into compliance, the public way with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any facility located in a public way that relocated in order to ensure compliance must be relocated at the expense of the facility owner.

[LD 668](#) An Act To Ensure Public Accountability While Implementing a Practical Approach to Remote Participation. (Sponsored by Rep. Babbidge of Kennebunkport)

This bill clarifies the provisions that must be in place to allow a member of a public body to participate remotely in a public proceeding. As proposed: (1) the public body must adopt a written policy or rule that allows the member that is not physically present to hear and speak to all members and allows the public to hear the member; (2) for a body of three or fewer members, at least one member must be physically present at the location where the public proceeding is held and for a body consisting of more than three members a quorum must be physically present at the meeting location; (3) members not physically present must identify for the record the location from which the member is participating; and (4) all votes must be taken by a roll call. The bill also establishes a process for reviewing the use of remote meetings.

[LD 667](#) An Act To Create Synergy between Maine Industry and Maine's Energy Goals in the Use of Certain Funds by the Efficiency Maine Trust. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

This bill amends the purposes of the Efficiency Maine Trust to encourage the development and adoption of environmentally sustainable energy-related and energy efficiency-related products and services derived from the state's natural resources, industrial by-products, waste products and recycled materials. It also amends the goals of the Heating Fuels Efficiency and Weatherization Fund by clarifying the reduction of fossil heating fuel consumption as the fund's primary goal by encouraging the replacement of such fuel in residential, commercial and industrial sectors with renewable heating fuel, including, but not limited to, second generation biofuel, biodiesel fuel derived from used vegetable oil and fuel derived using anaerobic digestion or other technologies. The bill also authorizes the expenditure of funds for programs that encourage or incentivize measures relating to such environmentally sustainable energy-related and energy efficiency-related products and services.

[LD 663](#) An Act To Make Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Treatment Available to Maine's Incarcerated Population. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell)

This bill requires the Commissioner of Corrections to establish and maintain a substance use disorder treatment program in the correctional facilities, which must provide for substance use disorder screening and assessment on intake, medically managed withdrawal, all medication-assisted treatment options approved by the USDA and comprehensive behavioral treatment options, and coordinate with representatives of local recovery communities, medical providers and others for reentry planning and comprehensive treatment options after release. This bill requires initial and ongoing training to correctional staff and health care providers in each facility and tracking of data and outcomes and also requires that health care providers within the facilities be able to carry out all requirements of the program.

[LD 662](#) An Act To Provide Chiefs of Police the Discretion To Allow the Use of Light Bars on Emergency Vehicles. (Sponsored by Rep. Wadsworth of Hiram)

This bill allows ambulances, emergency medical service vehicles, fire department vehicles and hazardous material response vehicles to use blue lights other than the one blue light allowed by law, upon approval of the jurisdiction's police chief.

[LD 661](#) An Act To Ensure Equity in Petitions for Rulemaking under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill requires the Department of Corrections to initiate appropriate rule-making proceedings upon receipt of a petition from 150 inmates or 25% of the total male or female population of a correctional facility or county or municipal detention facility, whichever is fewer.

[LD 659](#) An Act To Ease the Property Tax Burden by Authorizing Municipalities To Require Payments in Lieu of Taxes from Certain Exempt Organizations. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt an ordinance imposing a fee on the owner of exempt property to help cover the cost of services. The fee cannot be imposed if the organization that owns the building is currently making a payment in lieu of taxes or has an annual budget of less than \$50,000. Prior to imposing the fee, the municipality must contact the property owner to see if agreement can be reached on a payment in lieu of taxes. If an agreement cannot be reached within 120 days, a fee of not be less than 50% of the taxes that would be assessed if not for the exemption may be imposed.

[LD 658](#) An Act To Provide Funding for 3 Veterans Services Officers in the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Augusta)

The bill requires the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to work with state agencies and veterans organizations to coordinate homeless veterans services delivery, data collection and data analysis and reporting; identify homeless veterans as well as those at risk of becoming homeless; and serve as case managers to connect veterans with needed resources, including emergency food and clothing.

[LD 654](#) An act To Create a 24-hour Shelter Capital Project Funding Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Arford of Brunswick)

This bill establishes the 24-hour Shelter Capital Project program within the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) to support new construction or expansion of emergency 24-hour shelters for persons experiencing homelessness. The bill includes a one-time \$3 million appropriation in FY 22 to fund the program.

[LD 650](#) An Act To Increase Funding for School Construction Projects. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

This bill requires that the appropriation for the debt service allocation for school construction be placed in a separate account than the account for general purpose aid for local schools attributable to principal and interest costs for approved major capital projects.

[LD 647](#) An Act To Expand Eligibility for the Veterans' Property Tax Exemption. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

This bill allows persons who served in the U. S. Armed Forces between Feb. 1, 1955 and Feb. 27, 1961 to qualify for the veterans' property tax exemption.

[LD 646](#) An Act To Improve the Administration of Elections by Ensuring an Adequate Number of Poll Workers. (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This bill provides that a state employee must be granted a paid day off in addition to all other hours of vacation time, sick leave and overtime accumulation if the employee provides at least six hours of volunteer time assisting election officials on the day of an election.

[LD 644](#) An Act Regarding Motor Vehicle Registration Violations. (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

This bill removes the designation as a Class E crime operating with an expired motor vehicle registration or 14-day registration plate, as well as the failure to change out-of-state registrations. Warnings must be issued for all traffic stops involving expired registrations, a violation of which must be remedied within in 10 business days of an issued warning. A \$500 fine is established for a second and subsequent offenses. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to establish a notification system to inform individuals of registrations that are going to expire within the next 30 days.

[LD 641](#) An Act To Prohibit Contributions, Expenditures and Participation by Foreign Nationals To Influence Referenda. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison)

This bill prohibits a foreign national from financially or otherwise influencing the outcome of a referendum. The bill also provides that a person may not solicit, accept or receive a contribution to influence a referendum from a foreign national. A person who violates the prohibition commits a civil violation subject to a fine of the greater of \$100,000 or twice the amount contributed.

[LD 640](#) An Act To Ban Single-serving, Disposable Plastic Water Bottles. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This bill prohibits the sale of un-carbonated, unflavored drinking water in containers of one liter or less that are made of plastic, except for the immediate preservation of public health or safety during an event for which a Governor's state of emergency proclamation has been issued. A violation of the ban is subject to Department of Environmental Protection's general civil penalty provision.

[LD 638](#) An Act To Ensure the Timely and Transparent Delivery of Unofficial Election Results in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

As soon as practicable after the election results are tabulated, this bill requires the election warden to post unofficial election results outside either the municipal office or each voting place and electronically transmit results to the Secretary of State for posting on a statewide publicly accessible website. The posting requirement applies to the results of all questions or candidates appearing on a municipal or state ballot. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to develop and implement a statewide education initiative to promote public awareness of the availability of unofficial election results.

February 25, 2021

[LD 627](#) An Act Relating to the Statute of Limitations for Injuries or Harm Resulting from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. (Sponsored by Rep. Parry of Arundel)

This bill provides that an action arising out of any harm or injury caused by a PFAS must be commenced within six years after the plaintiff discovers or should have discovered such harm or injury. It makes clear that the notice of claim and statute of limitations provisions of the Maine Tort Claims Act apply to actions against governmental entities that arise out of any harm or injury caused by a PFAS.

[LD 626](#) An Act To Clarify Temporary Mooring Privileges for Moorings on Inland Waters. (Sponsored by Rep. Stearns of Guilford)

This bill requires municipalities that border or contain inland waters to have a designated individual or entity responsible for dealing with inquiries related to mooring privileges and directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to develop model ordinance language to support municipalities or other governing entities that choose to regulate moorings.

[LD 622](#) An Act To Prohibit Marriage of Any Person under 18 Years of Age. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Connell of Brewer)

This bill prohibits the marriage of any person under 18 years of age.

[LD 621](#) An Act To Increase the Number of Franklin County Commissioners. (Sponsored by Rep. Landry of Farmington)

This bill requires that after the redistricting of the county commissioner districts in 2021 pursuant to the Constitution of Maine and upon approval by the voters at the November 2022 referendum, Franklin County must be divided into five county commissioner districts.

[LD 618](#) An Act Regarding the Outdoor Release or Abandonment of Balloons. (Sponsored by Rep. Blume of York)

This bill amends the state's litter control law to clarify that waste materials resulting from the outdoor release or abandonment of a balloon constitutes litter under that law. It also provides that it is a violation of the litter to law intentionally release a balloon that is inflated or filled with a gas that is lighter than air, except for a balloon carrying scientific instrumentation, used for meteorological observation by a governmental or scientific organization or a hot air balloon that is recovered after launching. The bill creates a civil penalty of \$100 to \$500 for the illegal intentional release of up to 10 balloons and not less than \$500 for the illegal intentional release of more than 10 balloons.

[LD 616](#) An Act To Increase Accountability for Wage Violations. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill increases the fine for the violation of certain state wage and benefits laws, including the equal, timely and full payment of wages, from \$100 to \$500 for the first violation and provides for the assessment of a fine that is between \$500 and \$2,500 for each subsequent violation. The bill also provides that in a favorable judgment for an employee an additional amount of twice the unpaid wages must be awarded.

[LD 613](#) An Act To Amend the Adult Use Marijuana Program Rules and Make Other Technical Changes. (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This concept draft bill proposes to change the adult use marijuana program rules and make other technical changes.

[LD 610](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Employer Recovery of Overcompensation Paid to an Employee. (Sponsored by Rep. Doore of Augusta)

This bill amends the definition of "overcompensation" by an employer to exclude compensation in the form of paid leave and amends from 10% to 5% the maximum amount an employer may withhold from an employee's pay to recover for overcompensation. The bill also prohibits an employer from recovering more than the amount of overcompensation paid to an employee in the three years preceding the discovery and specifies that these provisions do not limit or affect an employee's general civil remedies against an employer.

[LD 609](#) Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford)

This resolve establishes the 15-member Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions, which includes a representative of a statewide municipal association. The commission is directed to review data on housing shortages in the state for low-income and middle-income households, state laws that affect the local regulation of housing, and efforts in other states and municipalities to: (1) address housing shortages; (2) consider measures that encourage increased housing options in the state; and (3) review and consider the historical role of race and racism in zoning policies and the best measures to ensure that zoning laws do not serve as barriers to racial equality. No later than Nov. 3, 2021, the commission must submit a report, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Labor and Housing Committee.

[LD 608](#) An Act Regarding the Governor's Emergency Powers. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Johansen of Monticello)

This bill, in part, limits the Governor's authority to declare a state of emergency in a county unless the county's board of commissioners has declared that a disaster or civil emergency exists.

[LD 607](#) An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill annually raises the minimum salary that an employee who works in an executive, administrative or professional capacity must earn in order for that employee to be exempt from the laws governing the minimum wage and overtime pay until it is \$55,224 on Jan. 1, 2024. The bill also provides for an annual adjustment, beginning Jan. 1, 2025, based on the percentage annual increase in certain earnings as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Amendment for the purposes of Legislative Policy Committee vote: This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment annually raises the minimum salary that an employee who works in an executive, administrative or professional capacity must earn in order for that employee to be exempt from the laws governing the minimum wage and overtime pay as follows: (1) until December 31, 2021, the rate is 3,000 times the state minimum wage; (2) beginning January 1, 2022, the rate is 3,500 times the state minimum wage; (3) beginning

January 1, 2023, the rate is 4,000 times the state minimum wage; and (4) beginning January 1, 2024, the rate is 4,500 times the state minimum wage. This amendment also raises the minimum salary that automobile mechanics, automobile parks clerks and automobile service writers must earn in order for those employees to be exempt from the laws governing minimum wage and overtime pay.

[LD 606](#) An Act Regarding the Child Protection System. (Sponsored by Rep. Hymanson of York)

Current law authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to cooperate and coordinate with other agencies, facilities or persons providing related services to families and children as part of the department's child abuse prevention efforts. This bill requires the department to provide for communication and information exchange among all the entities that are part of the child protection system, including schools and law enforcement agencies, during every child protective investigation.

[LD 605](#) An Act To Amend the Marijuana Legalization Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This concept draft bill amends the Marijuana Legalization Act.

[LD 602](#) An Act To Prevent Pollution from Single-use Plastic Straws, Splash Sticks and Beverage Lid Plugs. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, this bill prohibits the manufacture, sale and distribution of single-use drinking straws, splash sticks and beverage lid plugs made wholly or partly of plastic and prohibits food and eating establishments from providing such items to customers at a point of sale or otherwise making such items available to customers. Only upon the request of a customer made at a point of sale are food and eating establishments authorized sell for not less than 5 cents single-use drinking straws, splash sticks or beverage lid plugs that are not made of plastic. Establishments are further authorized to retain and use collected fees for any lawful purpose.

[LD 601](#) An Act Regarding Indices of Vital Records. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill provides that indices to records of marriage, intentions to marry, domestic partnerships and death, including fetal death, from 1892 to the present at the municipal and state levels are open to the public without restriction and that indices to records of birth are open to the public after 75 years from the date of the birth. The bill also requires the state registrar to enter into a long-term nonexclusive contract with a private entity experienced in maintaining genealogical research databases to create, maintain and update at no direct cost to the state an online index to vital records. In exchange for the service, the bill authorizes the private entity to provide that index to its subscribers and customers.

[LD 597](#) An Act To Establish the Wood Energy Investment Program. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill establishes the Wood Energy Investment Fund (fund) and creates the Wood Energy Investment Program within the Efficiency Maine Trust (trust). The bill specifies that revenues collected from alternative compliance payments made by competitive electricity providers to satisfy the portfolio requirements for thermal renewable energy credits must be used to capitalize the fund. The bill directs the trust to use revenues, if any, to provide incentives and

low-interest or no-interest loans to businesses, municipalities, educational institutions and nonprofit entities for new wood-derived thermal energy or cogeneration projects. It requires that the trust consult with the Finance Authority of Maine, in the process of developing incentives and distributing available revenues, which, as specified in the bill, cannot be used for the refurbishment or maintenance of existing facilities.

[LD 596](#) An Act To Improve the Law Regarding Abandoned Roads. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.)

Effective Oct.1, 2021, this bill repeals and replaces the current statute on the abandonment of town ways with a process in statute that a municipality may choose to follow to declare a town way abandoned. This process includes notice provisions to abutting property owners, property owners for whom the town way is the only means of access and adjacent municipalities and counties and provides for a public hearing process and an appeals process. The bill clarifies that the public easement retained in a town way discontinued by abandonment is limited to rights of access by foot or motor vehicle. Furthermore the bill expressly states that the section of law does not alter the ability of a town way to be abandoned under the common law presumption of abandonment.

February 22, 2021

[LD 591](#) An Act Regarding Agency Liquor Store Licensing. (Sponsored by Rep. Caiazzo of Scarborough)

This bill adds four more agency liquor store licenses for municipalities with populations over 20,000.

[LD 589](#) An Act To Provide Access to Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

Under existing Tort Claim Act provisions, a claim against a governmental entity or its employees permitted under the Act is barred from the courts, unless an action begins within two years after the cause of action accrues, except that, if the claimant is a minor when the cause of action accrues, the action may be brought within two years of the minor's attaining 18 years of age. This bill further provides that the limitation in the Act does not apply to a claim based upon a sexual act toward a minor. The bill also revives for a period of two years, beginning six months after the effective date of this legislation, any civil claim or cause of action based upon a sexual act toward a minor that was barred because of the period of limitation or because of failure to timely file notice of claim. Furthermore, the bill provides that, in an action based upon a sexual act toward a minor that was barred by operation of the statute of limitations prior to the effective date of this legislation and that is revived pursuant to this legislation, damages may be awarded against an entity that employed, supervised or had responsibility for the person who committed or allegedly committed the sexual act only if there is a finding of negligence on the part of the entity.

[LD 586](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing agriculture, conservation and forestry.

[LD 584](#) Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal Mandates. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

This resolve establishes a 15 member commission directed to study the reduction of unfunded and outdated municipal mandates, which includes representatives from eight municipalities of varying populations, the Maine Town and City Clerks Association and MMA. The commission is required to meet at least twice a year for two years to review unfunded and outdated municipal mandates, provide recommendations and to report out a list of mandates for the Legislature to consider eliminating or revising.

[LD 580](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Early Voting. (Sponsored by Rep. Moriarty of Cumberland)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to authorize a process by which municipalities may conduct early voting by allowing voters to vote in the same manner as on election day during a period immediately preceding an election and to allow absentee voting for any sufficient reason.

[LD 576](#) An Act To Increase Property Tax Relief for Veterans. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

Beginning on or after April 1, 2022, this bill: (1) increases to \$10,000 the property tax exemption for all categories of eligible veterans other than paraplegic veterans receiving a \$50,000 exemption for specially adapted housing units; (2) expands the dates of federally recognized war periods to include February 1, 1955 to February 27, 1961; and (3) requires the state to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the property tax revenue loss as a result of the increase and expansion of the exemption.

[LD 575](#) An Act To Establish a Conditional Presumption of Compensability for Certain Employees in Cases of Impairment from Hypertension or Heart Disease. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill provides that there is a rebuttable presumption that an employee of the state or of a county whose regular or incidental duties require the care, supervision or custody of a person confined in a jail, prison or state correctional facility who contracts heart disease or hypertension during the course of employment suffers the injury as a result of that employment. Presumption pertains only if the heart disease or hypertension was not occasioned by any willful act of that employee and as long as the employee successfully passed a physical examination upon entry into that employment or during the time of that employment that failed to reveal any evidence of that condition.

[LD 574](#) An Act To Clarify the Maine Food Sovereignty Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Plueker of Warren)

This bill clarifies the Maine Food Sovereignty Act by amending the definition of "direct producer-to-consumer transaction" to mean any exchange of food or food products directly between a producer and a consumer in a manner mutually agreed upon by the producer and consumer of the food or food products rather than face-to-face transactions at the site of production. The bill also provides that counties have the same authority as municipalities to adopt direct producer-to-consumer ordinances for enforcement in the unorganized territory.

[LD 573](#) An Act Concerning Records of the Employment of Law Enforcement Officers and Corrections Officers. (Sponsored by Rep. Corey of Windham)

This bill requires a law enforcement officer or corrections officer who applies for employment with a law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail, when the applicant is employed by or within 90 days prior to the application employed by another law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail, to request that the officer's personnel records, employment records, internal investigation records and any other records pertaining to the applicant's employment and job performance be released to the other agency, facility or jail. The request form, which must be signed and witnessed, must include a waiver of any rights that the applicant has to the privacy of the personnel and employment records, internal investigation records and any other records pertaining to the employment and job performance of the applicant. The bill directs the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to adopt routine technical rules to establish the request and waiver form. The bill requires the agency, facility or jail to which the request was made to promptly release the requested information and provides civil and criminal immunity to both the sending and the receiving agency, facility or jail. Furthermore, the bill requires an agency, facility or jail that performs a polygraph examination on a law enforcement officer or corrections officer to notify the head of the agency, facility or jail that employs the officer if the results indicate probable cause to believe that the officer is or has been involved in criminal activity.

[LD 571](#) Resolve, To Name a Bridge in the Town of Veazie the Hayward Carl Spencer Memorial Bridge. (Sponsored by Rep. Lyford of Eddington)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3684 on Main Street in the Town of Veazie the Hayward Carl Spencer Memorial Bridge. **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 5**

[LD 569](#) An Act To Prohibit Hunting with a Bow within 100 Yards of a Building or Residence. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

This bill prohibits the discharge of a bow within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling without the permission of the owner, but allows for recreational target practice. It also provides an exception for discharging a bow in an expanded archery deer zone during an expanded season created by rule by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

[LD 568](#) An Act To Establish a Working Farmland Access and Protection Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and a Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within the Land for Maine's Future Program. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Plueker of Warren)

This bill establishes the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the purpose of strengthen the alignment between the department's farmland conservation goals and the Land for Maine's Future program. This bill establishes the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within the Land for Maine's Future program for farmland protection projects.

[LD 566](#) An Act To Address Labor Market Inequities in the School Funding Formula. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

Beginning in fiscal year 2024-25, this bill prohibits the Commissioner of Education from making regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit (SAU), also known as the labor market adjustment, that decreases an SAU's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs. The bill also requires the commissioner to reduce the adjustment incrementally to zero between fiscal years 2021-22 and 2024-25 for any SAU for which the regional adjustment in fiscal year 2021-22 results in a decrease in the unit's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs. Finally, the bill requires the commissioner to maintain the adjustment amount at the fiscal year 2021-22 amount for the subsequent three fiscal years for any SAU for which the adjustment in fiscal year 2021-22 results in an increase in the unit's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs.

[LD 565](#) An Act To Study the Fee Structure for Motor Vehicle Inspections as It Relates to the Viability of Inspection Stations. (Sponsored by Rep. Harrington of Sanford) (By Request)

This concept draft bill would study the fee structure for motor vehicle inspections as it relates to the viability of inspection stations. **DEAD**

[LD 563](#) Resolve, To Create the Criminal Records Review Committee. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This resolve establishes the Criminal Records Review Committee, which includes a representative from the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, to review options for expunging and sealing criminal records. The review committee is directed to submit a report to the Judiciary Committee by Dec. 3, 2021 with findings and recommendations

[LD 562](#) An Act To Enhance Tribal-State Collaboration in the Enforcement of Child Support. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill enacts new sections providing authority to the Penobscot Nation that is parallel to the authority the Department of Health and Human Services has to enforce child support with regard to the issuance or renewal of licenses by licensing boards and registrations of watercraft, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

[LD 560](#) An Act To Amend the Safe Haven Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Corey of Windham)

This bill amends the safe haven laws regarding abandoned children by including a safe haven baby box to the list of safe havens that a person may deliver a newborn child to under the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act and to serve as an affirmative defense to the criminal offense of abandonment of a child. A safe haven baby box is a device or container that can safely accept delivery of a newborn child that is located in a hospital, law enforcement facility or fire department facility that is staffed 24 hours a day by a medical services provider.

[LD 557](#) An Act To Require Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting. (Sponsored by Rep. Johansen of Monticello)

This bill requires proof of identity via photograph identification when voting in person. Acceptable photograph identification is a current and valid driver's license or non-driver identification card issued in this state, U. S. Passport, military identification or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued in this state, if that permit includes a photograph. An identification issued by a college or university in this state may not be accepted for voter identification.

[LD 555](#) An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This bill allows public employees, including municipal and county, but not including employees whose duties include protecting public safety to strike. The bill requires notice be given to the public employer stating the dates upon which the strike will begin and end and allows an employee organization or public employer to call for emergency bargaining within three days prior to the intended start of the strike. Furthermore, the bill prohibits a public employer from permanently replacing an employee because that employee engaged in a strike.

[LD 553](#) An Act To End At-will Employment. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This bill prohibits an employer from terminating the employment of an employee without cause. The bill specifies that an employer may terminate an employee for cause only after applying a three-step progressive discipline policy and providing notice of termination in accordance with certain requirements. The bill also eliminates references to at-will employment in current law.

[LD 551](#) An Act To Accelerate Weatherization Efforts in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

This bill allows Efficiency Maine Trust funds dedicated to programs that help reduce energy costs for electricity consumers to be used toward weatherization efforts. The goals established in the bill include the weatherization of 17,500 homes and businesses by 2025 and 35,000 homes and businesses by 2030, including at least 1,000 units of housing for low-income individuals or households per year.

[LD 543](#) An Act To Provide That the Minimum Wage Increases by the Cost of Living Every 3 Years. (Sponsored by Rep. Bradstreet of Vassalboro)

This bill changes the annual cost-of-living increase in the minimum hourly wage from annual to triennial. Current law provides that the minimum hourly wage is adjusted for the cost of living annually.

[LD 539](#) An Act To Require Law Enforcement Agencies To Do a Thorough Background Check of Applicant Officers and Require the Release of Records, Including Sealed Records, to the Requesting Agency. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill requires a candidate for employment as a law enforcement officer who has previous law enforcement experience to provide the hiring law enforcement agency a written waiver authorizing prior law enforcement employers to release all performance related employment records on the candidate, including sealed records but not including medical, pay and other nonperformance data, and releasing the hiring and disclosing law enforcement agencies of liability related to the disclosure or use of the employment records. A previous employer is immune from any confidentiality or nondisclosure law, policy or contractual requirement for providing information to a hiring law enforcement agency. This bill requires a hiring law enforcement agency to conduct a background check on the employment records prior to hiring the candidate and forbids a law enforcement agency from hiring a candidate who refuses to provide the written waiver.

[LD 536](#) An Act To Amend the Maine Criminal Code. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty.)

Part A of the bill authorizes non-concurrent sentencing when a crime is committed by a convicted person during a stay of execution of any term of imprisonment or after failure to report after a stay of execution of any term of imprisonment. It also authorizes non-concurrent sentencing when the convicted person is convicted of the crime of failure to report as ordered after a stay of execution of any term of imprisonment. Part B amends sections of law addressing the disposition of funds by correctional facilities when they hold funds for the purposes of restitution and the victim cannot be located consistent throughout statutes. Current law requires the facility to notify the court and the court to determine distribution of the funds. The bill requires the facility to forward the funds to the Treasurer of State to be handled as unclaimed property. Part C separates two variants of kidnapping, restraining a person with intent to commit bodily injury and restraining a person with intent to commit a sexual assault, which are included in current law in the same provision. This Part amends the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2013 to clarify that, beginning Jan. 1, 2022, kidnapping with intent to commit sexual assault qualifies as a Tier III offense under that Act and renders a person ineligible for interment in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System. Part D clarifies that immunity from revocation of probation is limited to the same conduct for which there is immunity from prosecution under the law protecting persons seeking medical assistance or administering naloxone hydrochloride or experiencing a drug-related overdose. Part E repeals a section of law addressing the factors used to predict high-risk sex offenders for sentencing purposes, leaving individual risk assessment at sentencing to the judgment of the court.

[LD 534](#) An Act To Allow Tax Abatements for Catastrophic Loss. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill allows municipal assessors, or the State Tax Assessor for property in the unorganized territory, to abate the property taxes of real property that, due to destruction by flood, fire, explosion or natural disaster, suffers at least a 50% decrease in just value to improvements on that real property.

[LD 525](#) An Act To Allow Medical and Adult Use Marijuana Stores To Share a Common Space. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill allows the use of a shared facility for retail sale of adult use and medical marijuana and products, as long as the adult use marijuana and products are sold using a different cash register than that used for sales of medical marijuana and products.

[LD 524](#) An Act To Require Schools To Submit Pest Management Activity Logs to the Board of Pesticides Control and the Posting of Inspection Results for the Purpose of Providing Information to the Public. (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill requires a school to maintain a pest management pesticide use activity log and to annually submit a copy of the log to the Board of Pesticides Control. The bill further directs the board to post the collected school reports and a list of all board inspections of a school's use of pesticides and the results of those inspection on a publicly accessible website.

[LD 521](#) An Act To Modify the Rule-making Process for Establishing County and Municipal Jail Standards. (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill amends the laws governing the authority of the Commissioner of Corrections to establish standards for municipal and county jails and detention facilities by requiring the standards to: (1) be adopted through the major substantive rule-making process; (2) be evidenced-based; (3) minimize the imposition of additional costs; and (4) reflect best practices for the operation and administration of jails.

February 17, 2021

[LD 519](#) An Act To Protect Children from Exposure to Toxic Chemicals. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach)

This bill bans the use of synthetic herbicides, including, but not limited to, glyphosate, within 75 feet of school grounds. The prohibition does not apply to agricultural land or residential property. The bill also directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to establish an environmental risk advisory committee to assess the environmental and human health risks associated with the use of glyphosate. The advisory committee is required to submit an interim report no later than Feb. 1, 2024 and a final report no later than Feb. 1, 2025 with findings and recommendations to the committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters, which is authorized to submit a bill relating to the subject matter of the report in 2025.

[LD 517](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote the Construction of Energy-efficient Affordable Homes and the Adaptive Reuse, Repair and Weatherization of Existing Homes for Low-income Seniors. (Sponsored by Rep. Babbidge of Kennebunk)

This bond bill issues \$30 million for low-income households headed by a person 55 years of age or older for the construction of new energy-efficient affordable homes, the adaptive reuse of structures or homes, home repair, and weatherization programs.

[LD 514](#) An Act To Establish and Promote a System of Safe Disposal of Expired Marine Flares. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell)

This bill directs the Department of Public Safety to establish a program for the convenient and safe collection of expired marine flares, which includes working with a statewide association of fire chiefs to identify fire departments that have the capacity and willingness to accept expired marine flares from members of the public. A participating fire department may choose to designate the geographic area from which flare will be accepted and coordinate for the timely pickup of the collect flares. The department is further directed to coordinate with marinas, municipalities and other groups that choose to include expired marine flares as part of annually collection events. The department is also directed to establish a program for the safe, nonpolluting disposal of marine flares and establish an education program for the public and state agencies regarding expired marine flares.

[LD 513](#) An Act Regarding the Membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and Its Complaint Review Committee. (Sponsored by Rep. Reckitt of South Portland)

This bill expands the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy by adding a county commissioner who is not and has never been a sworn member of a law enforcement agency. The bill also expands the total membership of the board's complaint

review committee from three to five and the number of members who are citizens who have not and never have been sworn members of a law enforcement agency from one to two. The bill further allows deliberations when a majority of the members of the committee, including at least one citizen member, is present instead of requiring that all members be present.

[LD 512](#) An Act To Provide Intensive Case Managers to Counties That Do Not Have County Jails or Regional Jails. (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast)

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to create additional intensive case manager positions so that counties that do not have a county jail or regional jail will have an intensive case manager. An intensive case manager oversees persons who are detained by a law enforcement officer and who have intellectual disabilities or mental health conditions or have misused substances and connects them to the services for which they qualify, works with the court system to ensure that they receive due process and speedy trials and assists persons who qualify for the MaineCare program to apply for and receive MaineCare benefits and services while being detained or incarcerated, including during the implementation of diversion and reentry plans.

[LD 507](#) An Act To Improve Consumer Protections for Community Solar Projects. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This bill clarifies and directs the Public Utilities Commission to adopt consumer protection rules for customers who participate in or are solicited to participate in community solar projects through a net energy billing arrangement based on a shared financial interest in a distributed generation resource. The language mirrors that addressing the authority of the commission to implement and enforce consumer protections for customers of competitive electricity providers and shared distributed generation resource projects, respectively.

[LD 506](#) An Act To Reduce the Tax Burden on Low-income Electricity Customers. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This bill exempts from sales tax all electricity consumed by residential customers participating in either a low-income assistance program or arrearage management program approved by the Public Utilities Commission. This exemption maximizes the value of the benefit from the subsidies provided to participants in these programs.

[LD 505](#) An Act To Expand the Disciplinary Authority of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. (Sponsored by Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield)

This bill would expand the disciplinary authority of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to provide the board a pathway for dealing with incidents of misconduct by individuals who hold a certification or license issued by the board.

[LD 502](#) An Act To Broaden the Definition of “Working Waterfront” with Respect to Land Use Planning. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures facilitating a review of how working waterfront or working waterfront property is defined and treated throughout statutes to assess whether statutory or regulatory changes are needed to better recognize and account for water-dependent commercial activities associated with working waterfront or working waterfront

property in the state's land use planning, resiliency planning and climate change adaptation strategies.

[LD 500](#) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 895: Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission. (Emergency) (Presented by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham on behalf of the PUC)

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 895: Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements, a major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission.

[LD 498](#) An Act To Reauthorize a 3 Percent Tax on Income over \$200,000 To Lift All Maine Workers out of Poverty. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This bill imposes an income tax surcharge on taxable income exceeding \$200,000 and increases the Maine earned income tax credit to equal the federal earned income tax credit.

[LD 491](#) An Act To Create the Crime of Hate Crime False Public Alarm or Report. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill makes a Class C crime the false public alarm or report to an emergency responder, government agency or utility or law enforcement officer in which a person: (1) is motivated by the actual or perceived race, color, religion, religious practice, disability or origin of any person; or (2) knows or should reasonably know is false and with the intent to convince a law enforcement officer that a crime has been committed.

[LD 490](#) An Act To Eliminate Certain Motor Vehicle Inspections in the State. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill repeals statutory provisions requiring inspections for motor vehicles registered in the state, except that the provisions regarding inspection of commercial motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers; inspection of fire trucks; and inspection by dealers and transporters are not repealed. **DEAD**

[LD 489](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment. (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to grant the people of the state a right to a clean and healthy environment and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, recreational, scenic and healthful qualities of the environment.

[LD 488](#) Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine. (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.)

This resolve provides funding in the amount of \$500,000 in both FY 2021- 22 and FY 2022-23 for recovery community centers located in Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo and York counties serving individuals with substance use disorder.

[LD 484](#) An Act To Change Maine's Tax Laws. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill makes specific changes to the laws governing taxation that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Taxation.

February 11, 2021

[LD 481](#) An Act To Propose a General Fund Bond Issue To Train Workers in High-demand Sectors and Support the State's 10-year Economic Plan Goal of Increasing Wages by 10 Percent. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Waterford)

This bond bill issues \$80 million to train workers in high-demand sectors and support the state's goal of increasing average annual wages by 10%. The funding would be provided in \$20 million increments over four years in accordance with programmatic and return-on investment goals that must be met by the Maine Community College System.

[LD 479](#) An Act To Ban Foreign Campaign Contributions and Expenditures in Maine Elections. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

This bill, in part, provides that a foreign national may not make directly or indirectly, a contribution or expenditure: (1) influencing the nomination or election of any person to state, county or municipal office or a contribution to a party committee; (2) designing, producing or disseminating a communication for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to state, county or municipal office; (3) influencing the initiation or outcome of a state or local ballot measure; or (4) disseminating or republishing campaign materials authorized by a candidate or a candidate's authorized political committee.

[LD 477](#) An Act To Allow for Fair Restitution by Providing that Restitution Does Not Include the Cost of Analysis of Suspected Illegal Drugs. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell)

In current law, critical investigation expenses are recoverable as restitution in criminal cases. This bill amends the definition of "critical investigation expense" to remove the cost of analysis of suspected illegal drugs.

[LD 475](#) Resolve, To Create the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This resolve establishes the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative in order to develop a plan to provide stable housing and community services to 200 persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who are the most frequent consumers of high-cost services, such as psychiatric hospitals, emergency shelters, emergency rooms, police, jails and prisons. The collaborative must submit a report to the Committee on Health and Human Services no later than Jan. 1, 2022 on its plan and recommendations. The committee is authorized to report out a bill in 2022 implementing the collaborative's recommendations.

[LD 473](#) An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) to establish and administer the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program. The program must include a rental assistance component to assist individuals with the cost of rent and a rental voucher guarantee component to encourage landlords to work with the program and other rental assistance programs. The bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$8.5 million in both FY 22 and FY 23 to fund the program.

[LD 471](#) An Act To Require Legislative Approval for Certain Leases of Public Lands. (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.)

This bill requires the approval of two-thirds of all the members elected to each House of the Legislature for any use of public reserved lands for transmission lines and facilities and certain other projects. This provision applies retroactively to Sept.16, 2014.

[LD 470](#) An Act To Allow a Veteran Who Was a Member of the Military Reserves or Served in the National Guard To Qualify for the Veterans' Property Tax Exemption. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.)

This bill provides that persons who served on active duty in the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces are considered veterans eligible for veterans' property tax exemptions. **DEAD**

[LD 469](#) An Act To Ensure Safety across Maine's Construction Industry. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This bill requires a contractor or subcontractor with a public works contract with Maine of \$50,000 or more to certify all craft workers who will be on the construction site have taken a safety training program that uses a curriculum approved by the U.S. Department of Labor that is at least 10 hours in duration. A contractor or subcontractor is required to provide proof of compliance by submitting a statement of compliance as part of its regular certified payroll submission. The contractor or subcontractor is required to display at the job site an affidavit showing compliance. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee is authorized to issue a cease operations order if a contractor or subcontractor is not in compliance. The Department of Labor is authorized to adopt rules to implement this section.

[LD 468](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Labor and Housing. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing labor and housing.

[LD 467](#) An Act To Support E-9-1-1 Dispatchers and Corrections Officers Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford)

This bill adds corrections officers and E-9-1-1 dispatchers to the list of employees for whom there is a rebuttable presumption under the laws governing workers' compensation that when the employee is diagnosed by a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist as having post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from work stress that was extraordinary and unusual, the post-traumatic stress disorder is presumed to have arisen out of and in the course of the worker's employment.

[LD 466](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support a Climate Center at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford)

This bond bill issues \$16 million to complete the design, engineering and construction of a climate center at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to support Maine communities and the state in the development and funding of climate adaptation plans, to support improved fisheries management and aquaculture development and to advise seafood businesses in the pursuit of opportunities and the navigation of challenges arising from climate change.

[LD 464](#) An Act To Change Certain Labor Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to change certain labor laws to help people organizing a labor union and negotiating a fair contract.

[LD 463](#) An Act To Better House Maine Residents. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to change certain laws to help the people obtain housing.

[LD 462](#) An Act To Reexamine the Relationship among County, Municipal and State Governments. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This concept draft bill would create a committee to study: (1) the relationship among county, municipal and state governments; (2) the roles of county government in other states, and which, if any, of those roles might be beneficial in Maine; (3) whether the existing powers of county government are adequate to fill those roles; and (4) whether the powers of county government should be increased to help county governments provide regional leadership in various areas, including health care, education data collection and workforce development.

[LD 460](#) An Act To Amend Certain Employment Laws To Help Front-line and Other Workers. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This concept draft bill would amend certain employment laws to help front-line and other workers

[LD 458](#) An Act To Support Public Transportation Infrastructure in York and Cumberland Counties. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco)

This concept draft bill proposes to support public transportation infrastructure in Cumberland and York Counties.

[LD 456](#) An Act To Protect Voter Identification by Prohibiting a Voter's Party Designation from Appearing on Absentee Ballot Envelopes. (Sponsored by Rep. Sampson of Alfred)

This bill prohibits state and local election officials from making any mark indicating the political party of the absentee voter on the outside of an absentee ballot return envelope issued during a general election.

[LD 455](#) An Act To Give the State the Sole Authority To Establish a Minimum Wage and Hazard Pay with Certain Exceptions. (Sponsored by Rep. Newman of Belgrade)

This bill prohibits a municipality from enacting an ordinance governing the minimum hourly wage paid by an employer or requiring adjustments to the minimum hourly wage for hazard pay. The bill provides an exception to the prohibition that allows a municipality to regulate the minimum hourly wage and hazard pay of municipal employees.

[LD 454](#) An Act To Ensure Equity in the Shellfish Depuration Compensation Process for Municipalities by Increasing the Rate of Reimbursement Paid to Municipalities. (Sponsored by Rep. Matlack of St. George)

This bill amends the laws concerning the shellfish depuration harvesting process to raise the rate of reimbursement paid to the municipality by the depuration certificate holder from 50 cents to \$2 for each bushel of soft-shelled clams.

[LD 451](#) An Act To Remove the Party Designation from Return Envelopes for Absentee Ballots for the General Election. (Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield)

This bill prohibits state and local election officials from making any mark indicating the political party of the absentee voter on the outside of an absentee ballot return envelope issued during a general election.

[LD 449](#) An Act To Strengthen the Ability of Public Employers and Unions to Negotiate. (Sponsored by Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield)

Current law provides that the obligation of a public employer and a bargaining agent to bargain collectively includes their mutual obligation to meet within 10 days after receipt of written notice from the other party requesting a meeting for collective bargaining purposes, as long as the parties have not otherwise agreed in a prior written contract. This bill removes the exception for the case in which the parties have otherwise agreed in a prior written contract.

[LD 448](#) An Act Regarding Recording of Witness Interviews. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner)

Current law requires law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies for the recording of interviews of suspects in murder, Class A, Class B and Class C crimes. This bill extends that requirement to include recording of interviews of witnesses.

[LD 447](#) An Act To Require Equivalent Paid Parental Leave for All Parents Employed by Companies Offering Paid Parental Leave. (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor)

This bill requires an employer that provides paid parental leave to provide an equal amount of leave for the birth of a child and the adoption of a child. It also prohibits an employer from providing different amounts of paid parental leave based on the gender of the employee or employee's domestic partner. The bill uses the definition of "employer" under the family medical leave laws. The bill establishes a fine of \$10,000 for violation of these requirements.

[LD 446](#) An Act To Reestablish the State Planning Office. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

This bill reestablishes the State Planning Office to: (1) advise the Governor on developing and implementing policy; (2) assist the Legislature with information and analysis; and (3) administer financial and technical assistance programs to help build sustainable communities.

[LD 436](#) An Act Regarding the Authority of the Department of Environmental Protection Regarding Applications, Permits and Fines. (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to assess an interest rate of 15% per year on any fee or portion of a fee owed and if not paid within 90 days of the due date the department is further authorized to place a lien on the real estate owned by the delinquent fee payer. The bill also increases the cap on civil penalties from \$10,000 to \$25,000 or if a violation relates to hazardous waste from \$25,000 to \$65,000 for each day of a violation. The maximum civil penalty may exceed \$25,000 but may not exceed \$65,000 for each day of a violation when it can be shown that there has been a previous violation of the same regulation by the same party within the preceding five years. The maximum criminal penalty is increased from \$25,000 to \$65,000 for each day of a violation in cases involving subsequent violations. **DEAD**

February 9, 2021

[LD 434](#) An Act To Clarify the Bonding Authority of Counties for Capital Maintenance Projects. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair)

This bill authorizes a county to issue bonds for capital maintenance projects in a single year without the need for a bond issue referendum, as long as the total amount of the bonds does not exceed 1/10 of one mil of the county's property valuation. If a county charter provision provides for a higher total amount of bonds that may be issued for such projects without a bond issue referendum, that charter provision is valid.

[LD 431](#) An Act To Repeal the Requirement That Certain Motor Vehicles Be Inspected. (Sponsored by Rep. Cebra of Naples)

This bill repeals statutory provisions that require motor vehicles registered in the state to have an annual motor vehicle inspection. **DEAD**

[LD 427](#) An Act Regarding Solar Project Licensing. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to examine the issue of discrete electric generating facilities as they are governed by the rules of the Public Utilities Commission.

[LD 426](#) An Act Relating to Solar Energy Installation. (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing solar energy installation.

February 8, 2021

[LD 421](#) An Act To Increase the Number of Plants a Medical Marijuana Caregiver May Cultivate. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill increases the number of mature plants from 30 to 60 and immature plants from 60 to 120 that a medical marijuana caregiver may cultivate.

[LD 418](#) An Act To Create a Graduated Real Estate Transfer Tax. (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor)

This bill decreases the rate of the real estate transfer tax on the first \$150,000 of value of a primary residence to \$1.50 for each \$500 or fractional part of \$500 of the value and increases the tax rate on the value of a primary residence exceeding \$150,000 and on all other property to \$2.50 for each \$500 or fractional part of \$500 of the value.

[LD 417](#) An Act To Protect Maine's Drivers from Pretextual Traffic Stops. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland)

This bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from using a motor vehicle violation for stopping an occupant suspected of engaging in criminal activity that is not related to a motor vehicle violation. The bill also provides that evidence obtained in a traffic stop in violation of this provision may not be used in any criminal proceeding.

[LD 412](#) An Act To Authorize the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Constructing or Renovating Municipal Offices and Other Buildings. (Sponsored by Rep. Carlow of Buxton)

This bill permits revenue from tax increment financing districts to be used for the construction or renovation of municipal offices or other buildings and limits the revenue that may be used to \$1 million during a 20-year period for any one tax increment financing district.

[LD 410](#) An Act To Provide Funding for the Reconstruction of Route 161 from Fort Kent to Caribou. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake)

This bill provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$40 million in FY 22 to the Department of Transportation to reconstruct Route 161 from Fort Kent to Caribou.

[LD 409](#) An Act To Provide Funding To Restore Fully State-Municipal Revenue Sharing. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison)

This bill increases state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% as of Jan. 1, 2021.

[LD 408](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Regulating the Operation of the Legislature. (Sponsored by Rep. Dunphy of Old Town)

This concept draft bill would establish a commission to examine the laws and rules regulating operations and functions of the Legislature and propose methods to improve those operations.

[LD 404](#) An Act to Preserve Deer Habitat. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Johansen of Monticello)

This concept draft bill proposes to direct the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to submit a deer management plan and a map of deer wintering areas to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and to work with the committee to develop a plan to protect deer wintering areas.

[LD 403](#) An Act To Assist Service Center Communities by Adjusting State-Municipal Revenue Sharing. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Madigan of Waterville)

For FY 22 and FY 23, this bill sets the percentage of state-municipal revenue sharing at 4.25%.

[LD 400](#) An Act to Modify the Composition of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth)

This bill expands the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy by adding a county commissioner who is not and has never been a sworn member of a law enforcement agency.

[LD 395](#) An Act To Remove the Authorization for Temporary Signs To Be Placed in the Public Right-of-way. (Sponsored by Rep. Ordway of Standish)

This bill removes the authorization for a person to place a temporary sign in the public right-of-way and removes the civil violation that currently applies to persons who take, deface or disturb such signs.

[LD 393](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Health and Human Services. (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing health and human services.

[LD 392](#) An Act To Amend the Tax Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham)

This concept draft bill would amend the tax laws.

[LD 391](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Marine Resources. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell)

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

[LD 390](#) An Act Regarding the Mapping of Shoreland Zones. (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Calais)

This bill directs the Board of Environmental Protection to adopt rules establishing minimum guidelines for municipal zoning and land use controls that: (1) exempt from municipal permitting the repair or replacement of an existing and qualifying culvert; (2) govern building and structure size, setback and location; (3) establish resource protection, general development, limited residential, commercial fisheries and maritime activity zones; (4) establish criteria for the issuance of permits and nonconforming uses, land use standards and administrative and enforcement procedures; (5) include a requirement that a person issued a permit pursuant to this article in a great pond watershed have a copy of the permit on the work site; (6) use clear and operable language that references widely available and best available datasets, specifically for modeling in a geographic information system and for enforcement purposes by municipal officials; (7) define terms "contiguous," "adjacent," "surficially connected" and other similar operational terms; (8) include selection distances for use in geographic information systems and field surveys; and (9) exclude from the resource protection zone lots where less than 2,500 square feet of the lot would be zoned as resource protection. **DEAD**

[LD 389](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. (Sponsored by Rep. Landry of Farmington)

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

[LD 388](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Transportation. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair)

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

[LD 387](#) An Act To Reduce the Amount of Waste Going into Landfills. (Sponsored by Rep. Alley of Beals)

This concept draft bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection to create a plan to compost all of the state's food waste and bagged grass clippings, leaves and other woody debris in convenient places in each county and present its plan to the Legislature during the 2022 session.

[LD 386](#) An Act To Improve Operations at the Department of Education. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to correct problems at the Department of Education.

[LD 384](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund the Transition from a Fossil Fuel-based to an Electrical Energy Economy. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill issues a bond of an undisclosed value to fund the transition from a fossil fuel-based to an electrical energy economy

[LD 383](#) An Act Concerning Small Wireless Facilities in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws regarding small wireless facilities in the state.

[LD 382](#) An Act Regarding the Department of Transportation and Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures regarding the Department of Transportation and electric vehicle charging stations.

[LD 379](#) An Act To Establish the Maine State Cemetery Commission. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill creates the eight-member Maine State Cemetery Commission, two members of which are municipal appointees, with one representing a statewide association of municipalities and the other a statewide association of municipal clerks. The duties of the commission include advising and educating municipalities and property owners of the: (1) existence of burying grounds and cemeteries; (2) related laws; and (3) care and preservation of graves, gravestones, walls and fences in and around burying grounds and cemeteries. The commission is also tasked with reviewing related statutes and providing the Legislature information on recommended changes.

[LD 378](#) An Act To Temporarily Waive Renewal Fees for On-premises Retail Liquor Licenses (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.)

This bill temporarily exempts restaurants and other entities seeking renewal of a license to sell beer, wine or spirits for on-premises consumption from any license renewal fee in 2021.

[LD 375](#) An Act To Create Greater Accountability in the Office of County Sheriff. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

This bill creates procedures for a majority of the county commissioners of a county to file a complaint with the Superior Court in the county to remove the sheriff for improper, unethical or criminal behavior. After a hearing in which evidence may be presented by both sides, if the court finds cause, the court is required to forward the matter to the governor for consideration of removal of the sheriff from office and may place the sheriff on administrative leave with pay. If the court determines the matter requires more investigation, the court may refer the matter to the Attorney General with instructions to report back to the court or to forward the results of the investigation to the governor.

[LD 373](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Maine's Railroad Infrastructure. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.)

This bond bill issues \$50 million for investments in railroad infrastructure to expand passenger rail service, with a priority for railroad track corridors that support passenger and freight intermodal operations and enhance the movement of agricultural products.

[LD 371](#) An Act To Make Adjustments to General Fund Appropriations Related to the Supplemental Budget. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill provides a vehicle for supplemental adjustments to General Fund appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

[LD 369](#) An Act To Criminalize Recording an Incident in Progress but Failing To Report the Incident Immediately to the Appropriate Authority. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill makes recording an incident in progress such as a crime or event involving serious bodily injury or death but failing to immediately report the incident to an appropriate law enforcement or emergency response authority, which may include calling 9-1-1, a Class E crime.

DEAD

February 4, 2021

[LD 363](#) An Act Regarding the Statute of Limitations for Injuries or Harm Resulting from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

This bill provides that an action arising out of any harm or injury caused by a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance must be commenced within six years after the plaintiff discovers or should have discovered such harm or injury. It does not alter the notice period or limitation period applicable to claims against a government entity.

[LD 359](#) An Act To Promote Energy Production from Recycled Plastics. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures that promote the production of energy by waste-to-energy facilities in the state through the incineration of collected recyclable plastics that cannot be profitably sold as a recycled commodity.

[LD 354](#) An Act To Require Motor Vehicle Inspections Every 2 Years. (Sponsored by Rep. Connor of Lewiston)

This bill changes noncommercial automobile inspection requirements from an annual inspection to a biennial inspection. **DEAD**

[LD 353](#) An Act To Establish Medical Marijuana Cooperatives. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell)

This concept draft bill proposes to establish medical marijuana cooperatives.

[LD 351](#) An Act Regarding Municipal Valuation and State-owned Property. (Sponsored by Rep. Foster of Dexter)

This bill changes the property tax exemption for state-owned property by requiring the state to pay municipal property taxes on the state-owned property in a municipality that exceeds 10% of the total valuation of taxable property in the municipality.

[LD 349](#) An Act To Prohibit the Use of Personal Watercraft on Keyes Pond in the Town of Sweden. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Waterford)

This bill adds Keyes Pond in the Town of Sweden in to the list of water bodies in the state on which the operation of personal watercraft is prohibited.

[LD 346](#) An Act Requiring the Use of Propane and Natural Gas Detectors. (Sponsored by Rep. Reckitt of South Portland)

This bill requires the installation of fuel gas detectors to detect propane, natural gas and liquified petroleum gas in multifamily occupancy buildings; fraternity houses, sorority houses and dormitories that are affiliated with educational facilities; children's homes, emergency shelters, residential care facilities, homeless shelters and specialized homes; and hotels, motels and inns. The bill is modeled on the laws applicable to those same buildings or facilities with regard to smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. The bill provides an effective date of Jan. 1, 2022.

[LD 344](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Explicitly Prohibit Discrimination Based on the Sex of an Individual. (Sponsored by Rep. Reckitt of South Portland)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to prohibit the denial or abridgment by the State or any political subdivision of the State of equal rights based on the sex of an individual.

[LD 343](#) An Act To Set Aside Funds from Federal Block Grants for Certain Communities. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to annually set aside 20% of each federal block grant it receives for the most vulnerable communities in the State and at least 12% of each federal block grant it receives for federally recognized Indian nations, tribes and bands in the State.

[LD 340](#) An Act To Allow for the Establishment of Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs. (Sponsored by Sen. Sanborn of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill allows the Efficiency Maine Trust or a municipality to establish a commercial property assessed clean energy program to finance energy savings improvements on qualifying property.

[LD 339](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill requires the governor to issue a general obligation bond that has been ratified by Maine voters unless one of the following specific conditions exists: (1) debt service is greater than the amount budgeted; (2) the issuance will have an adverse impact on the state's credit rating; (3) delay in issuance will likely result in a more favorable interest rate; (4) the funded project will not proceed; and (5) alternative funding is available.

[LD 337](#) An Act Regarding Energy, Utilities and Technology. (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing energy, utilities and technology.

[LD 336](#) An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry. (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to negotiate and enter into or direct another entity to enter into long-term contracts necessary to facilitate research on the development of floating offshore wind energy projects on the outer continental shelf in the Gulf of Maine.

[LD 332](#) An Act To Reevaluate the Frenchboro Area Dragging Exclusion Zone. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington)

This bill directs the Commissioner of Marine Resources to evaluate the size and boundaries of the Frenchboro area, where dragging and scalloping are prohibited, to determine whether the area should be modified.

[LD 331](#) An Act To Protect Student Privacy. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell)

This bill provides that video and audio recordings made by security or surveillance cameras on school grounds or in school-related transportation vehicles, and live or recorded classes taught by public school staff in which students can be seen or heard are not public records under the Freedom of Access Act.

[LD 329](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner)

This bill requires the governor to issue a general obligation bond that has been ratified by Maine voters unless one of the following specific conditions exists: (1) debt service is greater than the amount budgeted; (2) issuance will have an adverse impact on the state's credit rating; (3) delay in issuance will likely result in a more favorable interest rate; (4) the funded project will not proceed; and (5) alternative funding is available.

[LD 328](#) An Act To Fully Fund and Restore State-Municipal Revenue Sharing. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner)

This bill increases state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% from 3.75% in the final six months (Jan. 1 to June 30, 2021) of fiscal year 2020-21.

[LD 327](#) An Act To Return Surplus Money to Maine Taxpayers. (Sponsored by Rep. Hanley of Pittston)

This concept draft bill proposes to distribute funds in the State Treasury by: (1) placing in the General Fund only the amount necessary to cover the outstanding obligations of the state as required by law; (2) distributing 75% of the remaining funds to Maine taxpayers on a pro rata basis, based on tax data for the 2020 tax year; and (3) after the transfer and the distributions, transferring the remaining 25% to the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

[LD 324](#) An Act To Limit Public Land Ownership in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Javner of Chester)

This bill limits publicly owned land in the state to no more than 33% of the total land area of the state and 50% of the land area in any county. The bill also allows the state or a municipality to exceed the limits with the approval of 2/3 of each House of the Legislature. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is required to report biannually beginning April 15, 2022 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public lands matters on the percentage of federal and state property ownership statewide and by county.
DEAD

[LD 318](#) An Act To Provide More Options to Maine Electric Service Customers and Support Maine's Climate Goals. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth)

This concept draft bill would amend the current law regarding electricity restructuring and retail electricity sales, replacing the state's default service, called standard-offer service, with full retail choice and competition to benefit consumers and help to deliver the jobs, economic development and other benefits of a fully competitive market. The bill would ensure that all retail customers have adequate and efficient billing for electric service, increase the use of renewable and carbon-free resources in electricity generation, allow consumers to choose a rate that works for them from a mix of time-of-use rates and encourage innovative and broad on-bill financing programs to assist consumers with implementing beneficial electrification to help Maine achieve its climate goals.

[LD 312](#) An Act To Extend the Use of Maine Bicentennial Registration Plates through 2021. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.)

This bill allows the sale, distribution and display of a commemorative vehicle registration plate celebrating the state's bicentennial until Dec. 31, 2021.

[LD 311](#) An Act To Require Third-party Certification for Persons Undertaking Corrosion Prevention and Mitigation Projects for Public Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure and Bridges. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill directs the Departments of Health and Human Services and Transportation to adopt rules governing projects costing \$50,000 or more consisting of corrosion prevention and mitigation for bridges, public water supply infrastructure and public wastewater infrastructure. Rules adopted pursuant to this legislation must include establishing a process for ensuring that corrosion prevention and mitigation activities are performed in accordance with established corrosion prevention and mitigation standards, requiring the use of personnel who are industry-trained and industry certified in corrosion prevention and mitigation methods and requiring plans to prevent environmental degradation that might result from corrosion prevention and mitigation activities.

[LD 305](#) An Act To Include Forest Rangers and Forest Fire Prevention Specialists in the Bureau of Forestry's Forest Protection Unit in the Laws Concerning Cancer Suffered by Firefighters. (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill adds forest rangers and forest fire prevention specialists in the forest protection unit within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry who have contracted cancer to the list of firefighters under the workers' compensation laws whose cancer is presumed to be caused by their firefighting duties.

[LD 304](#) An Act To Make Certain Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill is the vehicle for the so-called change package necessary to adjust certain appropriations and allocations in the Governor Mills' proposed supplemental FY 21 General Fund budget.

February 1, 2021

[LD 303](#) An Act To Establish Semi-open Primary Elections To Allow Unenrolled Voters To Participate. (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill allows an unenrolled voter to vote in a primary election without having to enroll in a political party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's primary election.

[LD 301](#) An Act Regarding Adult Use Marijuana. (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to address the regulation of adult use marijuana.

[LD 298](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Capital Improvements and Equipment For Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions to Prepare Students To Join Maine's Workforce. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford)

This bill proposes to issue a \$40 million bond to make capital improvements to and purchase equipment for career and technical education centers and regions for high school students.

[LD 290](#) An Act To Stabilize Property Taxes for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older Who Own a Homestead for at Least 10 Years. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill requires a municipality to maintain the property tax on the homestead of a permanent resident who is at least 65 years of age at the amount billed in the year prior to an application for stabilization. The amount by which the property tax assessed exceeds the stabilized amount must be paid to the municipality by the state. If an eligible individual moves to a different municipality, the stabilized property tax amount continues at the new location. An applicant for stabilization must be a permanent resident of the state and must have owned a homestead for at least 10 years. An application for stabilization must be made each year to continue eligibility.

[LD 289](#) An Act To Authorize the Secretary of State To Reject Certain Vanity License Plate Requests. (Sponsored by Sen. Rosen of Hancock Cty.)

This bill allows the Secretary of State to refuse to issue or to recall a vanity registration plate that in the judgment of the Secretary of State is not appropriate for use.

January 28, 2021

[LD 286](#) An Act To Make Election Day a State Holiday. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill designates election day, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, as a state holiday.

[LD 284](#) An Act To Provide That Inspections of New Motor Vehicles Are Valid for 2 Years. (Sponsored by Rep. Cebra of Naples)

This bill provides that a new motor vehicle that has had an inspection is not required to have another inspection until two years from the last day of the month in which it was initially registered. After this time period has passed, the motor vehicle is required to have an annual motor vehicle safety inspection.

[LD 281](#) An Act To Address Student Achievement Gaps. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This bill amends the school funding formula to provide additional state aid to address student academic achievement gaps based on race or economic status. The Commissioner of Education is directed to: (1) specify data and metrics to calculate student academic achievement gaps; (2) establish eligibility criteria for the adjustment; and (3) determine the adjustment amount or method for computing the amount. The bill also requires eligible school administrative units to annually submit a plan to address academic achievement gaps prior to receipt of the adjustment and authorizes the commissioner to disburse up to \$10 million per fiscal year in related adjustments.

[LD 279](#) An Act To Protect Persons Detained or Committed in a Correctional or Detention Facility from Excessive Telephone or Video Charges. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick)

This bill provides inmates in state correction and detention facilities and county jails and municipal detention facilities the right to communicate with family via telephone or video call two times per week without charge. The bill also prohibits a state, county or municipal corrections facility from entering into contracts that exceed 11 cents per minute for domestic debit, prepaid or collect calls or assess a surcharge payable to the facility that exceeds the charges imposed by the outside entity. **DEAD**

[LD 276](#) An Act To Improve and Update Maine's Tax Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This concept draft bill proposes to improve and update Maine's tax laws.

[LD 272](#) An Act To Establish Separate Prosecutorial Districts in Downeast Maine. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

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

[LD 270](#) An Act To amend the Regional Adjustment Index To Ensure School Districts Do Not Receive Less than the State Average for Teacher Salaries. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill requires that, beginning in fiscal year 2022-23, when regional adjustments are made to the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit, the adjustment cannot decrease a school administrative unit's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs.

[LD 269](#) An Act To Prohibit Smoking in Bus Shelters. (Sponsored by Sen. Sanborn of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill clarifies that bus shelters are considered enclosed public spaces where smoking is prohibited.

[LD 268](#) An Act To Eliminate Online Burn Permit Fees for All Areas of the State. (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.)

Currently, burn permits can be obtained via the state's online platform for a \$7 fee, of which \$2 is transferred to the municipality where the permit is issued. This bill repeals the \$7 fee and the provision in law prohibiting a vendor or owner of a private party burn permit software system to charge a municipality for use of the software.

[LD 267](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Erect and Maintain Markers To Commemorate and Recognize the Lafayette Trail. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty.)

This resolve designates each portion of the Lafayette Trail to facilitate the placement of suitable signs and markers.

[LD 266](#) An Act To Create the Maine Lighthouse Trust Registration Plate. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty.)

This bill creates the Maine Lighthouse Trust special registration plate to support lighthouse restoration and preservation efforts.

January 27, 2021

[LD 264](#) An Act To Prohibit Aerial Application of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. (Sponsored by Rep. Plueker of Warren)

This bill prohibits the aerial application of a pesticide unless the Board of Pesticides Control has determined that the pesticide has been analyzed by a third-party entity, not associated with the manufacturer of the pesticide, who has determined that PFAS are not part of the formulation of the pesticide. The bill also prohibits the aerial application of a pesticide if PFAS substances are part of the formulation of the pesticide.

[LD 263](#) An Act To Make Technical Changes to Maine's Marine Resources Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell)

This bill changes the expiration date of shellfish sanitation certificates from May 31 to March 31 and clarifies that an aquaculture license is not needed for holders of aquaculture leases or limited-purpose aquaculture licenses who are using the lease or license only for personal use or for research purposes. The bill also provides that the specific penalty for violation of a rule adopted by the department may be specified in that rule.

[LD 260](#) An Act To Clarify the Establishment, Collection and Use of Certain Fees for Nonwetland Habitat Mitigation Required by the Department of Environmental Protection for Project Permitting. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth)

This concept draft bill proposes to clarify how fees for habitat or species mitigation required by state agencies for project permitting are established, collected and spent to achieve appropriate mitigation goals outside the existing program established under the Natural Resources Protection Act (Title 38, section 480-Z). **DEAD**

[LD 259](#) An Act to Improve Solid Waste Management. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to improve solid waste management.

[LD 258](#) An Act To Expand Eligibility for Special Emergency Medical Services Registration Plates to Ambulance Operators. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington)

This bill expands the eligibility for a special emergency medical services registration plate to include ambulance operators.

[LD 256](#) An Act To Adjust Sewer and Wastewater Lien Fees. (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This bill increases from \$13 to \$25 the flat fee paid by a delinquent sewer or wastewater ratepayer to the treasurer of the district.

[LD 255](#) An Act To Ensure Student Success. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth)

This concept draft bill would make changes to the law to help ensure the success of students.

[LD 253](#) An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting. (Sponsored by Rep. Cebra of Naples)

For the purpose of voting, this bill requires that a voter provide proof of identity using photographic identification approved by the Secretary of State by rule.

[LD 249](#) An Act to Eliminate the Current Net Energy Billing Policy in Maine. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill repeals the laws that authorized the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules governing net energy billing and that directed the commission to establish a net energy billing program for commercial and institutional customers of investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities. The bill also prohibits the commission from adopting rules that require a transmission and distribution utility to allow a customer to participate in net energy billing

[LD 247](#) An Act To Improve Maine's Education System. (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to improve kindergarten to grade 12 education.

[LD 245](#) An Act Regarding Rural Water Districts. (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.)

This concept draft bill allows a trustee to be appointed on a temporary basis to fill a vacancy on the board of trustees of a water district if a vacancy occurs in the board.

[LD 244](#) An Act To Repeal Maine’s Single-use Plastic Bag Law. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.)

This bill repeals the law restricting the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags by retail stores and instead allows a retailer to use plastic bags to bag products at the point of retail sale if the retailer locates inside the store or within 20 feet of the main entrance to the store a receptacle for collecting any used plastic bags and ensures that the plastic bags collected are recycled or delivered to a person engaged in recycling plastics.

[LD 243](#) An Act To Amend the Composition of the Piscataquis County Budget Committee. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.)

This bill allows a Piscataquis County Commissioner to appoint one resident of the unorganized territories to the county's budget committee.

[LD 242](#) An Act To Support the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission. (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.)

This concept draft bill proposes to support the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission through the funding of live fire training centers.

[LD 240](#) An Act Making Certain Appropriations and allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This concept draft bill is the vehicle for FY 22 – FY 23 General Fund budget.

January 25, 2021

[LD 236](#) An Act To Amend the Definition of “Reportable Accident.” (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This bill amends the definition of "reportable accident" in the motor vehicle provisions by adding an accident that results in the injury or death of a domestic animal. **DEAD**

[LD 234](#) An Act To Amend the Law Concerning the Annual Number of Ferry Service Trips to Matinicus Isle. (Sponsored by Rep. Matlack of St. George)

This bill amends the law concerning ferry service to remove the upper limit on the number of times per year the ferry may travel to Matinicus Isle. **DEAD**

[LD 231](#) An Act To Establish Open Primaries. (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.)

This bill allows an unenrolled voter to vote in a primary election, including a presidential primary election, without having to enroll in a political party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's primary election.

[LD 230](#) An Act To Allow Low-beam Headlights on Motorcycles To Flash during Daytime Hours. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This bill allows the operator of a motorcycle to use a flashing low-beam headlight during the daytime. **DEAD**

[LD 227](#) An Act To Conduct a Feasibility Study for Extending Passenger Rail Service from Brunswick through Augusta and Waterville to Bangor. (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority and interested municipalities and planning organizations, to conduct a feasibility study and develop a plan to implement passenger rail service from Brunswick through Augusta and Waterville to Bangor along existing railroad corridors. It provides an allocation of \$300,000 in one-time funds in fiscal year 2021-22 to fund the feasibility study and plan.

[LD 226](#) An Act To Limit the Use of Hydrofluorocarbons To Fight Climate Change. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick)

This bill prohibits the sale, lease, rent, installation, use or entering into commerce of any product or equipment that uses or will use a substance that is a hydrofluorocarbon with high global warming potential intended for any air conditioning, refrigeration, foam or aerosol propellant end use as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection. It directs the department to adopt rules to implement the prohibition and specifies the substances and end uses that are to be addressed in the rules. In adopting the initial rules, the department must regulate each substance and end use as specifically provided for in the bill and may not regulate any substance or end use not addressed in the bill. In the future, the department may adopt rules adding or removing substances from the list of prohibited substances or adding or removing end uses.

[LD 225](#) An Act Regarding the Treatment of Vacation Time upon the Cessation of Employment. (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor)

This bill amends the law governing the provision of vacation pay on cessation of employment. Under current law, on cessation of employment, if the terms of employment or established practice includes provisions for paid vacations, vacation pay has the same status as wages earned. This bill provides that on cessation of employment all accrued vacation pay must be paid to the employee.

[LD 223](#) An Act To Clarify Maine's Fish and Wildlife Licensing and Registration Laws. (Reported by Rep. Alley of Beals for the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife)

Of municipal interest, this bill includes language that is consistent with all-terrain vehicle registration requirements in regard to the form and display of snowmobile registration numbers and stickers. The bill also provides that a snowmobile registered after May 1 and prior to July 1 has a registration that is valid for the upcoming winter and expires June 30 of the following year.

[LD 221](#) 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, 2021, June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023. (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This bill is Governor Mills' FY 22 – FY 23 General Fund budget. Of municipal interest, the bill includes:

- **\$2.63 billion for K-12 Education.** \$2.39 billion is calculated by the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) model, including the normal cost of teacher retirement, as necessary to fund K-12 education in FY 2022. The state's proposed contribution to those expenses is \$1.24 billion, accounting for 52% of total expenditures. The budget allocates an additional \$244 million as the state's share of the total unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teacher and retired teacher health and life insurance benefits, bringing the total appropriation for K-12 education to \$2.63 billion. For FY 2022, the minimum local share for the cost of funding K-12 education is \$1.15 billion and the mil rate expectation is \$7.90.
- **\$144 million (FY 22) and \$151 million (FY 23) in Revenue Sharing.** The bill requires 3.75% of state sales and income tax revenue to be distributed to municipalities via the revenue sharing program.
- **\$97 million Annually for Homestead Exemption Reimbursement.** Roughly \$97 million in each year of the biennium is allocated to reimburse municipalities for 70% of the lost property tax revenues associated with the \$25,000 Homestead Exemption program.
- **\$19 million Annually for County Jail Operations.** \$19 million in each year of the biennium is allocated to Maine's counties for the care of inmates.
- **\$10.4 million Annually for General Assistance.** \$10.4 million in each year of the biennium is dedicated to reimbursing municipalities for 70% of the direct financial assistance provided to eligible applicants under the General Assistance program.

[LD 220](#) An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021. (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This bill is Governor Mills' proposed FY 21 Supplemental General Fund budget. Of municipal interest, the proposal retains funding for the revenue sharing program at 3.75% of state sales and income tax revenues, and makes an upward adjustment to the total distributed to municipalities through June 30, 2021 to account for changes in the state's December 2020 revenue forecast.

[LD 218](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Accelerate Weatherization Efforts in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

This bill proposes to issue a \$40 million bond to accelerate weatherization efforts in the state, with the funds directed to Efficiency Maine Trust's Heating Fuels Efficiency and Weatherization Fund.

[LD 214](#) An Act To Eliminate Qualified Immunity for Police Officers. (Sponsored by Rep. Evangelos of Friendship)

This bill eliminates the ability to assert a defense of qualified immunity for civil actions concerning the actions of state police officers, sheriffs, deputies, constables, municipal police officers, marine patrol officers, game wardens and Capitol Police officers brought under the Maine Civil Rights Act.

[LD 213](#) An Act To Require Coverage for Female Firefighters Facing Reproductive System Cancer. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth)

This bill adds gynecologic cancer to the list of rebuttable presumptions extended to firefighters under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992.

[LD 211](#) An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness. (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

This bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$3 million per year to the Shelter Operating Subsidy program within the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) to support operations and capacity at low-barrier emergency homeless shelters across the state and specifies that the funding is supplemental to the MSHA's emergency shelter and housing assistance program.

[LD 208](#) An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots. (Sponsored by Rep. Brooks of Lewiston)

This bill eliminates restrictions on the issuance of absentee ballots after the third day before an election, removes deadlines for the return of an absentee ballot by a third person and allows a voter to vote by absentee ballot in the presence of the clerk until 8:00 p.m. on the day of any election.

[LD 206](#) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 234: Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (Emergency) (Reported by Rep. Meyer of Eliot for the Department of Health & Human Services.)

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 234: Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Rule, a major substantive rule of the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

[LD 202](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Implement Ranked-choice Voting. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require candidates for the political offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative to be elected by a majority of the votes cast for that office.

[LD 199](#) An Act To Amend Certain Fish and Wildlife Laws and Related Provisions. (Presented by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty. on behalf of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife)

Of municipal interest, this bill amends the definition of "owner," for the purpose of registration of a snowmobile, watercraft or ATV, to include a person having equitable interest in the snowmobile, watercraft or ATV, which entitles the person to possession of the vehicle.

[LD 198](#) An Act To Improve Maine's Tax Laws by Providing a Property Tax Exemption for Central Labor Councils. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill provides a property tax exemption for the real estate and personal property owned by central labor councils and occupied or used solely for their own purposes.

[LD 195](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation To Study a Voluntary Licensing System for General Contractors for Home Improvement and Construction. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, in conjunction with the Department of Labor, to study the development of a voluntary licensing system for general contractors for home improvement and construction. The department is required to submit a report to the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee by Dec. 1, 2021, which is authorized to submit a bill based on the report in 2022.

[LD 193](#) Resolve, To Name a Mountain in Oxford County. (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.)

This resolve names a mountain in the Town of Greenwood Jason's Mountain. **Passed to be Engrossed**

[LD 191](#) An Act To Permit Municipalities To Provide Assistance to Veterans in Paying Property Taxes. (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt a program that provides benefits to veterans and their eligible family members who own or rent a homestead in the municipality. The benefit for owners is based on the current value of the property tax exemption compared to the amount that would have applied without equalization of the assessed value. The benefit for renters is \$100.

[LD 189](#) An Act To Permit All Public Employers To Implement Payroll Deductions for Disability and Life Insurance Policies. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill authorizes a public employer to deduct payroll deductions designated in writing by a public employee for disability insurance and life insurance offered in conjunction with the employee's membership in an employee organization recognized by the employer or designated by a collective bargaining agreement.

[LD 188](#) An Act Regarding the Transportation of Products in the Forest Products Industry. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

The bill adds a requirement related to the transportation of forest products by providing that a landowner of 50,000 or more acres of forest land in the state may not allow the transportation of forest products harvested on the landowner's land from a location in the state to another location state that is in violation of federal law or regulation or an international trade agreement. The bill also provides that a landowner with two prior violations of the proposed transportation requirement is ineligible for enrollment in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law, certain tax incentives, state grants, or other state funding.

January 21, 2021

[LD 186](#) An Act To Allow Signs in a Public Right-of-way To Be Removed by the Landowner. (Sponsored by Rep. Kinney of Knox)

This bill provides that an owner of land adjacent to a public right-of-way within which a temporary sign has been placed does not commit a civil violation for taking, defacing or disturbing the temporary sign.

[LD 185](#) An Act To Abolish Mandatory Political Caucuses. (Sponsored by Rep. Cardone of Bangor)

This bill eliminates mandatory municipal caucuses under state law by: (1) repealing the requirements that a political party hold municipal caucuses to participate in a primary election or to have the party designation of its candidates printed on a general election ballot; (2) clarifying that the state committee of each political party may, by party rule, determine whether the delegates to its state convention must be elected at biennial municipal caucuses or selected by county committees; and (3) authorizing the members of a party's county committee residing within a representative district to choose a nominee to fill a vacancy for Representative to the Legislature.

[LD 184](#) An Act To Minimize the Propagation of Invasive Aquatic Plants. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison)

This bill requires a person when removing a vessel from an inland water body to drain the vessel and other equipment that holds water and to remove or open drain plugs, bailers, valves and other devices to drain the water before that vessel is transported. Emergency response vessels are exempted from these requirements. **DEAD**

[LD 183](#) An Act To Establish Juneteenth as a Paid State Holiday. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill establishes June 19th of each year as Juneteenth and as a state holiday. The holiday effects the state's court system, nonessential state offices, financial institutions and K-12 public schools. Public offices in county buildings may also be closed to business on this holiday.

[LD 181](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Complete the Renovation of a Wharf and Bulkhead in Portland for Marine Research. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This bill proposes to issue a \$2 million bond to complete the renovation of a wharf and bulkhead at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland to bring the wharf back into operation for a fishing vessel berthing resource to support marine research at sea and for continued long-term marine job development.

[LD 180](#) An Act To Amend the Storage Requirements for Consumer Fireworks. (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Oakland)

This bill brings the laws governing the storage of consumer fireworks into conformity with a recent Maine court decision by authorizing the Office of the State Fire Marshal to regulate consumer fireworks storage by those authorized by law to sell consumer fireworks. The bill specifies the conditions storage facilities and owners must meet, including compliance with National Fire Protection Association Standards, relevant building codes, and zoning and other municipal ordinances.

[LD 179](#) An Act To Exclude Energy Efficiency Improvements from Property Tax. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

This bill provides property tax exemptions for energy efficiency improvements and requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to identify and make available a list of qualifying improvements.

[LD 177](#) An Act To Improve Labor Laws for Workers in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Cuddy of Winterport)

This concept draft bill proposes to improve labor laws for workers in Maine.

[LD 176](#) An Act To Facilitate a Grade 9 to 16 School Project. (Sponsored by Rep. Stearns of Guilford)

This concept draft bill proposes to facilitate a grade 9 to 16 school project.

[LD 175](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters. (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston)

This bill proposes to issue a \$50 million bond to create and enhance regional homeless shelters.

[LD 174](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Ending Hunger by 2030 Advisory Group. (Sponsored by Rep. Plueker of Warren)

This concept draft bill proposes to implement the recommendations of the advisory group assembled pursuant to Resolve 2019, chapter 32 to end hunger in Maine by 2030.

[LD 169](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Stimulate Investment in Innovation by Maine Businesses To Produce Nationally and Globally Competitive Products and Services. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.)

This bill proposes to issue a \$100 million bond for investment in research, development and commercialization in the state's seven targeted technology sectors. The funds would be used for infrastructure, equipment and technology upgrades that enable organizations to gain and hold market share and to expand employment or preserve jobs. Revenues would be awarded through a competitive process to Maine-based public and private entities, and used to leverage other funds in a one-to-one ratio.

January 19, 2021

[LD 164](#) An Act To Establish Maximum Contaminant Levels under the State's Drinking Water Rules for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick)

This bill amends the law authorizing the adoption of state drinking water rules by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to require that those rules establish a maximum contaminant level equivalent to 20 nanograms per liter for the following perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, both individually for each substance and as a sum concentration of 2 or more of those substances: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid; perfluorooctanoic acid;

perfluorohexane sulfonic acid; perfluorononanoic acid; perfluoroheptanoic acid; and perfluorodecanoic acid.

[LD 163](#) An Act To Revise Maine’s Environmental Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick)

This concept draft bill proposes to revise laws governing environmental protection.

[LD 162](#) An Act To Make Supplemental Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 20, 2021. (Governor’s Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair)

This bill is a vehicle for Governor Mills’ FY 21 supplemental Highway Fund budget.

Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 2 (3/17/21)

[LD 161](#) 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, 2021, June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023. (Governor’s Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair)

This bill is a vehicle for Governor Mills’ FY 22-FY 23 Highway Fund budget.

[LD 159](#) An Act To Extend Time Limits for Placing Land in Trust Status under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Wood of Portland)

This bill extends all time limits for both the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation to add to their respective trust lands under the Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement to Jan. 31, 2030. Because this bill amends the Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement, it does not take effect unless the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Tribal Chief and Council of the Penobscot Nation agree to these changes and certify their agreement to the Secretary of State within 60 days of the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

[LD 156](#) An Act to Promote School Attendance by Exempting Virtual Public Charter School and Private School Students from Immunization Requirements. (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford)

This bill, in part, requires the Legislature to enact laws that are necessary to assure that all school administrative units make suitable provisions for the support and maintenance of public schools and the education of every person within the age limits prescribed by statute who resides in the school administrative unit.

[LD 155](#) Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control To Prohibit the Use of Certain Neonicotinoids for Outdoor Residential Use. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth)

This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to prohibit the use of any product containing certain neonicotinoids used for application in outdoor residential landscapes such as on lawn, turf or ornamental vegetation. The resolve also provides that products used for preserving wood, controlling or treating indoor insects and treating pets are specifically exempt from the prohibition.

[LD 154](#) Resolve, To Name Bridge 2267 in the Town of Embden and the Town of Solon the Jotham and Emma Stevens Bridge. (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2267 in the Town of Embden and the Town of Solon the Jotham and Emma Stevens Bridge. **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 4**

[LD 153](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Change the Number of Legislators To Approve a Constitutional Amendment. (Sponsored by Rep. Kinney of Knox)

This resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to require a 2/3 vote of all the members elected to each House of the Legislature, rather than a 2/3 vote of the members present, for the Legislature to propose an amendment to the Constitution of Maine. **DEAD**

[LD 152](#) An Act To Address Training Requirements for Harbor Masters. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell)

Under current law, a person appointed or reappointed to the position of harbor master or deputy harbor master after Aug. 13, 2006 must complete a basic training course within one year of appointment. This bill amends existing requirements by specifying that if a person has not held the position within the last five years, that person must complete the basic training course. Effective as of Jan. 1, 2022, the bill also requires harbor masters and deputies to complete an advanced course within two years of completing the basic course. In order to maintain certification, harbor masters and deputies are further required to participate in continuing education training every other year. The costs for the basic, advanced and continuing education training is to be paid by the harbor master or deputy, however the bill provides that the municipality may pay for the training.

[LD 150](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Hazardous Substance Site Cleanups. (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond)

This bill proposes to issue a \$20 million bond for the state match on federal superfund sites and for uncontrolled hazardous substance site investigation and remediation and response actions at dry-cleaner sites, sites contaminated with emerging contaminants like perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and brownfield sites.

[LD 148](#) An Act To Establish Ongoing Absentee Voting. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford)

This bill provides a process for a voter to request ongoing absentee voter status, which allows the voter to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each statewide election, municipal election and any other election until the status is terminated. It provides that if the clerk notes a discrepancy in the signature on the return envelope of an absentee ballot, the return envelope is missing a signature or the affidavit on the return envelope is not properly completed, the clerk shall make a good faith effort to notify the voter within 24 hours by mail, telephone or e-mail of the procedure by which the voter may cure the discrepancy, correct the missing signature or properly complete the affidavit on the return envelope. If enacted, these change would be in effect as of Jan. 1, 2023.

[LD 143](#) An Act To Make the Arrearage Management Program Permanent. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

This bill makes permanent the provisions of law governing arrearage management programs implemented by transmission and distribution utilities to assist eligible low income residential customers who are in arrears on their electricity bills by eliminating the future repeal of these provisions.

[LD 141](#) An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Tax Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham)

This bill is Maine Revenue Services' omnibus tax bill. Of direct municipal impact, the bill clarifies that: (1) an assessor's examination results are confidential and not subject to a Freedom of Access Act request; and (2) enhanced BETE reimbursement only applies to tax increment financing (TIF) exempt business equipment when the reimbursement is used to fund a TIF development program.

[LD 140](#) An Act to Assist Certain Businesses in the State That Sell Prepared Food or Alcohol. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford)

This bill permits retailers selling prepared food or liquor sold by establishments licensed for on-premises sales to retain 1/8 of the sales tax collected on those sales to cover administrative expenses.

[LD 137](#) An Act Regarding Absence from Work for Emergency Response. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth)

Current law requires that in order to avoid being subject to discharge or discipline for failure to report for work or being absent when responding to an emergency, an employee who is also a firefighter or emergency medical services person must have presented to the employer within 30 days of employment a copy of a fire department or emergency medical services provider policy that specifies the circumstances under which the employee is needed to respond to an emergency and that affirms that the employee will be released as soon as practicable. This bill removes the requirement that the employee present the copy within 30 days of employment and instead requires that the employee present the copy within 30 days of notifying the employer of the employee's status as a firefighter or emergency medical services person.

[LD 135](#) An Act To Address Issues in Funding Prekindergarten Programs. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This concept draft bill would direct the Department of Education to develop solutions to the challenges COVID-19 has brought to ensuring equitable funding for prekindergarten programs.

[LD 133](#) An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Fire Stations. (Sponsored by Rep. Crockett of Portland)

The bill proposes to issue a \$25 million bond for the rehabilitation or new construction of fire stations by municipalities.

[LD 132](#) An Act To Implement the Attorney General's Recommendations on Data Collection in Order To Eliminate Profiling in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill requires all law enforcement agencies, beginning July 1, 2023, to collect information about each person stopped for a traffic violation. The information must include the characteristics of race, color, ethnicity, gender and age of those persons. The identification of such characteristics must be based on the observation and perception of the law enforcement officer responsible for reporting the stop. The person stopped may not be required to provide the information. The information must also include whether a warning or citation was issued, an arrest was made or a search was conducted as a result of the stop. Each law enforcement agency must report the information to the Attorney General (AG), who is required to report the information, along with analysis and any recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters and criminal justice and public safety matters beginning Jan. 15, 2024 and annually thereafter. The report must be made available to the public. The AG is further directed to adopt rules governing the recording, retention and reporting of the information. In adopting the rules, the AG must consult with the Commissioner of Public Safety and other interested parties, including law enforcement agencies and community, professional, research, civil liberties and civil rights organizations and persons with lived experience of being profiled. The AG must ensure that the parties consulted represent the racial and ethnic diversity of the state. The name and personally identifiable information of a law enforcement officer or any other person involved in any activity for which information is collected and compiled under these provisions are confidential.

[LD 131](#) An Act To Amend the Governor's Emergency Powers. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford)

This bill limits a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor to 30 days and requires subsequent renewals of a state of emergency to receive approval from 2/3 of the membership of the Legislature. It also amends the Governor's powers during a state of emergency.

[LD 130](#) An Act to Create Appropriate Standards for the Secretary of State To Follow When Approving the Assignments of Vanity Registration Plates. (Sponsored by Sen. Diamond of Cumberland Cty.)

Among other prohibitions, this bill allows the Secretary of State to refuse to issue or to recall a vanity registration plate that falsely suggests an association with a government or government agency.

[LD 129](#) Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Substances and Contaminants. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

The purpose of this resolve is to adopt measures to protect consumers of public drinking water in Maine from potential health impacts associated with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances known as PFAS. The resolve requires community water systems and schools and child care facilities regulated as nontransient, noncommunity water systems to conduct monitoring for PFAS substances. If the monitoring results detect the presence of PFAS at a level in excess of an interim standard, the water system is required to conduct additional monitoring. The resolve also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to undertake rulemaking to establish an enforceable maximum contaminant level for the PFAS by June 1, 2024, which can include adoption of a federal maximum contaminant level if one is available and at least as restrictive as the interim standard.

[LD 128](#) An Act To Authorize the Commissioner of Transportation To Enter into Agreements with the United States Department of Transportation. (Submitted by Sen. Diamond of Cumberland Cty. on behalf of the Department of Transportation)

This bill allows the Commissioner of Transportation to enter into agreements and cooperate with the United States Department of Transportation as provided in federal regulations and as authorized under the federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act; Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act; and National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

[LD 125](#) An Act To Prohibit the Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate and Other Synthetic Herbicides for the Purpose of Silviculture. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill prohibits the aerial application of glyphosate or other synthetic herbicides for the purpose of silviculture, including reforestation, regeneration or vegetation control after a timber harvest.

January 13, 2021

[LD 115](#) An Act To Restore the Former State of Maine Flag. (Sponsored by Rep. Paulhus of Bath)

This bill replaces the current State of Maine flag with the flag that was in use before 1909. **DEAD**

[LD 114](#) An Act To Address Airboat Operation in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell)

This concept draft bill proposes to address the operation of airboats Maine.

[LD 112](#) An Act To Facilitate the Timely and Accurate Counting of Absentee Ballots By Extending the Processing Period. (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

This bill amends the date by which a municipality is authorized to start processing absentee ballots from the fourth to the seventh day immediately prior to election day. **DEAD**

[LD 109](#) An Act To Facilitate Fair Ballot Representation for All Candidates By Allowing a Candidate's Nickname To Appear on the Ballot. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill permits a candidate to request that a nickname appear on the ballot for an election in the state. The nickname must also be included on the candidate's declaration of consent or written acceptance filed with the Secretary of State along with a declaration that the nickname is the name by which the candidate is known. It also specifies that if a candidate requests that a nickname appear on the ballot, the Secretary of State must set off the candidate's nickname by quotation marks and it must be placed on the ballot following the candidate's legal last name, first initial and middle initial, if any.

[LD 108](#) An Act To Improve Public Safety by Repealing the Single-use Plastic Carry-out Bag Ban. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill repeals the law restricting the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags by retail stores and instead allows a retailer to use plastic bags at the point of retail sale if the retailer locates inside the store or within 20 feet of the main entrance to the store a receptacle for collecting any used plastic bags and ensures that the plastic bags collected are recycled or delivered to a person engaged in recycling plastics.

[LD 107](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Specify the Qualifications of Electors. (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 election. **DEAD**

[LD 106](#) An Act To Amend Maine's Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing Statutes. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell)

This bill changes a number of technical provisions required for applicants to the Department of Marine Resources Limited Aquaculture Leasing Program. In addition to increasing the licensing fee from both resident and non-resident lease holders, and establishing time requirements for expansion of a lease, this bill shifts public notice responsibility to the applicant, adds the requirement for an applicant to consult with the municipality or municipalities and other stakeholders, in or adjacent to a leased area for the purposes of renewing a license, in addition to the existing requirement during the initial application process.

[LD 105](#) An Act To Adopt the Department of Economic and Community Development's 10-year Strategy for Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham)

This concept draft bill proposes to codify the 10-year economic development strategy for Maine that was developed by the Department of Economic and Community Development in 2019.

[LD 103](#) An Act To Improve the Animal Welfare Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry)

Of municipal significance, this bill: (1) changes the rabies vaccination requirement to provide that an owner or keeper of a dog over three months of age (now six months) must have the dog vaccinated; (2) adds dangerous and nuisance dogs to those animals that are excluded from obtaining dog licenses through the Internet licensing project; and (3) provides for the revocation of animal control officer certification if the officer refuses or intentionally fails to perform the officer's statutory duties. The bill also: (1) amends the laws pertaining to agriculture and animals to allow the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to employ any person considered necessary to assist in any response to a natural or man-made disaster affecting animals both in the state and outside the state and provides for such a person's compensation; (2) allows the Animal Welfare Advisory Council to have as a member a person who is a pet food supplier and an attorney with experience in the state court system; and (3) amends animal welfare laws to define "animal care facility" and to provide that the definition of "boarding kennel" applies to all privately owned animals that are kept for a fee.

[LD 102](#) An Act To Extend the Time Frame for Processing Absentee Ballots. (Sponsored by Rep. Moriarty of Cumberland)

This bill amends the date by which a municipality is authorized to start processing absentee ballots from the fourth to the seventh day immediately prior to election day.

[LD 101](#) An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill prohibits any department or agency of the state or any political subdivision from permitting, approving or otherwise authorizing an offshore wind energy development project. The bill also requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Land Use Planning Commission, the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection each to submit by Dec. 1, 2021 legislation necessary to align those provisions of law under their respective jurisdictions with the prohibition on offshore wind energy development projects. Under the bill, the term "offshore wind energy development project" includes community-based offshore wind energy projects, deep-water offshore wind energy pilot projects, offshore wind energy demonstration projects and offshore wind power projects, which are all categories of projects currently authorized by law.

[LD 100](#) An Act To Establish the General Election Date in United States Presidential Election Years as a State Holiday. (Sponsored by Rep. Moriarty of Cumberland)

This bill designates Election Day, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, as a state holiday in any year in which the President of the United States is elected. The holiday effects the state's court system, nonessential state offices, financial institutions and K-12 public schools. **DEAD**

[LD 97](#) An Act To Ensure the Right To Work without Payment of Dues or Fees to a Labor Union. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill prohibits a person, either in the public or private sector, from being required to join a labor organization or pay any labor organization dues or fees as a condition of employment or continuation of employment, notwithstanding any state law to the contrary. A violation is a Class D crime and is also subject to civil damages and injunctive relief. The Attorney General is responsible for enforcement and is required to prosecute all violations.

[LD 95](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to Food. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This constitutional resolution declares that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being.

[LD 94](#) An Act To Allow Municipalities To Exempt Volunteer Firefighters from Paying Excise Tax on Their Vehicles Used To Respond to Fire Calls. (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)

This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt an ordinance extending a vehicle excise tax exemption to qualifying volunteer firefighters.

[LD 92](#) An Act To Amend the Waste Motor Oil Disposal Site Remediation Program. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick)

Since the Finance Authority of Maine's Waste Motor Oil Revenue Fund program generated sufficient revenues to pay all debt service and other expenses related to the cleanup

cost on sites operated by the now-defunct Portland-Bangor Waste Oil Company, this bill repeals the program and directs all remaining funds to the Department of Environmental Protection's Uncontrolled Sites Fund. **DEAD**

[LD 89](#) An Act To Regulate Airboats. (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)
This concept draft bill proposes to regulate airboats.

[LD 87](#) An Act To Implement the State Climate Action Plan, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Enhance Maine's Economy. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick)

This concept draft bill proposes to implement strategies in the state climate action plan aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a variety of high-priority, cost-effective measures that will help strengthen the state's economy.

[LD 83](#) An Act To Clarify the Meaning of "Unserved Area" within the State's Broadband Service Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison)

This bill clarifies the meaning of "unserved area" within the state's broadband service laws by providing that the criteria established by the ConnectMaine Authority by rule to define that term must include any geographic area where broadband service is not available or where the speeds available are less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and less than 100 megabits per second for uploads.

[LD 82](#) Resolve, To Provide for Participation of the State in the Planning and Negotiations for the Atlantic Loop Energy Project. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland)

This resolve provides for the immediate state involvement in the planning and negotiations on the Atlantic Loop, a Canadian electric transmission and power supply project intended to pass through the state, enabling possible participation in it on an equal footing with the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

[LD 81](#) An Act To Ensure the Safety of Children Experiencing Homelessness by Extending Shelter Placement Periods. (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot)

This bill amends the definition of "emergency children's shelter" to extend placement from 30 consecutive days or less to 60 consecutive days or less, and amends the definition of "shelter for homeless children" to extend the limit on overnight lodging and supervision from 30 consecutive overnights to 60 consecutive overnights.

[LD 80](#) An Act To Provide Critical Communications for Family Farms, Businesses and Residences by Strategic Public Investment in High-speed Internet and Broadband Infrastructure. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield)

This bill requires 33% of sales and use tax revenue from marketplace-facilitated sales, after required transfers to other funds, including revenue sharing, be transferred to the ConnectMaine Authority to further the employment of high-speed Internet and broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas of the state.

[LD 79](#) An Act To Establish a Honeybee Special Registration Plate. (Sponsored by Rep. Lyford of Eddington)

This concept draft bill proposes to create the honeybee special registration plate. The proceeds from the special registration plate are administered by the State Apiarist to support research and beekeeping assistance efforts. **DEAD**

[LD 78](#) An Act To Protect Children from Extreme Poverty by Preserving Children's Access to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Benefits. (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot)

Under current law, the Department of Health and Human Services terminates assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to the entire family, including children, if the children's parent fails to comply with requirements of the family contract for a period of 90 days or for any subsequent failure. This bill amends that provision to terminate benefits for the noncomplying parent but continues to provide assistance to the children and complying parents.

[LD 73](#) An Act To Authorize Municipalities To Allow Harbor Masters and Deputy Harbor Masters To Use Red and White Auxiliary Lights and Sirens When Responding to Emergencies. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell)

This bill allows a municipality to authorize a harbor master or deputy harbor master to use a siren and a combination of red and white auxiliary lights on a vehicle when responding to a watercraft emergency. **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 26**

[LD 71](#) An Act To Provide State Recognition for the Kineo Band of Maliseet Indians. (Sponsored by Rep. Stearns of Guilford)

This bill provides for state recognition of the Kineo Band of Maliseet Indians 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 Band of Maliseet Indians and the individual members of the band remain subject to all the laws of the State. **DEAD**

[LD 69](#) An Act To Reduce Duplicative Permitting Review for Projects under the Site Location of Development Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick)

Under current site location development laws, a structure that is from 3 acres to 7 acres is exempt from review, provided that certain criteria are met. This bill changes the upper acreage limit from 7 acres to 10 acres. **Passed to be Engrossed**

[LD 67](#) An Act To Assist in the Restoration of Atlantic Salmon. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair)

This bill eliminates restrictions for the total number of discharge licenses allowed to be issued for Class AA and Class A waters. It retains the requirement in current law that those discharges assist in the restoration of Atlantic salmon and will return the waters to a state that is closer to historically natural chemical quality. **Passed to be Engrossed**

[LD 65](#) An Act To Invest in the Stewardship and Management of Properties Acquired with the Proceeds from the Land for Maine's Future Fund or the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco)

This bill allows a small portion of Land for Maine's Future program bond funds to be used to fund minor capital investments in the stewardship and management of properties acquired with funding from the Land for Maine's Future Fund or the Public Access to Maine

Waters Fund, ensuring that these properties are maintained in perpetuity for the purposes for which the properties are conserved.

[LD 64](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Environmental Rights. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to provide that every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment. This includes the right to clean air, pure water and healthy habitats. The amendment requires the state to preserve public natural resources.

DEAD

[LD 63](#) An Act Regarding the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

Currently, all the New England states, New York and the Canadian provinces of Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador and the Maritimes make up the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact. This bill extends liability protection for the state and firefighters who travel to fight wildfires or other emergencies outside of the compact area.

[LD 61](#) An Act To Include Grandparents under Maine's Family Medical Leave Laws. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Stearns of Guilford)

This bill allows a grandparent to request employee family medical leave in order to care for a grandchild who has a serious health condition.

[LD 58](#) An Act To Improve Information Sharing by Criminal Justice Agencies with Government Agencies Responsible for Investigating Child or Adult Abuse. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner on behalf of the Department of Public Safety)

This bill expands the authority of criminal justice agencies to share confidential intelligence and investigative record information with government agencies responsible for the investigation of abuse, neglect or exploitation of children or incapacitated or dependent adults.

[LD 57](#) An Act To Reduce the Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick)

This bill repeals the existing \$2 per ton municipal solid waste surcharge statute in the laws governing solid waste management, as well as the exemption that exists for the solid waste generated by the municipality that owns the landfill or a community that has contracted with a 9 month or longer term for the disposal of waste in the landfill facility. In its place, the bill amends the state's waste handling fee statute by imposing a \$1 per ton disposal fee on all municipal solid waste disposed of at a commercial, municipal, state-owned or regional association landfill.

[LD 50](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This bill proposes to issue a \$15 million bond for capital construction costs for housing for persons who are homeless.

[LD 49](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This bill proposes to issue a \$50 million bond to address sea level rise by improving waterfront and coastal infrastructure in municipalities.

[LD 48](#) Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Request a Waiver Relating to Support Services and To Provide Funds To Prevent Homelessness. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to apply to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a waiver from the requirements of federal law and regulations to allow Maine to provide Medicaid-funded direct support services to individuals experiencing homelessness. In addition, the resolve provides ongoing funds to the Housing First Assistance Program established within the Maine State Housing Authority to be distributed to community action agencies to assist individuals on the verge of becoming homeless.

[LD 47](#) An Act To Fund the State's Free Health Clinics. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This bill provides one-time funding to support free health clinics in the state.

[LD 45](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Improve a Bridge over the West Branch of the Mattawamkeag River in Moro Plantation and Associated Culverts. (Sponsored by Rep. Johansen of Monticello)

This resolve requires the Department of Transportation, using existing resources, available grants or other funding sources, to design and construct ancillary culverts or other flooding mitigation devices in support of Bridge 6239 in Moro Plantation. **DEAD**

[LD 44](#) An Act To Establish the Summer Success Pilot Program Fund. (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This bill establishes the Summer Success Pilot Program Fund and requires the Commissioner of Education to use the fund to encourage the facilitation of high-quality summer success pilot programs in school administrative units throughout the state.

[LD 43](#) An Act To Require the Department of Transportation To Provide Ferry Service to Frenchboro. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington)

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to provide ferry service to Frenchboro. **DEAD**

[LD 42](#) An Act Making Certain Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This concept draft bill is the vehicle for Governor Mills' FY 21 supplemental General Fund budget.

[LD 40](#) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 305: Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Traffic Movement Permits, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Transportation. (Emergency) (Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072.)

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 305: Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Traffic Movement Permits, a major substantive rule of the Department of Transportation. **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 1 (3/17/21)**

[LD 39](#) An Act To Remove the Plastic Bag Ban. (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill repeals the law restricting the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags by retail stores and instead allows a retailer to use plastic at the point of retail sale if the retailer locates inside the store or within 20 feet of the main entrance to the store a receptacle for collecting any used plastic bags and ensures that the plastic bags collected are recycled or delivered to a person engaged in recycling plastics.

[LD 37](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Androscoggin Cty.)

This bill amends language contained in Public Law 2019, chapter 446 governing contributions under the open enrollment provisions of the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program by removing the provision requiring a person hired on or after Oct. 1, 2019 to enroll no later than five years after hire, conditioned on the enrollment and eligibility requirements of the applicable health plan. The bill also changes the percentage of gross wages for contributions and the time period during which contributions of gross percentages must be made and removes the requirement of 60 months of contributions by enrollees. The bill also changes the state's payment of certain premium subsidies from payment to the plan to payment directly to enrollees. The amendments to the open enrollment provisions are retroactive to Sept. 19, 2019, and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources, office of employee health and benefits is required to ensure correct contribution amounts for those who enrolled between Sept. 19, 2019 and the effective date of this legislation. **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 19 (3/17/21)**

[LD 36](#) An Act To Amend the Definition of "Timber Harvesting." (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill amends the definition of "timber harvesting" to clarify that timber harvesting means any cutting or removal of trees or forest products that when cut or removed are transported to a roundwood processing operation. It also adds bark to the definition of "forest products" and log yards and bark processors to the definition of "roundwood processing operation" in the laws governing forest landowner and wood processor reporting requirements.

[LD 35](#) An Act To Facilitate Interagency Sharing of Information and Academic Research by Allowing Disclosure of Certain Confidential Information in Wood Processor and Forest Landowner Reports. (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to share wood processor report and forest landowner report information currently designated as confidential with other governmental agencies and the University of Maine System if, in the opinion of the director, the entity requires the information. It prohibits the director from disclosing information furnished by a state or federal agency when that information has been designated as confidential by the furnishing agency unless the furnishing agency authorizes the disclosure. It provides that a recipient of confidential

information may not disclose the information or use the information except as authorized by the director and that the information remains the property of the bureau. It also provides that a person who receives confidential information and uses it for a purpose other than that authorized by the director commits a civil violation punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000. **DEAD**

[LD 34](#) An Act To Create the Maine Forestry Operations Cleanup and Response Fund. (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill establishes the Maine Forestry Operations Cleanup and Response Fund, a nonlapsing, dedicated revenue fund for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry to use to mitigate and remediate water quality violations that result from timber harvesting activities and that require immediate action to prevent or minimize further damage to waters of this state. The fund is replenished by financial penalties, permit fees and other charges associated with timber harvesting, up to a limit of \$20,000. The bill allows the bureau to recover costs incurred through the use of this fund and to place a lien on a property when the responsible party is unwilling or unable to repay such costs.

[LD 32](#) An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Public Proceedings. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill authorizes municipal, county and school boards to adopt a policy allowing members of the body to participate remotely in a public proceeding. It extends the same authority to the University of Maine System, Maine Maritime Academy, the Maine Community College System and other state and regional boards and commissions. Under the policy, a public body may allow the public to attend and observe via remote means. If the public may attend remotely, the notice of the public proceeding must inform the public how to attend remotely. Unless the only way for the public to attend is by remote means, the notice must also identify the location where the public can attend in person.

[LD 28](#) An Act To Create an Alert System To Notify the Public When a Person with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability Is Missing. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill directs the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement an alert system to be activated on behalf of missing persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The alert system must include: (1) standards of procedure for local law enforcement agencies to determine that a missing person has an intellectual or developmental disability; (2) a process for appropriately activating an alert to local or statewide law enforcement agencies and to the media, including print, radio, Internet-based communication systems and other methods of communicating information to the public; (3) a plan for providing relevant information to the public through an existing system of dynamic message signs located across the state when necessary; and (4) training for all law enforcement officers.

[LD 24](#) An Act Regarding Certificates of Birth, Marriage and Death. (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty. on behalf of the Department of Health & Human Services)

This bill clarifies that the signatures on a marriage license of the parties intended to be married may be obtained at the issuance of the license or at the time the marriage is solemnized. The bill also requires that when a death or marriage occurs in an unincorporated place, it must be recorded or registered in the electronic registration system. It further clarifies that a birth certificate may be amended by the replacement of a genetic parent.

[LD 15](#) An Act To Amend the Intelligence and Investigative Record Information Act To Ensure Government Transparency and To Protect the Privacy and Safety of the Public. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty. on behalf of the Department of Public Safety)

This bill amends the Intelligence and Investigative Record Information Act to allow Maine criminal justice agencies to refuse to confirm the existence or nonexistence of a record that is or contains intelligence and investigative record information, but only in specified circumstances. Current law broadly prohibits Maine criminal justice agencies from confirming the existence or nonexistence of such information to any person or public or private entity that is not eligible to receive the information. As specified in the bill, those circumstances include interfering with a law enforcement proceeding, endangerment of life, an unwarranted invasion of privacy or the disclosure of an investigatory technique unknown to the general public. The bill also enacts an appeals process for a person aggrieved by a decision of an agency to refuse to confirm the existence or nonexistence of a record that is or contains intelligence and investigative record information. **DEAD**

[LD 14](#) An Act To Require a Two-thirds Vote To Extend a State of Emergency. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to permit the Governor to extend a state of emergency.

[LD 11](#) An Act To Clarify the Laws Regarding Reciprocity for Licensure of Professional Engineers. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty. on behalf of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation)

This bill allows the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers to grant licensure to applicants who have been licensed in good standing in another jurisdiction with substantially equivalent qualifications to Maine if the applicant has been licensed for at least eight years and has never been subject to disciplinary action.

[LD 8](#) An Act To Support Collection and Proper Disposal of Unwanted Drugs. (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill requires certain drug manufactures to implement a drug take-back stewardship program to collect and dispose of certain medications. Of municipal interest, the bill explicitly authorizes law enforcement agencies to participate as collectors in a take-back stewardship program.

[LD 2](#) An Act To Require the Inclusion of Racial Impact Statements in the Legislative Process. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

At the request of a legislative committee, this bill requires a commissioner or other state agency official to provide the data and information necessary to prepare a racial impact statement assessing a bill's potential impact on historically disadvantaged racial populations. The bill also directs the Legislative Council or designee to undertake a study to determine the best method to establish and implement a process of using racial impact statements. The study and report must be completed no later than Nov. 1, 2021 and the council must implement a pilot project for the use of racial impact statements no later than Dec. 1, 2021 for limited implementation during the 2022 legislative session.

