

2022 LD List
130th Legislature – Second Session

March 24, 2022

[LD 2033](#) An Act To Raise the Debt Limit of the Eagle Lake Water and Sewer District. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake)

To allow for a timely renovation of the Town of Eagle Lake's sewer system, this emergency bill raises the debt limit of the eagle Lake Water and Sewer District from \$3,500,000 to \$5,000,000 and corrects an obsolete cross-reference.

March 22, 2022

[LD 2030](#) An Act Regarding Taxation of Energy Storage Facilities and Equipment. (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham)

This bill creates an exemption from sales and use tax for sales of commercial energy storage systems; integral parts and accessories for such a system; and materials for the construction, repair, or maintenance of such a system. The bill also provides that for the property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2022, business equipment tax exemption is available for qualified energy storage systems.

March 17, 2022

[Draft LD](#) An Act To Reorganize the Provision of Services for Infants, Toddlers, and Children with Disabilities from Birth to 6 Years of Age and Extend the Age of IDEA Eligibility to 22. (Submitted by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs)

This draft bill makes many changes to the provision of services for children with disabilities from birth to age 22. Among those pertinent to municipalities, beginning July 1, 2023, School Administrative Units (SAUs) are responsible for child find and the provision of free, appropriate public education for children with disabilities from 3 years of age to under 6 years of age. Every school administrative unit shall take responsibility for its own resident children whether or not they operate a public preschool program. SAUs shall provide services using their own employees or through contracts with public or private providers. SAUs may contract with the Child Development Services System to provide services until July 1, 2026. Other resources available to SAUs for providing special education and related services for children at least 3 years of age and under 6 years include Priority 1 status under the School Revolving Renovation Fund, use of shared space with a community partner, and inclusion of seat belts and car seats as an allowable component for bus purchases. Also, this bill extends eligibility for special education services to children with disabilities until their 22nd birthday, rather than their 20th.

Beginning in fiscal year 2023-2024, SAUs must receive the following funding: the public preschool subsidy under Chapter 606-B; for each child with a disability who is three years of age to under 4 years of age, a per-pupil allocation that covers 100% of the cost based on the average of the pupil counts for October 1st of the 2 most recent calendar years prior to the year of funding; and funding for 100% of the special education and related services costs for a child with a disability. The SAU may use such funding and subsidy to provide services through private

prekindergarten programs, public-private partnerships or the school administrative unit's public prekindergarten program.

Beginning in 2026, and in accordance with Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1401, the State of Maine commits to ensuring that all eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with the early intervention services selected by their Individualized Family Services Plan Team and described in their Individualized Family Services Plan. In July of that year, the State Intermediate Educational Unit (SIEU) is established for the purpose of identifying, evaluating and providing early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities from birth to under age three and their families. Funding for the SIEU will be provided in part from the US Department of Education's Part C grant program, and through billing of private insurance and MaineCare, contingent on the delivery of early intervention services.

March 15, 2022

[LD 2024](#) An Act To Allow County and Regional Communications Centers To Request Polygraph Examinations for Employees and Applicants for Employment. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

Under current law, law enforcement employees and applicants for positions with law enforcement agencies are excluded from the labor standard that prohibits the requirement to be subject to polygraph examinations as a condition of obtaining or holding employment; this includes persons who operate as dispatchers when that service is under the authority of a law enforcement agency. Regional Communications Center that operate under different government authority but provide law enforcement communication, are not included in the exemption to subject candidates to polygraph examinations, even though those employees may have access to the same confidential information. This bill would allow these employees to also be subject to polygraph examinations as a condition of employment. The amended bill specifically exempts services that do not provide law enforcement services such as standalone fire or EMS dispatch centers.

March 9, 2022

[LD 2023](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Secretary of State Regarding Notarial Acts. (Reported by Rep. Harnett for the Secretary of State)

This bill establishes a four-year notary public commission and implements the recommendations of the Secretary of State's study on remote and online notarization and proposes additional changes to related state laws based on the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts as approved by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) in 2018. Of municipal interest, the bill requires notarial officers, except attorneys-at-law to keep a journal of all notarial acts and those seeking to perform remote and online notarization to notify the Secretary of State, who will maintain a database of that information online. Currently, Maine is one of only three states that gives notaries public the authority to perform marriages. This bill creates a separate marriage officiant license and eliminates the power of notaries public to perform marriage ceremonies. A transition section is included to require the Secretary of State to issue a marriage officiant license for a term of four years to every notary public commissioned in Maine as of July 1, 2023, the date the legislation would

take effect. A notary public receiving a license to perform marriage ceremonies may decline to accept it.

[LD 2020](#) An Act To Implement Recommendations Regarding the Regulation of Firefighting or Fire-suppressing Foams to Which Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Have Been Intentional Added. (Reported by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick for the Joint Standing Committee on Environment & Natural Resources)

The bill amends the law regulating firefighting and fire-suppressing foams to which PFAS have been intentionally added to provide that the prohibition on the manufacture, sale and distribution of such foams does not include foams manufactured, sold or distributed for a marine defense application if the use of the foam is required by the U.S. Department of Defense. The bill also amends that law to provide that a person that manufactures for sale or distribution in the State a firefighting or fire-suppressing foam must, upon the request of the Department of Environmental Protection, provide the department with a certificate of compliance certifying that the foam does not contain intentionally added PFAS or is otherwise excepted from the state prohibition.

[LD 2019](#) An Act to Require the Registration of Adjuvants in the State and To Regulate the Distribution of Pesticides with Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. (Reported by Rep. O'Neil of Saco for the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry)

The bill makes the following changes to the Maine Pesticide Control Act of 1975: (1) adds any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used as a spray adjuvant, described as an ingredient added to a pesticide mixture to enhance effectiveness, to the definition of pesticide; (2) prohibits a person from distributing a pesticide that has been contaminated by PFAS; and (3) beginning on Jan. 1, 2030 prohibits a person from distributing a pesticide that contains intentionally added PFAS.

[LD 2016](#) An Act To Implement the Crisis Response Services Recommendations Identified Pursuant to Resolve 2021, Chapter 29. (Reported by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham for the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technologies)

The bill directs the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, to develop proposed legislation to implement the bureau's recommendations for the delivery of crisis response services. The bureau must allow affected persons and entities to provide comments on the proposal, which must be submitted to the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters and report out related legislation in 2023.

[LD 2015](#) An Act To Update the Comprehensive State Energy Plan To Achieve the State Energy Vision. (Reported by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham for the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technologies)

This bill creates a state energy vision and directs the Governor's Energy Office to develop a state energy plan that defines goals and strategies to achieve that vision. The plan must be submitted every two years and include specific benchmarks for measuring the state's progress toward its goals, which in part includes ensuring: (1) the energy costs for an average household is not higher than the U.S. average; (2) adopted policies improve Maine's air, soil and water quality; and (3) an alternate energy supply sufficient to meet basic needs when the regular supply

is disrupted during extreme weather events. The joint standing committee having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters may report out legislation relating to the content of the plan.

[LD 2014](#) An Act Related to Sunday Hunting. (Reported by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty. for the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife) **DEAD**

This bill allows persons to hunt wild animals and birds on Sunday north of U.S. 36 Route 2 from the New Hampshire border to Bangor, north of Route 9 from Bangor to the Canadian border and within any portion of the White Mountain National Forest in Maine. The bill also allows landowners in all other areas in the state to hunt wild animals and birds on their private property on Sunday and with written permission from the landowner, allows a person to hunt on the landowner's private property on Sunday. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is directed to adopt rules to implement these provisions.

[LD 2013](#) An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State. (Reported by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty. for the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry)

The bill establishes the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and a corresponding advisory committee to make recommendations regarding the administration of the fund. The bill authorizes the department to allocate funds upon recommendation of the advisory committee and for certain purposes, including but not limited to monitoring the health of a person whose agricultural land is found to be contaminated by PFAS; buying and selling agricultural land found to be contaminated by PFAS; conducting research; assisting an agricultural enterprise with land found to be contaminated by PFAS; funding for educational programs; long-term monitoring of contaminated sites and establishing a centralized data repository. The bill also authorizes the advisory committee to form working groups that include and seek input from public and private sector subject matter experts to deliberate issues relating to the purposes of the fund, including but not limited to health monitoring, short-term financial aid for farmers, research priorities, solar siting, long-term environmental monitoring, and land acquisition. The bill provides \$100 million in one-time funding to address PFAS contamination on agricultural land in Maine.

[LD 2012](#) An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities To Regulate Timber Harvesting. (Reported by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty. for the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry)

This bill provides that municipal timber harvesting ordinances: (1) must include definitions for forestry terms that are consistent with definitions in state statute and those adopted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF); (2) limit the ordinances subject to review by the Bureau of Forestry to those regulating timber harvesting activities; (3) adopted between Sept. 1, 1990 and Sept. 1, 2022 must comply with the state law regulating forestry operations by June 30, 2026; (4) may be adopted only after certification by the bureau that the ordinance was adopted via the statutory process; and (5) must be consistent with a comprehensive plan adopted by the municipal legislative body. The bill also clarifies that the centralized listing of municipal ordinances maintained by the bureau specifically applies to ordinances that apply to timber harvesting activities.

[LD 2011](#) An Act To Allow the Annexation of Certain Lands by Columbia Falls. (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This bill authorizes the annexation of certain portions of the unorganized territories of Centerville Township and T19 MD BPP to the Town of Columbia Falls, subject to referendum.

[LD 2010](#) An Act to Help Maine Residents with High Electricity Costs. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

This concept draft bill provides an \$1,000 tax rebate for residential electricity ratepayers and a \$2,500 rebate for businesses with high energy usage.

[LD 2008](#) An Act To Establish a Court Process for Involuntary Substance Use Disorder Treatment. (Sponsored by Rep. Madigan of Waterville)

This bill establishes a court process requiring a person with a substance use disorder to participate in substance use disorder treatment.

March 2, 2022

[LD 2006](#) An Act To Improve the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. LaRochelle of Augusta)

This bill provides funding of \$2 million to the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) to improve application waiting and approval times for the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP) administered through the United States Department of Health and Human Services. It requires MSHA to create the LI-HEAP Administrative Efficiency Fund to increase the capacity to accept and process applications in a timely manner for the current heating season. The bill also requires MSHA to convene a working group to investigate ways to improve and increase the efficiency of LI-HEAP and report to the Committee on Labor and Housing no later than Sept. 15, 2022.

[LD 2005](#) An Act Regarding the Reapportionment of the Knox County Budget Committee Districts. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Dunphy of Old Town) **Passed to be Engrossed**

This bill allows the Knox County Commissioners, beginning in June 2031, to determine whether changes to the budget committee districts are needed and, only if changes are necessary, submit a redistricting plan to the Secretary of State, who must submit the plan to the Legislature for review and enactment. The bill also declares that, for purposes of the 2021 redistricting of the Knox County budget committee districts, the districts established currently in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 757, subsection 2 remain the districts until the Knox County Commissioners submit a redistricting plan to the Secretary of State and that plan is subsequently reviewed and enacted by the Legislature.

[LD 2003](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford)

This emergency bill implements several recommendations of Speaker Fecteau's Housing Commission. The commission was tasked with reviewing: (1) data on housing shortages in the state for low-income and middle-income households; (2) state laws that affect the local regulation of housing, including municipal incentives, state mandates, eliminating or limiting

single-family-only zones and allowing greater housing density near transit, jobs, schools or neighborhood centers; and (3) efforts in other states and municipalities to address housing shortages, increase housing options and assess the role race and racism play in zoning policies.

The proposed bill:

Housing as a Human Right (Secs. 1-3). Amends Maine's housing discrimination laws to prevent a municipality or government entity from restricting the construction or development of housing units in areas based on criteria that refers to the character of a location, overcrowding of land or the over concentration of the population. This section of the bill also defines those terms to mean the unique characteristics of a municipality; the density of the population within a specific area of the municipality; and the density of residential dwellings or other developments within a specific area of the community, respectively.

Prohibits Housing Caps (Secs. 4-6). Prohibits municipalities from adopting ordinances that cap the number of building or development permits issued each year for any residential dwellings, including but not limited to permits for affordable housing.

Technical Assistance and Grant Program (Sec. 7). Directs the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to provide technical assistance to municipalities for the purpose of developing and implementing zoning and land use ordinances that conform with state and federal laws and review municipal building and development permits. This section further directs the department to provide grants from the Municipal Planning Assistance Grant and Incentive Program Fund to contract for services and hire staff to help administer municipal housing related responsibilities.

Municipal Incentive Program (Sec. 8). Directs DECD to provide a grant of up to \$25,000 for each year a municipality participates in the incentive program. In order to be eligible for the grant a municipality must: (1) in the first year, establish a working group to review municipal zoning and land use ordinance impacts on housing availability; (2) in the second year, adopt or amend zoning and land use ordinances to promote the availability of housing, based on the recommendations of the working group; and (3) in the third year, provide information to DECD about current or prospective housing developments or permits issued for the construction of housing resulting from the implementation of related land use and zoning changes.

Affordable Housing Density (Sec. 9). On or after April 20, 2022, municipalities are required to use an affordable housing density standard for qualifying affordable housing developments that is equal to 2.5 times the density that is otherwise allowed in the zone where the development is located and are prohibited from requiring more than two off-street parking spaces for every three units. Before approving an affordable housing development, the developer must agree to ensure that for at least 30 years occupancy will remain limited to households at or below 80% of the local area median income for rental units and for owned housing to remain limited to households at or below 120% of local area median income. In addition, the developer is prohibited from renting units for a period of less than 30 days.

Prohibits Establishment of Single Family Only Zones (Sec. 10). Provides that notwithstanding a law to the contrary, on or after April 20, 2023, all zones where housing is permitted must allow for the development of structures with up to four dwelling units. Municipal residential housing ordinances may not establish dimensional size requirements or setbacks distances that are greater than those required for single-family structures. This section also requires the owner of a housing unit to provide written verification to the municipality that the unit is connected to adequate water and wastewater services before the municipality can issue an occupancy permit. In the process of adopting an ordinance, a municipality is authorized to: (1) establish an application and permitting process; (2) impose fines for violations of building, zoning and utility requirements; and (3) establish alternative criteria that are less restrictive utility requirements, but only if a variance is allowed. This section requires ordinances to comply with the minimum shoreland zoning requirements set by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) (Sec.11). Provides that an ADU is allowed on the same lot as a single-family dwelling in any zone in which housing is permitted. An ADU is defined in existing law as a self-contained dwelling unit located within, attached to, or detached from an existing dwelling unit. This section allows an ADU to be constructed if: (1) within an existing structure on the lot; (2) attached to or sharing a wall with a single-family unit; or (3) is a new structure on the lot for the primary purpose of creating an ADU. A related municipal ordinance must: (1) allow for at least one ADU on any lot where a single-family unit is the primary structure; (2) require lots where a single-family dwelling unit is the primary unit and an ADU has been constructed to be zoned as single-family; (3) exempt an ADU from any density requirements; (4) require the setbacks and dimensional requirements to be the same as the requirement for a single-family dwelling unit, if the ADU is located within the single-family unit; (5) exempt an ADU from meeting additional parking requirements, beyond that applied to the single-family unit; (6) require an ADU to comply with DEP shoreland zoning requirements and Maine Uniform Building Code requirements; and (7) prohibit a rental term of less than 30 days for units constructed or permitted on or after April 20, 2022. The owner of an ADU must provide written verification to the municipality that the unit is connected to adequate water and wastewater services before the municipality can issue an occupancy permit. In the process of adopting an ordinance, a municipality is authorized to: (1) establish an application and permitting process; (2) impose fines for violations of building, zoning, and utility requirements; and (3) establish alternative criteria that are less restrictive utility requirements, but only if a variance is allowed.

Municipal Housing Development Permit Review Board (Sec. 12). Establishes a seven-member board, appointed by the governor to hear complaints against the final decisions of a local board denying a housing project. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board must provide written notice of the hearing at least 20 days in advance to the person seeking review and the municipality that denied the application and allow both the opportunity to provide testimony before the board. If the board determines that the project should have been approved, the municipality that denied the project must approve the development.

Priority Development Zones (Sec. 13). Requires municipalities to designate an area within the municipality as a priority development zone (PDZ) located in an area that has significant

potential for housing development and located near community resources, as determined by DECD. A PDZ is defined as a zone in which owned or rented multifamily housing composed of both market and affordable housing units is permitted at a specified density that is greater than the density allowed in other zones. Community resources are defined as available services, including transportation, schools, and recreational, employment and business opportunities. Prior to adopting the development zone, DECD must review the proposal to ensure compliance with adopted state agency rules. Adoption of the PDZ is delayed for two years following the adoption of agency rules.

Staggered Review Board Terms (Sec. 14). Provides that the terms of the review board established in Section 12 are staggered with two members serving for one year; two members serving for three years; and three members serving the full five-year term.

Fiscal Note (Sec. 15). Provides: (1) \$79,762 in ongoing funds for one position to provide technical assistance to the Municipal Housing Development Permit Review Board; (2) \$89,760 in ongoing funds for one position to implement a municipal land use and zoning ordinance review incentive program and provide technical assistance to municipalities; (3) \$3 million in ongoing funds for grants to municipalities to review land use and zoning ordinances; (4) \$115,500 in ongoing revenue for one position to serve as a municipal planning coordinator to provide expertise in zoning and land use to municipalities; and (5) \$1.3 million in ongoing funds to assist municipalities in the development and implementation of zoning and land use ordinances.

February 23, 2022

[LD 2002](#) An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions. (Reported by Rep. Matlack of St. George for the Joint Standing Committee on State & Local Government)

This bill eliminates boards and commissions that did not file annual reports in either 2020 or 2021 or that filed a report that indicated inactivity for 2020 and 2021, which includes the Animal Welfare Advisory Council.

[LD 1999](#) An Act To Require Civil Rights Officers at Law Enforcement Agencies. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill amends the provision in law requiring law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies regarding procedures to deal with hate or bias crimes by adding a requirement that such a policy must require the law enforcement agency to select, assign and secure training for a civil rights officer and provide that individual's name and contact information to the Attorney General. The bill also provides funding for computer programming costs and related maintenance.

[LD 1996](#) An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditure of State Government, Highway Fund and Other Funds and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023. (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair)

This bill is Governor Mills' proposed FY 23 supplemental Highway Fund budget. Of municipal interest, the bill increases the amount distributed to municipalities under the Local Road Assistance Program by \$241,330 for a total of \$21.5 million.

[LD 1995](#) An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023. (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This bill is Governor Mills' proposed FY 23 supplemental General Fund budget. Of municipal interest, the budget retains the provisions adopted in the FY 22 – FY 23 General Fund budget (LD 221), which increases revenue sharing distributions to 5% of state sales and income tax revenues as of July 1, 2022 and increases from 70% to 73% state reimbursement for lost property tax revenue associated with the \$25,000 homestead exemption.

In addition, the proposed budget:

Education Funding (PART C). Calculates the total costs of K-12 education as \$2.46 billion, appropriates \$1.35 billion (55%) as the state's share, and sets the minimum mil rate expectation for FY 23 at 7.10.

Property Fairness Credit (PART F). Increases the maximum property tax fairness credit for tax years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2022, from \$750 to \$1,000 for resident individuals under 65 years of age and from \$1,200 to \$1,500 for resident individuals 65 years of age and older.

Relief Program (PART L). Creates the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program to help Maine residents recover from the economic fallout of the pandemic and respond to increasing costs due to inflation and supply-chain impacts. Eligible Maine residents will receive a \$510 payment funded with \$411 billion in surplus General Fund revenue. To be eligible, a full-year resident must have filed a Maine income tax return by Oct. 31, 2022 and have an adjusted gross income of less than: (1) \$150,000 for married individuals filing jointly; (2) \$112,500 for heads of households; and (3) \$75,000 for single individuals or married persons filing separate returns. Payments will be issued between July 1 and Dec. 31, 2022.

Housing Opportunity Program (PART U). Creates the Housing Opportunity Program, housed in the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, to encourage and support the development of additional affordable and workforce housing units in Maine. Of the \$3 million appropriation, \$1.55 million funds a competitive grant program supporting municipal efforts to create and implement housing development plans, and \$1 million funds a competitive grant program providing financial assistance to experienced service providers to support municipal efforts, including facilitating public and community engagement processes. The remaining revenues fund two limited-period positions to administer the program, which are in part, tasked with providing municipalities information about available grant opportunities, best practices from jurisdictions inside and outside of Maine, and model language for local ordinances and policies.

Education Stabilization Fund (PART Y). Establishes the Education Stabilization Fund to prevent future reductions in the budgeted state share of K-12 education as calculated by the Essential Programs and Services model. The non-lapsing fund is capitalized with \$30 million in unappropriated General Fund surplus.

Highway Funding (PART PP). Provides a \$100 million one-time transfer from unappropriated General Fund surplus revenue to the Highway Fund, of which \$85 million will be used to make improvements to highways and bridges and \$15 million for investment in multimodal transportation projects.

February 16, 2022

[LD 1990](#) An Act Allowing Electric-powered School Buses To Have Distinctively Colored Bumpers, Wheels and Rub Rails. (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Oakland)

This bill amends the laws governing school bus identifiers to allow electric-powered school buses to have bumpers, rub rails and wheels in the colors painted by the original manufacturer. It also allows all school buses to display lettering from the original manufacturer and to have wheels and rub rails that are painted glossy black.

[LD 1988](#) An Act To Establish That the Provision of Emergency Medical Services by an Ambulance Service Is an Essential Service and To Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission To Study Emergency Medical Services in the State. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill provides that to be eligible for federal funding, emergency medical services provided by an ambulance service are essential services and considered as essential as services provided by fire departments or law enforcement. It also establishes the 13-member Blue Ribbon Commission To Study Emergency Medical Services in the State, which includes: (1) an EMS provider representing a community with 10,000 or more residents; (2) an EMS provider representing a community with less than 10,000 residents; and (3) a volunteer EMS provider. The commission must examine and make recommendations on the support and delivery of emergency medical services and may look at all aspects of emergency medical services, including but not limited to workforce development, training, compensation, retention, costs, reimbursement rates, organization, and local and state support. No later than Dec. 7, 2022, the commission must submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public safety matters.

[LD 1987](#) An Act To Establish the Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services To Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2022-23. (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 2023 is \$27.5 million (not counting overlay or county taxes).

[LD 1986](#) An Act To Exempt Permanently Disabled Veterans from Payment of Property Tax. (Sponsored by Rep. Roche of Wells)

Current law provides an exemption from property taxes in an amount up to \$6,000 of the just value of the property to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who are disabled by injury or disease during active military service. This bill provides a property tax exemption up to 100% of the just value to a veteran who is totally and permanently disabled.

February 10, 2022

[LD 1977](#) An Act to Require Registration by General Contractors for Home Improvement and Construction. (Reported by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty. for the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement & Business) **DEAD**

This bill establishes a mandatory registration process for residential construction contractors for the purpose of providing consumers an opportunity to confirm whether the contractor is operating legally, has certain insurances and has been subject to claims related to fraud, theft, deception, breach of contract and other violations that may have a bearing on the integrity of the contractor.

[LD 1976](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Convene a Study Group To Examine Bridge Safety. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.) **DEAD**

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to convene a study group including members representing the department, the National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine and other interested parties to examine department bridge safety standards and how they may be improved beyond federal standards to discourage suicide attempts from bridges in Maine. The department is directed to submit a report to the Committee on Transportation no later than Nov. 2, 2022 that includes findings and recommendations.

[LD 1975](#) An act Concerning Winter Maintenance on Private Roads in the Town of Windham (Emergency) (Reported by Rep. Matlack of St. George for the Joint Standing Committee on State & Local Government)

Beginning Oct. 1, 2024, this bill permits the Town of Windham to provide winter maintenance, for public health and safety and certain environmental purposes, on private ways over which at least 50% of the abutting property owners have issued the town a public easement.

[LD 1974](#) An Act To Establish and Fund the Maine Climate Corps Program Pursuant to Recommendations in the Report Required by Resolve 2021, Chapter 25. (Reported by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty. for the Joint Standing Committee on Environment & Natural Resources) **On Appropriations Table**

This bill establishes the Maine Climate Corps program to provide grants, technical assistance and training to community service corps programs focused on responding to the impacts of climate change. The program prioritizes aiding disproportionately affected communities and requires that individuals in service positions represent the economic demographic diversity of communities. The bill includes ongoing fund to support five program leadership positions; a one-time appropriation to fund 20 program participants; and a one-time appropriation to increase opportunities for individuals to devote a year of service to communities in Maine.

[LD 1973](#) An Act To Support Frontline Health Care Workers by Waiving Professional Licensing Fees. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill waives professional licensing fees for emergency medical services persons, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, respiratory care practitioners, midwives and persons associated with those practices for the period from March 1, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2022. It requires that any professional licensing fees paid by such a person for that period be refunded to that person.

[LD 1972](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions Related to Research and Aquaculture Leases. (Reported by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner for the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary) **Passed to be Engrossed**

This bill amends the public records exception in the laws governing research and aquaculture leases to clarify that a copy of a seeding and harvesting report provided to a municipality is confidential.

[LD 1971](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation. (Reported by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner for the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary)

This bill authorizes a public body to adopt the required remote participation policy through remote participation via a two-step process. First, if the chair of the public body determines that an emergency or urgent issue exists that prevents the public body from meeting in person, the chair may call a meeting of the public body in which the members may participate by remote methods. Public notice of the meeting must be provided and include information about how the public can participate in the meeting. Once the meeting is convened, the members must vote on whether to support the chair's determination that an emergency or urgent issue exists that prevents the public body from meeting in person. Second, if the members vote in support of the chair's determination, after an opportunity for hearing, the members may vote on adopting a policy authorizing remote participation.

[LD 1970](#) An Act To Implement Agency Recommendations Relating to Sea Level Rise and Climate Resilience Provided Pursuant to Resolve 2021, Chapter 67. (Reported by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick for the Joint Standing Committee on Environment & Natural Resources)

In part, the bill amends the laws governing municipal planning and land use regulation to define "local climate action plan" to incorporate such plans into a municipality's or multi-municipal region's growth management program through the preparation of a climate vulnerability assessment and by addressing in its program the climate risks identified in such assessments; and to require the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to prioritize grants, and technical and financial assistance to municipalities and multi-municipal regions that have adopted local climate action plans and prepared climate vulnerability assessments. The bill also amends the site location of development laws to authorize the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to consider the effects of sea level rise in determining whether a developer has made adequate provision for fitting a proposed development harmoniously into the existing natural environment. It amends solid waste facility siting laws to authorize DEP to consider the effects of sea level rise in determining whether an

applicant for a solid waste facility license has made adequate provision for fitting a proposed facility harmoniously into the existing natural environment.

[LD 1968](#) An Act To Expand Access to Mental Health and Crisis Care for Individuals in Jails and Individuals Experiencing Homelessness. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This concept draft bill proposes to create pathways to alleviate the crisis of individuals experiencing homelessness and those in the county jail system who are suffering from acute mental health crises and substance use disorder by implementing the following measures to improve their access to psychiatric treatment, wraparound services, supportive housing and other services that are part of the continuum of care, including: (1) examining and removing barriers to admission to crisis services, psychiatric facilities, detoxification services and recovery residences; (2) removing barriers to permanent supportive housing by creating pathways to develop rapid rehousing and affordable housing, including the creation of landlord and developer incentives; (3) providing secure treatment centers for nonviolent individuals in the custody of jails when diversion is recommended by a prosecutor and approved by a judge; (4) hiring and training of additional intensive case managers within the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health in order to provide outreach and support from the time individuals are homeless or incarcerated through when they are successfully housed; (5) increasing the number of peer coaches to provide mental health services to individuals by establishing a 30-hour certificate program; and (6) requiring real-time reporting to the Department of Health and Human Services of available treatment beds in psychiatric facilities and community-based residential treatment facilities in order to highlight and address the challenges of serving individuals in need of treatment; (7) including an assertive community treatment team in the assessment of a defendant for placement in an appropriate institution for the care and treatment of persons with mental illness; and (8) providing that a defendant may not be placed in a jail or a Department of Corrections facility unless competency restoration services can be provided in that setting within 30 days.

[LD 1967](#) An Act To Amend the Charter of the Gray Water District. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.) **Passed to be Enacted**

This bill authorizes the Gray Water District to build infrastructure on Intervale Road in New Gloucester and build a water main into and offer service in Yarmouth along Gray Road. It also allows the district treasurer to deduct money from a trustee's total compensation for missed meetings.

[LD 1966](#) An Act To Facilitate Access to Heating Assistance. (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to adopt rules for the administration of its fuel assistance program that require local program operators and administrators to accept online applications for the program beginning no later than the 2022-23 winter season.

[LD 1964](#) An Act To Update Certain Water Quality Standards and To Reclassify Certain Waters of the State. (Reported by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty. for the Joint Standing Committee on Environment & Natural Resources) **Passed to be Enacted**

As recommended by the Board of Environmental Protection, the bill includes specific updates to certain water quality standards and classifications based on water quality data and the

recommendations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environmental Protection, and other parties.

February 7, 2022

[LD 1963](#) An Act To Create the General Purpose Aid Stabilization Fund. (Sponsored by Rep. LaRochelle of Augusta)

This bill creates the General Purpose Aid Stabilization Fund to reduce loss of general purpose aid to school administrative units.

[LD 1961](#) An Act To Help Alleviate Maine’s Housing Shortage and Change the Membership of the Maine State Housing Authority. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill amends the State’s planning and land use goals to include addressing significant disparities in housing needs and access to educational, occupational and other opportunities; furthering the purposes of the federal Fair Housing Act; and promoting housing choice and economic diversity in housing, including housing for both low-income and moderate-income households. It also changes the membership of the Maine State Housing Authority and specifies that appointments to the authority and the appointment of the director are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters.

February 4, 2022

[LD 1957](#) An act To Promote Equity and Increase Opportunities in the Cannabis Industry by Removing Restrictions Related to Convictions for Drug Offenses and To Replace the Term “Marijuana” with the Term “Cannabis” in the Maine Revised Statutes. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill repeals provisions in state law prohibiting persons convicted of drug offenses from participating in the medical use and adult use marijuana industries and replaces the term “marijuana” with “cannabis” throughout state statutes.

February 3, 2022

[LD 1955](#) An Act to Facilitate Net Energy Billing. (Sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.)
DEAD

This bill establishes various requirements for transmission and distribution utilities to share information, handle billing and otherwise interact with customers and project sponsors in net energy billing arrangements, including timely delivery of data, synchronization of billing cycles, application of credits and development of a mechanism for electronic access to data in near real time. The bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish a complaint handling process for project sponsor complaints about transmission and distribution utility compliance with data sharing and billing requirements and provides that the commission may direct a transmission and distribution utility to pay costs resulting from billing errors.

[LD 1952](#) Resolve, To Extend the Commission To Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This resolve extends the date for the Commission To Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program to submit its report to Nov. 2, 2022 and provides that funds appropriated or allocated to the commission do not lapse but must be carried forward into the next fiscal year to be used for the purpose for which the funds were provided.

January 26, 2022

[LD 1949](#) An Act To Amend the Caribou Utilities District Charter To Include Broadband Services. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) **Passed to be Enacted**

This bill allows the Caribou Utilities District to provide broadband services to residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations and government entities within the district and provides for municipalities other than Caribou the opportunity to be admitted for broadband services membership with the district.

[LD 1948](#) An Act To Enhance Access to, Education Regarding and Patient and Community Safety in Maine's Marijuana Programs. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill makes several changes to the Medical Use of Marijuana Act, including allowing medical providers to use telehealth services to meet with patient seeking certification for the program; adds naturopathic doctors to the list of medical providers that may issue written certifications and directs the Office of Marijuana Policy to publish to its website monthly sales data generated by registered caregivers and dispensaries, as well as data on the revenues generated by adult use marijuana sales.

January 25, 2022

[LD 1946](#) An Act To Ensure Constitutionally Adequate Contact with Counsel. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner)

This bill provides for constitutionally adequate contact with counsel for individuals incarcerated in a state prison or county jail and for clients and counsel in court facilities. The bill addresses telephone, video and electronic forms of communication and person-to-person contact, as well as prohibits intercepting, recording, monitoring, disseminating or otherwise divulging any oral, written, telephone, video or electronic communication between clients and their counsel. For violations of the law, the bill establishes civil penalties, a private cause of action and post-conviction review. The bill prohibits use of illegally obtained information in court and prohibits participation in court by a person who has accessed or received a document, recording or information in violation of the law. The bill creates a new Class C crime of unauthorized eavesdropping and requires the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services, the Department of Corrections and county jails to conduct a retrospective review of telephone calls and electronic communications between clients and their counsel, who are required to provide notice to their clients affected by prohibited recordings.

[LD 1943](#) An Act To Expand the Address Confidentiality Program to Victims of Certain Human Trafficking Crimes (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Diamond of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill extends the Address Confidentiality Program to victims of human trafficking and minor victims of kidnapping and standardizes the use of terms referring to domestic violence and sexual assault.

[LD 1940](#) An Act To Ensure That Building Codes Allow the Installation and Use of Products and Equipment That Use Certain Federally Regulated Refrigerants. (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 524**

This bill prohibits municipalities from adopting or enforcing building codes, including the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, that prohibit the installation or use of any product or equipment regulated under the Maine's hydrofluorocarbon use restrictions law that uses a refrigerant listed as acceptable under the federal Clean Air Act.

[LD 1939](#) An Act To Protect School Administration Officials from Harassment and Abuse. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends the definition of "public servant" for the Maine Criminal Code to include principals, school board members, superintendents, teachers and persons serving in similar positions.

[LD 1936](#) An Act To Codify the Senate and House Legislative Districts, the Congressional Districts and the County Commissioner Districts as Enacted by the Legislature. (Emergency) (Reported by Rep. Dunphy of Old Town for the Revisor of Statutes)

This bill codifies the districts for federal, county and state elected offices.

January 21, 2022

[LD 1930](#) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 1: Adult Use Marijuana Program Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Marijuana Policy. (Emergency) (Reported by Rep. Caiazzo of Scarborough for the Office of Marijuana Policy) **Passed to be Engrossed**

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 1: Adult Use Marijuana Program Rule, a major substantive rule of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, office of marijuana policy.

January 20, 2022

[LD 1929](#) An Act To Provide Assistance to Areas Severely Infested with Browntail Moths. (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich) **On Appropriations Table**

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry to administer a program to assist a government entity or nonprofit organization, upon application by that government entity or nonprofit organization to the department, with the control of browntail moths. The bill also includes an appropriation for an Entomologist I position and a Senior Entomology Technician position in the department to support the management of forest insect pests.

[LD 1928](#) An Act To Update and Clarify the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act and Provide for Greater Transparency. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor)

This bill amends the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act in several ways, including limiting law enforcement interactions with caregivers, dispensaries, and manufacturing or testing facilities only when: (1) in possession of a warrant requiring access; (2) responding to an immediate health or safety concern; or (3) providing emergency services. The bill provides that an individual involved in the industry is not required to disclose to law enforcement information that could reasonably identify a patient's identity without a warrant. The bill also requires related state agency rules to include an assessment of the proposal's impacts on small businesses and adoption by the Legislature before implementation and enforcement.

[LD 1927](#) An Act To Authorize Certain Off-premises Sales of Adult Use Marijuana. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford)

This bill authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to issue permits to adult use marijuana store licensees for off-premises sales at specific events provided that the store receives approval from the municipality where the event is being held. The bill also prohibits the consumption of adult use marijuana or related products at the event or sales that extend for a period of more than three days.

January 12, 2022

[LD 1917](#) An Act To Amend the Tax Laws of the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham)

In part, this bill amends the property tax laws to: (1) require municipalities to annually provide information needed by Maine Revenue Services to conduct a state valuation; (2) remove the requirement for benevolent and charitable institutions to be incorporated in Maine to be exempt from taxation; (3) allow assessors to request information from taxpayers regarding property qualifying for an exemption that is subject to full or partial reimbursement by the State; (4) strike the provision under the deferred collection of homestead property taxes applying the abatement and appeals process to situations in which the State Tax Assessor disagrees with the municipal valuation of a property subject to deferral; and (5) replace the term "homestead" with the term "permanent residence" in Title 36, 38 section 6234, regarding municipal benefits to veterans, to better align the definition with the benefit to renters allowed under that section. The bill also expands the penalty-free reclassification of land taxed under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law and farm and open space law to include reclassifications into and out of working waterfront land without incurring a penalty and clarifies and aligns the penalty provisions for tree growth, farm and open space and working waterfront current use classifications.

[LD 1913](#) An Act To Review Strategies for Improving Utility Rate Affordability and To Provide Utility Relief. (Sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.)

This bill directs the Public Advocate to convene a stakeholder group to consider matters related to electricity affordability and submit a report to the Legislature. The bill also directs the Public Utilities Commission to create an electric utility relief program for low-income persons and directs the commission in cooperation with the Efficiency Maine Trust to provide education and outreach on utility relief programs.

[LD 1912](#) Resolve, To Rename 3 Bridges in Brownville and Brownville Junction. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 131**

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to name three bridges located in Brownville spanning Pleasant River as the Stanley Smith Larson Memorial Bridge, Edward Fredonia Stone Memorial Bridge, and Elden Howard Cail Memorial Bridge.

January 5, 2022

[LD 1911](#) An Act To Prohibit the Contamination of Clean Soils with So-called Forever Chemicals. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren)

This bill prohibits the land application or distribution of sludge or sludge-derived compost unless it is: (1) tested for all perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that may reasonably be quantified by a laboratory; and (2) does not exceed screening level for beneficially use that is established by the Department of Environmental Protection. The bill also requires the department to adopt rules to implement the requirements of the law including a requirement that sludge and sludge-derived compost intended for land application or distribution is tested annually.

[LD 1909](#) An Act To Remove Restrictions on Syringe Service Programs. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington)

This bill prohibits a hypodermic apparatus exchange program from limiting distribution of hypodermic apparatuses to program participants or requiring exchange of used hypodermic apparatuses.

[LD 1907](#) An Act To Review State Lands and Waterways That Have Sacred, Traditional or Other Significance to the Wabanaki Tribes. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland)

This bill establishes the Commission To Review State-owned Lands and Waterways to identify which state-owned lands or waterways have sacred, traditional or other significance to Maine's tribal nations and develop a process to return lands and waterways to the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and Aroostook Band of Micmacs. The commission must: (1) hold public meetings and hearings throughout the state; (2) accept testimony and written comments from the public; (3) invite the participation of stakeholders as determined by the commission, including large private landowners, land trusts and conservation organizations; and (4) submit a report no later than Nov. 15 of each year to the committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over conservation matters, inland fisheries and wildlife matters and marine resources matters.

[LD 1902](#) Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program To Encourage Climate Education in Maine Public Schools. (Sponsored by Rep. Blume of York) **On Appropriations Table**

This resolve establishes the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program as a three-year program within the Department of Education to provide grants for professional development for educators on climate science and to support the preparation of courses on interdisciplinary climate education. The bill provides \$3 million in one-time funds for grants to school districts to partner with nonprofit community-based organizations to create and implement plans to provide teacher training in next generation science standards and interdisciplinary climate education.

[LD 1901](#) An Act To Protect Funding for Health Care for Retired Teachers by Establishing an Investment Trust Fund. (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast) **DEAD**

This bill establishes the Retired Teacher Health Insurance Post-employment Benefits Investment Trust Fund to protect funding for healthcare for retired teachers. It also designates the Treasurer of State and the State Controller as trustees of the Irrevocable Trust Fund for Other Post-employment Benefits for the teacher plan.

[LD 1894](#) An Act To Support Municipal Broadband Infrastructure through Incentives and Competition. (Sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.)

This bill establishes the Internet Access Expansion Investment Fund to improve internet access in Maine. The fund must give priority to projects that assist state or local ownership of broadband infrastructure, with at least 50% of funded projects annually meeting this criterion. The bill allows an electric cooperative or utility, including a municipal utility, to own, lease, construct, maintain and operate broadband or other internet access systems on the electric cooperative's or utility's electric or other utility delivery system and to provide broadband or other internet access services to the public on the electric cooperative's or utility's electric or other utility delivery system.

[LD 1891](#) An Act To Continue Supporting Safe Drinking Water for Maine Families. (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Portland)

This bill provides one-time funding for the treatment of contaminated private drinking water wells.

[LD 1889](#) An Act To Amend the Whistleblowers' Protection Act To Ensure Coverage in Unionized Workplaces. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner) **Passed to be Enacted**

This bill changes the Whistleblowers' Protection Act to clarify its scope by repealing a provision in the law interpreted by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in *Nadeau v. Twin Rivers Paper Company, LLC*, 2021 ME 16, 247 A.3d 717 as a bar to enforcement of the Act in many cases in which a collective bargaining agreement is in place.

[LD 1886](#) An Act To Repeal the Law Regarding the County Jail Reimbursement Fee. (Sponsored by Rep. Evangelos of Friendship) **Passed to be Enacted**

This bill repeals the law authorizing a court to assess a county jail reimbursement fee.

[LD 1884](#) An Act To Create Affordable Agricultural Homesteads. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Bickford of Auburn)

This bill prohibits a municipality from requiring as a condition of residential construction: (1) an income requirement; (2) in an agricultural zone a more restrictive condition on farmland than provided under Maine's farmland current use tax law; and (3) a minimum lot size for zones primarily used for agriculture that is more than twice the minimum lot size of the most restrictive residential zone in that municipality.

[LD 1879](#) An Act To Support Law Enforcement Officers, Corrected Officers, E-9-1-1 Dispatchers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This bill repeals the provision of law repealing, on Oct. 1, 2022, the rebuttable presumption of workplace injury for law enforcement officers, corrections officers, dispatchers, firefighters and emergency medical services persons diagnosed as having post-traumatic stress disorder.

[LD 1875](#) An Act To Address Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution from State-owned Solid Waste Disposal Facilities. (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville)

This bill provides that a state-owned solid waste disposal facility may not be licensed or authorized to transfer leachate from the facility to a wastewater treatment plant unless the leachate is treated to reduce the concentration of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or the facility receiving the leachate employs technology to reduce the concentration of PFAS. It requires the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules to implement the prohibition.

[LD 1874](#) An Act To Clarify COVID-19 Paid Leave for School Employees. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. White of Waterville)

This bill amends the law requiring school administrative units to restore up to 15 sick leave days used by a public school employee affected by COVID-19 to instead grant up to a maximum of 15 days of paid leave for the purposes described in the law from Jan. 1, 2021 until the maximum has been reached. The bill also provides that a public school employee who used sick leave prior to the effective date of this legislation is entitled to request that that leave time be restored, and the school administrative unit is required to comply with the request.

[LD 1873](#) An Act Related to Airboats. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This concept draft bill implements the recommendations of the stakeholder group on issues related to airboat noise convened pursuant to PL 2021, chapter 166, section 2.

[LD 1872](#) Resolve, To Create a Task Force Relating to the Water Quality of Saco Bay. (Sponsored by Rep. Copeland of Saco) **DEAD**

This resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to convene a task force to integrate data from multiple studies of the water quality of Saco Bay to identify sources of pollution in the bay and develop recommendations to remove those sources or lessen the pollution from those sources. The department must convene the task force by Sept. 1, 2022 and submit a report to the committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environmental protection matters by Oct. 1, 2023.

[LD 1871](#) Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Extend Its Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This resolve extends by two years the Maine Human Rights Commission pilot program to receive, review and investigate incidents and complaints of harassment due to a person's housing status and other reports of interference with a person's access to public accommodations.

[LD 1863](#) An Act To Allow Bars with an Occupancy of 30 or Fewer Persons To Have Only One Bathroom. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits municipal building codes or other law from requiring an establishment that permits on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages that has an occupancy of 30 or fewer persons to have more than one restroom.

[LD 1862](#) An Act To Strengthen Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance. (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.)

This bill extends Maine's Good Samaritan laws by exempting from arrest or prosecution for a nonviolent offense or violation of probation or condition of release a person at the location of a drug-related overdose for which medical assistance was sought or naloxone was administered.

[LD 1860](#) An Act To Address Maine's Suicide and Opioid Crises through the Construction of Affordable Recovery Facilities in Underserved Areas of the State. (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill requires new federal funds to be used to construct affordable recovery facilities in underserved areas to address Maine's suicide and opioid crises.

[LD 1859](#) An Act To Build More Sustainable Ambulance Services in Communities. (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This bill directs the Emergency Medical Services' Board to establish a public education program for the purpose of educating a community, or a group of communities, including public and civic leaders, on the current capacity and costs of emergency medical services and provide detailed information regarding alternative strategies and options for meeting emergency medical services needs.

[LD 1858](#) An Act Regarding Delegating Authority for Services Performed by Emergency Medical Services Personnel in Health Care Facilities. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.)

Akin to the authority to provide services in a hospital setting, this bill authorizes licensed emergency medical services persons to provide medical services in health care facilities that are not in hospitals provided services are rendered in the person's capacity as an employee or a contracted agent of the hospital or healthcare facility.

[LD 1852](#) Resolve, Authorizing the Maine National Guard To Sell Certain Property in Hallowell. (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 136**

This Resolve authorizes the Maine National Guard to sell a parcel located off Granite Hill Road to the City of Hallowell.

December 20, 2021

[LD 1847](#) An Act To Prohibit a Public Utility from Terminating or Disconnecting service to a Public Safety Facility without Advance Notice and Approval. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham)

This bill requires a public utility, before it terminates or disconnects a public safety facility's service, to provide 60 days' advance written notice and obtain written authorization from the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Public Safety.

[LD 1845](#) An Act To Amend the Education Statutes. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This bill makes numerous changes to the laws governing primary and secondary education. Of municipal relevance, the bill enshrines in statute the state's commitment to fund 55% of the total cost to provide public education from kindergarten to grade 12, beginning in fiscal year 2021-2022. To achieve the state's commitment to fund K-12 education, the bill redefines the full-value education mill rate as amount necessary to result in a 45% statewide total local share.

[LD 1843](#) An Act To Allow the Secretary of State To Use an Electronic Lien Titling Program for the Purposes of the Maine Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title and Antitheft Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Oakland)

This bill defines the term "electronic lien titling program" under the laws regulating the titling of motor vehicles and authorizes the Secretary to State to use an electronic titling program.

[LD 1839](#) Resolve, To Name a Bridge in the Town of Unity the Alton "Mac" McCormick Memorial Bridge. (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 494**

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate a bridge on U.S. Route 202 and Route 9 in Unity the Alton "Mac" McCormick Memorial bridge.

[LD 1835](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Storm Water Management To Provide an Exemption for Mountain Bike Trails. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c.507 (3/16/22)**

This bill exempts certain mountain bike trails from stormwater management requirements.

[LD 1833](#) Resolve, To Exempt Specialty or Recognition Registration Plates Already in the Process of Being Created from the Moratorium on the Approval of New Motor Vehicle Registration Plates. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.) **DEAD**

This resolve provides an exemption to the temporary moratorium on the review and approval of new specialty motor vehicle registration plates to allow the sponsor of a specialty plate approved before July 14, 2021 to continue the signature gathering process and introduce implementing legislation.

[LD 1832](#) An Act To Correct the Year of the Expiration of the Terms of 2 County Commissioners in Sagadahoc County. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c.506 (3/16/22)**

This bill corrects the expiration year for the terms of the Sagadahoc County Commissioners serving Districts 2 and 3.

[LD 1830](#) An Act To Amend the Election Laws. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.)

This bill makes changes to the laws governing elections, including a provision permitting the Secretary of State to designate procedures that deviate from the statutory requirements for

absentee balloting in certain nursing homes, residential care facilities and assisted living programs that may be necessary to protect public health during a declared health emergency or a public health threat affecting residents in those facilities.

[LD 1829](#) An Act To Amend the Charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District. (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.) **Enacted; P&SL 2021, c. 15**

This bill amends the Ogunquit Sewer District charter to conform with state statutes.

December 17, 2021

[LD 1827](#) An Act To Permit Limited Delivery of Adult Use Marijuana. (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor)

This bill allows certain retail marijuana stores to deliver adult use marijuana, regardless of the delivery location or local approval of retail marijuana stores.

[LD 1826](#) An Act To Create a Subcommittee of the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species To Recommend Ways To Reduce the Threat of Further Infestations. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield) **Passed to be Enacted**

This bill amends the statute governing the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species to require that, on or before Jan. 15, 2023, and biennially thereafter, the task force submit to the Departments of Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Marine Resources and to the relevant joint standing committees of the Legislature, a report containing its findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, on a variety of matters relating to controlling the introduction of invasive aquatic plants and nuisance species in Maine. The bill also requires the task force, in developing those findings and recommendations, to convene a stakeholder group that includes, but is not limited to, task force members, state natural resources agency staff and other persons with relevant experience or expertise including representatives of local and regional lake associations and representatives of lake protection organizations.

[LD 1821](#) An Act To Make Interfering with an Election Official a Class C Crime. (Sponsored by Rep. White of Waterville)

This bill makes intentional interference by force, violence or intimidation with a public official performing a function relating to a federal, state, or municipal election a Class C crime.

[LD 1819](#) An Act To Define “Discrete Electric Generating Facility.” (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth) **DEAD**

This bill amends the net energy billing and distribution generation laws by defining a “discrete electric generating facility.”

[LD 1818](#) Resolve, To Reestablish and Continue the Work of the Criminal Records Review Committee. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill reestablishes the 29-member Criminal Records Review Committee, which includes a representative of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. The committee is charged with reviewing the processes for managing criminal records, including practices in other states

governing the process for expunging, sealing, vacating, and limiting public access to criminal records and directed to submit a report to the Judiciary Committee by Nov. 2, 2022.

[LD 1814](#) An Act To Repeal the St. Francis Water District Charter and Direct the Town of St. Francis To Assume, Maintain and Operate the Property of the District. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; P&SL 2021, c. 16, (3/29/22)**

This emergency bill establishes provisions governing the dissolution of the St. Francis Water District and the Town of St. Francis's assumption of the district's property, contracts, and liabilities. It requires a referendum vote by St. Francis to be held no later than Dec. 31, 2022, and, upon acceptance by the voters, the provisions of the amendment become effective, except that the amendment makes the repeal of the water district charter effective 90 days after the Legislature adjourns in 2024.

[LD 1813](#) An Act to Amend the Definition of "Oversized ATV" To Increase the Minimum Weight Requirement. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

This bill increases the weight threshold of an "oversized ATV" from 2,000 to 2,400 pounds.

[LD 1811](#) An Act To Provide for the 2022 and 2023 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds. (Emergency) (Submitted by the Finance Authority of Maine) **Passed to be Enacted**

This bill establishes the allocations of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt private activity bonds for calendar years 2022 and 2023 among the state-level issuers of tax-exempt bonds, including the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.

[LD 1809](#) An Act To Allow Exceptions to the Height Limitations under the Shoreland Zoning Laws. (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill provides an exception to the height restrictions imposed on legally existing nonconforming structures located in the "special flood hazard area" of the shoreland zone to be raised to the minimum elevation necessary to be consistent with the local floodplain management elevation requirements, provided the relocated, reconstructed, or elevated structure meets water body or wetland setback requirements to the greatest extent practically possible. A special flood hazard is defined as land in a floodplain having a 1% or greater chance of flooding in any given year as established in flood insurance rate maps. The bill also defines how minimum elevation is measured when property is located within the special flood hazard area.

[LD 1806](#) An Act To Clarify the Boundary between Waldo County and Knox County in Penobscot Bay. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill clarifies and describes the common boundary between Waldo and Knox Counties in Penobscot Bay to include the entire archipelago of Islesboro.

December 9, 2021

[LD 1803](#) An Act To Attract and Retain Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Personnel through the Maine Length of Service Award Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Theriault of China)
On Appropriations Table

This bill allocates \$2.5 million in FY 23 to the Maine Length of Service Award Program to provide awards to eligible volunteer firefighters and EMS providers.

[LD 1802](#) An Act To Amend the Requirements of the Reorganization Plan for the Formation for Regional School Units. (Sponsored by Rep. Stearns of Guilford)

This bill modifies the process for establishing a regional school unit (RSU) to: (1) except units that benefit from a different grade level configuration in the RSU; and (2) allow for the provision of comprehensive programming via school choice, by a contract with another school administrative unit or by some other means.

[LD 1801](#) An Act To Modify Exemptions for Certain Storm Water Discharges to Class AA and SA Waters. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville) **Passed to be Enacted**

This bill amends the law governing exemptions for storm water discharges to Class AA and Class SA waters and provides that certain segments of waters classified along the tributaries of the Narraguagus River; the main stem of the St. George River; main stem and tributaries of the Aroostook River; and tidal waters of Somes Sounds are not designated as outstanding national resources.

[LD 1799](#) An Act To Require Law Enforcement Agencies To Retain Serial Numbers of Stolen Firearms. (Sponsored by Rep. Mason of Lisbon) **DEAD**

This bill requires a law enforcement agency to maintain a record of the serial number of a stolen firearm if the owner provides the number and until the firearm is recovered or destroyed.

[LD 1797](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Length of Service Award Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Theriault of China)

This bill increases the membership of the Maine Length of Service Award Program Board of Trustees to include two members who are licensed EMS providers and establishes in law the process for calculating service credit for firefighters and EMS providers.

[LD 1795](#) An Act To Update Statutory References to Building Code Standards for Public Improvements. (Sponsored by Rep. Bryant of Windham) **Passed to be Enacted**

This bill: (1) eliminates in state statutes references to building codes that are no longer in effect or have been superseded by the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC); (2) applies the current MUBEC ventilation standards to buildings occupied by state employees; and (3) updates references to the MUBEC from the Department of Economic and Community Development to the Department of Public Safety.

[LD 1789](#) An Act To Modernize Funding of Publicly Funded Tuition Students Attending Career and Technical Education Programs. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.) **DEAD**

Under current law, a school that receives publicly funded tuition students who are enrolled in regular school day career and technical education programs may charge a tuition rate of only up to two-thirds of the maximum tuition rate. This bill removes this limitation and directs each school approved for tuition purposes to enter into an agreement for the purpose of determining that school's per-pupil contribution toward the costs of the career and technical education center serving that school.

[LD 1788](#) Resolve, To Rename Bridges in the Town of Milo for Veterans Who Died during the Vietnam War. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, cl 127**

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to name bridges located in Milo spanning the: (1) Pleasant River as the James Ellison Memorial Bridge; (2) Piscataquis River as the Wayne Sangillo Memorial Bridge; and (3) Sebec River as the Henry “Butch” Heal Memorial Bridge.

[LD 1786](#) An Act To Maintain Consistency among Maine’s Nondiscrimination Statutes. (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill makes the non-discrimination provisions throughout statutes consistent to prohibit discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin, age or familial status, which includes cable system operators.

[LD 1785](#) An Act To Address Staffing Shortages in Critical Public Safety Jobs through Economic Incentives. (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot)

This bill provides a one-time allocation of \$10 million divided equally between a student loan forgiveness program and a no-interest home mortgage program for local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS providers, dispatch and public health workers.

[LD 1784](#) An Act To Ensure Legislative Review of Rules for Maine’s Medical Use of Marijuana Act. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.)

Notwithstanding laws to the contrary, this bill provides that major substantive rules provisionally adopted by the Office of Marijuana Policy to regulate the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act and submitted for legislative review may not be finally adopted by the office unless legislation authorizing final adoption of the rule is enacted.

December 2, 2021

[LD 1779](#) An Act To Protect Election Integrity by Regulating Possession of Ballots and Voting Machines and Devices (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This bill requires the municipal clerk to retain possession, custody and control over the sealed containers of ballots unless the law expressly authorizes the containers to be transferred and secured by another entity. The bill also requires those persons entitled to obtain original ballots for inspection to keep those ballots in their sole custody in a secure location, with any inspection subject to oversight by an appropriate public official. The bill also prohibits the municipal clerk from transferring possession, custody or control over a voting machine or device to any person except as authorized by the Secretary of State.

[LD 1777](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Education Service Centers (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake) **DEAD**

This bill establishes a process for a school administrative unit to withdraw from an education service center. The process directs the withdrawing member to provide other

participants written notice of the intent to withdraw not less than one year of the date of withdrawal and requires the impacted parties to enter into a withdrawal agreement to be approved by the members of the impacted school boards. If the parties are unable to agree on the process, any party may submit an area of disagreement to a neutral arbitrator selected by the parties for a binding decision.

[LD 1775](#) Resolve, Regarding MaineCare Funding for Maine Schools (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland)

This resolve directs the Department of Education to develop a comprehensive system to support school districts seeking reimbursement for MaineCare-eligible services and submit its report to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee by Nov. 2, 2022.

[LD 1772](#) An Act To Amend the Remote Meeting Laws in Maine’s Freedom of Access Act (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner)

This bill amends the remote meeting law to provide municipalities greater flexibility in determining when it is appropriate for the public body to meet via remote or hybrid means. The bill also provides that a policy adopted by a council or board applies to all boards or committees within the jurisdiction of the public body.

[LD 1766](#) An Act To Remove Watson’s Bridge in the Town of Littleton from the List of Historic Bridges for Which the State Is Responsible for Maintenance and Rehabilitation (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 494**

This bill removes Watson’s Bridge in Littleton from the list of historic bridges the state is currently responsible to repair and maintain.

[LD 1762](#) An Act To Amend the Law Regarding Expiration of Disability Plates and Placards and Fees for Recycler Licenses (Sponsored by Rep. Evans of Dover-Foxcroft) **Passed to be Enacted**

Under existing law, a disability plate or placard expires on the date of the expiration of the person’s drivers license or nondriver identification card. This bill establishes that a disability plate or placarded may be renewed for a period not to exceed six years and authorizes the Secretary of State to adopt the rules necessary to implement the change.

[LD 1760](#) An Act To Amend the Charter of the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District To Set the Terms of Its Trustees at 3 Years (Sponsored by Rep. Stover of Boothbay) **Enacted; P & SL 2021, c. 13**

Retroactive to Nov. 5, 2019, this bill sets at three years the term of office for the trustees of the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District.

[LD 1757](#) An Act To Make Technical Changes to Maine Tax Laws (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham)

In part, this bill amends the property tax statutes by authorizing Maine Revenue Services to hold assessor certification exams two rather than four times each year, as currently required. The bill also clarifies the amount of property tax that must be paid when a property owner has appealed a denial of abatement as the greater of: (1) the amount of taxes paid in the previous tax year, provided the amount does not exceed the taxes due in the current year or (2) the amount of taxes in the current tax year that is not in dispute.

[LD 1753](#) An Act Regarding the Retirement of Law Enforcement Officers under the Participating Local District Retirement Program (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill amends the terms for special plans under the Participating Local District Retirement Program to enable law enforcement officers to retire after 25 years of service, regardless of age. Under the current program, access to retirement benefits is available to officers who have not only served for 25 years but are at least 55 years of age.

[LD 1749](#) An Act To Change the Requirements for the Sales of Used Catalytic Converters (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.) **DEAD**

In the process of purchasing catalytic converters, this bill requires an owner or operator of a junkyard or automobile recycling business to collect and retain information regarding the date of purchase, seller's name and address and vehicle identification number from which the converter was removed. Upon the request of a law enforcement officer or prosecuting attorney, owners and operators are also required to promptly make the information available for inspection. A violation of the requirement to collect and share the information, as well as the falsification of the information required of the seller is a Class E crime.

Bills carried over from the 2021 legislative session

[LD 1728](#) An Act To Provide Assistance to Law Enforcement Officers To Allow Them To Protect the Residents of the State. (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to enhance behavioral health services and assist law enforcement officers to better protect the residents of this State.

[LD 1722](#) An Act To Ensure Access to All Paths to Recovery for Persons Affected by Opioids Using Money Obtained through Litigation against Opioid Manufacturers. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell)

This bill directs all funds awarded through opioid litigation and settlements to the Opioid and Substance Use Abatement Fund administered by the Attorney General for the purpose of remediating and addressing the substance use crisis in Maine through prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery. The bill also establishes the Maine Opioid and Substance Use Abatement Advisory Commission to review opioid and substance use related information and determine how Opioid and Substance Use Abatement Fund funds are to be spent to carry out the purposes of the fund. The 15-member board includes a representative from law enforcement.

[LD 1698](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create a Public-Private Partnership To Create Biomass Energy Facilities in Aroostook County and To Connect Aroostook County to ISO New England. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

This bond bill issues \$30 million to create a public-private partnership to create biomass energy facilities in Aroostook County and to connect Aroostook County to ISO New England.

[LD 1696](#) An Act To Clarify and Recodify Maine's Protection from Abuse Statutes. (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

This bill makes comprehensive changes to language around protection from abuse statutes locating them within the same section of law and attempting to make them more accessible for individuals representing themselves in court. Additionally, it includes new case law established rulings in the existing statute.

[LD 1694](#) An Act To Create the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority. (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport)

This bill establishes the Community Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to coordinate the acquisition of blighted, abandoned and environmentally hazardous or functionally obsolete property for redevelopment, including property identified as historic but not including real property owned by a federally recognized Indian tribe, unimproved land or an active or former military facility. The bill establishes a fund to support the purpose of the authority, which includes as a source of revenue a fee on the disposal of construction and demolition debris. The bill also authorizes the creation of municipal redevelopment authorities to work with the Community Redevelopment Land Bank Authority for the purpose of transferring property and coordinating redevelopment. The Community Redevelopment Land Bank Authority is required to establish a Development Ready Community Planning Committee for the purposes of establishing statewide community redevelopment guidelines.

[LD 1693](#) An Act To Advance Health Equity, Improve the Well-being of All Maine People and Create a Health Trust. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill, in part, establishes the Trust for a Healthy Maine to receive money paid to the state pursuant to the tobacco settlement and from other sources and to distribute that money to state agencies or designated agents to fund tobacco use prevention and control, ensure adequate resources for other disease prevention efforts, promote public health, plan and deliver public health and prevention programs and services, support accreditation of the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and support public health workforce development. The trust is governed by a 15-member board of trustees composed of the Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and members appointed by the Governor.

[LD 1691](#) An Act To Require Licensing for Certain Mechanical Trades. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill requires licensure of persons who perform sheet metal work, refrigeration and air conditioning system installation and repair, pipefitting, mechanical insulating and fire protection sprinkler system installation, repair and testing and “grandfathers” persons who have completed apprentice programs in or have been compensated for a minimum of 2,000 hours in these businesses. The bill also creates the 11-member Mechanical Trades Board, directed to, in part, investigate violations of the law

[LD 1689](#) An Act To Ensure Equity in the Clean Energy Economy by Providing a Limited Tax Exemption for Certain Clean Energy Infrastructure Projects. (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill allows a person who purchases machinery or equipment for direct use in the development and construction of a clean energy product a refund or exemption from 75% of the sales tax due on that machinery or equipment. "Clean energy project" is defined as the

development and construction of infrastructure for the generation, storage, transformation or transmission of electricity generated using fuel cells, wind, solar cells, biomass, tides or waves, geothermal resources or technology that converts otherwise lost energy from exhaust. A person may obtain a refund or exemption by demonstrating to the Department of Labor that project results in a meaningful economic impact on an overburdened community; supports local manufacturing; and is developed under a community benefits agreement or project labor agreement. Finally, this bill requires the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to develop a detailed supply chain manufacturing assessment of how the state can support existing manufacturing and attract additional manufacturing associated with renewable energy industries, including, but not limited to, heat pumps and solar, offshore wind, hydrogen and tidal power.

[LD 1673](#) An act To Create a Comprehensive Permit Process for the Construction of Affordable Housing. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill establishes a comprehensive permit process to streamline the building construction permitting system and promote the creation of additional affordable housing applications which are reviewed and decided by the local board of appeals, rather than the planning board. The bill also establishes a five member Affordable Housing Committee, which includes three members with substantive experience in affordable housing and two members with expertise in municipal government to decide appeals of comprehensive low-income or moderate-income housing applications that are denied at the local level.

[LD 1665](#) An Act To Amend An Act To Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Concerning Land Acquisition and Criminal Jurisdiction. (Sponsored by Rep. Babbidge of Kennebunk) **DEAD**

This bill extends the opportunity for tribal land acquisition to Dec. 31, 2040 for both the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation to add to their respective trust lands under the Maine Implementing Act. It provides that for the purposes of meeting the initial threshold of 150,000 acres, additional lands within the designated area for land acquisition that are contiguous to existing tribal lands may be purchased and certified by the United States Secretary of the Interior by Jan. 31, 2030, for the benefit of the Passamaquoddy Tribe or Penobscot Nation. This bill also amends state law to recognize tribal court jurisdiction, concurrent with the state courts, over offenses committed on tribal lands by Indian defendants against non-Indian victims, subject to the maximum penalty provisions and due process requirements of the federal Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010.

[LD 1658](#) An Act To Increase Campaign Finance Transparency and Accountability in Municipal Elections. (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland)

This bill requires a candidate or a political action committee seeking to influence the election of a candidate for municipal office of a town or city with a population of 50,000 or more to submit registrations and campaign finance reports with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices instead of with the municipal clerk, and it requires a town or city with a population of less than 50,000 to post campaign finance reports on the municipality's publicly accessible website within 24 hours after the deadline for filing campaign finance reports. This bill also makes the commission responsible for oversight of the filing of registrations and campaign finance reports relating to municipal referenda campaigns in a town

or city with a population of 50,000 or more. The bill also makes it a requirement for the municipal clerk to refer a potential violation to the commission.

[LD 1656](#) An Act To Promote Energy-efficient Affordable Housing. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

This bill provides funds in the amount of \$100 million to be used by the Maine State Housing Authority to provide energy-efficient affordable housing.

[LD 1654](#) An Act To Stabilize State Funding for County Corrections. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell)

This bill stabilizes the state funding of county jails by establishing funding levels calculated with reference to either the total jail operating costs or \$50 per day per state sanctioned prisoner, whichever is greater. The bill requires that at least 25% of state funding be used for community corrections. The bill requires standardized reporting by the jails regarding jail revenues, expenses and populations. The bill establishes the County Corrections Professional Standards Council to adopt rules to determine the makeup of required programs and services, for required reporting and for standards and penalties for failure to report as required by rule. The bill provides a mechanism for adjusting the base tax assessment for correctional services for each county. The bill provides rule-making requirements for the coordination of inmate transportation, substance use disorder treatment, medication-assisted treatment and recovery services, mental health treatment and community programs and services, including but not limited to pretrial or conditional release, alternative sentencing or housing programs and electronic monitoring. The bill requires annual reporting to the committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters by the Maine County Commissioners' Association and the Maine Sheriffs' Association regarding the operation of the county jails.

[LD 1647](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Funds for Infrastructure Projects across the State and To Direct the Department of Environmental Protection To Establish a State Infrastructure Adaptation Fund and Predevelopment Assistance Program. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.)

This bond bill issues \$100 million to establish a state infrastructure adaptation fund and predevelopment assistance program, designed to leverage federal recovery support in the short term and to address significant and ongoing infrastructure adaptation needs in the long term. The bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a state infrastructure adaptation fund and predevelopment assistance program in 2022.

[LD 1639](#) An Act To Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste. (Sponsored by Rep. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill amends the definition of "waste generated within the State" to limit the amount of the residue that may be disposed of by an incineration, recycling and processing facility at a solid waste landfill in the state to the weight of the solid waste initially generated in the state by that facility during its annual reporting period. The bill eliminates the provisions of the law regarding recycling and source reduction requirements for solid waste processing facilities that were in operation during calendar year 2018 and that accept exclusively construction and demolition debris.

[LD 1638](#) An Act To Help Seniors and Certain Persons with Disabilities Remain in Their Homes by Providing for the Deferral of Property Taxes. (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)
Carried over on the Appropriations Table

This bill reinstates the state's property tax deferral program and modifies the program to include households with at least one individual who is 65 years of age or older or who is unable to continue employment due to disability and to surviving spouses who are unable to continue employment due to disability and provides that income must be less than \$40,000. The bill adds a maximum liquid asset standard for eligibility of property owners and provides that property may not be subject to deferral under both the state and a municipal deferral program. The bill requires transfers from the Property Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents in case there are not sufficient funds to pay for the property tax deferral program and in the event that there are not sufficient funds in the Property Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents, the bill requires that additional transfers be made from the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to cover the shortfall. This bill requires repayment of those transfers, with interest, first to the Housing Opportunities Maine Fund and then to the Property Tax Relief Fund when there are sufficient funds available for those reimbursements.

[LD 1637](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Funds for Maine To Meet the State's Carbon Reduction Goals by Supporting the Use of Biofuels. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)

This bond bill issues \$40 million for investment in infrastructure supporting Maine's forestry and natural resource industries through commercial development of environmentally sustainable and low carbon intensity fuels manufactured from wood and other cellulosic waste within this state.

[LD 1634](#) An Act To Create the Maine Generation Authority. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth)

This bill establishes the Maine Generation Authority as a state authority authorized to issue revenue bonds that are backed by Maine electric ratepayers. The purpose of the authority is to finance and own electricity generation projects that generate electricity using renewable fuels that produce zero greenhouse gas emissions and that are located in Maine or, for those located in federal waters in the Gulf of Maine, capable of delivering all electricity generated into Maine in amounts sufficient to meet or offset residential and business energy requirements, and electricity storage systems that can store sufficient quantities of electricity generated by renewable generation projects to enable Maine's electricity grid to meet total in-state demands for electricity at all times. The governance structure, administration, powers, obligations, property rights and bond issuance authority of the authority are modeled on the Maine Turnpike Authority. The amount of authorized bonding is intended to provide sufficient funding to allow the authority to meet the energy and storage targets set forth in the bill. The bill authorizes the authority to undertake the following activities in fulfillment of its purpose: (1) acquire fee simple ownership or easements in or enter long-term leases of real estate within the state or in federal waters in the Gulf of Maine; (2) issue revenue bonds for up to 100% of the costs of a renewable generation project or electricity storage system, including capitalized interest during construction of the project and system and working capital related to the operations and administration of the authority; and (3) enter into contracts with third parties for the construction of renewable generation projects or electricity storage systems, the operations and maintenance of renewable

generation projects or electricity storage systems owned by the authority and the provision of support services to the authority, including energy planning, energy market sales, energy contract review, accounting, legal and other types of administrative services.

[LD 1626](#) An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill implements the consensus recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. The purpose of the reconsideration and rewriting of the Maine Implementing Act is to establish that the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians enjoy the rights, privileges, powers, duties and immunities similar to those of other federally recognized Indian tribes within the United States. The full text of the report is available online at <http://legislature.maine.gov/maine-indian-claims-tf>.

[LD 1616](#) An Act To Ensure That Municipalities and Multimunicipal Regions of Every Size and Capacity Have Guidance on Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategies for Policy, Implementation and Investment Decision Support. (Sponsored by Rep. Blume of York)

This concept draft bill proposes to implement the recommendations of the Community Resilience Planning, Public Health, and Emergency Management Working Group of the Maine Climate Council, which provides municipalities and multi-municipal regions with guidance on climate adaptation and resilience strategies for policy, implementation and investment decision support. The bill seeks to: (1) require municipalities to incorporate climate vulnerability and resilience plans into their comprehensive plans or make separate climate vulnerability and resilience plans, to be updated at least every five years; (2) require the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to develop a guidance document to assist municipalities in their review to ensure that each element of a comprehensive plan or climate vulnerability and resilience plan considers climate adaptation and resilience planning when appropriate; (3) amend the laws governing planning and land use regulation to include the goal of planning for climate change adaptation and resilience; and (4) strengthen the ability of regional planning organizations to provide tools to municipalities and multi-municipal regions to develop climate adaptation and resilience strategies.

[LD 1610](#) An Act To Promote Equity in Policy Making by Enhancing the State's Ability To Collect, Analyze and Apply Data. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This concept draft bill would improve the state's ability to collect, centralize and use data to improve equity in state policy making.

[LD 1604](#) An Act to Reclassify Certain Offenses under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws and Motor Vehicle Laws and Increase the Efficiency of the Criminal Justice System. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell)

In part, this bill: (1) reduces from Class E crimes to civil violations the following infractions: (A) failure to register a vehicle or having a registration that has been expired for 150 days or more; (B) operating a motor vehicle on a public way or parking area without being licensed or in violation of a condition or restriction on the license; (C) failure to obtain a license after establishing residency for more than 90 days; (D) operating a vehicle not included in the

class of the person's license; (E) with regard to suspension of a license or registration, failure of the person to surrender to the Secretary of State every license, registration certificate and registration plate; (F) with regard to a motor vehicle that is abandoned, removal of the vehicle or any part or accessory thereof without written consent; (G) with regard to a motor vehicle illegally abandoned on an island, failure to remove the vehicle within the designated time frame; (H) displaying or possessing a revoked, mutilated, fictitious or fraudulently altered driver's license or identification card; (I) attaching or permitting attachment to a motor vehicle a registration plate assigned to another vehicle or not currently assigned to the vehicle; (J) obscuring identification numbers or letters, the state name, the validation sticker or a mark distinguishing the type of plate attached to the vehicle; and (K) operating or permitting another person to operate a motor vehicle when the registration has been suspended or revoked; (2) reduces from a Class D crime to a civil violation for which a fine of \$225 may be adjudged, operating a motor vehicle without proof of financial responsibility; and (3) changes the definition of "habitual offender" in the laws governing motor vehicles and traffic to exclude a person who accumulates within five years three or more convictions of operating while license suspended or revoked when the suspensions were for failure to pay a fine or a license reinstatement fee or for dishonored checks. The bill also amends the Maine Criminal Code under the provision governing civil violations to explicitly provide that evidence obtained pursuant to an unlawful search and seizure is not admissible in any civil violation proceeding, not just those arising from marijuana possession by a person under 21 years of age or possession of butyl nitrite or isobutyl nitrite, and permits a law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe that a violation of the law has taken place or is taking place to make application for a search warrant.

[LD 1587](#) An Act To Remove the Municipal Ordinance Exemption for the Development of Nonessential Transmission Lines. (Sponsored by Rep. Landry of Farmington) **DEAD**

This bill clarifies that the construction of a nonessential transmission line by an investor owned electricity transmission and distribution utility from a generation source located outside of the state is not eligible for a whole or partial exemption from a municipal ordinance.

[LD 1586](#) An Act To Strengthen Statewide Mental Health Peer Support, Crisis Intervention Mobile Response and Crisis Residential Services. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell)
Carried over on the Appropriations Table

This bill provides funding for mental health services in the state's eight public health districts. These services include peer support, crisis lines, crisis intervention mobile response and crisis stabilization unit services. The bill also provides funding for ancillary services for mobile response services, including necessary travel and telephone conferences with clients. The bill also provides funding for a public education campaign about the availability of mental health services and the means by which members of the public and law enforcement agencies may access those services. The bill also creates a framework whereby the E-9-1-1 system can dispatch using the crisis system in response to a mental health emergency.

[LD 1582](#) An Act To Enact the Maine Psilocybin Services Act. (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.)

This bill creates the Maine Psilocybin Services Act regulating the use, licensure, possession, manufacture, administration, tracking and testing of various species of mushrooms. The bill provides for state level licensing of four related psilocybin activities including: (1)

service center, where a client participates in a preparation, administration and integration session; (2) service facilitator; (3) manufacturing facility; and (4) testing facility. As part of the state licensing process, the applicant must present a land use compatibility statement from the municipality, demonstrating that the required licensed activity is allowable as a permitted or conditional use on that land. Municipal authority to regulate the industry is limited. While communities may adopt an ordinance that imposes reasonable regulations, municipalities may not require a local license, impose a tax or fee or prohibit more than one service center from operating within municipal boundaries, as long as the distance between centers is greater than 1,000 feet. Reasonable regulations are defined as: (1) conditions on the manner in which products are manufactured; (2) conditions on the manner in which centers provide services; (3) limits on the hours of operation; (4) requirements related to public's access; and (5) limits on where licensed premises may be located. Municipalities may prohibit the establishment and operation of a manufacturing facility, service center or both, provided the prohibition is adopted by the voters at statewide general election and the municipality provides the Department of Health and Human Services with a copy of the ordinance. In addition, service centers are prohibited from locating: (1) in unorganized territories; (2) in areas zoned exclusively for residential use; or (3) within 1,000 feet of a public or private elementary or secondary school unless there is a physical or geographic barrier preventing students from reaching the premises or the abutting property had not been previously used as an active school.

[LD 1581](#) An Act To Require Telecommunications Companies To Divulge Location Information to Law Enforcement When Necessary To Respond to a 9-1-1 Call or Locate a Person in Danger. (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill requires a provider of communications service, including any voice, satellite, data, fixed wireless data or video retail service, to provide upon the request of a law enforcement officer the location data from a wireless device used to place a 9-1-1 call requesting emergency assistance or reasonably believed to be in the possession of an individual in an emergency situation involving risk of death or serious physical harm to the individual. This bill also provides immunity from civil or administrative action by a governmental entity for providing location data required by this bill.

[LD 1579](#) An Act To Transition State and Local Motor Vehicle Fleets to 100 Percent Zero-emission Vehicles. (Sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc Cty.)

This bill establishes goals and timetables for the state, counties and municipalities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty motor vehicles, motor vehicles used for utility services, motor vehicles used for public transportation and motor vehicles used for public school transportation by 75% by 2035 and achieve 100% zero-emission fleets by 2040. The bill also directs the Governor's Energy Office to convene an interagency working group to develop a plan to achieve the transition to zero-emission fleets and sets out specific duties for that working group.

[LD 1569](#) Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Role of a Resource for the State of Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

This bill creates an excise tax of 5¢ per gallon on the extraction of groundwater or surface water commercially bottled for sale.

[LD 1568](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Evangelos of Friendship) **DEAD**

This bill implements the consensus recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. The purpose of the reconsideration and rewriting of the Maine Implementing Act is to establish that the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians enjoy the rights, privileges, powers, duties and immunities similar to those of other federally recognized Indian tribes within the United States. The full text of the report is available online at <http://legislature.maine.gov/maine-indian-claims-tf>.

[LD 1555](#) An Act To Fund Broadband Internet Infrastructure for Marginalized Groups in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

This bill appropriates \$15 million from the General Fund to the ConnectMaine Authority for the provision of broadband internet infrastructure to benefit marginalized groups. The authority is directed to consult with organizations representing marginalized groups, including historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal communities, individuals who were formerly incarcerated or are unhoused, individuals in substance use disorder recovery and low-income individuals, when making determinations regarding the distribution of these funds.

[LD 1552](#) An Act To Provide Reentry Services to Persons Reentering the Community after Incarceration. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill: (1) establishes the Community-based Reentry Services Account as a special non-lapsing account within the Department of Corrections to issue grants to community-based nonprofit and faith-based organizations that provide or seek to provide reentry services to adults or juveniles reentering the community after incarceration; and (2) requires the department to administer the account and fund it by applying for federal and grant funding, including through the federal Second Chance Act of 2007, or transferring other available funds.

[LD 1532](#) An Act To Protect Maine's Air Quality by Strengthening Requirements for Air Emissions Licensing. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland) **DEAD**

This bill repeals the provision that allows the Department of Environmental Protection to grant a variance from ambient air quality standards to a person who owns or is in control of specified sources for which an air emission license was granted. It repeals the provision that prohibits the commissioner from requiring a person to submit more than one copy of ambient monitoring data or meteorological data more frequently than quarterly. This bill also: (1) creates new hearing requirements for applications for air emission licenses or renewals; (2) creates new civil penalties for violations of air emission standards and requires any penalties recovered to be transferred to the municipality where the violation occurred; (3) prohibits the department from granting a license when certain requirements are not met; and (4) changes the term of an air emission license to three years, except when the term is specified in federal law as a fixed term.

[LD 1529](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Create a Right to Privacy. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine by creating a natural and inherent right to privacy in which a person's personal life and affairs are free from governmental

and private intrusion and not diminished by a person's interaction with an internet, communication or other electronic data service and that requires a warrant prior to government access of a person's electronic data and electronic communications.

[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.

As amended, the bill creates a permanent 12-member Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission, which includes representatives from the Departments of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Agriculture Conservation and Forestry and Transportation, the Attorney General's Office, an association of woodlot owners, a land trust organization, and members from organizations representing county and municipal governments. Additionally, the group includes a resident who owns property on a discontinued or abandoned road, an attorney with experience in boundary disputes, a member of a statewide organization representing all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile users, and one unaffected member of the public. The commission is tasked with examining and advising future Legislatures around the overlapping considerations regarding roads and easements while involving a broader group of stakeholders and state agencies to make recommendations for amendments to existing law. The duties entail examining: (1) property owner liability; (2) public easement retention over an abandoned and discontinued road, including scope of permitted and actual public use; (3) statutory terminology; and (4) current statutory processes for abandonment and discontinuation of a road, including, barriers to determining the legal status of a road. Members of the commission serve three-year terms and must meet at least three, but no more than six times each year. The commission is further directed to submit a report of its activities and any recommendations to the State and Local Government, Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committees on Feb. 1, 2023 and by Dec. 1 of every even-number years thereafter.

[LD 1509](#) An Act to Provide That Maine's School Bus Drivers Are Eligible for Unemployment Insurance. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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 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) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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.

[LD 1488](#) Resolve, To Study and Recommend Improvements to Maine's Dam Safety. (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 1482](#) An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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 1476](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development To Create and Share Measures of Progress. (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 1448](#) An Act To Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 517**

This bill amends Maine law to require zero metric tons of greenhouse gas emission as of Jan. 1, 2045.

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

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 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 1348](#) An Act To Limit the Decibel Level of Fireworks Near Working Farms. (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 135**

This bill directs the State Fire Marshal to convene a nine-member stakeholder group to review issues concerning the impacts of consumer fireworks use. The stakeholder group must: (1) review the decibel levels of fireworks sold in Maine, including how noise levels impact humans, pets, livestock and wildlife; (2) survey residents of Maine to identify concerns and negative experiences associated with the use of consumer fireworks; (3) review laws adopted in other jurisdictions; and (4) conduct an analysis of the methods and feasibility of implementing a notification system to alert owners of livestock of potential nearby fireworks prior to use. The stakeholder group must report its findings to the committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters by Jan. 15, 2023, which is authorized to report out legislation.

[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) **DEAD**

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.

At the request of the sponsor, the printed bill has been amended to allow municipalities to enact ordinances imposing fees on vacant residential property. The amended bill defines vacant as a property that is not occupied by a person and is eligible for the homestead exemption. The fees collected by municipalities must be used to increase the availability or improve the affordability of year-round housing.

[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) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 1307](#) An Act To Restrict the Sale, Purchase and Use of Fireworks in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 510**

This bill adds to the notice sellers must provide to individuals purchasing consumer fireworks a disclaimer regarding a municipality's ability to prohibit or restrict the use of fireworks and directs consumers to the Maine State Fire Marshal for more information. The bill also amends the existing definition of litter to include all waste material resulting from the use of consumer fireworks, as well as adds to the disorderly conduct law the loud and unreasonable noise resulting from the use of consumer fireworks.

[LD 1300](#) An Act To Require County Governments To Coordinate with Municipalities To Create Plans To Address Homelessness. (Sponsored by Rep. Supica of Bangor) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 1289](#) An Act To Cut Property Taxes for Maine Residential Homeowners. (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor) **DEAD**

In part, this bill increases the value of the homestead exemption to \$35,000 as of April 1, 2023 and to \$45,000 as of April 1, 2024 and subsequent years.

[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 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 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.

[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.

[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 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) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 1155](#) An Act To Require Election Transparency and Audits. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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 1114](#) An Act To Require the State To Meet the Mandatory 55 Percent Contribution to Schools. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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 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.) **DEAD**

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 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 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 1076](#) An Act To Support the Operations of Youth Shelters in Maine. (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Androscoggin Cty.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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 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.

[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.) **DEAD**

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 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) **DEAD**

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

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 910](#) An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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

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 895](#) An Act To Make Necessary Changes to State Law. (Sponsored by Rep. Dunphy of Old Town) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 492 (1/05/22)**

This bill implements the process of dividing Franklin County into five commissioner districts, as approved by the voters at the November 2021 election and effective on Nov. 5, 2024. The bill title is also amended to read "An Act Regarding the Apportionment of the Franklin County Commissioner Districts."

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

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 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) **DEAD**

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) **DEAD**

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 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 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 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 736](#) An Act To Enhance the Ecological Reserve System. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 516**

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 734](#) An act To Set a Minimum Wage for School Support Staff. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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

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

[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) **DEAD**

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

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 654](#) An act To Create a 24-hour Shelter Capital Project Funding Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Arford of Brunswick) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 647](#) An Act To Expand Eligibility for the Veterans' Property Tax Exemption. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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 616](#) An Act To Increase Accountability for Wage Violations. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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.

[LD 586](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing agriculture, conservation and forestry.

[LD 576](#) An Act To Increase Property Tax Relief for Veterans. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 555](#) An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland) **DEAD**

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 551](#) An Act To Accelerate Weatherization Efforts in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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 512](#) An Act To Increase the Number of Intensive Case Managers. (Sponsored by Rep. Dodge of Belfast) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 506](#) An Act To Reduce the Tax Burden on Low-income Electricity Customers. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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.)

As amended, this resolution proposes to send to the voters an amendment to the Constitution of Maine granting the people of the state a right to a clean and healthy environment and to the preservation of the natural, cultural and healthful qualities of the environment and requires the state to conserve, protect and maintain the natural resources, including, but not limited to, air, water, land and ecosystems for the benefit of all the people, including generations yet to come.

[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.

[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 473](#) An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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.) **DEAD**

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 468](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Labor and Housing. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing labor and housing.

[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)
DEAD

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 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 451](#) An Act To Remove the Party Designation from Return Envelopes for Absentee Ballots for the General Election. (Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield) **DEAD**

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 Teachers Unions to Negotiate. (Sponsored by Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 421](#) An Act To Increase the Number of Plants a Medical Marijuana Caregiver May Cultivate. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) **DEAD**

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 410](#) An Act To Provide Funding for the Reconstruction of Route 161 from Fort Kent to Caribou. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake) **DEAD**

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 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 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 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) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws regarding small wireless facilities in the state.

As amended, this bill allows for the adoption of municipal ordinances specific to the permitting of small wireless facilities. Ordinances may include, but are not limited to, standards that: 1) protect the visual character of ecological sensitive and scenic resources; 2) protect historic properties; 3) maintain aesthetics consistent with neighborhood characteristics; 4) establish required distance from residential structures; 5) establish height limitations for new small wireless facilities or multiple facilities located in the same area; and 6) establish maximum noise emissions. The amendment also permits a municipality to impose an application fee to cover the costs incurred in processing an application for a small wireless facility.

[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.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

As amended, this bill clarifies that an applicant for renewal of a license to sell beer, wine or spirits for on-premises consumption is not required to pay a license renewal fee if the license to be renewed expires during the year following the effective date of the bill.

[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 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) **Engrossed as Amended**

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 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 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) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 and requires the state to transfer to communities the increased revenue sharing within 30 days of the legislation's effective date. The amendment also includes a \$22 million appropriation from the General Fund.

[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 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 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.

[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.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 284](#) Resolve, To Study Maine's Motor Vehicle Inspection Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Cebra of Naples) **DEAD**

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 276](#) An Act To Improve and Update Maine's Tax Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham) **DEAD**

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) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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 245](#) An Act Regarding Rural Water Districts. (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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.

[LD 231](#) An Act To Establish Semi-open Primaries. (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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 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 211](#) An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness. (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

As amended, this bill includes an ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$3 million per year for the Shelter Operating Subsidy program within the Maine State Housing Authority to support operations at all emergency homeless shelters. The bill also directs housing authority to use the funding formula methodology for shelter operations in existing rules and submit by March 1, 2022 a report detailing the amount of funds disbursed from the program.

[LD 202](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Implement Ranked-choice Voting. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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 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) **DEAD**

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.) **DEAD**

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.

[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) **Carried over on the Appropriations Table**

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 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 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) **DEAD**

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 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) **DEAD**

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 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) **DEAD**

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 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.