

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

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

June 3, 2021

[LD 1733](#) An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 483**

This Act directs the investment of Maine's share of federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Of municipal interest the Act invests:

- \$44.5 million to accelerate weatherization and efficiency upgrades for homes in the state, especially for low-income, older residents and renters, by providing matching funds to municipal, county, school and community organizations to secure efficiency grants;
- \$5 million for a competitive grant program that matches local funding for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings;
- \$5 million for the treatment of drinking water, environmental testing and management of PFAS substances;
- \$50 million to expand affordable housing options and, in part, to provide planning and technical assistance for communities, developers and builders to encourage construction or production of affordable, energy-efficient housing units close to services and employment centers to support individuals, families and state workforce needs;
- \$21 million for the expansion of affordable high-speed broadband access in the state;
- \$8 million to expand state, municipal and other publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations and related infrastructure;
- \$20 million for municipal, regional and state infrastructure adaptation improvements that support public safety and emergency management and infrastructure resiliency;
- \$5 million to support initiatives and competitive grants for local, regional and state workforce transportation pilot projects aimed at connecting workers to employment opportunities;
- \$22 million for municipal wastewater and infrastructure projects;
- \$3 million for the Small Community Grant Program, which supports septic repair and replacement projects; and

- \$25 million to expand efforts to address imminent risk to public health through investment in public water system improvements, including mitigation of lead in drinking water at schools and daycare facilities.

The Act also reinstates Maine's elderly property tax deferral program, which authorizes the state to pay all or a portion of the property taxes owed by Maine residents meeting certain age, income, employment and asset standards. In exchange for paying the property taxes owed, the state retains a non-foreclosing lien on the property.

June 1, 2021

[LD 1731](#) An Act to Create the Belgrade Water District. (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Newman of Belgrade) **Emergency Enacted; P & SL 2021, c. 11 (6/21/21)**

If approved by the municipality's voters, this Act establishes the Belgrade Water District as a standard water district and directs the Department of Transportation to pay upfront costs to have the distribution system designed, installed and connected to the currently affected properties. Once construction is complete, the distribution system will be transferred to the municipality, and the municipality, through its established water district, will then be responsible for operation and maintenance of the system going forward.

May 27, 2021

[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.)

Carried Over

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

May 19, 2021

[LD 1723](#) An Act Regarding Winter Maintenance on Private Roads in the Town of Windham. (Sponsored by Rep. Bryant of Windham) **Emergency Enacted; P & SL 2021, c. 10 (6/17/21)**

This Act allows the Town of Windham to continue providing winter maintenance on certain private ways, regardless of the existence of a public easement, and authorizes the town to develop an ordinance to provide for the maintenance of a designated way. The town is further required to submit a report to the Committee on State and Local Government detailing the progress toward conforming the use of public funds for winter maintenance on private ways with constitutional and statutory requirements, including assessments from the town's police chief and fire-rescue chief on the connection between winter maintenance on certain private ways and public health and safety.

[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) **Carried over**

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 1718](#) An Act To Establish the Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel. (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Evans of Dover-Foxcroft) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 292 (6/21/21)**

This Act establishes the Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel, including a police chief, to review a subset of deaths caused by accidental drug overdoses and to recommend to state, county and local agencies methods of preventing deaths, including modification or enactment of laws, rules, policies and procedures.

May 18, 2021

[LD 1710](#) An Act To Require Prompt and Effective Use of Renewable Energy Resources of Northern Maine. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 380**

This Act establishes the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program to remove obstacles to the use of and to promote development of the substantial renewable energy resources in northern Maine. The Maine Public Utilities Commission is directed to seek a request for proposals for the development and construction of a 345-kilovolt double circuit generation connection line, or, in the commission's discretion, a transmission line or lines of greater capacity, to connect renewable energy resources located in northern Maine and developed with the electric grid operated by the New England independent system operator. The Act also authorizes the commission to approve and order contracts for the purchase, beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2024, of capacity, renewable energy or renewable energy credits, or any combination thereof, in an amount that is between 18% and 22% of the retail electric load in the state for the calendar year 2019.

May 17, 2021

[LD 1708](#) An Act To Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit Utility, To Deliver Lower Rates, Reliability and Local Control for Maine Energy Independence. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham) **DEAD**

This bill creates the Pine Tree Power Company, a privately operated, nonprofit, consumer-owned utility controlled by an elected board with the mission to provide affordable, reliable electric transmission and distribution services. The company will purchase or acquire all investor-owned electric utility facilities in the state based on fair market values determined by an arbitrated process. The company will contract nongovernmental operators and must retain all workers during acquisitions. The company shall not use general obligation bonds or tax dollars and will be financed by issuing debt against future revenues. Property of the company is exempt from taxation. The company will make payments in lieu of taxes in the same amount as those taxes would have been if the investor-owned utility had continued to own the facilities or utility property and timely payments in lieu of taxes on all facilities and property procured or improved after the company has commenced operations. The company is governed by a board of seven voting members, each elected to represent five senate districts, and advised by four expert

advisory members appointed by the board. Before the bill becomes effective it must be approved by the voters of the state at a statewide election.

May 13, 2021

[LD 1703](#) An Act To Amend the Bail Code. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)
Enacted; PL 2021, c. 397

This bill prohibits a bail commissioner or judicial officer from imposing a financial condition of release on a defendant whose most serious crime charged is a Class E crime except for certain crimes, including sexual assault, against a family or household member or a dating partner, and condition of release that is premised on an allegation of new criminal conduct. The bill clarifies that the bail commissioner fee is not a financial condition of release for the purposes of the prohibition on financial conditions of release for certain Class E crimes. The bill removes from the list of potential conditions of release for pre-conviction bail being required to submit to a random search for possession or use of alcohol or use of illegal drugs when use or possession is prohibited by a condition of release, unless the defendant is a participant in a specialty court docket or as agreed by the parties as a part of a deferred disposition. The bill also eliminates the condition that requires the defendant to report on a regular basis to the defendant's attorney. The bill requires a court when imposing a financial condition to find by clear and convincing evidence that the condition is not in excess of that necessary to ensure that the defendant does not willfully flee the jurisdiction and the defendant has the resources to pay within 24 hours. The court is required to state its findings on the record or in writing. The also bill revises the list of factors a judicial officer considers when setting pre-conviction bail to remove consideration of the defendant's family ties in the state, although it retains consideration of the defendant's ties to the state. Although the judicial officer is still required to consider the defendant's past conduct, the bill eliminates the consideration of any history of substance use disorder. Finally, the bill adds three new factors to be considered by the judicial officer whether the defendant: (1) is the person primarily responsible for the care of another person; (2) has a specific health care need, including a mental health care need, that is being met or would be better met outside of custody; and (3) being placed or remaining in custody would prevent the defendant from maintaining employment.

[LD 1702](#) An Act To Authorize General Fund Bond Issues To Improve Transportation.
(Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth) **PL 2021, c. 408**

This Act seeks voter approval (Question #2 on the Nov 2, 2021 ballot) of a \$100 million bond to be used to improve and construct roads, bridges, railroads, airports, transit and ports, which will generate \$253 million in federal and other matching funds.

May 12, 2021

[LD 1700](#) An Act To Provide Allocations for the Administration of State Fiscal Recovery Funds.
(Emergency) (Governor's bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 78 (5/25/21)**

This bill establishes the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Audit, Controller and Program Management program within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and provides for an allocation from the Federal Expenditures Fund – ARP State Fiscal Recovery

fund. Revenues must be used for all aspects of financial management oversight of funds from the ARP Act of 2021, including state discretionary and direct funds as well as the local pass-through funds. This bill also establishes the ARP Economic, Workforce and Innovation program within the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide one-time allocations from the Federal Expenditures Fund – ARP State Fiscal Recovery fund for preliminary program, metrics and assessment tool development for economic development, innovation and workforce programs.

[LD 1699](#) An Act To Establish the Southern Aroostook County Emergency Medical Services Authority. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; P & SL 2021, c. 12 (6/30/21)**

This Act creates the Southern Aroostook County Emergency Medical Services Authority to facilitate the provision of emergency medical services to the residents of the towns of Amity, Hammond, Hodgdon, Linneus, Littleton, Ludlow, Merrill, Monticello and Smyrna, and such other towns that elect to join the authority. The Act also describes the authority's duties, provides for an annual meeting, at which bylaws are adopted, and enables additional meetings to be scheduled either at the call of the chair or at the written request of four members.

[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.) **Carried over**

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 1697](#) An Act To Establish a Homeowner Assistance Fund Program and Provide for the Distribution of Funds. (Emergency) (Governor's bill) (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 77 (5/25/21)**

This bill establishes the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Homeowner Assistance Fund program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to receive and distribute funds received pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

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

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 1695](#) An Act To Improve Housing Security by Improving Access to General Assistance. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland) **DEAD**

This bill makes the following changes to the municipal general assistance program: (1) provides that a person receiving housing assistance that meets or exceeds the maximum level in a municipal ordinance is eligible for assistance for other basic necessities; (2) extends presumed eligibility for general assistance for a person who is experiencing or facing homelessness but is unable to be housed in an emergency shelter because the shelter is full or because the

municipality does not operate a shelter; (3) requires the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the costs of providing emergency shelter to a person eligible for general assistance residing in a homeless shelter or to the shelter directly, if a municipality does not reimburse the emergency shelter for general assistance costs; (4) requires a person who is receiving rental assistance under the general assistance program for more than 30 days to be prioritized for housing vouchers administered by the Maine State Housing Authority and requires the state to reimburse municipalities for 90% of the rental assistance provided.

May 10, 2021

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

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) **Carried over**

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.) **Carried over**

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 1690](#) Resolve, To Modify the Deed for a Parcel of Property in the Town of Carrabassett Valley. (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 43**

This resolve amends the deed transferring land from the state to Carrabassett Valley to remove the prohibition against using the land for a commercial purpose.

[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.) **Carried over**

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.

May 6, 2021

[LD 1682](#) An Act To Require Consideration of Climate Impacts by the Public Utilities Commission and To Incorporate Equity Considerations in decision Making by State Agencies. (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 279**

This bill adds to the purposes of the Public Utilities Commission the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the mitigation of disproportionate energy burdens on environmental justice populations, frontline communities and utility customers who are underserved by utility or electricity policies, programs and systems due to geography, race, income or other socioeconomic factors. It also requires the commission, in its execution of its duties, powers and regulatory functions to aid in the facilitation of the achievement of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals in state law and to prioritize proceedings and activities, when possible, that advance decarbonization in the utility sector and mitigate disproportionate energy burdens and other inequities of affordability and environmental justice experienced by utility customers while ensuring system reliability and resource adequacy.

May 5, 2021

[LD 1677](#) An Act To Support Frontline Workers by Adding a Temporary Tax Bracket Affecting High Earners. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford) **DEAD**

This bill requires the Department of Labor to create the Frontline Worker Support Program to provide grants to frontline workers, who are those workers who conduct an operation, service or function that is essential to ensuring the continuity of critical functions, including, without limitation, health care workers, firefighters, law enforcement officers,

corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, United States Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers and persons who work in the educational sector, such as teachers, support staff or child care workers. The grants, disbursed by the Treasurer of State based on the eligibility criteria developed by the Department of Labor, are funded by a temporary, two-year surcharge of 3% on annual Maine adjusted gross income in excess of \$200,000 for single filers, \$350,000 for heads of 20 households and \$500,000 for joint filers.

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

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 1670](#) Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study and Recommend Solutions for Modernizing the Maine Legislature. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham) **DEAD**

This resolve establishes the Commission To Study and Recommend Solutions for Modernizing the Maine Legislature, which is required to submit its report to the Committee on State and Local Government no later than Nov. 2, 2022.

[LD 1669](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Limit the action the Legislature May Take on Initiatives Approved by Voters for a Period of 3 Years. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham) **DEAD**

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to provide that any measure approved by vote of the people may be repealed by the Legislature within three years of its effective date only by a vote of 3/4 of all the members elected to each chamber and may be changed by the Legislature within three years of its effective date only by a vote of 2/3 of all the members elected to each chamber. A change made by the Legislature to a measure approved by vote of the people within three years of its effective date may not frustrate the purpose of that measure.

[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) **Carried over**

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 1662](#) An Act To Update Maine's Sales Prohibition on Upholstered Furniture Treated with Flame-retardant Chemicals. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 221**

This bill amends the law restricting the sale of residential upholstered furniture treated with flame-retardant chemicals to align Maine's requirements with standards enacted in California. The bill also specifies that the Department of Environmental Protection is authorized, rather than required, to adopt rules to implement the section of law governing residential upholstered furniture.

[LD 1659](#) An Act To Create the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator. (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville) **PL 2021, c. 358**

This Act creates the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator, administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust, to support the development of clean energy and sustainability projects and infrastructure through providing financing support, including loans, loan guarantees and other financial and risk mitigation products.

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

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**

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) **Carried over**

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.) **Carried over**

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 1642](#) An Act Regarding Local Option Elections. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 137 (6/10/21)**

This Act provides that if a municipality conducted a local option election prior to Jan. 1, 1977 approving the issuance of licenses for the sale of liquor for on-premises consumption at any type of licensed establishment, the election results are deemed to be evidence that the municipality approved the issuance of licenses for the sale of liquor for on-premises consumption by all types of licensed establishments unless the municipality voted to prohibit the issuance of licenses for the sale of liquor for on-premises consumption in a subsequent local option election.

[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.) **Carried over**

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

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.) **Carried over**

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.

April 28, 2021

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

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 1633](#) An Act To Require Responsible Contracting Practices for Public Construction Projects. (Sponsored by Rep. Collins of Portland) **DEAD**

This bill establishes responsible contractor requirements for construction projects that receive state funds for the purpose of ensuring that the work on these contracts is performed by responsible, qualified contractors that maintain the capacity, expertise, personnel and other qualifications and resources necessary to successfully perform public contracts in a timely, reliable and cost-effective manner. The bill subjects potential contractors to a certification process to be administered by state's Bureau of General Services. In addition, for large-scale construction projects that receive state funds of \$10 million or more, the state is directed to use project labor agreements, which requires a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor unions that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project.

April 27, 2021

[LD 1631](#) An Act to Amend the Laws Banning Polystyrene Foam Regarding Packaging for Meat, Poultry, Fish, Seafood and Eggs. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 208 (6/15/21)**

Current law prohibits the processing, preparation, sale or provision of food or beverages by certain establishments in or on a polystyrene foam disposable food service container. This bill, which is emergency legislation, amends the definition of "disposable food service container" under that law to exclude service ware used to contain, transport or otherwise package raw, uncooked or butchered meat, poultry, fish, seafood or eggs.

[LD 1627](#) An Act To Enhance Behavioral Health Services To Better Protect Maine Residents. (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 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) **Carried over**

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 1625](#) An Act To Increase the Number of Lincolnville Sewer District Trustees from 3 to 5. (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville) **Enacted; P & SL 2021, c. 9**

This bill increases the number of trustees of the Lincolnville Sewer District from three to five. Two of the new members are alternates who may vote only when a quorum is not established.

[LD 1623](#) An Act To Require That Motor Vehicles Be Clear of Snow and Ice When Operated on Public Ways. (Sponsored by Rep. White of Mars Hill) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle on a public way without clearing the vehicle of solid precipitation. Operating a motor vehicle under such circumstances is a traffic infraction subject to a \$250 fine for a first offense and \$500 for a second or subsequent offense. The prohibition does not apply to commercial vehicles until May 1, 2026.

[LD 1620](#) An Act To Support Maine Theaters by Expanding Eligibility for Off-premises Catering Licenses. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.) (Emergency) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 76 (5/25/21)**

This emergency bill authorizes auditoriums, civic centers and performing arts centers licensed to sell spirits, wine and malt liquor to apply for an additional license to conduct off premises catering of spirits, wine and malt liquor at planned events or gatherings.

[LD 1619](#) An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Power Development in Territorial Waters and Submerged Lands of the State. (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 407 (7/06/21)**

With some exceptions, this Act prohibits the development of offshore wind power projects in state-owned submerged lands or territorial waters. One of the exceptions in the Act provides that the licensing, permitting or approval by a state agency, municipality or other political subdivision of the state of the siting, construction or operation of or the issuance of a lease or the grant of an easement or other real property interest for utility cables or transmission lines that are intended to support the generation of wind energy located seaward of territorial waters is prohibited unless, by March 1, 2023, the Governor's Energy Office has: (1) developed a strategic plan to inform the development of offshore wind power projects; (2) reviewed the ability of state laws and rules to protect Maine's coastal resources from the development of offshore wind energy generation located seaward of the territorial waters; and (3) with input of the advisory board of the Offshore Wind Research Consortium, which is established by this legislation to coordinate, support and arrange for the conduct of research on offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine, has identified the preliminary research questions the consortium seeks to answer regarding the development of offshore wind power projects. The Act also requires the office to submit a report notifying the Committee on Energy, Utility and Technology of the completion of these requirements. Lastly, the Act directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection each to submit by Feb. 1, 2022 legislation necessary to align those provisions of law under their respective jurisdictions with the prohibition on offshore wind power projects.

[LD 1618](#) Resolve, To Place a Temporary Moratorium on the Approval of Any New Motor Vehicle Registration Plates and Initiate a Registration Plate Working Group. (Sponsored by Sen. Diamond of Cumberland Cty.) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 108 (7/14/21)**

This Resolve places a two-year moratorium on the approval of new motor vehicle registration plates and creates a related working group. The 10-member working group, including a member representing municipalities or another political subdivision engaged in the registration of motor vehicles, is directed to: (1) identify and document the roles and functions of the state's registration plates; (2) explore and document challenges in the registration plate manufacturing process, and the storing and securing of registration plate inventories in municipalities and in branch offices of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles; (3) examine the benefits,

detriments and legal issues arising from specialty registration plates; competing interests with specialty registration plates; and standards and systems developed by national and industry experts; and (4) explore ways in which the state can adopt such standards and systems. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is required to submit a report to the Committee on Transportation by Feb. 1, 2022, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[LD 1617](#) An Act To Amend the Victim Services Laws To Define “Restorative Justice.” (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 355**

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the Maine Juvenile Criminal Codes to incorporate the principles and values of restorative justice. Restorative justice is a mechanism to address crime, disputes and community conflict through one or more meetings that are facilitated by one or more trained and impartial individuals and that include the victim, offender and representatives of the community. A central focus of restorative justice is identifying the harm caused by the offender, attempting to make amends and promoting reintegration while emphasizing the importance of community partnership and engagement.

[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) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

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

[LD 1607](#) An Act To Criminalize Calls Made to Emergency Services Based on Racial Profiling. (Sponsored by Rep. Tepler of Topsham) **DEAD**

This bill adds to the crime of false public alarm or report knowingly giving or causing to be given false race-based profiling information about another person to a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or a public safety answering points and defines "race-based profiling" as

taking an action or causing an action to happen against another person because of the race, color, ancestry or national origin of the other person.

[LD 1605](#) An Act To License Ambulance Drivers who Are Not Licensed To Provide Emergency Medical Services. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington) **PL 2021, c. 220**

This Act directs the Medical Services Board to adopt rules governing qualifications and licensing requirements for and standards to be observed by emergency medical services ground ambulance operators, who are defined as operators of ambulances in emergency mode or patient transport who are not licensed as emergency medical persons.

[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) **Carried over**

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 1603](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Committee To Study the Feasibility of Creating Basic Income Security. (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 405**

This bill implements recommendations of the Committee to Study the Feasibility of Creating Basic Income Security, which includes the establishment of a permanent committee

within the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to examine current safety net and work support programs to: improve the adequacy of safety net and work support programs; better coordinate these programs to simplify access and improve efficiency; change policy and process to reduce benefit cliffs and negative interactions between existing programs; improve access to safety net and work support programs for historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal populations with the goal of reducing racial and economic disparities in the state; and make eligibility requirements for safety net and work support programs clear and understandable for members of the public. The bill also reestablishes the committee to continue the work of the previous study committee.

[LD 1602](#) An Act Regarding Criminal Records. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

DEAD

This concept draft bill proposes to change the laws regarding criminal records.

[LD 1600](#) An Act To Investigate Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Contamination of Land and Groundwater. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) **PL 2021, c. 478**

This Act creates the Land Application Contaminant Monitoring Fund to test and monitor soil and groundwater for PFAS and other contaminants and to abate and mitigate the effects of contamination, including but not limited to, the provision of access to safe drinking water and installation of filter treatment systems. In addition to other fees or charges required by statute or rule, beginning Jan. 15, 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection shall assess an annual fee, calculated on a calendar year basis of \$10 per ton, on the handling of sludge or septage to be deposited into the fund.

[LD 1599](#) An Act to Establish A Maine Pesticide Sales and Use Registry. (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono) **DEAD**

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to create a publicly accessible online registry of pesticide dealers and applicators reporting pesticides sold, distributed or applied in the state, including the quantity, location and purpose of the use of pesticides in indoor and outdoor applications. This bill also requires the Board of Pesticides Control to report annually to the Legislature on the developments and progress made in carrying out the state policy of minimizing the use of pesticides.

[LD 1598](#) An Act To Eliminate Taxpayer Subsidies for Discriminatory Employers. (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham) **DEAD**

This bill provides that a person who has violated a provision of state or federal employment regulation, including the Maine Human Rights Act, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 and U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 60 months prior to filing is ineligible to receive reimbursement from state funded programs, including the Business Equipment Tax Exemption and Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement programs.

[LD 1595](#) An Act To Address Waste Associated with Solar Energy Equipment. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Connor of Berwick) **DEAD**

This bill implements a solar panel waste stewardship program by amending the Maine Solar Energy Act to provide for the prevention or minimization of the potential damage from solar panel deterioration and a tracking system for solar panels.

[LD 1594](#) An Act To Suspend the Collection of the Container Fee for Hand Sanitizer and Sanitizing Wipes during the COVID-19 Pandemic. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Tepler of Topsham) **DEAD**

This bill suspends the 15¢ container fee on the sale of hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes for the duration of the state of emergency declared as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[LD 1593](#) An Act To Provide Pathways to Rehabilitation, Reentry and Reintegration. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **PL 2021, c. 376**

This Act directs the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections to adopt rules establishing criteria and a process for determining eligibility under the supervised community confinement program, as well as to streamline the eligibility process for an incarcerated individual who has a terminal or severely incapacitating medical condition if care outside a correctional facility is medically appropriate. The Act also requires the department to provide information about the program to inmates and to track data on inmates who apply, including demographic data regarding race and ethnicity, gender, age and convictions leading to the inmate's current incarceration.

[LD 1591](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry To Identify Places with Offensive Names and Methods of Changing Those Names. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 98**

This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to form a working group to identify names of places that are in violation of related statutes (Title 1, chapter 27) in an effort to determine the most effective method for changing names that have negative historical connotations and report findings, including any suggested legislation, to the Committee on Judiciary by Dec. 1, 2021.

[LD 1590](#) An Act To Define Commercial and Noncommercial Purveyors of Accommodations for Short-term Rental. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland) **DEAD**

This bill defines terms to be used by municipalities when enacting ordinances regarding or regulating short-term rentals of living quarters offered through a transient rental platform, including definitions for "commercial short-term rental purveyor," "noncommercial short-term rental purveyor," "owner of a short-term rental unit" and "short-term rental unit." This bill requires these definitions to be made publicly available on the state's website and on the Maine State Housing Authority's website and to be sent electronically to all municipalities.

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

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**

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 1585](#) An Act To Increase Privacy and Security by Regulating the Use of Facial Surveillance Systems by Departments, Public Employees and Public Officials. (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) **PL 2021, c. 394**

This Act provides a structure for requests from state, county and municipal government agencies, public employees and public officials for facial surveillance searches, allows uses of the results of facial surveillance searches and specifies the manner in which requests for searches must be made to the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police. The two bureaus are further directed to maintain de-identified records of requested and performed searches and designates those records as accessible to the public. The Act also clarifies that facial surveillance data does not, without other evidence, establish probable cause justifying arrest, search or seizure. The Act delays implementation of the measure to Oct. 1, 2021.

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

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.) **Carried over**

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.) **Carried over**

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 1578](#) An Act To Permit Remote Access for Public Proceedings. (Sponsored by Sen. Sanborn of Cumberland Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill establishes in law the authorization for the Legislature and boards, commissions, agencies and authorities of municipalities to conduct public proceedings remotely.

[LD 1575](#) An Act To Improve Maine's Election Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell) **PL 2021, c. 246**

This Act amends the election laws by: (1) allowing an individual who is registering to vote to verify the individual's identity with a student photographic identification that is issued by a state-approved public or private school or by a duly authorized institution of higher learning that is located and operates in Maine; (2) directing the Secretary of State to prepare instructions describing the reasons a voter may request and receive an absentee ballot after the period for no-excuse absentee voting has ended and requires municipalities to include these instructions on a sign posted at the municipal office and on any website, social media page or other media that the municipality uses to communicate election information; (3) requiring the municipal clerk to include in the voting place report the location of each secured drop box and the times for in-person absentee voting in the municipality; (4) authorizing the secretary to adopt rules governing pollwatchers, additional party workers and others present in the polling place; and (5) clarifying that absentee ballots may not be counted until after: (a) the polls have closed on election day; (b) all election day ballots have been cast; and (c) all absentee ballots have been processed.

[LD 1572](#) Resolve, To Analyze the Impact of Sea Level Rise. (Governor’s Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Blume of York) **Resolves 2021, c. 67**

This Resolve directs several state agencies to conduct a review of the laws and rules they are charged with administering and by Jan. 1, 2022, recommend to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources any changes necessary to: (1) incorporate consideration of 1.5 feet of relative sea level rise by 2050 and four feet by 2100 into administration of those laws and rules; and (2) implement the strategy designated as “Strategy F3” in the state climate action plan issued by the Maine Climate Council in 2020 to enhance community resilience to flooding and other climate impacts. The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[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**

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) **Carried over**

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 1567](#) An act To Equitably Fund Maine’s Climate Change Mitigation Efforts. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland) **DEAD**

This bill establishes the Maine Climate Change Equitable Mitigation Fund, a non-lapsing, revolving fund administered by the Department of Environmental Protection to carry out the purposes of the climate action plan. The fund is capitalized through fees collected on crude oil and certain petroleum products, including home heating oils and gasoline transferred within the state. The use of the money in the fund is subject to various restrictions, and money in the fund may be disbursed only for the cost of fund administration, grants awarded to municipalities or counties for climate change assessments and risk mitigation, loans or grants awarded to community action agencies to supplement existing Efficiency Maine Trust programs for low-income individuals and families and associated administrative expenses, transfers to the Department of Transportation for climate-related programs and projects and transfers to the Efficiency Maine Trust for programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

[LD 1562](#) An Act To Strengthen the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority. (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill: (1) establishes the State Passenger Rail Fund; (2) transfers all funds from the automobile and truck rental sales tax in the Multimodal Transportation Fund to the fund; and (3) directs the Department of Transportation to conduct a review of existing laws relevant to state

rail assets and submit a report to the Transportation Committee no later than Jan. 1, 2022 identifying any legislation necessary to facilitate the transfer of rail assets to the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority. The bill also directs the authority to examine options for issuing bonds necessary to carry out its responsibilities and report its findings to the committee no later than Jan. 1, 2022.

April 22, 2021

[LD 1560](#) Resolve, Authorizing the State To Convey to the Passamaquoddy Tribe the State's Interest in a Certain Parcel of Land in the Town of Meddybemps. (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 31**

This resolve authorizes the state to convey to the Passamaquoddy Tribe a certain parcel of land located on the northern side of Route 191 in Meddybemps, which is a portion of a site known as the Eastern Surplus Company Superfund. The resolve allows the Passamaquoddy Tribe to take ownership of the land without assuming liability for historical contamination that the tribe did not cause and permits continued access to the land by the state and the United States to address remaining and future contamination at this or nearby lands.

[LD 1556](#) Resolve, To Create the Commission To Study and Recommend a Financing Model To Increase Capital Investment in Renewable Energy, Clean Energy Technology, Energy Efficiency Projects and Jobs in Maine. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Carney of Cumberland Cty.)

DEAD

This resolve establishes the Commission To Study and Recommend a Financing Model To Increase Capital Investment in Renewable Energy, Clean Energy Technology, Energy Efficiency Projects and Jobs in Maine. The commission is required to conduct an analysis of the unmet need for capital and to examine and recommend financing models to increase capital investment in renewable energy, clean energy technology, energy efficiency projects and jobs in Maine, including recommending an organizational entity that can support the financing model. The commission is required to submit a report, including suggested legislation, by Dec. 1, 2021 for presentation to the Legislature in 2022.

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

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) **Carried over**

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 1547](#) An Act To Promote Intergovernmental Coordination Regarding Age-friendly State Initiatives. (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond) **DEAD**

This bill establishes the Age-friendly State Steering Committee to promote intergovernmental coordination to improve opportunities for and access to social engagement, communication and information, employment, financial security, health care and health coverage, housing, recreation and transportation for older residents of the state.

[LD 1545](#) An Act Regarding Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Reductions Associated with Significant Development Projects. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond) **DEAD**

This bill, in part, requires the Department of Environmental Protection to provisionally adopt major substantive rules that: (1) identify the types of development under the site location of development laws that would require a developer to submit a report to the department if the proposed development would result in greenhouse gas emissions; (2) specify measures a developer must take in order to minimize greenhouse gas emissions; (3) consider additional standards that are necessary for developments that result in greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals; and (4) specify how the department will evaluate proposed developments in which the developer states the project will result in greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

[LD 1544](#) An Act Regarding Credit and Debit Card Merchant Fees. (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **DEAD**

This bill excludes state and local taxes and fees from the amount on which an interchange fee is charged for an electronic payment transaction.

[LD 1542](#) An Act To Repeal and Replace the Kittery Water District Charter. (Sponsored by Rep. Mathieson of Kittery) **Emergency Enacted; P & SL 2021, c. 2 (6/08/21)**

This bill repeals and replaces the Kittery Water District charter, changing the boundaries of the district and making it a standard water district pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, chapter 64.

[LD 1541](#) An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth) **PL 2021, c. 455**

This Act creates a stewardship program for packaging material to be operated by an organization selected by the Department of Environmental Protection or by an “alternative collection program” operated by an individual producer or a group of producers that is approved by the department. The purpose of the program is to assess and collect payments from producers based on either the weight or volume of packaging materials sold, offered for sale or distributed for sale in Maine by each producer and to reimburse participating municipalities for certain recycling and waste management costs. A municipality electing to participate in the program must: (1) provide for the collection and recycling of packing material that is generated in the municipality and is readily recyclable; and (2) annually report to the stewardship organization all of the information necessary to determine the incurred costs associated with the collection, processing, transportation and recycling of the material. Reimbursement to an eligible

municipality is based on the median per-ton cost of managing packaging material. The Act further directs the department to adopt the rules necessary to implement the program.

[LD 1540](#) An Act To Reduce Hunger and Use Food Scraps in Farming and Energy Production. (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville) **DEAD**

This bill sets goals for the reduction of the disposal of food scraps and for food rescue, which is collecting edible food that would otherwise become solid waste and distributing the food to a hunger relief organization, food bank or pantry or other recipient to be used for human consumption. The bill sets priorities for the management of food scraps, with reduction at the point of generation being the first priority, then diversion for food consumption by humans, then diversion for agricultural use, including for consumption by animals, then subjecting the food scraps to composting or anaerobic digestion with subsequent soil application and finally subjecting the food scraps to anaerobic digestion not followed by soil application. Requirements are placed on producers of food scraps to separate the food scraps from other solid waste at the point of generation, with these requirements phased in over a five-year period, beginning with the larger producers of food scraps. Commercial entities engaged in the transportation of municipal solid waste are required to collect food scraps from customers except for customers in municipalities with solid waste management ordinances that cover the collection of food scraps and that are consistent with the state's food recovery policy. The bill requires clearly marked food scraps containers to be placed next to any solid waste containers provided in public buildings and on public land.

[LD 1536](#) An Act Regarding Municipal Public Hearings on Citizen-initiated Municipal Referenda. (Sponsored by Rep. Bradstreet of Vassalboro) **PL 2021, c. 185**

This Act requires that the public hearing held by municipal officers on an article initiated by written petition include a discussion on the merits of the proposal for which the referendum was initiated.

April 20, 2021

[LD 1534](#) An Act To Preserve and Protect the State's Rail Corridors. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) **DEAD**

This bill directs the Department of Transportation to preserve and protect the rail corridors of the state for future railroad use and maintain all rail corridors in a condition that allows for their resuming railroad service. The bill prohibits a rail corridor from being converted into or operated as a trail, used as a pathway or space for walking or biking, used for any other form of non-motorized travel or recreation or used as a bus line without first being evaluated for passenger railroad service.

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

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 1530](#) An Act To Allow People To Live in Tiny Homes as a Primary or Accessory Dwelling. (Sponsored by Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield) **PL 2021, c. 219**

This Act requires municipalities to allow a tiny home to be placed on an individual house lot where single-family dwellings are allowed or as an accessory structure, provided the home is in compliance with all applicable land use requirements.

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

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 1525](#) An Act To Exempt from Sales Tax Plastic Bags Required by a Municipal Solid Waste Management Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuttle of Sanford) **DEAD**

This bill exempts from sales tax certain plastic bags that a municipality or other political subdivision of the state requires for the storage or disposal of solid waste in accordance with a solid waste management program adopted by the municipality or other political subdivision of the state.

[LD 1522](#) An Act To Update and Eliminate References in Statute to Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor. (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) **PL 2021, c. 275**

This Act replaces in Maine statutes the term “board of selectmen” with “select board;” “overseer of the poor” with “board of overseers;” and in most instances, “a selectman” with “member of the select board.”

[LD 1521](#) An Act To Strengthen Protections against Civil Asset Forfeiture. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 454**

This bill requires that, for property to be forfeited under the criminal forfeiture laws, the owner of the property be convicted of a crime in which the property was involved, and it prohibits a law enforcement agency or other entity from entering into an agreement to transfer or refer the property seized to a federal agency. This bill also requires that the records of forfeited property be posted by the Department of Public Safety on a publicly accessible website.

[LD 1520](#) An Act To Terminate the Augusta Downtown Parking District. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) **Enacted; P & SL 2021, c. 5**

This bill repeals the Augusta Parking District charter.

[LD 1519](#) An Act To Increase Workplace Transparency with Regard to Arbitration Agreements, the Rights of Employees and Legal Remedies. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.)

DEAD

This bill enacts the Maine Workplace Transparency Act that ensures certain rights for employees subject to arbitration agreements as part of their employment. The bill provides a list of unconscionable terms in an arbitration agreement that may not be used against employees and a list of rights for employees in their conduct in and out of the workplace. The bill provides the right to bring an action to dispute an unconscionable term or to enforce a right, including the issuance of a temporary restraining order or a preliminary or permanent injunction. The limitation period is six years, the burden of proof is by a preponderance of evidence and an employee may request a jury trial. A violation of the provisions is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 enforceable by the Department of Labor, and a violation of a court order for a temporary restraining order or a preliminary or permanent injunction is a Class D crime. The prevailing party in an action, except for the state, is entitled to receive attorney's fees and costs, and the state is liable for attorney's fees and costs in the same manner as a private party.

[LD 1517](#) An Act To Establish the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute. (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 450**

This bill establishes the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute and creates an 18-member steering committee, which includes a member employed in the public sector and one from the Maine Municipal Association, to advise the Legislature on matters related to workforce training, research and development, student debt and economic advancement in Maine. Committee members serve a term of two years and are required to meet at least four times annually.

[LD 1516](#) An Act To Amend the Property Tax Exemption for Persons Who Are Legally Blind. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill amends the property tax exemption available to a resident of the state who is legally blind to exempt 10% of the just value of residential real estate owned by the resident from the property tax.

April 15, 2021

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

DEAD

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

[LD 1514](#) Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Impact of Various Types of Taxes on Various Populations in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) **DEAD**

This bill establishes a one-time 0.5% tax on financial assets, including cash and cash equivalents, securities and other financial instruments, with a fair market value in excess of \$5 million. The State Tax Assessor is directed to: (1) determine the amount of tax due; (2) enforce

the collection of the tax; (3) adopt routine technical rules necessary to administer and enforce the tax; and (4) transfer 50% of the receipts to the Local Government Fund and 50% to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund.

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

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

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

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

[LD 1507](#) An Act To Establish a Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program and Allocation. (Emergency) (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 45 (5/05/21)**

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

[LD 1505](#) An Act To Restrict the Use of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Firefighting Foam. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) **PL 2021, c. 449**

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2022, this Act prohibits a person from discharging for testing or training purposes fire-suppressing foam that intentionally contains PFAS, unless the foam is entirely collected for proper disposal. The Act also clarifies that the discharge of PFAS is not prohibited when fire-suppressing foams are used in an emergency situation to protect life or property. The Act also prohibits a person from manufacturing, selling, or offering for sale in the state fire-suppression foams to which PFAS has been intentionally added, except: (1) until Jan. 1, 2025 foam that is used at an oil terminal facility; or (2) until federal law no longer requires the use of fire-suppressing foam at airports. Finally, in collaboration with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency and interested parties, the Department of Environmental Protection shall develop a framework for the collection and safe storage of firefighting and fire-suppressing foams to which PFAS substances have been intentionally added. On or before March 1, 2022, the department shall submit a report that includes the proposed framework and recommendations to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

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

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

[LD 1503](#) An Act To Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 477 (7/15/21)**

Beginning in 2023, this Act requires manufacturers of products with intentionally added PFAS to report the presence of those substances to the Department of Environmental Protection and further prohibits the sale in Maine of residential carpets or rugs, as well as the sale of fabric treatments, that contain intentionally added PFAS. The department is further authorized to add other products to the list of prohibited sales. Effective in 2030, products containing intentionally added PFAS may not be sold in Maine unless the department specifies that the use of PFAS in a particular product is unavoidable. To the extent funds are available, the department is required to create a PFAS source reduction program that provides information, education and grants to publicly owned treatment works and municipalities to reduce PFAS entering air, water or land.

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

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

April 14, 2021

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

This concept draft bill would enact the Seizure and Forfeiture Reporting Act, which is model legislation to provide state lawmakers with the information necessary for basic oversight of law enforcement agencies that seize and forfeit property under state and federal laws. Entities subject to legislative oversight include police force, multijurisdictional task force, prosecuting authority, fire department, or other municipal, county or state agency that (a) has

authority under state law or (b) collaborates with a federal agency under federal law to seize or forfeit property. The model envisioned in the bill includes the creation of a Centralized Reporting Authority directed to establish and maintain a case tracking system and searchable public website that includes the 24 data points (e.g., date and estimated value of seizure, location of seizures, method and date of final forfeiture and property disposition, etc.) regarding the property seized and forfeited under state law and any agreement with the federal government.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1484](#) An Act To Establish the Maine Connectivity Authority. (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 364 (6/24/21)**

This Act establishes the Connectivity Infrastructure Act, which sets forth broadband connectivity goals and establishes the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) to further those goals through the development and financing of connectivity projects. The activities of the authority are governed by seven voting members, one of whom represents Maine communities,

and four ex officio voting members. The Act also directs the MCA, in consultation with the ConnectMaine Authority, to review the provisions of the Maine statutes pertaining to each entity and develop recommendations for any necessary changes to those provisions to facilitate the oversight of the ConnectMaine Authority by the MCA and any other recommendations. The MCA is further directed to submit recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology on or before Jan. 15, 2022, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

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

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

[LD 1480](#) An Act Regarding the Review of Law Enforcement Use of Deadly Force. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **PL 2021, c. 353**

This Act requires the Attorney General (AG) to complete an investigation of and submit findings regarding the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer to the Attorney General's Deadly Force Review Panel within 180 days of receiving notice of the use of deadly force. The AG is required to provide notice to the panel if the investigation is not completed within 180 days and provide a summary of the investigation up to the date of the notice, identify the reason for the delay and provide an anticipated conclusion date of the process, which may not exceed 270 days from receiving notice of the use of deadly force. The Act also amends the Intelligence and Investigative Record Information Act to make it clear that the Act does not preclude the public dissemination of a portion of a video in the custody of the AG depicting the use of deadly force by law enforcement when the public interest in the evaluation of the use of deadly force and the review and investigation of those incidents by the AG outweighs the harms contemplated by state statutes. The Act also requires the AG to issue a decision on whether to release a video no later than 30 days after receiving a request for release and to provide written notice detailing the basis for any denial, a time frame for release of all or part of the video and the process to appeal the decision.

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

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

[LD 1478](#) An Act To Require the Use of Homelessness Crisis Protocols by Law Enforcement Agencies. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland) **PL 2021, c. 393**

This Act directs the Attorney General to develop a model homelessness crisis protocol for adoption by law enforcement agencies to be implemented when an officer interacts with a homeless individual engaging in a “listed offense,” which includes trespass, disorderly or indecent conduct, public drinking or possession of a scheduled drug. The Act further requires a homelessness crisis protocol to include the process by which crisis services, mental health and substance use disorder professionals, emergency and transitional housing and case management services are accessed.

[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**

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

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

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

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

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

April 12, 2021

[LD 1468](#) An Act To Support All-terrain Vehicle Trail Improvement. (Sponsored by Rep. Stearns of Guilford) **PL 2021, c. 446**

This Act provides that 90% of the state tax revenue generated on the rental of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) must be transferred to the ATV Recreational Management Fund and 10% transferred to the Multimodal Transportation Fund.

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

Carried over

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

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

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

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

This bill requires the Department of Labor to develop a safety and education training program for employers, supervisors and employees addressing heat illness prevention and requires the department to make the training available on a publicly accessible website by Dec. 31, 2021. The bill also requires: (1) the department to adopt rules for the implementation of the heat illness prevention training program; (2) an employer who requires an employee to work in a high-heat environment for more than 15 minutes for every hour of the work day to provide annual heat illness prevention training, make the training and all relevant materials available to an employee or supervisor upon request, and provide the training to any new employee working in a high-heat environment and to a supervisor before the supervisor may supervise an employee working in a high-heat environment; and (3) an employer to take the following heat illness prevention measures: (A) provide readily accessible drinking water to an employee working in a high-heat environment; (B) remove an employee exhibiting mild to moderate signs or symptoms

of heat illness to a cooling area for 15 minutes and, if the signs or symptoms do not abate, seek medical attention or administer first aid; (C) if the temperature is 80 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, maintain one or more cooling areas sufficient to enable employees to participate in recovery periods; (D) if the temperature is 90 degrees or greater, ensure that an employee working in a high-heat environment is able to easily communicate by voice, gesture or electronic means with an employer or supervisor so that the employee may report signs or symptoms of heat illness or request emergency medical services, regularly remind the employee to consume drinking water, ensure the employee takes one 10-minute break for every two hours spent working in a high-heat environment and review these measures with the employee before the employee begins working in a high-heat environment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This concept draft bill proposes to make changes to the school funding formula to create a more fair and equitable system of state funding for education by: (1) adding a per capita income adjustment to the school funding formula; (2) establishing a state per-pupil contribution rate equal to 46% of the cost of educating each student in each school administrative unit (SAU) with additional funding provided to units with low property valuations and low per capita income; (3) providing additional funding outside of the school funding formula for service center communities to adjust for disparities created among communities by the school funding formula; or (4) adopting a version of one of the following models: (A) the foundation grant model, in which the state determines a minimum amount that should be spent for each student, calculates the ability of an SAU to pay for each student and provides funding for the difference; (B) the guaranteed tax base model, in which the state guarantees that each municipality will raise a guaranteed amount of funding per student at a given rate of property taxation, with the state providing funding to a municipality for the difference between the guaranteed amount of funding and the amount actually raised; (C) the centralized model, in which a standard property tax rate to fund the cost of education is set by the state and the state provides a standard per-pupil amount of funding to each school administrative unit; or (D) the Vermont model, in which the state sets property tax rates and bills property owners to fund the cost of education with a lower rate for homesteads and the state provides funding for education on a per-pupil basis with certain adjustments, including a poverty adjustment. Local school districts may raise additional funds through property taxation to supplement the funding provided by the state, subject to certain requirements and limits. The bill also proposes, until such time as a more equitable change in the school funding formula takes place, that any money to fund education provided in addition to the money annually directed by the school funding formula, including COVID-19 relief funds, must be apportioned to each school administrative unit on a per-pupil basis.

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

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) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

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**

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

[LD 1439](#) An Act To Clarify All-terrain Vehicle Registration Requirements and Establish Regular Maintenance of Designated State-approved All-terrain Vehicle Trails. (Sponsored by Rep. Theriault of China) **PL 2021, c. 215**

This Act amends the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) laws in the following ways: (1) increases the registration fees for ATVs by \$25 for each type of registration and requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to use the fees deposited into the ATV Recreational Management Fund to oversee construction and maintenance of designated state-approved ATV trails; (2) for registration purposes, creates a category of “antique ATV,” which is an ATV over 25 years old, and provides that the registration fee is \$45; and (3) creates a category of “oversized all-terrain vehicle,” which is an ATV that is wider than 65 inches or weighs more than 2,000 pounds according to the manufacturer’s specifications. The Act also provides that when an oversized ATV is registered, the agent must provide information, developed by the department, which explains size and weight restrictions and other conditions for use over designated state approved ATV trails.

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

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

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

In part, this bill authorizes the Housing Opportunities for Maine Program funds to be used to pay for the cost of testing for and mitigation of mold, radon, arsenic, uranium or other air or water pollutants and authorizes the Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Program funds to be used to pay for the cost of testing for and mitigation of mold, radon, arsenic, uranium or other air or water pollutants. The bill also requires the Real Estate Commission to include in the core educational requirements a program or course related to radon, arsenic, uranium and other air or water pollutants and requires any residential real property to be tested for the presence of radon, arsenic and uranium before it can be conveyed.

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

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

[LD 1434](#) An Act Regarding Controlled Entry Areas within Retail Marijuana Stores. (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor) **PL 2021, c. 314**

This Act allows a marijuana store to have a controlled, indoor entry area, which must be physically separated from the sales area, directly inside the store where the identification of a purchaser can be verified and the purchaser can await entry into the store. A licensee shall ensure that persons under 21 years of age do not enter its licensed premises, except that a marijuana store licensee may use a controlled, indoor entry area to verify the identification and age of persons before allowing entry.

[LD 1433](#) An Act To Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair) **PL 2021, c. 216**

Of municipal interest, this Act amends the motor vehicle laws in the following ways: (1) provides for the continued use by government entities of off-road vehicles in prohibited areas; and (2) authorizes the Secretary of State to use rulemaking to regulate municipal agent training requirements, accounting standards, inventory control processes and the collection and transmission of data and funds between agents and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

[LD 1432](#) An Act To Update the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham) **PL 2021, c. 362**

This Act amends the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund, which is a fund administered by the ConnectMaine Authority to address the need in Maine to access ultra-high-speed broadband infrastructure to: (1) limit the grants to a municipality or group of municipalities; (2) remove the cap on the amount of the grant, but limit the amount of ConnectMaine funds that may be used to 50% of the total cost of a project; and (3) maintain the requirement that a municipality provide at least a 25% cash match, but provide that the cash match may not consist of funds from a source other than the municipality.

[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**

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) **Carried over**

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

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

This bill requires each school administrative unit (SAU) to calculate the per-pupil tuition costs for elementary and secondary students who reside in that SAU and provide no more than that amount to a student who resides in but does not attend public school in that SAU and who incurs education costs, such as for attendance at a private school or educational cooperative, for a tutor or for costs associated with homeschooling. This bill also repeals the restriction in current law on providing public school funds to sectarian schools.

[LD 1425](#) Resolve, To Dedicate a Portion of Route 6 from Lee to Springfield in Honor of Sgt. Blair Emery. (Sponsored by Rep. Javner of Chester) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 30**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This bill removes the qualified immunity for a government official for a violation under the Civil Rights Act if: (1) at the time of the alleged violation, the government official was a law enforcement officer who allegedly used or threatened to use force or physical violence against the aggrieved person; (2) the law enforcement officer was required to receive either preservice

law enforcement training, basic law enforcement training or in-service law enforcement training; and (3) the law enforcement agency employing the law enforcement officer was subject to the requirement to have policies concerning the use of physical force. The bill also limits liability in these cases to \$10,000 per violation.

[LD 1415](#) Resolve, To Direct the Department of Environmental Protection To Determine Staffing Needs To More Efficiently and Effectively Issue Decisions on New, Amendment and Minor Revision Applications. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2021, c. 62**

This Resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to determine the staffing resources necessary to efficiently and effectively review new permit applications and to issue decisions on amendment and minor revision applications submitted under those same laws within timetables that are no longer than those established by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection for new applications. The Resolve further directs the department, by Nov. 1, 2021, to submit a report to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on the outcome of the staffing resources determination, which is authorized to submit implementing legislation in 2022.

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

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

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

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

[LD 1407](#) Resolve, Regarding Authority of Municipalities To Regulate Timber Harvesting. (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) **Resolves 2021, c. 70**

This Resolve directs the Director of the Maine Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a stakeholder group, including representation from municipalities, to review and assess the law and corresponding process relating to the adoption of or amendment to a municipal timber harvesting ordinance. The Resolve further requires the director to report findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

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

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

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

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

April 7, 2021

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

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

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

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

[LD 1399](#) An Act To Continue Temporary Modification of Certain In-person Notarization and Acknowledgement Requirements and Developing Permanent Implementation of Remote and Online Notarization. (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 337 (6/23/21)**

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

[LD 1397](#) Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Assist the City of Lewiston with its Rental Registration Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 88**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1364](#) Resolve, To Study Incentives for Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham) **Resolves 2021, c. 97**

This Resolve directs the State Fire Marshal to convene a task force, including representation from municipal firefighters, to study incentives for developers, builders and home buyers to install residential sprinklers. The Resolve further directs the fire marshal to report findings and recommendations to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety by Dec. 1, 2021, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[LD 1363](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Elections. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 273**

Of municipal interest, this Act: (1) clarifies that the elections to be determined by ranked-choice voting include primary elections for federal and state offices, including the office of the governor; general and special elections for federal offices; and the primary election for the president of the United States; (2) describes the security measures that must be in place to utilize absentee ballot drop boxes and implements a procedure authorizing a municipality to obtain and use absentee ballot drop boxes at multiple locations within a community's boundaries, subject to the approval of the secretary; and (3) creates a process for allowing a voter to cure a discrepancy with a returned absentee ballot.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 29 & 30, 2021

[LD 1346](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Fees Charged for Responding to Public Records Requests. (Reported by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner for the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary) **PL 2021, c. 375**

This Act amends the Freedom of Access law by extending from one to two hours the time period for which an official may not charge a fee for completing a public record request and increases the fee that may be charged after the first two hours from \$15 to \$25 per hour.

[LD 1345](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee. (Reported by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner for the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary) **MANDATE PL 2021, c. 313**

This Act amends the Freedom of Access law by capping the fee for copying a public record at 10¢ per page and clarifying that a fee may not be assessed for records provided electronically. The law also extends the related training requirements to code enforcement officers, town and city managers, administrators, planning board members, school superintendents, assistant superintendents and school board members and clarifies that the training must be completed within 120 days of assuming the duties of the position.

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

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

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

This bill provides that a municipality is ineligible to receive general purpose aid for local schools, municipal general assistance reimbursement and state-municipal revenue sharing if that municipality prohibits or restricts, formally or informally, the exchange of information with federal immigration authorities or any other federal, state or local government entity regarding the immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual or the maintenance of such information.

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

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

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

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

[LD 1336](#) An Act to Discontinue the Use of the Terms “Handicap,” “Handicapped” and “Hearing Impaired” in State Laws, Rules and Official Documents. (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 348**

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

[LD 1333](#) An Act Concerning the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program and the Dispensation of Naloxone Hydrochloride by Emergency Medical Services Providers. (Sponsored by Rep. Zager of Portland) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 161 (6/11/21)**

In part, this Act authorizes emergency medical services, ambulance services and non-transporting emergency medical services providers to dispense naloxone hydrochloride to an individual who is at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose or to the individual's immediate family, a friend of the individual or another person in a position to assist the individual.

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

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

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

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

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

This bill provides that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services may not issue more than 14 marijuana dispensary registration certificates. It also provides that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Marijuana Policy (OMP) may not adopt rules governing the medical use of marijuana until Dec. 31, 2023, after which the OMP may adopt rules governing the medical use of marijuana only if the office, using existing resources and before the adoption of those rules, conducts studies on the economic impact of the rules and how the rules would affect the access of patients to marijuana for medical use. The bill also extends the repeal date of a portion of the definition of "resident" in the Marijuana Legalization Act from June 1, 2021 to June 1, 2025.

[LD 1316](#) An Act To Provide Funding for the Maine Length of Service Award Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Zeigler of Montville) **PL 2021, c. 444**

This Act provides a one-time \$500,000 general fund appropriation in FY 22 for the Maine Length of Service Award Program to provide awards to eligible volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.

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

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

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

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

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

This bill requires municipalities to allow one accessory dwelling unit to be included within or located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit. It prevents municipalities from imposing any of the following restrictions on accessory dwelling units: setback requirements on accessory dwelling units incorporated within an existing single-family dwelling unit; setback requirements of more than 5 feet for accessory dwelling units not included within a single-

family dwelling unit; off-street parking requirements; separate sewer or water systems; or owner occupancy of one of the units unless one of the units is being used for short-term or vacation rentals. A municipality may not restrict use of one of the units on a lot as a short-term or vacation rental. A municipality may not require correction of a non-conforming use when an accessory dwelling unit is incorporated into an existing single-family dwelling unit or of an existing structure converted into an accessory dwelling unit, but a municipality may require compliance with applicable building and fire safety codes for all accessory dwelling units. A municipality's design standards for accessory dwelling units must be clear and objective. Accessory dwelling units within historical preservation districts must comply with historical preservation standards.

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

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

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

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

[LD 1306](#) Resolve, To Facilitate the Inclusion of Crisis Response Services in Emergency Services Offered through the E-9-1-1 System. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland) **Resolves 2021, c. 29**

This Resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communications Bureau to research and review protocols and procedures necessary to ensure the delivery of crisis response services under the state's E-9-1-1 system and to submit a report on or before Feb. 1, 2022 to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology outlining necessary protocols and procedures, including any recommendations needed to implement those protocols and procedures. The committee is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[LD 1305](#) Resolve, To Increase Collaboration between the Maine State Housing Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 87**

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

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

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate and arrange for transitional housing and services including job training and health care services for persons in need of transitional housing, including those experiencing abuse, dangerous living conditions, economic insecurity due to divorce or separation, chronic homelessness, substance use disorder

or mental disorders, including post-traumatic stress disorder, in every county of the state. It also provides an ongoing appropriation of \$8 million beginning in FY 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1290](#) An Act To Amend the Statement of Purpose of the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982 To Include Emergency Responses That Do Not Require Transportation. (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 159**

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1269](#) An Act To Preserve Fair Housing in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 270**

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

March 26, 2021

[LD 1258](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group Convened by the Emergency Medical Services' Board Related to Reimbursement Rates for Ambulance Services by Health Insurance Carriers and To Improve Participation of Ambulance Service Providers in Carrier Networks. (Reported by Rep. Tepler of Topsham for the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services) **PL 2021, c. 241**

Until Dec. 31, 2023, this Act requires ambulance services to be reimbursed by a carrier accordingly: (1) 200% of the Medicare rate if the provider participates in the carrier's network; (2) 180% of the Medicare rate if the service provider is out-of-network; (3) if the provider is located in a rural or super rural area and is eligible for additional Medicare reimbursement, the reimbursement is increased by the additional Medicare reimbursement; and (4) if prior to the Dec. 1, 2023 the service provider's charge is below 200% of the Medicare rate, the service provider may not increase the charge for that service by more than 5% annually. An insurance carrier shall offer a standard contract to all service providers willing to participate in the carrier's network, provided the contract: (1) reimburses at the rates in place until Dec. 1, 2023; (2) includes a term of not less than 24 months; (3) allows for the termination of the contract if the terminating party provides 180 days' notice; and (4) gives the service provider at least 120 days

to submit a claim. The Act also directs the Emergency Medical Services' Board to: (1) adopt rules and protocols evaluating the need for new ambulance services before granting a license; (2) establish a program, by rule, for collecting and reporting costs and performance metrics related to emergency medical treatment services, including ambulance services; and (3) convene a stakeholder group including representation from municipal ambulance services providers, to review issues related to financial health, cost and delivery of ambulance services in the state and submit its findings and recommendations to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services no later than Feb. 1, 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1254](#) An Act Shielding Fire Departments That Install Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors from Liability. (Sponsored by Rep. Pebworth of Blue Hill) **PL 2021, c. 214**

This Act provides immunity from liability to a fire department in the residential installation or delivery of a smoke or carbon monoxide detector or batteries for a smoke or carbon monoxide detector if the installation or delivery is performed in the fire department's official capacity and provided the installation or delivery is authorized by the municipal officers.

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

This bill allows a qualified active or retired law enforcement officer who possesses a current federal identification under the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 to

carry a concealed weapon in areas in which the carrying of concealed weapons is prohibited by law or rule.

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

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

March 25, 2021

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

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

[LD 1245](#) An Act To Ensure the Provision of Adequate Personal Protective Equipment to Firefighters. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 442 (7/09/21)**

This Act requires municipalities to provide properly fitting protective clothing and equipment to firefighters that meet or exceed the requirements of the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration or the National Fire Protection Association, including clothing, helmet ensemble, foot, hand and hearing protection, self-contained breathing apparatus, personal alert safety systems and fire service life safety rope, harness and hardware. The Act also requires the Maine Department of Labor to notify municipal fire departments and volunteer fire departments and associations of the requirements to provide appropriate protective equipment and the commercial availability of protective equipment for females.

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

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a standard procedure for investigating complaints against eating establishments, lodging places, recreational or sporting camps, campgrounds, youth camps, public pools and public spas. The bill provides that certain information must be shared with the owner or person in charge of an establishment that is the subject of such an investigation, including the name of the

complainant, the name of the department employee investigating the complaint, the laws, rules, executive orders or policies not being complied with, a corrective action plan, possible accommodations as alternatives to requirements and the appeals procedures. The department is required to issue a finding with respect to compliance. The bill also requires any scientific or educational materials that are unrelated to licensing requirements to be clearly identified this way. If a representative of the department visits an establishment to discuss these materials, advance notice must be provided and the visit must take place during ordinary business hours. Municipalities that are delegated authority of licensing and inspection by the department are subject to the same requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 24, 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1228](#) An Act To Promote Transparency in Nonconsensual Towing and Roadside Assistance. (Sponsored by Rep. Bryant of Windham) **DEAD**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1216](#) An Act To Amend the State Tax Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham) **PL 2021, c. 181**

Of municipal interest, this Act: (1) reduces the declared ratio accuracy threshold from within 20% to within 10% of the most recent state valuation ratio used to provide state reimbursement for the homestead exemption; (2) authorizes the Property Tax Bureau to audit municipal records to ensure compliance with the laws pertaining to reimbursement for property tax exemptions, similar to the process provided for homestead exemption reimbursement; and (3) authorizes the bureau to offset payments if it is determined that a BETE exemption was improperly approved.

[LD 1215](#) Resolve, To Require the State Auditor To Report on Corrective Actions Regarding the Administration of Federal Grants. (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 42**

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

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

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

models for local representation, participation and empowerment in regional planning. The study group's report and recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2021.

[LD 1209](#) An Act To Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services To Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. (Emergency) (Reported by Rep. Terry of Gorham for the administrator of the unorganized territory) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 93 (6/8/21)**

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

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

This bill amends the state's electronic waste recycling law by requiring that no later than Jan. 1, 2023, manufacturers of computer monitors, televisions, printers and video game consoles, individually or collectively through a manufacturer clearinghouse, design and implement a statewide manufacturer electronic waste program to provide for the collection, transportation, consolidation and recycling of these collected electronic devices in the state. The Department of Environmental Protection is directed to review and approve plans for the implementation of such a program and enforce program requirements. Each municipality that chooses to participate in a statewide manufacturer electronic waste program must annually provide notice of collection sites within the municipality that may be available for use in the program. A municipality with a population of less than 10,000 residents may participate by committing to provide up to two one-day collection events within in the municipality in lieu of a permanent collection site. Participating municipalities must sort all covered electronic devices by category and package for transportation all devices from collection sites or one-day collection events. The bill also repeals or amends certain provisions of the existing electronic waste recycling law to align those provisions with the new program requirements.

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

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

March 22, 2021

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

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

[LD 1201](#) Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Engage Stakeholders in an Examination of Fair Chance Housing Policy Options. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 75**

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

[LD 1198](#) An Act Authorizing an Increase to the Maximum Annual Fund Balance for Public School Districts. (Sponsored by Rep. Carlow of Buxton) **PL 2021, c. 213**

This Act allows school boards to carry forward 5% of the previous year's school budget without reduction of the state and local share of the total allocation for the purpose of computing state subsidy, to carry forward unallocated balances in excess of 5% of the previous year's school budget and disburse those funds in the next year or over a period not to exceed three years. The carry-forward limit is established at 9% for fiscal years 2022 through 2025.

[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) **Carried over**

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

[LD 1193](#) An Act To Exempt Certain Disabled Veterans from the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. (Sponsored by Rep. Brooks of Lewiston) **PL 2021, c. 240**

This Act extends the motor vehicle excise tax exemption to veterans who are granted free registration to include all veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service in the line of duty and are receiving a pension or compensation from the federal government for total service-connected disability.

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

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

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

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

[LD 1188](#) An Act To Include Career and Technical Education Teachers in the Minimum \$40,000 Salary Initiative. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 441 (7/09/21)**

This Act amends the \$40,000 teacher salary initiative to include career and technical education teachers. By Dec. 1, 2021, the Act also directs the Department of Education to report to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on the status and progress being made toward the minimum teacher salary initiative, as well as the verification that all intended positions are included in the salary initiative. If the department identifies any areas of deficiency, a plan for remediation must be included in the report to the committee, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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) **Carried over**

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

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

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

[LD 1171](#) An Act To Curtail No-knock Warrants. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Augusta) **PL 2021, c. 267**

This Act defines a “no-knock warrant” as an authority of a law enforcement officer to execute a warrant without first announcing the authority and purpose for the execution of the warrant. The Act also prohibits the use of no-knock warrants except in the event of imminent risk of death or bodily injury to persons and when a recognized exception to the warrant requirement, such as exigent circumstances, allows unannounced entry. An officer executing a no-knock warrant must wear an official uniform and, if provided by the officer’s law enforcement agency, a camera worn in accordance with agency policies.

[LD 1167](#) An Act Relating to Fair Chance in Employment. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **PL 2021, c. 404**

This Act prohibits an employer from requesting criminal history record information on an initial employee application form or state on the application form or advertisement that a person with a criminal history may not apply or will not be considered for employment prior to determining if a person is otherwise qualified for the position. The Act provides exceptions to the prohibitions, including instances in which federal or state law, regulation or rule mandates that a criminal conviction disqualifies an applicant, or imposes an obligation on an employer not to hire an applicant who has been convicted of a certain type of offense. An employer who violates this prohibition is subject to a penalty of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for each violation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1161](#) An Act Concerning Marina-based Restaurants in the Shoreland Zone. (Sponsored by Rep. Cebra of Naples) **PL 2021, c. 336**

This Act authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances that allow the expansion of an existing restaurant that is part of a marina that has been permitted in accordance with all applicable state and local requirements, provided the expansion is not located over a water body or wetland, is not located any closer to the water body or wetland than the existing restaurant and, except for the water and wetland setback requirements, meets all other state and local permit requirements and complies with all other applicable rules. The Act specifies that the expansion may be allowed if the restaurant and the marina of which the restaurant is a part have both been in existence as of Jan. 1, 2021.

[LD 1159](#) An Act To Amend the Membership Requirements of the Board of Pesticides Control. (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 179**

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

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

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

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

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

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) **Carried over**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1133](#) An Act To Amend the Transportation Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair) **PL 2021, c. 239**

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

[LD 1132](#) An Act To Encourage the Renovation of Available Housing Stock. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland) **PL 2021, c. 127**

For qualifying tax liens recorded after Dec. 1, 2021, this Act allows for the clearing of title of tax-acquired residential property, deemed abandoned by the code enforcement officer or other public official, within six months of the acquisition by the municipality rather than five years as required under existing law. As defined in the Act, residential property includes a structure that has one to four residential units. Evidence of abandonment includes: (1) boarded-up, broken or unlocked doors; (2) accumulated rubbish, trash or debris; (3) the absence of furnishing and personal property from the residence; and (4) reports to law enforcement authorities of trespassers, vandalism or other illegal acts being committed on the property. The determination of abandonment must be certified by the designated municipal official and filed with the registry of deeds. Finally, the Act requires municipalities to inform the Maine State Housing Authority of the acquisition of abandoned property for the authority’s use in determining opportunities for redevelopment, programs supporting first-time home buyers and data analysis.

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

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

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

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

[LD 1126](#) An Act To Update the Voter Registration Process. (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth) **PL 2021, c. 439**

Effective on Nov. 1, 2023, this Act directs the Secretary of State to post on a publicly accessible website an online voter registration application enabling an individual to register to vote and enroll in a party, change a voter’s party, withdraw from a party or notify the appropriate registrar of a voter’s change of name or address. An online voter registration application must be received by the secretary by midnight on the 21st day before the election and transmitted to the registrar’s office on a daily basis. An individual who uses the online application to register to vote must satisfy the signature requirement of state election law by submitting a current and valid Maine driver’s license number or non-driver identification card. If neither document is available, the individual must submit an electronic image of the applicant’s signature. The online voter registration application must be designed to prevent an applicant from registering to vote unless the applicant discloses a valid Maine driver’s license number, non-driver identification number, or the last four digits of the applicant’s social security number.

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

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

[LD 1122](#) An Act To Promote Public Safety by Allowing Lighted Signs on Certain Vehicles. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 368**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1109](#) An Act To Align Equipment Requirements for Electric Bicycles with National Manufacturing Standards. (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 86**

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1104](#) An Act To Increase the Time for Which a Temporary Motor Vehicle Registration Plate Is Valid. (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 126**

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

[LD 1103](#) An Act To Allow a 5-year Open Enrollment in the Participating Local District Retirement Program for Certain Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters and Other Municipal Employees. (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 286**

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

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

This bill amends the election laws by: (1) prohibiting incarcerated persons from voting; (2) requiring ballots to be in paper form; (3) requiring photo identification to vote; (4)

prohibiting the receipt of ballots after the polls close; (5) prohibiting the buying of a vote by another person for money or any other thing of value; and (6) allowing absentee voting only for a person who is unable to vote, the reason for which is certified by the person, and requires two other persons to collect and deliver the ballot, each of whom must certify the collection and delivery.

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

DEAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 11, 2021

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

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

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

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) **Carried over**

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1078](#) An Act To Promote Traffic Safety in Emergency Situations. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 85**

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

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

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.) **Carried over**

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.) **Carried over**

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**

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

[LD 1069](#) An Act To Provide Program Solvency, Clarity, Consistency and Flexibility in Routine Public Health Licensing Activities. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 125**

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

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

This bill allows a court, in a protection from harassment order, to direct a defendant not to possess a firearm, muzzle-loading firearm, bow, crossbow or other dangerous weapon for the duration of the order. The bill also authorizes the court direct the defendant to relinquish, within 24 hours after service of the order on the defendant or such earlier time as the court specifies in the order, all firearms, muzzle-loading firearms, bows, crossbows and specified dangerous weapons in the possession of the defendant to a law enforcement officer or other individual for the duration of the order. If the weapons are relinquished to an individual other than a law enforcement officer, the defendant shall file, within 24 hours after relinquishment, with the court or local law enforcement agency designated in the order a written statement that contains the name and address of the individual holding the weapons and a description of all weapons held by that individual. The court may subsequently issue a search warrant authorizing a law enforcement officer to seize weapons at any location if there is probable cause to believe such weapons have not been relinquished.

[LD 1065](#) An Act To Clarify the Qualifications and Oversight of Sheriffs. (Sponsored by Rep. Pickett of Dixfield) **PL 2021, c. 202**

This Act clarifies that a candidate for county sheriff must either be: (1) currently certified as a law enforcement officer and in compliance with all applicable training requirements; or (2) a previously certified law enforcement officer who agrees to meet all applicable training requirements within one year of taking office. The Act also requires all county sheriffs to continually meet the in-service law enforcement training standards and any other statutory requirements of preservice, basic or in-service law enforcement training required for certification or continued certification as a law enforcement officer. The Act further provides that a full-time law enforcement officer employed by a municipal police department or state agency before July 1, 1990 is deemed to have met the minimum qualifications for county sheriff.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 10, 2021

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

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

[LD 1043](#) An Act Concerning the Unannounced Execution of Search Warrants. (Sponsored by Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield) **PL 2021, c. 342**

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

[LD 1040](#) An Act To Require Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training or Implicit Bias Training for school Resource Officers. (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 156**

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

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

This bill amends the provisions of law regarding the termination of a state of emergency by removing the governor's authority to renew a state of emergency after 30 days and instead provides that the renewal of a state of emergency must be approved by a majority vote of each

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1028](#) An Act To Ease Business Expansion by Increasing the Number and Applicability of Permit Exemptions under the Site Location of Development Laws. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 123**

Under current law, new construction at a licensed manufacturing facility and new construction at or modification of a campus of an educational institution is exempt from review under the laws governing site location of development if certain criteria are met. This Act amends those exemptions by increasing the amount of the disturbed land not to be revegetated from 30,000 to 40,000 square feet in any calendar year and from 60,000 to 80,000 square feet in total.

[LD 1027](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Local Bridges. (Sponsored by Sen. Farrin of Somerset Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 201**

This Act requires the Department of Transportation to notify a municipality when a bridge for which a municipality has maintenance responsibility requires a posting or closure and requires the municipality to carry out the posting or closure. The Act also provides that in order for the department to accept certain responsibilities for an improved bridge or for a new bridge, the department must approve the design of the improvements or construction before the

improvements are made or the bridge is constructed. The design of the improvements or construction must meet standards set by the department and be sealed by a professional engineer.

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

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

[LD 1023](#) An Act Regarding the Outdoor Release or Abandonment of Balloons. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington) **PL 2021, c. 374**

This Act amends the state's litter control law to clarify that waste materials resulting from the outdoor release or abandonment of a balloon constitutes litter under that law and provides that it is a violation of the litter law for a person to intentionally release outdoors a balloon that is inflated or filled with a gas that is lighter than air, except for a balloon carrying scientific instrumentation, a balloon used for meteorological observation by a governmental or scientific organization or a hot air balloon that is recovered after launching. The Act applies a civil penalty of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 for the illegal intentional release of 16 to 24 balloons and a civil penalty of not less than \$500 for the illegal intentional release of more than 24 balloons.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 1010](#) An Act To Establish the Maine Service Fellows Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Reilly of Westbrook) **PL 2021, c. 155**

This Act establishes the Maine Service Fellows Program under the Maine Commission for Community Services, designed to engage program participants in devoting a year of service to Maine communities. The commission is directed to implement the program to attract and retain motivated adults who have completed a college degree within the prior five years to apply their skills and abilities to projects for the benefit of Maine citizens; provide rural and underserved Maine communities a resource to address critical health, public safety, education and environmental needs; and strengthen civic engagement of both the program fellows and community residents through solutions based in whole or in part in volunteer service. The commission is directed to establish an advisory committee to guide the launch of the program, including representation from town managers, regional planning organizations, rural government leaders, not-for-profit organizations and MMA. Provided funding is available, within 180 days following the effective date of this Act, the commission must seek to establish the first class of 10 program fellows who agree to participate in the program for up to 1,800 hours over a 12-month period beginning in 2022.

[LD 1009](#) Resolve, To Create the Working Group To Design Jail Resource Navigator Services for Maine County Jails. (Sponsored by Rep. Madigan of Waterville) **Resolves 2021, c. 100**

This Resolve creates a working group directed to design a jail resource navigator services program to ensure that all county jails have access to needed services, including inmate health care, mental health care and substance use disorder treatment. The working group must, no later than Jan. 15, 2023, submit a report to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2023.

[LD 1008](#) An Act To Require Joint Use Entities To Establish Permanent Liaisons with All County Emergency Management Agencies. (Sponsored by Rep. Tepler of Topsham) **PL 2021, c. 154**

This Act requires a joint use entity, which includes a public utility, voice service provider, dark fiber provider, wholesale or retail competitive local exchange carrier, cable television system, unlit fiber provider, telecommunications service provider or information service provider, to designate a permanent liaison with each county emergency management agency in the state in counties in which the joint use entity has facilities in order to assist in the coordination of efforts during a disaster or civil emergency. The Act also provides that a joint use entity is responsible for ensuring that such a designated permanent liaison responds immediately to any contact or request for assistance during a disaster or civil emergency from the county emergency management agency to which the liaison is designated. It further provides that a county emergency management agency that receives a communication from a joint use entity designating a permanent liaison must communicate to that entity the contact information for the employee or employees of the county emergency management agency responsible for coordinating the actions of the county during a disaster or civil emergency.

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

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

[LD 993](#) An Act To Prevent the Spread of Infectious Disease in Schools. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. White of Waterville) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 378**

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

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

In part, this bill prohibits municipalities from denying or revoking a business license if the denial or revocation is for a violation unrelated to the conduct of the business. It requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to submit to the Committee on

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business a report identifying existing statutes that allow for such denial or revocation and give the committee the authority to report out legislation in 2022.

[LD 991](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Conduct an Economic Evaluation Study for Commuter and Passenger Train Service between Portland and the Lewiston and Auburn Area. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2021, c. 56**

This Resolve directs the Department of Transportation to conduct an economic evaluation study for commuter and passenger train service between Portland and the Lewiston and Auburn area that builds on the data and potential next steps included in the May 2019 Lewiston-Auburn Passenger Rail Service Plan. The cost of the study may not exceed \$200,000, of which \$20,000 must be funded by the impacted communities. The Resolve further directs the department to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Committee on Transportation no later than March 1, 2022, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[LD 985](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment To the Constitution of Maine To Require Legislative Approval of Any State of Emergency Lasting Longer Than 60 Days. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) **DEAD**

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that provides that a state of emergency proclaimed by the governor may not continue for longer than 60 days unless approved by the Legislature every 60 days.

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

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) **Carried over**

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

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

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

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

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to consider the potential benefits of providing more local control over electricity service and whether local control is feasible before issuing an order of authorization for the sale or merger of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility. It allows the commission to adopt routine technical rules to implement this proposed change. The bill allow directs the PUC to open an inquiry to examine and make recommendations regarding a process to provide timely notification to entities authorized to own a transmission and distribution plant of any proposed sale of an investor owned transmission and distribution utility and to provide the opportunity for the notified entities to bid on the sale. The PUC is further directed to submit the results of this inquiry to Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by Feb.1, 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This bill prohibits an employer from requiring an employee, intern or applicant for employment to enter into a: (1) contract or agreement that waives or limits any right to report or discuss discrimination, retaliation or harassment occurring in the workplace or at work-related events; or (2) settlement, separation or severance agreement that limits an individual's right to (a) report, testify or provide evidence to a federal or state agency that enforces employment or discrimination laws; (b) prevents an individual from testifying or providing evidence in federal and state court proceedings in response to legal process; or (c) prohibits an individual from reporting conduct to a law enforcement agency. This bill allows a settlement, separation or severance agreement, under certain circumstances, to include a provision that prevents the subsequent disclosure of factual information relating to a claim of discrimination, retaliation or harassment. It also provides the Department of Labor with the duty to enforce these provisions and allows an individual to receive liquidated damages or to be employed or reinstated with back wages when an employer discharges or refuses to hire an individual who declines to enter into a contract or agreement that waives or limits any right to report or discuss discrimination, retaliation or harassment occurring in the workplace or at work-related events.

[LD 964](#) An Act To Expand Access to Certified Substance Use Disorder Recovery Residence Services. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Augusta) **PL 2021, c. 472**

Beginning July 1, 2022, this Act allows a person residing in a recovery residence that is not certified to receive housing assistance under the municipal general assistance (GA) program for one 30-day period and requires the GA director to inform the person that the law requires

certification of the recovery residence in order to issue housing assistance under the GA program. The Act also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules to establish appropriate maximum housing assistance levels for eligible persons residing in recovery residences that take into account the additional costs of recovery residences compared to other shared housing arrangements, as well as the fair market rents established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development that are used to establish maximum housing assistance levels under the GA program.

[LD 963](#) An Act To Ensure Culturally Informed Programs and Services for Adjudicated Juveniles in the Custody of the Department of Corrections. (Sponsored by Rep. Brooks of Lewiston) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 339**

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

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

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

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

This bill expands the definition of "construction" under the laws governing preference to Maine works and contractors, which include provisions requiring the payment of prevailing wages, to include contracts for any construction, reconstruction, demolition, improvement, enlargement, painting, decorating or repair of any public works under which work is performed at an off-site location within 350 miles of the public works or where at least 10% of the contracted work is performed.

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

This bill requires the emergency powers exercised by the governor, a person within the executive branch or a municipal official that bind, curtail or infringe the rights of private parties

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

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

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

[LD 953](#) An Act To Improve Affordable Housing Options and Services To Address Homelessness. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 261**

This Act permits a municipality to invest tax increment financing revenue outside of the district to fund the costs associated with the operation and financial support of: (1) affordable housing in the municipality to serve ongoing economic development efforts, including the further development of the downtown TIF district; and (2) housing programs and services to assist those who are experiencing homelessness as defined in the community's development program.

[LD 946](#) Resolve, Regarding the Shore Damage Mitigation Project in Saco Bay. (Sponsored by Rep. Copeland of Saco) **Resolves 2021, c. 85**

This Resolve directs the governor to take all actions necessary to assist and support the City of Saco in its role as the non-federal sponsor with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for the shore damage mitigation project for the Saco River and Camp Ellis Beach, which may include directing relevant state agencies to assist the city in entering into a project partnership agreement with the corps for the construction of that project. The Resolve also authorizes the governor to direct state agencies to assist Saco and other communities on Saco Bay in the construction of that project and in implementing other beach and beach habitat remediation projects in and around the bay.

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

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

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

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

[LD 939](#) An Act To Support Maine's Medical Marijuana Program and Ensure Patient Access. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) **PL 2021, c. 367**

Of municipal interest, this Act amends a provision under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act allowing registered caregivers and dispensaries to transfer and accept from another registered caregiver or a dispensary an unlimited amount of their marijuana plants and harvested marijuana in a wholesale transaction.

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

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

[LD 937](#) Resolve, To Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Jointly Develop Recommendations Regarding Carbon Storage Programs and Policies. (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono) **Resolves 2021, c. 28**

This Resolve directs the Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to jointly develop recommendations for the establishment of programs and policies to promote and incentivize practices that increase sequestration of soil carbon on natural and working lands by farmers, landowners and land managers. The Resolve directs the departments to submit an interim report, on or before March 1, 2022, to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) and provides that the committee may submit a bill in 2022 relating to the subject matter of the report. The Resolve further directs the departments to submit a final report, on or before Sept. 1, 2022, to the ACF committee, which is authorized to submit additional legislation in 2023.

[LD 936](#) An Act To Amend State Laws Relating to Net Energy Billing and the Procurement of Distributed Generation. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham) **PL 2021, c. 390**

This Act specifies the requirements that must be met for a distributed generation resource with a nameplate capacity between three and five megawatts to be able to participate in Maine's net energy billing process. The Act also directs the Governor's Energy Office in coordination with the Public Utilities Commission to convene a stakeholder group to consider various distributed generation project programs to be implemented between 2024 and 2028 and the need for improved grid planning. It defines, for the purposes of this stakeholder process, "distributed generation project" as a renewable energy project with a nameplate capacity of no more than 5 megawatts that has identified residential, commercial and institutional customers, including but

not limited to net energy billing arrangement projects. The Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology is authorized to submit legislation on the basis of the interim report for consideration in 2022 and in 2023 on basis of the final report.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This bill amends the laws governing municipal cable television systems and franchise authority to clarify that existing laws also apply to video service providers (VSP), which as defined in the bill includes cable system operations. The bill also: (1) prohibits a VSP from providing services within a municipality unless the provider has entered into a franchise agreement or contract; (2) requires a VSP to pay the municipality on a quarterly basis 5% of the annual revenue generated from operations in the community; (3) clarifies that all costs associated with public, educational, governmental (PEG) facility equipment and used to maintain PEG

access channels within the franchising municipality, including technology upgrade costs are the responsibility of the VSP, over and above payments of required franchise fees; (4) authorizes the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to oversee and enforce provisions relating to the municipal franchising of VSP and assess a fee not to exceed 25 cents per month per subscriber to pay for administrative costs; (5) authorizes the Attorney General, as well as a municipality to bring an enforcement action against a noncompliant VSP under the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act; (6) clarifies that existing consumer protection provisions apply; and (7) establishes a resolution process overseen by the PUC for disputes that arise between a franchising municipality and a VSP.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 909](#) An Act Regarding the depth of Phillips Lake in the Town of Dedham. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. O'Connell of Brewer) **Emergency Enacted; P & SL 2021, c. 7 (6/14/21)**

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

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

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

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

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) **Carried over**

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

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

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

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

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures related to the challenges of and opportunities for recycling clean energy equipment such as solar panels, wind turbines and battery energy storage systems in the State. It also establishes a funding mechanism for the Public Utilities Commission to subsidize start-up costs for such recycling.

[LD 897](#) An Act To Allow Municipalities To set Below-market Interest Rates for Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Programs. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) **PL 2021, c. 120**

This Act authorizes a municipality that has implemented a property tax deferral program for senior citizens to adopt an interest rate on deferred property taxes that is less than the rate established in statute.

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

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

[LD 894](#) An Act To Increase Government Accountability by Removing the Restriction on the Dissemination of Information Regarding Investigations. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell) **Enacted; PI 2021, c. 153**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 882](#) Resolve, To Direct the Office of Marijuana Policy To Convene Stakeholder Meetings Regarding the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Program. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.) **Resolves 2021, c. 95**

This Resolve directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, through its Office of Marijuana Policy, to convene meetings with stakeholders, including municipal officials, to study, review and evaluate the need to amend the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act. The department is further directed to submit its findings and recommendations no later than Jan. 1, 2022 to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs which is authorized to submit related legislation in 2022.

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

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

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

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

[LD 870](#) Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations To Study the Impact of Policies Regarding Agriculture, Access to Land, Access to Grants and Access to Financing on African American and Indigenous Farmers in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) **Resolves, 2021, c. 27**

This Resolve directs the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations to study the impact of policies regarding agriculture, and access to land, grants and financing on African-American and indigenous farmers in the state. No later than Jan. 17, 2022, the commission is further directed to submit its report and recommendations to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[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) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

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

[LD 857](#) An Act To Create a Municipal Grant Program To Promote Sustainable Economic Development. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham) **PL 2021, c. 319**

This Act establishes the Municipal Grant Fund to provide competitive grant funding for projects that further the goals of sustainable economic development as outlined by the Maine Economic Growth Council in the council's annual "Measures of Growth" report and by the economic development strategy for the state as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

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

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

[LD 855](#) An Act Regarding the Issuance of a Birth Certificate Following a Gender Marker Change. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner) **PL 2021, c. 309**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This bill requires: (1) a company providing liability insurance for a motor vehicle registered in this state to immediately notify the Secretary of State when that insurance coverage is cancelled, terminated or lapses and is not replaced with alternate coverage; (2) the secretary to notify the motor vehicle owner whose insurance has been cancelled, terminated or lapsed that the owner has 15 days to provide evidence of financial responsibility in the form of a reinstatement of coverage or new coverage; (3) the secretary to suspend the registration certificate and plates for a motor vehicle if evidence of financial responsibility is not provided within that 15-day period; and (4) directs the secretary to develop by rule standard procedures for a company to use in providing notice.

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

This bill requires, by Jan. 1, 2022, all state agencies and other units of government to review rules regarding a person's ability to use an occupational title or work in an occupation, trade or profession to determine whether the rule is necessary and carefully tailored to protect health, safety and welfare and does not unnecessarily burden a person's ability to enter an occupation, trade or profession. After review, the agency is required to repeal or modify every rule that does not meet the standard of review or recommend to the Legislature the necessary steps to repeal or modify the rule if it is not within the agency's authority to do so. Any person can at any time petition the agency or the District Court to repeal or modify a rule that does not meet the standard of review required by this legislation.

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

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

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

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

March 3-5, 2021

[LD 824](#) An Act To Extend the Protections Provided to State Employees upon the Expiration of Labor Contracts to Other Public Sector Employees. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 282**

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

[LD 821](#) An Act To Improve the Investigation and Prosecution of Cases That Involve Vulnerable Road Users. (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 379**

This Act requires a law enforcement officer who investigates a reportable accident involving a vulnerable user or an incident resulting in bodily injury or death to a vulnerable user and who has probable cause to believe that a traffic infraction, civil violation or criminal violation is connected to that accident or incident to inform a district attorney about the investigation within five days and submit a final accident report as soon as is practicable but no later than 60 days after the accident or incident. Under the traffic laws, a vulnerable user is a person on a public way who is more vulnerable to injury than a person in a motor vehicle. The Act also clarifies that evidence submitted by a law enforcement officer later than 60 days after an accident or incident described in the Act may be used in the prosecution of a criminal violation or civil violation.

[LD 820](#) Resolve, To Convene a Working Group To Develop Plans To Protect Maine's Agricultural Lands When Siting Solar Arrays. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.) **Resolves 2021, c. 26**

This Resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a working group of stakeholders to develop plans and consider ways to discourage the use of land of higher agricultural value and encourage the use of more marginal agricultural

lands when siting a solar array. The department must submit its report and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Energy, Utilities and Technology; and Environment and Natural Resources committees no later than Jan. 14, 2022.

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

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

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

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

[LD 816](#) An Act To Improve Communication between School Board Members and School Employees and Members of the Public. (Sponsored by Sen. Rafferty of York Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 281**

This Act requires a school board to regularly communicate with school employees in the school board's school administrative unit (SAU) and members of the public who reside within the boundaries of the SAU.

[LD 815](#) An Act To Support School Decarbonization. (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 152**

Current law requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to develop and administer a school energy savings program. This Act changes the program to a school decarbonization program and requires the trust to provide technical and financial support to help kindergarten to grade 12 schools become carbon neutral. The Act also repeals the school solar energy program administered by the trust.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 802](#) An Act To Ensure Decommissioning of Solar Energy Developments. (Sponsored by Sen. Black of Franklin Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 151**

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

[LD 800](#) An Act To Amend Credit and Debit Card Surcharges Imposed by Governmental Entities. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 150**

In part, this Act includes in the definition of a “government entity” an organized plantation, which is authorized to impose a surcharge for payments made by credit card or debit card for taxes, fines, charges, fees, and licenses or the provision of a specific service or good.

[LD 797](#) An Act To Create a Registry To Improve Access to Automated External Defibrillators. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 82**

This Act requires the Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services to establish a registry of publicly accessible automated external defibrillators located within the state for the purpose of assisting a person or a law enforcement officer, firefighter or emergency medical services provider who calls for assistance in an emergency situation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 783](#) An Act Regarding the Membership of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Advisory Board. (Sponsored by Rep. O’Neil of Saco) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 118**

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

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

Carried over

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

[LD 780](#) An Act Regarding Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Sites. (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond) **PL 2021, c. 117**

This Act amends the state’s uncontrolled hazardous substance sites law by providing a limited exemption from liability for publicly owned treatment works and public water systems based on the contribution of effluent or sewage sludge or water treatment residuals to an uncontrolled site. Exemptions from limited liability protections include: (1) failure to follow all applicable requirements under state statute; (2) failure to comply with an information request or administrative subpoena; or (3) impediment of the performance of a response action or natural resource restoration at the uncontrolled site. The Act also requires that, on or before Jan. 15, 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection report to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources the uncontrolled hazardous substance sites where the department has used its authority to require responsible parties to investigate or remove hazardous substances that are pollutants or contaminants and, for each site, information identifying the substance involved.

[LD 779](#) An Act To Extend the Time Allowed for Selling, Distributing and Displaying the State of Maine Bicentennial Commemorative License Plate and To Allow the Maine Bicentennial Commission To Continue To Serve in 2021. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Bryant of Windham) **DEAD**

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

[LD 778](#) An Act To Enable Electronic Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect for Certain Mandated Reporters. (Sponsored by Rep. Madigan of Waterville) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 116**

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 771](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake) **PL 2021, c. 173**

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

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

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

[LD 755](#) An Act Regarding Monhegan Plantation. (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle) **DEAD**

This bill proposes to enact measures regarding Monhegan Plantation.

[LD 754](#) An Act To Promote Municipal Climate Action. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill would create a program to help municipalities set ambitious climate goals and achieve them with state support.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This bill requires under the Freedom of Access Act the name or identity of any person who files a complaint alleging a violation of an order, code, license provision or any other

requirement placed upon a person by a government official or agency under the laws or rules of the state or any government subdivision to be made public upon request.

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

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

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

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

[LD 722](#) Resolve, To Study the Establishment of the Maine Climate Corps. (Sponsored by Rep. Reilly of Westbrook) **Resolves 2021, c. 25**

This Resolve directs the Maine Commission for Community Service to study and identify short-term projects and tasks in state agencies that could be made into service projects for all Maine residents, in part, to provide the basis for establishment of the Maine Climate Corps as proposed in the Maine Climate Council's climate action plan. The Resolve also directs the commission to identify potential hosts for the corps and possible public and private partnerships and report its findings to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee by Jan. 31, 2022.

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

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

[LD 715](#) An Act To Make Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 29**

As amended and of municipal interest, the FY 22 – FY 23 General Fund budget includes:

- **\$2.63 billion for K-12 Education.** \$2.39 billion is calculated by the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) model, including the normal cost of teacher retirement, as necessary to fund K-12 education in FY 2022. The state's proposed contribution to those expenses is \$1.24 billion, accounting for 52% of total expenditures. The budget allocates an additional \$244 million as the state's share of the total unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teacher and retired teacher health and life insurance benefits, bringing the total appropriation for K-12 education to \$2.63 billion. For FY 2022, the minimum local share for the cost of funding K-12 education is \$1.15 billion and the mil rate expectation is \$7.90.

- **\$144 million (FY 22) and \$151 million (FY 23) in Revenue Sharing.** The bill requires 3.75% of state sales and income tax revenue to be distributed to municipalities via the revenue sharing program.
- **\$97 million Annually for Homestead Exemption Reimbursement.** Roughly \$97 million in each year of the biennium is allocated to reimburse municipalities for 70% of the lost property tax revenues associated with the \$25,000 Homestead Exemption program.
- **\$19 million Annually for County Jail Operations.** \$19 million in each year of the biennium is allocated to Maine’s counties for the care of inmates.
- **\$10.4 million Annually for General Assistance.** \$10.4 million in each year of the biennium is dedicated to reimbursing municipalities for 70% of the direct financial assistance provided to eligible applicants under the General Assistance.

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

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

[LD 711](#) An Act To Allow Certain Employees To Return to Participation in the Maine Employees Retirement System. (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 90 (6/08/21)**

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

March 2, 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 705](#) Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Maine’s Public Schools. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth) **Resolves 2021, c. 114**

This Resolve directs the Department of Education to amend its Chapters 60, 61 and 125 rules to require standards governing air quality and ventilation for all schools, including schools with mechanical and non-mechanical ventilation systems, and to be in effect no earlier than July 1, 2022 and no later than July 1, 2026. The Resolve requires the department to present the provisionally adopted major substantive rules to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by Jan. 4, 2022 for final adoption.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.) **Carried over**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 672](#) Resolve, To Direct the Department of Transportation To Use a Rail Corridor Use Advisory Council in Reviewing the Mountain Division Rail Line for Potential Nonrail Uses. (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 52 (6/14/21)**

This Resolve directs the Department of Transportation to review the Mountain Division Line rail corridor, connecting the towns of Standish and Fryeburg, for potential non-rail uses through a rail corridor use advisory council.

March 1, 2021

[LD 669](#) An Act To Ensure Public Ways are Compliant with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland) **PL 2021, c. 334**

This Act requires all public way improvements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, including the placement of aboveground facilities in the public way. Additionally, the Act makes an alteration or relocation of an aboveground facility that is part of a construction or reconstruction project the financial responsibility of the facility owner.

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

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

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

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

[LD 663](#) Resolve, Establishing a Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Treatment Pilot Program for Maine's Incarcerated Population. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 113**

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

[LD 662](#) An Act To Allow the Use of an Additional Light on the Roof of Vehicles of Active Members of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire Department. (Sponsored by Rep. Wadsworth of Hiram) **PL 2021, c. 113**

This Act allows municipal officers or a designated official, with the approval of the fire chief, to authorize an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department when responding to an emergency to use one red light bar no more than eight inches in length on the roof of the vehicle so that the light is visible to approaching traffic from the front and the rear of the vehicle.

[LD 661](#) An Act To Ensure Equity in Petitions for Rulemaking under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **PL 2021, c. 257**

This Act sets the number of signatures for petitions for rulemaking submitted by persons incarcerated in a Department of Corrections facility, county jail or municipal detention facility at 150 or 25% or more of the total number of males or females incarcerated in the facility, whichever is fewer. The Act clarifies that the department is not required to initiate rulemaking if an earlier petition to adopt or modify the rule was received within the previous 12 months.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[LD 644](#) An Act Regarding Motor Vehicle Registration Violations. (Sponsored by Rep. Cloutier of Lewiston) **PL 2021, c. 427**

This Act provides that a person who operates an unregistered vehicle, fails to register a vehicle or operates an unregistered vehicle on a public way commits a traffic infraction for which a \$100 fine must be adjudged for a first offense if the registration has been expired for 150 or more days, and \$500 for each subsequent offense. Operation of a vehicle that has never been registered by the current owner, or failure to register a vehicle from another state more than 150 days after establishing residency is a Class E crime. The Act also provides a process to dismiss an alleged violation if the person shows satisfactory evidence that the vehicle was registered at the time of the violation or is registered prior to the date for answering the complaint.

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

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

[LD 640](#) An Act To Ban Single-serving, Disposable Plastic Water Bottles. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits the sale of un-carbonated, unflavored drinking water in containers of one liter or less that are made of plastic, except for the immediate preservation of public health or safety during an event for which a Governor's state of emergency proclamation has been issued. A violation of the ban is subject to Department of Environmental Protection's general civil penalty provision.

[LD 638](#) An Act To Ensure the Timely and Transparent Delivery of Unofficial Election Results in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias) **DEAD**

As soon as practicable after the election results are tabulated, this bill requires the election warden to post unofficial election results outside either the municipal office or each voting place and electronically transmit results to the Secretary of State for posting on a statewide publicly accessible website. The posting requirement applies to the results of all questions or candidates appearing on a municipal or state ballot. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to develop and implement a statewide education initiative to promote public awareness of the availability of unofficial election results.

February 25, 2021

[LD 627](#) An Act Relating to the Statute of Limitations for Injuries or Harm Resulting from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. (Sponsored by Rep. Parry of Arundel) **DEAD**

This bill provides that an action arising out of any harm or injury caused by a PFAS must be commenced within six years after the plaintiff discovers or should have discovered such harm or injury. It makes clear that the notice of claim and statute of limitations provisions of the Maine Tort Claims Act apply to actions against governmental entities that arise out of any harm or injury caused by a PFAS.

[LD 626](#) An Act To Clarify Temporary Mooring Privileges for Moorings on Inland Waters. (Sponsored by Rep. Stearns of Guilford) **Carried over**

This bill requires municipalities that border or contain inland waters to have a designated individual or entity responsible for dealing with inquiries related to mooring privileges and directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to develop model ordinance language to support municipalities or other governing entities that choose to regulate moorings.

[LD 622](#) An Act To Prohibit Marriage of Any Person under 18 Years of Age. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Connell of Brewer) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits the marriage of any person under 18 years of age.

[LD 621](#) An Act To Increase the Number of Franklin County Commissioners. (Sponsored by Rep. Landry of Farmington) **MANDATE PL 2021, c. 8**

This Act requires the legislative apportionment commission to develop two apportionment plans for Franklin County, one plan dividing Franklin County into three commissioner districts and the other plan dividing the county into five commissioner districts. In the election held in Nov. 2, 2021, the Franklin County Commissioners are required to submit a referendum question to the voters asking whether they favor dividing Franklin County into five districts. If the referendum question passes with a majority vote, the commission is required to submit an apportionment plan dividing Franklin County into three districts until 2024 and five districts thereafter.

[LD 618](#) An Act Regarding the Outdoor Release or Abandonment of Balloons. (Sponsored by Rep. Blume of York) **DEAD**

This bill amends the state's litter control law to clarify that waste materials resulting from the outdoor release or abandonment of a balloon constitutes litter under that law. It also provides that it is a violation of the litter to law intentionally release a balloon that is inflated or filled with a gas that is lighter than air, except for a balloon carrying scientific instrumentation, used for meteorological observation by a governmental or scientific organization or a hot air balloon that is recovered after launching. The bill creates a civil penalty of \$100 to \$500 for the illegal intentional release of up to 10 balloons and not less than \$500 for the illegal intentional release of more than 10 balloons.

[LD 616](#) An Act To Increase Accountability for Wage Violations. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) **Carried over**

This bill increases the fine for the violation of certain state wage and benefits laws, including the equal, timely and full payment of wages, from \$100 to \$500 for the first violation and provides for the assessment of a fine that is between \$500 and \$2,500 for each subsequent

violation. The bill also provides that in a favorable judgment for an employee an additional amount of twice the unpaid wages must be awarded.

[LD 613](#) An Act To Amend the Adult Use Marijuana Program Rules and Make Other Technical Changes. (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth)

This concept draft bill proposes to change the adult use marijuana program rules and make other technical changes. **DEAD**

[LD 610](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Employer Recovery of Overcompensation Paid to an Employee. (Sponsored by Rep. Doore of Augusta) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 425**

This bill amends the definition of "overcompensation" by an employer to exclude compensation in the form of paid leave and amends from 10% to 5% the maximum amount an employer may withhold from an employee's pay to recover for overcompensation. The bill also prohibits an employer from recovering more than the amount of overcompensation paid to an employee in the three years preceding the discovery and specifies that these provisions do not limit or affect an employee's general civil remedies against an employer.

[LD 609](#) Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 59 (6/15/21)**

This Resolve establishes the 15-member Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. The commission is directed to review data on housing shortages in the state for low-income and middle-income households; state laws that affect the local regulation of housing, including but not limited to municipal incentives, state mandates, eliminating or limiting single-family-only zones and allowing greater housing density near transit, jobs, schools or neighborhood centers; and 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 commission must submit a report, including suggested legislation, to the Labor and Housing Committee no later than Nov. 3, 2021.

[LD 608](#) An Act Regarding the Governor's Emergency Powers. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Johansen of Monticello) **DEAD**

This bill, in part, limits the Governor's authority to declare a state of emergency in a county unless the county's board of commissioners has declared that a disaster or civil emergency exists.

[LD 607](#) An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **Carried over**

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 602](#) An Act To Prevent Pollution from Single-use Plastic Straws, Splash Sticks and Beverage Lid Plugs. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.) **DEAD**

Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, this bill prohibits the manufacture, sale and distribution of single-use drinking straws, splash sticks and beverage lid plugs made wholly or partly of plastic and prohibits food and eating establishments from providing such items to customers at a point of sale or otherwise making such items available to customers. Only upon the request of a customer made at a point of sale are food and eating establishments authorized sell for not less than 5 cents single-use drinking straws, splash sticks or beverage lid plugs that are not made of plastic. Establishments are further authorized to retain and use collected fees for any lawful purpose.

[LD 601](#) An Act Regarding Indices of Vital Records. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill provides that indices to records of marriage, intentions to marry, domestic partnerships and death, including fetal death, from 1892 to the present at the municipal and state levels are open to the public without restriction and that indices to records of birth are open to the public after 75 years from the date of the birth. The bill also requires the state registrar to enter into a long-term nonexclusive contract with a private entity experienced in maintaining genealogical research databases to create, maintain and update at no direct cost to the state an online index to vital records. In exchange for the service, the bill authorizes the private entity to provide that index to its subscribers and customers.

[LD 597](#) An Act To Establish the Thermal Energy Investment Program. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 199**

This Act establishes the Thermal Energy Investment Program within the Efficiency Maine Trust to provide incentives and low or no-interest loans to businesses, municipalities, educational institutions and nonprofit entities for the installation of new thermal energy-derived projects in an effort to strengthen Maine's forest products industry and lower energy costs.

[LD 596](#) An Act To Improve the Law Regarding Abandoned Roads. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 145**

Effective Oct. 1, 2021, this Act repeals and replaces the current statute on the abandonment of town ways with a process that a municipality may choose to follow to declare a town way abandoned. This process includes notice provisions to abutting property owners, property owners for whom the town way is the only means of access and adjacent municipalities and counties and provides for a public hearing process and an appeals process. The Act clarifies that the public easement retained in a town way discontinued by abandonment is limited to rights of access by foot or motor vehicle. Furthermore, the Act expressly states that the section of law does not alter the ability of a town way to be abandoned under the common law presumption of abandonment.

February 22, 2021

[LD 591](#) An Act Regarding Agency Liquor Store Licensing. (Sponsored by Rep. Caiazzo of Scarborough) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 172**

This bill adds four more agency liquor store licenses for municipalities with populations over 20,000.

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

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

[LD 584](#) Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal Mandates. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias) **DEAD**

This resolve establishes a 15 member commission directed to study the reduction of unfunded and outdated municipal mandates, which includes representatives from eight municipalities of varying populations, the Maine Town and City Clerks Association and MMA. The commission is required to meet at least twice a year for two years to review unfunded and outdated municipal mandates, provide recommendations and to report out a list of mandates for the Legislature to consider eliminating or revising.

[LD 580](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Early Voting. (Sponsored by Rep. Moriarty of Cumberland) **DEAD**

As amended, this resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to authorize a process by which municipalities may conduct early voting by allowing voters to vote in the same manner as on election day during a period immediately preceding an election and to allow absentee voting for any sufficient reason. The bill also includes a \$172,000 fiscal note to cover the printing cost should the addition of the question result in the need to produce a second ballot.

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

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**

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) **Carried over**

This bill clarifies the Maine Food Sovereignty Act by amending the definition of "direct producer-to-consumer transaction" to mean any exchange of food or food products directly between a producer and a consumer in a manner mutually agreed upon by the producer and consumer of the food or food products rather than face-to-face transactions at the site of production. The bill also provides that counties have the same authority as municipalities to adopt direct producer-to-consumer ordinances for enforcement in the unorganized territory.

[LD 573](#) An Act Concerning Records of the Employment of Law Enforcement Officers and Corrections Officers. (Sponsored by Rep. Corey of Windham) **PL 2021, c. 256**

This Act requires a law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail to request employment records when the applicant is employed by or within 90 days prior by another agency, facility or jail. For the purposes of the employment application, the request form must include a waiver of any rights the applicant has to the privacy of employment records. The form must be signed by the applicant and the signature witnessed. The Act also requires an agency, facility or jail that performs a polygraph examination on a law enforcement officer or corrections officer to notify the head of the agency, facility or jail that employs the officer if the results indicate probable cause to believe that the officer is or has been involved in criminal activity. Lastly, the Act defines employment records as personnel, employment and any other records pertaining to an applicant's employment and job performance with the employing agency, but does not include any internal investigative records of the employing agency relating to the applicant.

[LD 571](#) Resolve, To Name a Bridge in the Town of Veazie the Hayward Carl Spencer Memorial Bridge. (Sponsored by Rep. Lyford of Eddington) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 5**

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 3684 on Main Street in the Town of Veazie the Hayward Carl Spencer Memorial Bridge.

[LD 569](#) An Act To Prohibit Hunting with a Bow within 100 Yards of a Building or Residence on That Land without Permission. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias) **PL 2021, c. 74**

This Act prohibits the discharge of an arrow from a bow when on the land of another person or across the land of another person and within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling on that land without the permission of the owner or, in the owner's absence, the permission of an adult occupant authorized to act on behalf of the owner.

[LD 568](#) An Act To Establish a Working Farmland Access and Protection Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and a Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within the Land for Maine's Future Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 135 (6/10/21)**

This Act establishes the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for the purpose of strengthening the alignment between the department's farmland conservation goals and the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program. This Act establishes the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within the LMF program for farmland protection projects. The Act also provides

that consideration must be given to applicants from or serving underserved or underprivileged communities.

[LD 566](#) An Act To Address Labor Market Inequities in the School Funding Formula. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias) **DEAD**

Beginning in fiscal year 2024-25, this bill prohibits the Commissioner of Education from making regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit (SAU), also known as the labor market adjustment, that decreases an SAU's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs. The bill also requires the commissioner to reduce the adjustment incrementally to zero between fiscal years 2021-22 and 2024-25 for any SAU for which the regional adjustment in fiscal year 2021-22 results in a decrease in the unit's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs. Finally, the bill requires the commissioner to maintain the adjustment amount at the fiscal year 2021-22 amount for the subsequent three fiscal years for any SAU for which the adjustment in fiscal year 2021-22 results in an increase in the unit's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs.

[LD 565](#) An Act To Study the Fee Structure for Motor Vehicle Inspections as It Relates to the Viability of Inspection Stations. (Sponsored by Rep. Harrington of Sanford) (By Request) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill would study the fee structure for motor vehicle inspections as it relates to the viability of inspection stations.

[LD 563](#) Resolve, To Create the Criminal Records Review Committee. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **Resolves 2021, c. 121**

This Resolve establishes the Criminal Records Review Committee, which includes a representative from the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, to review options for expunging and sealing criminal records. The review committee is directed to submit a report to the Judiciary Committee by Dec. 3, 2021.

[LD 560](#) An Act To Amend the Safe Haven Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Corey of Windham) **PL 2021, c. 466**

This Act amends the safe haven laws regarding abandoned children by including a safe haven baby box to the list of safe havens that a person may deliver a newborn child to under the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act and to serve as an affirmative defense to the criminal offense of the abandonment of a child. A safe haven baby box is a device or container that can safely accept delivery of a newborn child that is located in a hospital, law enforcement facility or fire department facility that is staffed 24 hours a day by a medical services provider. This Act also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules governing the design, installation and use of safe haven baby boxes to ensure necessary safety specifications are met.

[LD 557](#) An Act To Require Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting. (Sponsored by Rep. Johansen of Monticello) **DEAD**

This bill requires proof of identity via photograph identification when voting in person. Acceptable photograph identification is a current and valid driver's license or non-driver identification card issued in this state, U. S. Passport, military identification or a permit to carry a

concealed handgun issued in this state, if that permit includes a photograph. An identification issued by a college or university in this state may not be accepted for voter identification.

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

This bill allows public employees, including municipal and county, but not including employees whose duties include protecting public safety to strike. The bill requires notice be given to the public employer stating the dates upon which the strike will begin and end and allows an employee organization or public employer to call for emergency bargaining within three days prior to the intended start of the strike. Furthermore, the bill prohibits a public employer from permanently replacing an employee because that employee engaged in a strike.

[LD 553](#) An Act To End At-will Employment. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits an employer from terminating the employment of an employee without cause. The bill specifies that an employer may terminate an employee for cause only after applying a three-step progressive discipline policy and providing notice of termination in accordance with certain requirements. The bill also eliminates references to at-will employment in current law.

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

This bill allows Efficiency Maine Trust funds dedicated to programs that help reduce energy costs for electricity consumers to be used toward weatherization efforts. The goals established in the bill include the weatherization of 17,500 homes and businesses by 2025 and 35,000 homes and businesses by 2030, including at least 1,000 units of housing for low-income individuals or households per year.

[LD 543](#) An Act To Provide That the Minimum Wage Increases by the Cost of Living Every 3 Years. (Sponsored by Rep. Bradstreet of Vassalboro) **DEAD**

This bill changes the annual cost-of-living increase in the minimum hourly wage from annual to triennial. Current law provides that the minimum hourly wage is adjusted for the cost of living annually.

[LD 539](#) An Act To Require Law Enforcement Agencies To Do a Thorough Background Check of Applicant Officers and Require the Release of Records, Including Sealed Records, to the Requesting Agency. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill requires a candidate for employment as a law enforcement officer who has previous law enforcement experience to provide the hiring law enforcement agency a written waiver authorizing prior law enforcement employers to release all performance related employment records on the candidate, including sealed records but not including medical, pay and other nonperformance data, and releasing the hiring and disclosing law enforcement agencies of liability related to the disclosure or use of the employment records. A previous employer is immune from any confidentiality or nondisclosure law, policy or contractual requirement for providing information to a hiring law enforcement agency. This bill requires a hiring law enforcement agency to conduct a background check on the employment records prior

to hiring the candidate and forbids a law enforcement agency from hiring a candidate who refuses to provide the written waiver.

[LD 536](#) An Act To Amend the Maine Criminal Code. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty.) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 299**

Part A of the bill authorizes non-concurrent sentencing when a crime is committed by a convicted person during a stay of execution of any term of imprisonment or after failure to report after a stay of execution of any term of imprisonment. It also authorizes non-concurrent sentencing when the convicted person is convicted of the crime of failure to report as ordered after a stay of execution of any term of imprisonment. Part B amends sections of law addressing the disposition of funds by correctional facilities when they hold funds for the purposes of restitution and the victim cannot be located consistent throughout statutes. Current law requires the facility to notify the court and the court to determine distribution of the funds. The bill requires the facility to forward the funds to the Treasurer of State to be handled as unclaimed property. Part C separates two variants of kidnapping, restraining a person with intent to commit bodily injury and restraining a person with intent to commit a sexual assault, which are included in current law in the same provision. This Part amends the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2013 to clarify that, beginning Jan. 1, 2022, kidnapping with intent to commit sexual assault qualifies as a Tier III offense under that Act and renders a person ineligible for interment in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System. Part D clarifies that immunity from revocation of probation is limited to the same conduct for which there is immunity from prosecution under the law protecting persons seeking medical assistance or administering naloxone hydrochloride or experiencing a drug-related overdose. Part E repeals a section of law addressing the factors used to predict high-risk sex offenders for sentencing purposes, leaving individual risk assessment at sentencing to the judgment of the court.

[LD 534](#) An Act To Allow Tax Abatements for Catastrophic Loss. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill allows municipal assessors, or the State Tax Assessor for property in the unorganized territory, to abate the property taxes of real property that, due to destruction by flood, fire, explosion or natural disaster, suffers at least a 50% decrease in just value to improvements on that real property.

[LD 525](#) An Act To Allow Medical and Adult Use Marijuana Stores To Share a Common Space. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill allows the use of a shared facility for retail sale of adult use and medical marijuana and products, as long as the adult use marijuana and products are sold using a different cash register than that used for sales of medical marijuana and products.

[LD 524](#) Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control To Research Workable Methods To Collect Pesticide Sales and Use Records for the Purpose of Providing Information to the Public. (Sponsored by Sen. Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.) **Resolves 2021, c. 54**

This Resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to research workable methods to collect pesticide sales and use records for the purpose of providing information to the public. No later than Jan. 1, 2022, the Resolve further directs the board to submit a report, with findings and recommendations, to the Committee on

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[LD 521](#) An Act To Modify the Rule-making Process for Establishing County and Municipal Jail Standards. (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 171**

This Act requires that the standards established by the Commissioner of Corrections impacting the operations and administration of county jails and municipal detention facilities be evidenced-based, take into consideration cost impacts and reflect best practices.

February 17, 2021

[LD 519](#) An Act To Protect Children from Exposure to Toxic Chemicals. (Sponsored by Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach) **PL 2021, c. 197**

This Act bans the use of glyphosate and dicamba within 75 feet of school grounds, except that the prohibition does not apply to agricultural land or residential property located within 75 feet of the school grounds. The Act also directs the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to establish a medical advisory committee to evaluate the human health impact of herbicides used on school grounds. No later than Feb. 1, 2022, the board is required to submit a report to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[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)

Carried over

This bond bill issues \$30 million for low-income households headed by a person 55 years of age or older for the construction of new energy-efficient affordable homes, the adaptive reuse of structures or homes, home repair, and weatherization programs.

[LD 514](#) An Act To Establish and Promote a System of Safe Disposal of Expired Marine Flares. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell) **PL 2021, c. 422**

This Act establishes within the Department of Public Safety programs for the collection and disposal of expired marine flares and for education of the public and state agency personnel regarding expired marine flares.

[LD 513](#) An Act Regarding the Citizen Members and the Complaint Review Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. (Sponsored by Rep. Reckitt of South Portland) **PL 2021, c. 196**

This Act expands the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's complaint review committee from three to five and the number of members who are citizens from one to two, and further allows deliberations when a majority of the members of the committee, including at least one citizen member, is present. The Act also defines a "citizen member" as an educator, municipal official or citizen who is not and never has been a sworn member of a law enforcement agency.

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

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to create additional intensive case manager positions so that counties that do not have a county jail or regional jail will have an intensive case manager. An intensive case manager oversees persons who are detained by a law enforcement officer and who have intellectual disabilities or mental health conditions or have misused substances and connects them to the services for which they qualify, works with the court system to ensure that they receive due process and speedy trials and assists persons who qualify for the MaineCare program to apply for and receive MaineCare benefits and services while being detained or incarcerated, including during the implementation of diversion and reentry plans.

[LD 507](#) An Act To Improve Consumer Protections for Community Solar Projects. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 107**

This bill clarifies and directs the Public Utilities Commission to adopt consumer protection rules for customers who participate in or are solicited to participate in community solar projects through a net energy billing arrangement based on a shared financial interest in a distributed generation resource. The language mirrors that addressing the authority of the commission to implement and enforce consumer protections for customers of competitive electricity providers and shared distributed generation resource projects, respectively.

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

This bill exempts from sales tax all electricity consumed by residential customers participating in either a low-income assistance program or arrearage management program approved by the Public Utilities Commission. This exemption maximizes the value of the benefit from the subsidies provided to participants in these programs.

[LD 505](#) An Act To Expand the Disciplinary Authority of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. (Sponsored by Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield) **PL 2021, c. 255**

This Act broadens the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to require the adoption of rules for standards of conduct that subject an applicant for a certificate or a certificate holder to disciplinary action for a violation. The Act also requires that any action taken by the board as a result of a complaint, charge or accusation must be supported by a statement of findings and issued as a written decision of the board, both of which are public records under the Freedom of Access Act.

[LD 502](#) An Act To Broaden the Definition of “Working Waterfront” with Respect to Land Use Planning. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures facilitating a review of how working waterfront or working waterfront property is defined and treated throughout statutes to assess whether statutory or regulatory changes are needed to better recognize and account for water-dependent commercial activities associated with working waterfront or working waterfront property in the state's land use planning, resiliency planning and climate change adaptation strategies.

[LD 500](#) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 895: Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission. (Emergency) (Presented by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham on behalf of the PUC) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 16 (5/25/21)**

As amended, this emergency Resolve authorizes final adoption by the Public Utilities Commission of portions of Chapter 895: Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the commission, only if the rule is amended prior to final adoption to clarify that a damage prevention incident may be reported by an excavator to the Public Utilities Commission via e-mail.

[LD 498](#) An Act To Reauthorize a 3 Percent Tax on Income over \$200,000 To Lift All Maine Workers out of Poverty. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland) **DEAD**

This bill imposes an income tax surcharge on taxable income exceeding \$200,000 and increases the Maine earned income tax credit to equal the federal earned income tax credit.

[LD 491](#) An Act To Give Special Weight to Discriminatory Motive in Sentencing for False Public Alarm or Report. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 170**

This bill makes a Class C crime the false public alarm or report to an emergency responder, government agency or utility or law enforcement officer in which a person: (1) is motivated by the actual or perceived race, color, religion, religious practice, disability or origin of any person; or (2) knows or should reasonably know is false and with the intent to convince a law enforcement officer that a crime has been committed.

[LD 490](#) An Act To Eliminate Certain Motor Vehicle Inspections in the State. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill repeals statutory provisions requiring inspections for motor vehicles registered in the state, except that the provisions regarding inspection of commercial motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers; inspection of fire trucks; and inspection by dealers and transporters are not repealed.

[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.) **Carried over**

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 488](#) Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine. (Sponsored by Sen. Maxmin of Lincoln Cty.) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 46 (6/11/21)**

This Resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to give preference in awarding contracts for recovery community centers to counties that do not have a state-funded recovery community center until every county has a center. The Resolve also requires the

department to periodically provide updates on this effort to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

[LD 484](#) An Act To Change Maine's Tax Laws. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill makes specific changes to the laws governing taxation that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Taxation.

February 11, 2021

[LD 481](#) An Act To Propose a General Fund Bond Issue To Train Workers in High-demand Sectors and Support the State's 10-year Economic Plan Goal of Increasing Wages by 10 Percent. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Waterford) **Carried over**

This bond bill issues \$80 million to train workers in high-demand sectors and support the state's goal of increasing average annual wages by 10%. The funding would be provided in \$20 million increments over four years in accordance with programmatic and return-on investment goals that must be met by the Maine Community College System.

[LD 479](#) An Act To Ban Foreign Campaign Contributions and Expenditures in Maine Elections. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham) **DEAD**

This bill, in part, provides that a foreign national may not make directly or indirectly, a contribution or expenditure: (1) influencing the nomination or election of any person to state, county or municipal office or a contribution to a party committee; (2) designing, producing or disseminating a communication for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to state, county or municipal office; (3) influencing the initiation or outcome of a state or local ballot measure; or (4) disseminating or republishing campaign materials authorized by a candidate or a candidate's authorized political committee.

[LD 477](#) An Act To Allow for Fair Restitution by Providing that Restitution Includes the Cost of Analysis of Suspected Illegal Drugs If the Defendant Was Convicted of Trafficking and Was Motivated by Profit. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell) **PL 2021, c. 296**

This Act requires that a defendant be convicted of trafficking a scheduled drug and a court determine the defendant was motivated by profit in order for the cost of the analysis of suspected illegal drugs to be considered a critical investigation expense for the purposes of restitution.

[LD 475](#) Resolve, To Create the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 23 (6/8/21)**

This Resolve establishes the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative, which includes participation from municipal officials, to develop a plan to provide stable housing and community services to 200 persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are the most frequent consumers of high-cost services, such as psychiatric hospitals, emergency shelters, emergency rooms, police, jails and prisons. The collaborative must submit a report to the Committee on Health and Human Services no later than Jan. 1, 2022, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

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

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.) **Carried over**

This bill requires the approval of two-thirds of all the members elected to each House of the Legislature for any use of public reserved lands for transmission lines and facilities and certain other projects. This provision applies retroactively to Sept.16, 2014.

[LD 470](#) An Act To Allow a Veteran Who Was a Member of the Military Reserves or Served in the National Guard To Qualify for the Veterans' Property Tax Exemption. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill provides that persons who served on active duty in the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces are considered veterans eligible for veterans' property tax exemptions.

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

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

[LD 467](#) An Act To Support E-9-1-1 Dispatchers and Corrections Officers Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford) **PL 2021, c. 419**

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

[LD 466](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support a Climate Center at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill proposes to change certain laws to help the people obtain housing.

[LD 462](#) An Act To Reexamine the Relationship among County, Municipal and State Governments. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill would create a committee to study: (1) the relationship among county, municipal and state governments; (2) the roles of county government in other states, and which, if any, of those roles might be beneficial in Maine; (3) whether the existing powers of county government are adequate to fill those roles; and (4) whether the powers of county government should be increased to help county governments provide regional leadership in various areas, including health care, education data collection and workforce development.

[LD 460](#) An Act To Amend Certain Employment Laws To Help Front-line and Other Workers. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill would amend certain employment laws to help front-line and other workers

[LD 458](#) An Act To Support Public Transportation Infrastructure in York and Cumberland Counties. (Sponsored by Rep. O’Neil of Saco) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to support public transportation infrastructure in Cumberland and York Counties.

[LD 456](#) An Act To Protect Voter Identification by Prohibiting a Voter’s Party Designation from Appearing on Absentee Ballot Envelopes. (Sponsored by Rep. Sampson of Alfred) **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 455](#) An Act To Give the State the Sole Authority To Establish a Minimum Wage and Hazard Pay with Certain Exceptions. (Sponsored by Rep. Newman of Belgrade) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits a municipality from enacting an ordinance governing the minimum hourly wage paid by an employer or requiring adjustments to the minimum hourly wage for hazard pay. The bill provides an exception to the prohibition that allows a municipality to regulate the minimum hourly wage and hazard pay of municipal employees.

[LD 454](#) An Act To Ensure Equity in the Shellfish Depuration Compensation Process for Municipalities by Increasing the Rate of Reimbursement Paid to Municipalities. (Sponsored by Rep. Matlack of St. George) **PL 2021, c. 59**

This Act increases the rate of reimbursement paid to the municipality by a shellfish depuration certificate holder from 50 cents to \$1 for each bushel of soft-shelled clams.

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

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**

Current law provides that the obligation of a public employer and a bargaining agent to bargain collectively includes their mutual obligation to meet within 10 days after receipt of written notice from the other party requesting a meeting for collective bargaining purposes, as long as the parties have not otherwise agreed in a prior written contract. This bill removes the exception for the case in which the parties have otherwise agreed in a prior written contract.

[LD 448](#) An Act Regarding Recording of Witness Interviews. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner) **PL 2021, c. 381**

This Act directs the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to adopt minimum policy standards regarding the recording and preservation of witness interviews conducted by law enforcement officers in murder investigations and Class A, Class B and Class C crime investigations. Law enforcement agencies are required to adopt policies containing at least the minimum policy standards, which may not require the recording of all witness interviews, but must factor in the feasibility of recording individual interviews, taking into account the circumstances of the witness, the time and place of the interview and the crime, as well as the capability of the law enforcement agency to record the interview.

[LD 447](#) An Act To Require Equivalent Paid Parental Leave for All Parents Employed by Companies Offering Paid Parental Leave. (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor) **DEAD**

This bill requires an employer that provides paid parental leave to provide an equal amount of leave for the birth of a child and the adoption of a child. It also prohibits an employer from providing different amounts of paid parental leave based on the gender of the employee or employee's domestic partner. The bill uses the definition of "employer" under the family medical leave laws. The bill establishes a fine of \$10,000 for violation of these requirements.

[LD 446](#) Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Research and Recommend Solutions for Regional and Municipal Planning. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham) **DEAD**

This bill reestablishes the State Planning Office to: (1) advise the Governor on developing and implementing policy; (2) assist the Legislature with information and analysis; and (3) administer financial and technical assistance programs to help build sustainable communities.

[LD 436](#) An Act Regarding the Authority of the Department of Environmental Protection Regarding Applications, Permits and Fines. (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to assess an interest rate of 15% per year on any fee or portion of a fee owed and if not paid within 90 days of the due date the department is further authorized to place a lien on the real estate owned by the delinquent fee payer. The bill also increases the cap on civil penalties from \$10,000 to \$25,000 or if a violation relates to hazardous waste from \$25,000 to \$65,000 for each day of a violation.

The maximum civil penalty may exceed \$25,000 but may not exceed \$65,000 for each day of a violation when it can be shown that there has been a previous violation of the same regulation by the same party within the preceding five years. The maximum criminal penalty is increased from \$25,000 to \$65,000 for each day of a violation in cases involving subsequent violations.

February 9, 2021

[LD 434](#) An Act To Clarify the Bonding Authority of Counties for Capital Maintenance Projects. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair) **DEAD**

This bill authorizes a county to issue bonds for capital maintenance projects in a single year without the need for a bond issue referendum, as long as the total amount of the bonds does not exceed 1/10 of one mil of the county's property valuation. If a county charter provision provides for a higher total amount of bonds that may be issued for such projects without a bond issue referendum, that charter provision is valid.

[LD 431](#) An Act To Repeal the Requirement That Certain Motor Vehicles Be Inspected. (Sponsored by Rep. Cebra of Naples) **DEAD**

This bill repeals statutory provisions that require motor vehicles registered in the state to have an annual motor vehicle inspection.

[LD 427](#) An Act Regarding Solar Project Licensing. (Sponsored by Sen. Luchini of Hancock Cty.) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to examine the issue of discrete electric generating facilities as they are governed by the rules of the Public Utilities Commission.

[LD 426](#) An Act Relating to Solar Energy Installation. (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing solar energy installation.

February 8, 2021

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

This bill increases the number of mature plants from 30 to 60 and immature plants from 60 to 120 that a medical marijuana caregiver may cultivate.

[LD 418](#) An Act To Create a Graduated Real Estate Transfer Tax. (Sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor) **DEAD**

This bill decreases the rate of the real estate transfer tax on the first \$150,000 of value of a primary residence to \$1.50 for each \$500 or fractional part of \$500 of the value and increases the tax rate on the value of a primary residence exceeding \$150,000 and on all other property to \$2.50 for each \$500 or fractional part of \$500 of the value.

[LD 417](#) An Act To Protect Maine's Drivers from Pretextual Traffic Stops. (Sponsored by Rep. Morales of South Portland) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from using a motor vehicle violation for stopping an occupant suspected of engaging in criminal activity that is not related to a motor vehicle violation. The bill also provides that evidence obtained in a traffic stop in violation of this provision may not be used in any criminal proceeding.

[LD 412](#) An Act To Authorize the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Constructing or Renovating Municipal Offices and Other Buildings. (Sponsored by Rep. Carlow of Buxton) **DEAD**

This bill permits revenue from tax increment financing districts to be used for the construction or renovation of municipal offices or other buildings and limits the revenue that may be used to \$1 million during a 20-year period for any one tax increment financing district.

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

This bill provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$40 million in FY 22 to the Department of Transportation to reconstruct Route 161 from Fort Kent to Caribou.

[LD 409](#) An Act To Provide Funding To Restore Fully State-Municipal Revenue Sharing. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison) **DEAD**

This bill increases state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% as of Jan. 1, 2021.

[LD 408](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Regulating the Operation of the Legislature. (Sponsored by Rep. Dunphy of Old Town) **Carried over**

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 403](#) An Act To Assist Service Center Communities by Adjusting State-Municipal Revenue Sharing. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Madigan of Waterville) **DEAD**

For FY 22 and FY 23, this bill sets the percentage of state-municipal revenue sharing at 4.25%.

[LD 400](#) An Act to Modify the Composition of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. (Sponsored by Rep. Bell of Yarmouth) **DEAD**

This bill expands the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy by adding a county commissioner who is not and has never been a sworn member of a law enforcement agency.

[LD 395](#) An Act To Remove the Authorization for Temporary Signs To Be Placed in the Public Right-of-way. (Sponsored by Rep. Ordway of Standish) **DEAD**

This bill removes the authorization for a person to place a temporary sign in the public right-of-way and removes the civil violation that currently applies to persons who take, deface or disturb such signs.

[LD 393](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Health and Human Services. (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**
This concept draft bill would amend the tax laws.

[LD 391](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Marine Resources. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing marine resources.

[LD 390](#) An Act Regarding the Mapping of Shoreland Zones. (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Calais) **DEAD**

This bill directs the Board of Environmental Protection to adopt rules establishing minimum guidelines for municipal zoning and land use controls that: (1) exempt from municipal permitting the repair or replacement of an existing and qualifying culvert; (2) govern building and structure size, setback and location; (3) establish resource protection, general development, limited residential, commercial fisheries and maritime activity zones; (4) establish criteria for the issuance of permits and nonconforming uses, land use standards and administrative and enforcement procedures; (5) include a requirement that a person issued a permit pursuant to this article in a great pond watershed have a copy of the permit on the work site; (6) use clear and operable language that references widely available and best available datasets, specifically for modeling in a geographic information system and for enforcement purposes by municipal officials; (7) define terms "contiguous," "adjacent," "surficially connected" and other similar operational terms; (8) include selection distances for use in geographic information systems and field surveys; and (9) exclude from the resource protection zone lots where less than 2,500 square feet of the lot would be zoned as resource protection.

[LD 389](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. (Sponsored by Rep. Landry of Farmington) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing inland fisheries and wildlife.

[LD 388](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Transportation. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing transportation.

[LD 387](#) An Act To Reduce the Amount of Waste Going into Landfills. (Sponsored by Rep. Alley of Beals) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection to create a plan to compost all of the state's food waste and bagged grass clippings, leaves and other woody debris in convenient places in each county and present its plan to the Legislature during the 2022 session.

[LD 386](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Establish the Process for Transitioning the Provision of Early Childhood Special Education Services for Children with Disabilities from 4 Years of Age to under 6 Years of Age from the Regional Child Development

Services System to School Administrative Units. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) **Resolves 2021, c. 106**

This Resolve directs the Department of Education to establish a process, timeline and implementation plan for transitioning the provision of early childhood special education services for children with disabilities from four years of age to under six years of age from the regional Child Development Services System to school administrative units. It requires the establishment of a committee to advise the department and directs the department to report findings and recommendations to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than Feb. 1, 2022, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[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) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

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

[LD 382](#) An Act Regarding the Department of Transportation and Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Scarborough) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures regarding the Department of Transportation and electric vehicle charging stations.

[LD 379](#) An Act To Establish the Maine State Cemetery Commission. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.) **Carried over**

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**

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 375](#) An Act To Create Greater Accountability in the Office of County Sheriff. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill creates procedures for a majority of the county commissioners of a county to file a complaint with the Superior Court in the county to remove the sheriff for improper, unethical or criminal behavior. After a hearing in which evidence may be presented by both sides, if the court finds cause, the court is required to forward the matter to the governor for consideration of removal of the sheriff from office and may place the sheriff on administrative leave with pay. If the court determines the matter requires more investigation, the court may refer the matter to the Attorney General with instructions to report back to the court or to forward the results of the investigation to the governor.

[LD 373](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Maine's Railroad Infrastructure. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.) **Carried over**

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.) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill provides a vehicle for supplemental adjustments to General Fund appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

[LD 369](#) An Act To Criminalize Recording an Incident in Progress but Failing To Report the Incident Immediately to the Appropriate Authority. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill makes recording an incident in progress such as a crime or event involving serious bodily injury or death but failing to immediately report the incident to an appropriate law enforcement or emergency response authority, which may include calling 9-1-1, a Class E crime.

February 4, 2021

[LD 363](#) An Act Regarding the Statute of Limitations for Injuries or Harm Resulting from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) **PL 2021, c. 328**

This Act provides that an action arising out of any harm or injury caused by a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance accrues when the plaintiff discovers or reasonably should have discovered the harm or injury, and provides that this provision applies to all actions occurring prior to the enactment of the law. Furthermore, the terms of the Act do not alter the notice period or limitation period applicable to claims against a government entity.

[LD 359](#) An Act To Promote Energy Production from Recycled Plastics. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures that promote the production of energy by waste-to-energy facilities in the state through the incineration of collected recyclable plastics that cannot be profitably sold as a recycled commodity.

[LD 354](#) An Act To Require Motor Vehicle Inspections Every 2 Years. (Sponsored by Rep. Connor of Lewiston) **DEAD**

This bill changes noncommercial automobile inspection requirements from an annual inspection to a biennial inspection.

[LD 353](#) An Act To Establish Medical Marijuana Cooperatives. (Sponsored by Rep. Warren of Hallowell) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to establish medical marijuana cooperatives.

[LD 351](#) An Act Regarding Municipal Valuation and State-owned Property. (Sponsored by Rep. Foster of Dexter) **DEAD**

This bill changes the property tax exemption for state-owned property by requiring the state to pay municipal property taxes on the state-owned property in a municipality that exceeds 10% of the total valuation of taxable property in the municipality.

[LD 349](#) Resolve, Directing an Examination of Issues Related to Operation of Watercraft on Waters of the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Waterford) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 45**

This bill adds Keyes Pond in the Town of Sweden in to the list of water bodies in the state on which the operation of personal watercraft is prohibited.

[LD 346](#) An Act Requiring the Use of Propane and Natural Gas Detectors. (Sponsored by Rep. Reckitt of South Portland) **PL 2021, c. 194**

This Act requires owners of certain buildings to install, in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements, at least one approved fuel gas detector in every room containing an appliance fueled by propane, natural gas or any liquefied petroleum gas. The requirement impacts multifamily housing, fraternity, sorority or dormitory housing affiliated with an educational facility, a children's home, emergency shelter or resident care facility, a hotel, motel or inn, a mixed-use occupancy that contains a dwelling unit, businesses and a unit of assembly.

[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) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to annually set aside 20% of each federal block grant it receives for the most vulnerable communities in the State and at least 12% of each federal block grant it receives for federally recognized Indian nations, tribes and bands in the State.

[LD 340](#) An Act To Allow for the Establishment of Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs. (Sponsored by Sen. Sanborn of Cumberland Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 142**

This Act authorizes municipalities to adopt commercial property assessed clean energy (PACE) ordinances to help finance up to 100% of energy savings improvements to qualifying commercial properties, to be administered either by the municipality or the Efficiency Maine Trust. The Act provides that the written consent of a financial institution holding a lien, mortgage or security interest in or other collateral encumbrance on a property for which a commercial PACE assessment is sought and filed with the registry of deeds, must also include a written acknowledgement and understanding by the financial institution regarding the priority status provided to commercial PACE liens, the sale or foreclosure process applicable to commercial PACE liens and the financial institution's voluntary consent to the enrollment of the subject property in the commercial PACE program. The Act also specifies that, in the event a commercial PACE assessment is delinquent but the borrower or property owner is otherwise current on payment of all municipal taxes due to the municipality offering the commercial PACE program the property is enrolled in, then a commercial PACE lienholder must accept from the municipality an assignment of the commercial PACE lien. Following that assignment, the commercial PACE lienholder has and possesses all the same powers and rights in law as the municipality and its tax collector with regards to the commercial PACE lien, including the right to enforce the lien through foreclosure.

[LD 339](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.) **Carried over**

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.) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill proposes to amend the laws governing energy, utilities and technology.

[LD 336](#) An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry. (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 327**

This Act directs the Public Utilities Commission to negotiate a long-term contract for the design, permitting, construction and operation of the state's proposed floating offshore wind research array between the developer of the research array and an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility.

[LD 332](#) An Act To Reevaluate the Frenchboro Area Dragging Exclusion Zone. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 249**

This bill directs the Commissioner of Marine Resources to evaluate the size and boundaries of the Frenchboro area, where dragging and scalloping are prohibited, to determine whether the area should be modified.

[LD 331](#) An Act To Protect Student Privacy. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell)

DEAD

This bill provides that video and audio recordings made by security or surveillance cameras on school grounds or in school-related transportation vehicles, and live or recorded classes taught by public school staff in which students can be seen or heard are not public records under the Freedom of Access Act.

[LD 329](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner) **Carried over**

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**

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) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill proposes to distribute funds in the State Treasury by: (1) placing in the General Fund only the amount necessary to cover the outstanding obligations of the state as required by law; (2) distributing 75% of the remaining funds to Maine taxpayers on a pro rata basis, based on tax data for the 2020 tax year; and (3) after the transfer and the distributions, transferring the remaining 25% to the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

[LD 324](#) An Act To Limit Public Land Ownership in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Javner of Chester) **DEAD**

This bill limits publicly owned land in the state to no more than 33% of the total land area of the state and 50% of the land area in any county. The bill also allows the state or a municipality to exceed the limits with the approval of 2/3 of each House of the Legislature. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is required to report biannually beginning April 15, 2022 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public lands matters on the percentage of federal and state property ownership statewide and by county.

[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) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill would amend the current law regarding electricity restructuring and retail electricity sales, replacing the state's default service, called standard-offer service, with full retail choice and competition to benefit consumers and help to deliver the jobs, economic development and other benefits of a fully competitive market. The bill would ensure that all retail customers have adequate and efficient billing for electric service, increase the use of renewable and carbon-free resources in electricity generation, allow consumers to choose a rate that works for them from a mix of time-of-use rates and encourage innovative and broad on-bill

financing programs to assist consumers with implementing beneficial electrification to help Maine achieve its climate goals.

[LD 312](#) An Act To Extend the Maine Bicentennial Commission and the Use of Maine Bicentennial Registration Plates through 2021. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 89 (6/8/21)**

This Act removes the requirement that an expiration date be displayed on the State of Maine Bicentennial commemorative motor vehicle registration plate; extends the expiration date of the commemorative plate to Dec. 31, 2021; and extends the Maine Bicentennial Commission to Dec. 31, 2021.

[LD 311](#) An Act To Require Third-party Certification for Persons Undertaking Corrosion Prevention and Mitigation Projects for Public Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure and Bridges. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill directs the Departments of Health and Human Services and Transportation to adopt rules governing projects costing \$50,000 or more consisting of corrosion prevention and mitigation for bridges, public water supply infrastructure and public wastewater infrastructure. Rules adopted pursuant to this legislation must include establishing a process for ensuring that corrosion prevention and mitigation activities are performed in accordance with established corrosion prevention and mitigation standards, requiring the use of personnel who are industry-trained and industry certified in corrosion prevention and mitigation methods and requiring plans to prevent environmental degradation that might result from corrosion prevention and mitigation activities.

[LD 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.) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill is the vehicle for the so-called change package necessary to adjust certain appropriations and allocations in the Governor Mills' proposed supplemental FY 21 General Fund budget.

February 1, 2021

[LD 303](#) An Act To Establish Semi-open Primary Elections To Allow Unenrolled Voters To Participate. (Sponsored by Rep. Lookner of Portland) **DEAD**

This bill allows an unenrolled voter to vote in a primary election without having to enroll in a political party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's primary election.

[LD 301](#) An Act Regarding Adult Use Marijuana. (Sponsored by Rep. Perry of Bangor) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to address the regulation of adult use marijuana.

[LD 298](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Capital Improvements and Equipment For Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions to Prepare Students To Join Maine's Workforce. (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford) **Carried over**

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**

This bill requires a municipality to maintain the property tax on the homestead of a permanent resident who is at least 65 years of age at the amount billed in the year prior to an application for stabilization. The amount by which the property tax assessed exceeds the stabilized amount must be paid to the municipality by the state. If an eligible individual moves to a different municipality, the stabilized property tax amount continues at the new location. An applicant for stabilization must be a permanent resident of the state and must have owned a homestead for at least 10 years. An application for stabilization must be made each year to continue eligibility.

[LD 289](#) An Act To Authorize the Secretary of State To Reject Certain Vanity License Plate Requests. (Sponsored by Sen. Rosen of Hancock Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill allows the Secretary of State to refuse to issue or to recall a vanity registration plate that in the judgment of the Secretary of State is not appropriate for use.

January 28, 2021

[LD 286](#) An Act To Make Election Day a State Holiday. (Sponsored by Rep. Collings of Portland) **DEAD**

This bill designates election day, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, as a state holiday.

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

This bill provides that a new motor vehicle that has had an inspection is not required to have another inspection until two years from the last day of the month in which it was initially registered. After this time period has passed, the motor vehicle is required to have an annual motor vehicle safety inspection.

[LD 281](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Analyze Funding To Address Student Achievement Gaps. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 35**

This bill amends the school funding formula to provide additional state aid to address student academic achievement gaps based on race or economic status. The Commissioner of Education is directed to: (1) specify data and metrics to calculate student academic achievement gaps; (2) establish eligibility criteria for the adjustment; and (3) determine the adjustment amount or method for computing the amount. The bill also requires eligible school administrative units to annually submit a plan to address academic achievement gaps prior to receipt of the adjustment and authorizes the commissioner to disburse up to \$10 million per fiscal year in related adjustments.

[LD 279](#) An Act To Protect Persons Detained or Committed in a Correctional or Detention Facility from Excessive Telephone or Video Charges. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick) **DEAD**

This bill provides inmates in state correction and detention facilities and county jails and municipal detention facilities the right to communicate with family via telephone or video call two times per week without charge. The bill also prohibits a state, county or municipal corrections facility from entering into contracts that exceed 11 cents per minute for domestic debit, prepaid or collect calls or assess a surcharge payable to the facility that exceeds the charges imposed by the outside entity.

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

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**

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.) **Carried over**

This bill requires that, beginning in fiscal year 2022-23, when regional adjustments are made to the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit, the adjustment cannot decrease a school administrative unit's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs.

[LD 269](#) An Act To Prohibit Smoking in Bus Shelters. (Sponsored by Sen. Sanborn of Cumberland Cty.) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 57**

This bill clarifies that bus shelters are considered enclosed public spaces where smoking is prohibited.

[LD 268](#) An Act To Eliminate Online Burn Permit Fees for All Areas of the State. (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 414**

Currently, burn permits can be obtained via the state's online platform for a \$7 fee, of which \$2 is transferred to the municipality where the permit is issued. This Act repeals the fee and the provision in law prohibiting a vendor or owner of a burn permit software system from charging a municipality for use of the software.

[LD 267](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Erect and Maintain Markers To Commemorate and Recognize the Lafayette Trail. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 105**

This resolve designates each portion of the Lafayette Trail to facilitate the placement of suitable signs and markers. As amended, the bill removes a stop from the 1824 Tour at the

entrance of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, adds stops to the 1825 Tour in the towns of Kennebunk, Biddeford and Saco and removes signs and markers within the City of Portland.

[LD 266](#) An Act To Create the Maine Lighthouse Trust Registration Plate. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 56**

This Act creates the Maine Lighthouse Trust specialty registration plate to support lighthouse restoration and preservation efforts.

January 27, 2021

[LD 264](#) Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control To Gather Information Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) **Resolves 2021, c. 83**

This Resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to amend its rules governing the registration of pesticides in Maine to require manufacturers and distributors to provide affidavits stating whether the registered pesticide has ever been stored, distributed or packaged in a fluorinated high-density polyethylene container and to require manufacturers to provide an affidavit stating whether a PFAS is in the formulation of the registered pesticide. The board is also directed to conduct a study to determine if fluorinated adjuvants are being used or sold in the state and explore what is necessary to both regulate fluorinated adjuvants and impose a prohibition on the distribution or application of pesticides or adjuvants containing PFAS in the state. By Jan. 15, 2022, the board must submit a report, including recommendations, to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[LD 263](#) An Act To Make Technical Changes to Maine's Marine Resources Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell) **PL 2021, c. 168**

In part, this Act permits the Commissioner of Marine Resources to adopt rules to add or delete authorization for an aquaculture lease held only for scientific research purposes. The rules must provide for notice of proposed changes in gear authorization and an opportunity for the submittal of written comments by the public, riparian landowners and the municipality in which the lease is located.

[LD 260](#) An Act To Clarify the Establishment, Collection and Use of Certain Fees for Nonwetland Habitat Mitigation Required by the Department of Environmental Protection for Project Permitting. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to clarify how fees for habitat or species mitigation required by state agencies for project permitting are established, collected and spent to achieve appropriate mitigation goals outside the existing program established under the Natural Resources Protection Act (Title 38, section 480-Z).

[LD 259](#) An Act to Improve Solid Waste Management. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill proposes to enact measures to improve solid waste management.

[LD 258](#) An Act To Expand Eligibility for Special Emergency Medical Services Registration Plates to Ambulance Operators. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington) **DEAD**

This bill expands the eligibility for a special emergency medical services registration plate to include ambulance operators.

[LD 256](#) An Act To Adjust Sewer and Wastewater Lien Fees. (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) **PL 2021, c. 70**

This Act increases from \$13 to \$25 the flat fee paid by a delinquent sewer or wastewater ratepayer and requires the rate to be adjusted annually for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index.

[LD 255](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Develop a Plan for the Provision of Early Intervention Services. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 110 (7/15/21)**

This Resolve directs the Department of Education to convene a committee to advise the department on the development of a plan to: (1) provide early intervention services for children from birth to under three years of age through a quasi-independent government agency structure; (2) pursue the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Extended Part C Option; and (3) provide services to children three years of age. The Resolve directs the department to submit a report to the committees on Education and Cultural Affairs and Health and Human Services no later than Feb. 1, 2022 and authorizes the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[LD 253](#) An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting. (Sponsored by Rep. Cebra of Naples) **DEAD**

For the purpose of voting, this bill requires that a voter provide proof of identity using photographic identification approved by the Secretary of State by rule.

[LD 249](#) An Act to Eliminate the Current Net Energy Billing Policy in Maine. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill repeals the laws that authorized the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules governing net energy billing and that directed the commission to establish a net energy billing program for commercial and institutional customers of investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities. The bill also prohibits the commission from adopting rules that require a transmission and distribution utility to allow a customer to participate in net energy billing

[LD 245](#) An Act Regarding Rural Water Districts. (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill allows a trustee to be appointed on a temporary basis to fill a vacancy on the board of trustees of a water district if a vacancy occurs in the board.

[LD 244](#) An Act To Repeal Maine's Single-use Plastic Bag Law. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill repeals the law restricting the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags by retail stores and instead allows a retailer to use plastic bags to bag products at the point of retail sale if the retailer locates inside the store or within 20 feet of the main entrance to the store a receptacle

for collecting any used plastic bags and ensures that the plastic bags collected are recycled or delivered to a person engaged in recycling plastics.

[LD 243](#) An Act To Amend the Composition of the Piscataquis County Budget Committee. (Sponsored by Sen. Davis of Piscataquis Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 55**

This Act clarifies that appointment to the Piscataquis County Budget Committee is done in a manner established by the county commissioners. The Act also requires the county commissioners to appoint one member to the budget committee who is a resident of an unorganized territory located in the county and permits the commissioners to appoint one other resident of an unorganized territory to the budget committee.

[LD 242](#) An Act To Support the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission. (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 413**

This Act provides \$328,000 in one-time funding to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System to support the Maine Fire Service Institute, which provides funding, awarded through grants by the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, for construction and repair or replacement of regional live fire service training facilities.

[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.) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill is the vehicle for FY 22 – FY 23 General Fund budget.

January 25, 2021

[LD 236](#) An Act To Amend the Definition of “Reportable Accident.” (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich) **DEAD**

This bill amends the definition of "reportable accident" in the motor vehicle provisions by adding an accident that results in the injury or death of a domestic animal.

[LD 234](#) An Act To Amend the Law Concerning the Annual Number of Ferry Service Trips to Matinicus Isle. (Sponsored by Rep. Matlack of St. George) **DEAD**

This bill amends the law concerning ferry service to remove the upper limit on the number of times per year the ferry may travel to Matinicus Isle.

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

This bill allows an unenrolled voter to vote in a primary election, including a presidential primary election, without having to enroll in a political party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's primary election.

[LD 230](#) An Act To Allow Low-beam Headlights on Motorcycles To Flash during Daytime Hours. (Sponsored by Sen. Miramant of Knox Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill allows the operator of a motorcycle to use a flashing low-beam headlight during the daytime.

[LD 227](#) Resolve, To Conduct a Transit Propensity Study for Communities between Portland and Bangor. (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.) **Resolves 2021, c. 53**

This Resolve directs the Department of Transportation to conduct a transit propensity study, if sufficient funding is received, to assess the demand and viability for new or enhanced transit service, including passenger rail, between the communities of Portland and Bangor. It requires the department to submit a report based on its study by Jan. 1, 2023 to the Committee on Transportation, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2023. Furthermore, the Resolve specifies that funds may not be collected by or transferred to the department for the purpose of conducting the study unless the department receives commitments for no less than 25% of the overall costs of the study from municipalities for which new or enhanced transit will be assessed as part of the study. If the impacted municipalities have not fulfilled their funding commitment by the agreed upon dates, the department is authorized to discontinue the study and return any remaining municipal funds.

[LD 226](#) An Act To Limit the Use of Hydrofluorocarbons To Fight Climate Change. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 192**

This bill prohibits the sale, lease, rent, installation, use or entering into commerce of any product or equipment that uses or will use a substance that is a hydrofluorocarbon with high global warming potential intended for any air conditioning, refrigeration, foam or aerosol propellant end use as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection. It directs the department to adopt rules to implement the prohibition and specifies the substances and end uses that are to be addressed in the rules. In adopting the initial rules, the department must regulate each substance and end use as specifically provided for in the bill and may not regulate any substance or end use not addressed in the bill. In the future, the department may adopt rules adding or removing substances from the list of prohibited substances or adding or removing end uses.

[LD 225](#) An Act Regarding the Treatment of Vacation Time upon the Cessation of Employment. (Sponsored by Rep. Roeder of Bangor) **Carried over**

This bill amends the law governing the provision of vacation pay on cessation of employment. Under current law, on cessation of employment, if the terms of employment or established practice includes provisions for paid vacations, vacation pay has the same status as wages earned. This bill provides that on cessation of employment all accrued vacation pay must be paid to the employee.

[LD 223](#) An Act To Clarify Maine's Fish and Wildlife Licensing and Registration Laws. (Reported by Rep. Alley of Beals for the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife) **PL 2021, c. 411**

Of municipal interest, this Act includes language that is consistent with all-terrain vehicle registration requirements in regard to the form and display of snowmobile registration numbers and stickers. The Act also provides that a snowmobile registered after May 1 and prior to July 1 has a registration that expires June 30 of the following year.

[LD 221](#) An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30,

2021, June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023. (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 398 (7/01/21)**

Of municipal interest, the FY 22 – FY 23 supplemental General Fund budget: (1) increases state funding for K-12 education to \$1.3 billion, enabling the state to meet its requirement to fund 55% of the cost of public education as calculated by the Essential Programs and Services model and sets the mil rate expectation at \$7.26; (2) increases the amount of state sales and income tax revenue shared with municipalities from 3.75% to 4.5% in FY 22 and to 5% in FY 23; (3) beginning with the April 1, 2022 property tax year, increases reimbursement under the Homestead Exemption program by 3% annually; (4) transfers \$45 million to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank for the School Revolving Renovation Fund; and (5) provides \$30 million to abate, clean-up or mitigate the threats or hazards associated with PFAS contamination. The Act also implements the ongoing absentee voter status system, which as of Nov. 1, 2023 allows voters who are at least 65 years of age before the next election or who self-identify as having a disability to apply for ongoing absentee voter status requiring the automatic distribution of a ballot for each ensuing election until the voter is no longer eligible. Finally, the Act dedicates three additional staff to the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, who are directed to support municipal level efforts to address resilience planning, climate adaptation and affordable and workplace housing deficiencies.

[LD 220](#) An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021. (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 1 (3/17/21)**

As amended and of municipal interest, the FY 21 supplemental General Fund budget retains funding for the revenue sharing program at 3.75% of state sales and income tax revenues, and makes an upward adjustment to the total distributed to municipalities through June 30, 2021 to account for changes in the state's December 2020 revenue forecast.

[LD 218](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Accelerate Weatherization Efforts in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland) **Carried over**

This bill proposes to issue a \$40 million bond to accelerate weatherization efforts in the state, with the funds directed to Efficiency Maine Trust's Heating Fuels Efficiency and Weatherization Fund.

[LD 214](#) An Act To Eliminate Qualified Immunity for Police Officers. (Sponsored by Rep. Evangelos of Friendship) **DEAD**

This bill eliminates the ability to assert a defense of qualified immunity for civil actions concerning the actions of state police officers, sheriffs, deputies, constables, municipal police officers, marine patrol officers, game wardens and Capitol Police officers brought under the Maine Civil Rights Act.

[LD 213](#) An Act To Require Coverage for Female Firefighters Facing Reproductive System Cancer. (Sponsored by Rep. Millett of Cape Elizabeth) **MANDATE PL 2021, c. 325**

This Act adds gynecologic cancer to the list of rebuttable presumptions of workplace injury suffered by a firefighter under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992.

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

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 208](#) An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots. (Sponsored by Rep. Brooks of Lewiston) **DEAD**

This bill eliminates restrictions on the issuance of absentee ballots after the third day before an election, removes deadlines for the return of an absentee ballot by a third person and allows a voter to vote by absentee ballot in the presence of the clerk until 8:00 p.m. on the day of any election.

[LD 206](#) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 234: Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (Reported by Rep. Meyer of Eliot for the Department of Health & Human Services.) **Resolves 2021, c. 44**

This Resolve authorizes final adoption of the Department of Health and Human Services provisionally adopted rule under Chapter 234: Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Rule. The Resolve also directs the department to amend its rules to: (1) decrease acceptable lead levels from 15 parts per billion to four parts per billion; (2) remove the maximum number of hours a water sample may have been motionless prior to the collection of samples; (3) provide that excessive flushing of pipes may not take place immediately prior to the minimum eight-hour non-usage period; and (4) reduce the number of days that schools have to provide public notice.

[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**

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require candidates for the political offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative to be elected by a majority of the votes cast for that office.

[LD 199](#) An Act To Amend Certain Fish and Wildlife Laws and Related Provisions. (Presented by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty. on behalf of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 54**

Of municipal interest, this bill amends the definition of "owner," for the purpose of registration of a snowmobile, watercraft or ATV, to include a person having equitable interest in the snowmobile, watercraft or ATV, which entitles the person to possession of the vehicle.

[LD 198](#) An Act To Improve Maine's Tax Laws by Providing a Property Tax Exemption for Central Labor Councils. (Sponsored by Sen. Chipman of Cumberland Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 410**

This Act provides a property tax exemption for the real estate and personal property owned by central labor councils and occupied or used solely for their own purposes.

[LD 195](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation To Develop a Draft Registration Program for General Contractors for Home Improvement and Construction. (Sponsored by Sen. Breen of Cumberland Cty.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 76**

This resolve directs the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, in conjunction with the Department of Labor, to study the development of a voluntary licensing system for general contractors for home improvement and construction. The department is required to submit a report to the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee by Dec. 1, 2021, which is authorized to submit a bill based on the report in 2022.

[LD 193](#) Resolve, To Name a Mountain in Oxford County. (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett of Oxford Cty.) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 15**

This resolve names a mountain in the Town of Greenwood Jason's Mountain.

[LD 191](#) An Act To Permit Municipalities To Provide Assistance to Veterans in Paying Property Taxes. (Sponsored by Sen. Bailey of York Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 69**

This Act authorizes municipalities to adopt a program that provides benefits to veterans and their eligible family members who own or rent a homestead in the municipality. The benefit for owners is based on the impact property tax equalization has on the amount received as a property tax exemption compared to the amount that would have applied if no equalization was applied. The benefit for renters is \$100. The Act further provides that an eligible claimant must have maintained a homestead in the municipality for a certain period of time, as determined by the municipality.

[LD 189](#) An Act To Permit All Public Employers To Implement Payroll Deductions for Disability and Life Insurance Policies. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 102**

This Act authorizes a public employer to make payroll deductions designated in writing by a public employee for disability and life insurance offered in conjunction with the employee's membership in an employee organization recognized by the employer or designated by a collective bargaining agreement.

January 21, 2021

[LD 186](#) An Act To Allow Signs in a Public Right-of-way To Be Removed by the Landowner. (Sponsored by Rep. Kinney of Knox) **DEAD**

This bill provides that an owner of land adjacent to a public right-of-way within which a temporary sign has been placed does not commit a civil violation for taking, defacing or disturbing the temporary sign.

[LD 185](#) An Act To Abolish Mandatory Political Caucuses. (Sponsored by Rep. Cardone of Bangor) **DEAD**

This bill eliminates mandatory municipal caucuses under state law by: (1) repealing the requirements that a political party hold municipal caucuses to participate in a primary election or to have the party designation of its candidates printed on a general election ballot; (2) clarifying that the state committee of each political party may, by party rule, determine whether the

delegates to its state convention must be elected at biennial municipal caucuses or selected by county committees; and (3) authorizing the members of a party's county committee residing within a representative district to choose a nominee to fill a vacancy for Representative to the Legislature.

[LD 184](#) An Act To Minimize the Propagation of Invasive Aquatic Plants. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison) **DEAD**

This bill requires a person when removing a vessel from an inland water body to drain the vessel and other equipment that holds water and to remove or open drain plugs, bailers, valves and other devices to drain the water before that vessel is transported. Emergency response vessels are exempted from these requirements.

[LD 183](#) An Act To Establish Juneteenth as a Paid State Holiday. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 140**

As amended, this bill establishes June 19th of each year as Juneteenth Independence Day as a state holiday. The holiday effects the state's court system, nonessential state offices, financial institutions and K-12 public schools. Public offices in county buildings may also be closed to business on this holiday.

[LD 181](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Complete the Renovation of a Wharf and Bulkhead in Portland for Marine Research. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland) **Carried over**

This bill proposes to issue a \$2 million bond to complete the renovation of a wharf and bulkhead at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland to bring the wharf back into operation for a fishing vessel berthing resource to support marine research at sea and for continued long-term marine job development.

[LD 180](#) Resolve, Regarding the Storage of Consumer Fireworks. (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Oakland) **Resolves 2021, c. 96**

This Resolve directs the State Fire Marshal to convene a stakeholder group, including municipal officials from impacted communities and a representative of the Maine Municipal Association, to review federal and state requirements for the storage of consumer fireworks by businesses that sell fireworks. No later than Nov. 1, 2021, the fire marshal is further directed to report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[LD 179](#) Resolve, To Require a Review of Property Tax Assessment of Energy Efficiency Improvements. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland) **Resolves 2021, c. 93**

This Resolve requires Maine Revenue Services to convene a stakeholder group to review the assessment of energy efficiency improvements, including heat pumps, for the purpose of identifying the most appropriate ways to assess such property for the purposes of the property tax.

[LD 177](#) An Act To Improve Labor Laws for Workers in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Cuddy of Winterport) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

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.) **Carried over**

This bill proposes to issue a \$100 million bond for investment in research, development and commercialization in the state's seven targeted technology sectors. The funds would be used for infrastructure, equipment and technology upgrades that enable organizations to gain and hold market share and to expand employment or preserve jobs. Revenues would be awarded through a competitive process to Maine-based public and private entities, and used to leverage other funds in a one-to-one ratio.

January 19, 2021

[LD 164](#) An Act To Establish Maximum Contaminant Levels under the State's Drinking Water Rules for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick) **DEAD**

This bill amends the law authorizing the adoption of state drinking water rules by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to require that those rules establish a maximum contaminant level equivalent to 20 nanograms per liter for the following perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, both individually for each substance and as a sum concentration of 2 or more of those substances: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid; perfluorooctanoic acid; perfluorohexane sulfonic acid; perfluorononanoic acid; perfluoroheptanoic acid; and perfluorodecanoic acid.

[LD 163](#) An Act Concerning the Regulation of Air Emissions at Petroleum Storage Facilities. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick) **PL 2021, c. 294**

This Act amends the laws regulating air emissions to require the adoption by rule of certain requirements and prohibitions applicable to the licensure or operation of petroleum storage facilities with aboveground petroleum storage tanks and bulk gasoline terminals. It requires the Department of Environmental Protection, on or before Dec. 31, 2021, to initiate major substantive rulemaking to amend its air emissions rules to be consistent with the changes

to related laws and no later than March 1, 2022, submit a report to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources containing findings and any recommendations, including proposed legislation.

[LD 162](#) An Act To Make Supplemental Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 20, 2021. (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 2 (3/17/21)**

Of municipal interest, the amended version of Governor Janet Mills' FY 21 supplemental Highway Fund budget reduces transfers to the Local Road Assistance Program by \$1.07 million to account for related financial curtailment orders.

[LD 161](#) An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, Highway Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2021, June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023. (Governor's Bill) (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 224 (6/16/21)**

This bill is a vehicle for Governor Mills' FY 22-FY 23 Highway Fund budget.

[LD 159](#) An Act To Eliminate Time Limits for Placing Land in Trust Status under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Wood of Portland) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 139**

This bill extends all time limits for both the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation to add to their respective trust lands under the Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement to Jan. 31, 2030. Because this bill amends the Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement, it does not take effect unless the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Tribal Chief and Council of the Penobscot Nation agree to these changes and certify their agreement to the Secretary of State within 60 days of the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

[LD 156](#) An Act to Promote School Attendance by Exempting Virtual Public Charter School and Private School Students from Immunization Requirements. (Sponsored by Rep. Drinkwater of Milford) **DEAD**

This bill, in part, requires the Legislature to enact laws that are necessary to assure that all school administrative units make suitable provisions for the support and maintenance of public schools and the education of every person within the age limits prescribed by statute who resides in the school administrative unit.

[LD 155](#) Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control To Prohibit the Use of Certain Neonicotinoids for Outdoor Residential Use. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth) **Resolves 2021, c. 33**

This Resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to prohibit the use of any product containing certain neonicotinoids used for application in outdoor residential landscapes such as on lawn, turf or ornamental vegetation, except for products used for controlling or treating insects around structural foundations and

other parts of structures. The Resolve also requires the board to allow the use of certain neonicotinoids by certified applicators on ornamental vegetation to manage emerging invasive insect pests in order to safeguard the public health, safety, welfare and natural resources of Maine.

[LD 154](#) Resolve, To Name Bridge 2267 in the Town of Embden and the Town of Solon the Jotham and Emma Stevens Bridge. (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison) **Finally Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 4**

This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2267 in the Town of Embden and the Town of Solon the Jotham and Emma Stevens Bridge.

[LD 153](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Change the Number of Legislators To Approve a Constitutional Amendment. (Sponsored by Rep. Kinney of Knox) **DEAD**

This resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to require a 2/3 vote of all the members elected to each House of the Legislature, rather than a 2/3 vote of the members present, for the Legislature to propose an amendment to the Constitution of Maine.

[LD 152](#) An Act To Address Training Requirements for Harbor Masters. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell) **PL 2021, c. 53**

Under current law, a person appointed or reappointed to the position of harbor master or deputy harbor master after Aug. 13, 2006 must complete a basic training course within one year of appointment. This Act amends existing requirements by specifying that if a person has not held the position within the last five years, that person must complete the basic training course. The Act also requires harbor masters and deputies to complete eight hours of continuing education every three years. Finally, the Act permits, but does not require, municipalities to pay for the mandated training and directs the Harbor Masters Association to offer both in-person and remote training options.

[LD 150](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Hazardous Substance Site Cleanups. (Sponsored by Rep. Fay of Raymond) **Carried over**

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**

This bill provides a process for a voter to request ongoing absentee voter status, which allows the voter to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each statewide election, municipal election and any other election until the status is terminated. It provides that if the clerk notes a discrepancy in the signature on the return envelope of an absentee ballot, the return envelope is missing a signature or the affidavit on the return envelope is not properly completed, the clerk shall make a good faith effort to notify the voter within 24 hours by mail, telephone or e-mail of the procedure by which the voter may cure the discrepancy, correct the missing

signature or properly complete the affidavit on the return envelope. If enacted, these change would be in effect as of Jan. 1, 2023.

[LD 143](#) An Act To Make the Arrearage Management Program Permanent. (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland) **PL 2021, c. 101**

This Act extends to Sept. 30, 2024 the repeal date for the arrearage management programs implemented by electricity utility providers to assist eligible low-income resident customers who are in debt. The Act also directs the Public Utilities Commission to consider proven, global best practices to assist low-income ratepayers, including, but not limited to, the use of lower tier rates for customers based on income. No later than Jan. 15, 2022, the commission must submit a report to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, which is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2023.

[LD 141](#) An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Tax Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Terry of Gorham) **PL 2021, c. 253**

Of municipal interest, this Act clarifies that: (1) an assessor's examination results are confidential and not subject to a Freedom of Access Act request; and (2) enhanced BETE reimbursement only applies to tax increment financing (TIF) exempt business equipment when the reimbursement is used to fund a TIF development program.

[LD 140](#) An Act to Assist Certain Businesses in the State That Sell Prepared Food or Alcohol. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford) **DEAD**

This bill permits retailers selling prepared food or liquor sold by establishments licensed for on-premises sales to retain 1/8 of the sales tax collected on those sales to cover administrative expenses.

[LD 137](#) An Act Regarding Absence from Work for Emergency Response. (Sponsored by Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth) **PL 2021, c. 67**

Current law requires that in order to avoid being subject to discharge or discipline for failure to report for work or being absent when responding to an emergency, an employee who is also a firefighter or emergency medical services person must have presented to the employer within 30 days of employment a copy of a fire department or emergency medical services provider policy that specifies the circumstances under which the employee is needed to respond to an emergency and that affirms that the employee will be released as soon as practicable. This Act removes the requirement that the employee present the copy within 30 days of employment and instead requires that the employee present the copy within 30 days of notifying the employer of the employee's status as a firefighter or emergency medical services person. The Act also corrects a technical error to include "emergency services person" in the laws pertaining to individuals designated as essential.

[LD 135](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services To Study a Centralized Billing Process for Development and School-based Services Covered by the MaineCare Program and Other Insurers and Report on Updates to the Child Find Process. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 109 (7/15/21)**

This Resolve directs the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services, to study the development of a centralized billing process for developmental and school-based services covered by the MaineCare program and other insurers and report to the committees on Education and Cultural Affairs and Health and Human Services no later than Feb.1, 2022. The Resolve also directs the departments to report to the committees of jurisdiction on efforts to develop, improve and oversee the statewide child find plan, which is a federal directive requiring public schools to identify, locate and evaluate children who need special education. In addition, the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee is authorized submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[LD 133](#) An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Fire Stations. (Sponsored by Rep. Crockett of Portland) **Carried over**

The bill proposes to issue a \$25 million bond for the rehabilitation or new construction of fire stations by municipalities.

[LD 132](#) An Act To Implement the Attorney General’s Recommendations on Data Collection in Order To Eliminate Profiling in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **PL 2021, c. 460**

Beginning on July 1, 2023, this Act requires law enforcement agencies to collect data regarding traffic violation stops and to submit information regarding race, color, ethnicity, gender and age of each person involved in the stop based on the observation and perception of the officer responsible for reporting the stop, the reason for the stop and whether a warning or citation was issued, an arrest made or search conducted. The information must be submitted to the Attorney General, who is directed to submit a publicly accessible report including recommendations for changes in laws, rules and practices to the Committee on Judiciary.

[LD 131](#) An Act To Amend the Governor’s Emergency Powers. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford) **DEAD**

This bill limits a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor to 30 days and requires subsequent renewals of a state of emergency to receive approval from 2/3 of the membership of the Legislature. It also amends the Governor's powers during a state of emergency.

[LD 130](#) An Act to Create Appropriate Standards for the Secretary of State To Follow When Approving the Assignments of Vanity Registration Plates. (Sponsored by Sen. Diamond of Cumberland Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 232**

This Act limits the vanity registration plates the Secretary of State may refuse to issue or may recall to plates that: (1) falsely suggest an association with a public institution or government; (2) are duplicative; (3) encourage violence or contain language that may result in an act of violence or other unlawful activity because of the content of the language; (4) are profane or obscene; (5) make derogatory references; (6) connote genitalia or relate to sexual acts; or (7) form a slang term, abbreviation, phonetic spelling or mirror image of a word or term within any of the other categories. The Act also creates an appeals process for challenging the secretary’s decision to refuse to issue or recall a vanity registration plate.

[LD 129](#) Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Substances and Contaminants. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) **MANDATE Emergency Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 82 (6/21/21)**

This Resolve sets the interim drinking water standard for regulated perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at 20 nanograms per liter instead of 70 parts per trillion and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to regulate perfluorodecanoic acid in addition to the five PFAS substances provided for in the Resolve. It also directs the department to provide annual progress reports to the Health and Human Services Committee until the related rules are finally adopted.

[LD 128](#) An Act To Authorize the Commissioner of Transportation To Enter into Agreements with the United States Department of Transportation. (Submitted by Sen. Diamond of Cumberland Cty. on behalf of the Department of Transportation) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 66**

This bill allows the Commissioner of Transportation to enter into agreements and cooperate with the United States Department of Transportation as provided in federal regulations and as authorized under the federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act; Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act; and National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

[LD 125](#) An Act To Prohibit the Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate and Other Synthetic Herbicides for the Purpose of Silviculture. (Sponsored by Sen. Jackson of Aroostook Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits the aerial application of glyphosate or other synthetic herbicides for the purpose of silviculture, including reforestation, regeneration or vegetation control after a timber harvest.

January 13, 2021

[LD 115](#) An Act To Restore the Former State of Maine Flag. (Sponsored by Rep. Paulhus of Bath) **DEAD**

This bill replaces the current State of Maine flag with the flag that was in use before 1909.

[LD 114](#) An Act To Address Airboat Operation in the State. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell) **PL 2021, c. 166**

This Act repeals current law requiring the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish noise level limits for airboats by rule and replaces it with a provision establishing temporary airboat noise limits, which are repealed on Sept. 30, 2022. The Act also directs the Commissioners of Marine Resources and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene a stakeholder group to examine and determine airboat mechanical systems and adjustments that result in the lowest practically achievable airboat decibel level and examine and determine available federal or other funding to assist owners in addressing identified deficiencies in their airboat mechanical systems to achieve those results. The stakeholder group may also examine other issues related to airboats such as establishing and restoring shellfish harvester access to coastal tidal areas, operational techniques to allow for lower decibel levels and appropriate training and equipment for state and municipal law enforcement officers. By Jan. 15, 2022, the Act requires the commissioners to report findings and recommendations to the committees on Marine Resources

and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. After receiving the report, the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee is authorized to submit related legislation for consideration in 2022.

[LD 112](#) An Act To Facilitate the Timely and Accurate Counting of Absentee Ballots By Extending the Processing Period. (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick) **DEAD**

This bill amends the date by which a municipality is authorized to start processing absentee ballots from the fourth to the seventh day immediately prior to election day.

[LD 109](#) An Act To Facilitate Fair Ballot Representation for All Candidates By Allowing a Candidate's Nickname To Appear on the Ballot. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) **DEAD**

This bill permits a candidate to request that a nickname appear on the ballot for an election in the state. The nickname must also be included on the candidate's declaration of consent or written acceptance filed with the Secretary of State along with a declaration that the nickname is the name by which the candidate is known. It also specifies that if a candidate requests that a nickname appear on the ballot, the Secretary of State must set off the candidate's nickname by quotation marks and it must be placed on the ballot following the candidate's legal last name, first initial and middle initial, if any.

[LD 108](#) An Act To Improve Public Safety by Repealing the Single-use Plastic Carry-out Bag Ban. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) **DEAD**

This bill repeals the law restricting the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags by retail stores and instead allows a retailer to use plastic bags at the point of retail sale if the retailer locates inside the store or within 20 feet of the main entrance to the store a receptacle for collecting any used plastic bags and ensures that the plastic bags collected are recycled or delivered to a person engaged in recycling plastics.

[LD 107](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Specify the Qualifications of Electors. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) **DEAD**

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

[LD 106](#) An Act To Amend Maine's Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing Statutes. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 52**

As amended, this bill changes a number of technical provisions required for applicants to the Department of Marine Resources Limited Aquaculture Leasing Program, including increasing the licensing fee from both resident and non-resident lease holders, establishing time requirements for expansion of a lease, and authorizing the department to shift public notice cost to the applicant.

[LD 105](#) An Act To Adopt the Department of Economic and Community Development's 10-year Strategy for Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Bailey of Gorham) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to codify the 10-year economic development strategy for Maine that was developed by the Department of Economic and Community Development in 2019.

[LD 103](#) An Act To Improve the Animal Welfare Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry) **PL 2021, c. 99**

Of municipal interest, this Act: (1) changes the rabies vaccination requirement to provide that an owner or keeper of a dog must have the dog vaccinated within 30 days of attaining the age of three months; (2) provides that an owner or keeper of a dog is exempt from the rabies vaccination requirement if a medical reason exists that precludes the vaccination of the dog; (3) adds dangerous and nuisance dogs to those animals that are excluded from obtaining dog licenses through the internet licensing project; and (4) provides for the revocation of an animal control officer's certification for refusing to perform statutory duties. The Act also: (1) amends the laws pertaining to agriculture and animals to allow the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to employ any person considered necessary to assist in any response to a natural or man-made disaster affecting animals both in the state and outside the state and provides for such a person's compensation; (2) allows the Animal Welfare Advisory Council to have as a member a person who is a pet food supplier and an attorney with prosecutorial experience in the state court system; and (3) amends animal welfare laws to define "animal care facility" and to provide that the definition of "boarding kennel" applies to all privately owned animals that are kept for a fee.

[LD 102](#) An Act To Extend the Time Frame for Processing Absentee Ballots. (Sponsored by Rep. Moriarty of Cumberland) **PL 2021, c. 11 (effective on 6/29/21)**

This Act increases the number of days by which a municipality is authorized to start processing absentee ballots from the fourth to the seventh day immediately prior to election day. The Act also amends from 60 to 30 days before the election the timing of the notice provided to the Secretary of State and the chair of each political party in the municipality of the clerk's intent to process absentee ballots prior to election day.

[LD 101](#) An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits any department or agency of the state or any political subdivision from permitting, approving or otherwise authorizing an offshore wind energy development project. The bill also requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Land Use Planning Commission, the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection each to submit by Dec. 1, 2021 legislation necessary to align those provisions of law under their respective jurisdictions with the prohibition on offshore wind energy development projects. Under the bill, the term "offshore wind energy development project" includes community-based offshore wind energy projects, deep-water offshore wind energy pilot projects, offshore wind energy demonstration projects and offshore wind power projects, which are all categories of projects currently authorized by law.

[LD 100](#) An Act To Establish the General Election Date in United States Presidential Election Years as a State Holiday. (Sponsored by Rep. Moriarty of Cumberland) **DEAD**

This bill designates Election Day, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, as a state holiday in any year in which the President of the United States is elected. The holiday effects the state's court system, nonessential state offices, financial institutions and K-12 public schools.

[LD 97](#) An Act To Ensure the Right To Work without Payment of Dues or Fees to a Labor Union. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) **DEAD**

This bill prohibits a person, either in the public or private sector, from being required to join a labor organization or pay any labor organization dues or fees as a condition of employment or continuation of employment, notwithstanding any state law to the contrary. A violation is a Class D crime and is also subject to civil damages and injunctive relief. The Attorney General is responsible for enforcement and is required to prosecute all violations.

[LD 95](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to Food. (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) **Constitutional Resolution 2021, c. 1**

This Resolution, pursuant to voter approval at the Nov. 2, 2021 election (Question #3), would amend Maine's Constitution to provide all individuals with a natural, inherent and unalienable right to food, including the right to save, exchange seeds, grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being.

[LD 94](#) An Act To Allow Municipalities To Exempt Volunteer Firefighters from Paying Excise Tax on Their Vehicles Used To Respond to Fire Calls. (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden) **DEAD**

This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt an ordinance extending a vehicle excise tax exemption to qualifying volunteer firefighters.

[LD 92](#) An Act To Amend the Waste Motor Oil Disposal Site Remediation Program. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick) **DEAD**

Since the Finance Authority of Maine's Waste Motor Oil Revenue Fund program generated sufficient revenues to pay all debt service and other expenses related to the cleanup cost on sites operated by the now-defunct Portland-Bangor Waste Oil Company, this bill repeals the program and directs all remaining funds to the Department of Environmental Protection's Uncontrolled Sites Fund.

[LD 89](#) An Act To Regulate Airboats. (Sponsored by Rep. Sachs of Freeport) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to regulate airboats.

[LD 87](#) An Act To Implement the State Climate Action Plan, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Enhance Maine's Economy. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to implement strategies in the state climate action plan aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a variety of high-priority, cost-effective measures that will help strengthen the state's economy.

[LD 83](#) An Act To Clarify the Meaning of "Unserved Area" within the State's Broadband Service Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Riseman of Harrison) **DEAD**

This bill clarifies the meaning of "unserved area" within the state's broadband service laws by providing that the criteria established by the ConnectMaine Authority by rule to define that term must include any geographic area where broadband service is not available or where

the speeds available are less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and less than 100 megabits per second for uploads.

[LD 82](#) Resolve, To Provide for Participation of the State in the Planning and Negotiations for the Atlantic Loop Energy Project. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Kessler of South Portland) **Carried over**

This resolve provides for the immediate state involvement in the planning and negotiations on the Atlantic Loop, a Canadian electric transmission and power supply project intended to pass through the state, enabling possible participation in it on an equal footing with the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

[LD 81](#) An Act To Ensure the Safety of Children Experiencing Homelessness by Extending Shelter Placement Periods and Amending Licensing Requirements for Emergency Shelters. (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 98**

As amended, the bill amends the definition of an "emergency children's shelter" to extend placement from 30 to 90 consecutive days or less and amends the definition of "shelter for homeless children" to extend the limit on overnight lodging and supervision from 30 to 90 consecutive overnights. It also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules to allow the admission of a child into care for up to 48 hours in an emergency shelter for children without the permission of the child's guardian.

[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) **Carried over**

This bill requires 33% of sales and use tax revenue from marketplace-facilitated sales, after required transfers to other funds, including revenue sharing, be transferred to the ConnectMaine Authority to further the employment of high-speed Internet and broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas of the state.

[LD 79](#) An Act To Establish a Honeybee Special Registration Plate. (Sponsored by Rep. Lyford of Eddington) **DEAD**

This concept draft bill proposes to create the honeybee special registration plate. The proceeds from the special registration plate are administered by the State Apiarist to support research and beekeeping assistance efforts.

[LD 78](#) An Act To Protect Children from Extreme Poverty by Preserving Children's Access to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Benefits. (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer of Eliot) **PL 2021, c. 97**

Under current law, the Department of Health and Human Services terminates assistance provided under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to an entire family, including children, if the children's parent fails to comply with requirements of the family contract for a period of 90 days or for any subsequent failure. This Act repeals the provision and requires that assistance continue to be provided to children and complying parents.

[LD 73](#) An Act To Authorize Municipalities To Allow Harbor Masters and Deputy Harbor Masters To Use Red or Combination Red and White Auxiliary Lights When Responding to Watercraft Emergencies. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell) **PL 2021, c. 26 (effective on 6/29/21)**

This Act allows a municipality to authorize a harbor master or deputy harbor master to use a red or combination red and white flashing auxiliary light on a personal vehicle when responding to a watercraft emergency. The authority may be revoked by the municipality at any time.

[LD 71](#) An Act To Provide State Recognition for the Kineo Band of Maliseet Indians. (Sponsored by Rep. Stearns of Guilford) **DEAD**

This bill provides for state recognition of the Kineo Band of Maliseet Indians as a Native American tribe. Recognition does not create, extend or form the basis of any right or claim to land or real estate in the state or any right to conduct gambling activities prohibited by law. The Kineo Band of Maliseet Indians and the individual members of the band remain subject to all the laws of the State.

[LD 69](#) An Act To Reduce Duplicative Permitting Review for Projects under the Site Location of Development Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick) **PL 2021, c. 51**

Under current site location development laws, a structure that is from 3 acres to 7 acres is exempt from review, provided that certain criteria are met. This Act increases the upper limit to 10 acres.

[LD 67](#) An Act To Assist in the Restoration of Atlantic Salmon. (Sponsored by Rep. Martin of Sinclair) **PL 2021, c. 50**

This Act eliminates restrictions for the total number of discharge licenses allowed to be issued for Class AA and Class A waters.

[LD 65](#) An Act To Invest in the Stewardship and Management of Properties Acquired with the Proceeds from the Land for Maine's Future Fund or the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco) **PL 2021, c. 33**

This Act allows a small portion of the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program bond to be used to fund minor capital investments in the stewardship and management of properties acquired with revenue from the LMF fund or the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund, to ensure that these properties are maintained in perpetuity for the purposes for which the properties are conserved.

[LD 64](#) Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Environmental Rights. (Sponsored by Rep. O'Neil of Saco) **DEAD**

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to provide that every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment. This includes the right to clean air, pure water and healthy habitats. The amendment requires the state to preserve public natural resources.

[LD 63](#) An Act Regarding the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact. (Sponsored by Rep. Pluecker of Warren) **Emergency Enacted; P & SL 2021, c. 6 (6/11/21)**

Currently, all the New England states, New York and the Canadian provinces of Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador and the Maritimes make up the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact. This Act extends liability protection for the state and firefighters who travel to fight wildfires or other emergencies outside of the compact area.

[LD 61](#) An Act Regarding the Review of Law Enforcement Use of Deadly Force. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **PL 2021, c. 353**

This Act requires the Attorney General (AG) to complete an investigation of and submit findings regarding the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer to the Attorney General's Deadly Force Review Panel within 180 days of receiving notice of the use of deadly force. The AG is required to provide notice to the panel if the investigation is not completed within 180 days and provide a summary of the investigation up to the date of the notice, identify the reason for the delay and provide an anticipated conclusion date of the process, which may not exceed 270 days from receiving notice of the use of deadly force. The Act also amends the Intelligence and Investigative Record Information Act to make it clear that the Act does not preclude the public dissemination of a portion of a video in the custody of the AG depicting the use of deadly force by law enforcement when the public interest in the evaluation of the use of deadly force and the review and investigation of those incidents by the AG outweighs the harms contemplated by state statutes. The Act also requires the AG to issue a decision on whether to release a video no later than 30 days after receiving a request for release and to provide written notice detailing the basis for any denial, a time frame for release of all or part of the video and the process to appeal the decision.

[LD 58](#) An Act To Improve Information Sharing by Criminal Justice Agencies with Government Agencies Responsible for Investigating Child or Adult Abuse. (Sponsored by Rep. Harnett of Gardiner on behalf of the Department of Public Safety) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 252**

This bill expands the authority of criminal justice agencies to share confidential intelligence and investigative record information with government agencies responsible for the investigation of abuse, neglect or exploitation of children or incapacitated or dependent adults.

[LD 57](#) An Act To Reduce the Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste. (Sponsored by Rep. Tucker of Brunswick) **PL 2021, c. 230**

This Act repeals the existing \$2 per ton municipal solid waste surcharge in the laws governing solid waste management, as well as the exemption that exists for the solid waste generated by the municipality that owns the landfill or a community that has contracted with a nine month or longer term for the disposal of waste in the landfill facility. In its place, the Act imposes a \$1 per ton disposal fee on all municipal solid waste. The Act also authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt major substantive rules imposing per ton fees on any municipal solid waste disposed or received for processing at a commercial, municipal, regional association or state-owned solid waste disposal facility, solid waste processing facility, incineration facility or solid waste landfill.

[LD 50](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) **Carried over**

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) **Carried over**

This bill proposes to issue a \$50 million bond to address sea level rise by improving waterfront and coastal infrastructure in municipalities.

[LD 48](#) Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Request a Waiver Relating to Support Services and To Provide Funds To Prevent Homelessness. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) **DEAD**

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to apply to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a waiver from the requirements of federal law and regulations to allow Maine to provide Medicaid-funded direct support services to individuals experiencing homelessness. In addition, the resolve provides ongoing funds to the Housing First Assistance Program established within the Maine State Housing Authority to be distributed to community action agencies to assist individuals on the verge of becoming homeless.

[LD 47](#) An Act To Fund the State's Free Health Clinics. (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan of Portland) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 458**

This amendment replaces the printed bill and directs the Department of Health and Human Services to provide funding to the state's 10 free health clinics through a grant process. As a condition of receiving grant funding, a clinic must, no later than Dec. 15, 2021, provide the department with a description of how the grant funding will be used. The bill also requires the commissioner to report to the Health and Human Services Committee no later than Jan. 15, 2022 with information on which clinics were awarded funds, how much revenue was received and how the grant funding was used. The committee is authorized to submit legislation relating to the report in 2022.

[LD 45](#) Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Improve a Bridge over the West Branch of the Mattawamkeag River in Moro Plantation and Associated Culverts. (Sponsored by Rep. Johansen of Monticello) **DEAD**

This resolve requires the Department of Transportation, using existing resources, available grants or other funding sources, to design and construct ancillary culverts or other flooding mitigation devices in support of Bridge 6239 in Moro Plantation.

[LD 44](#) An Act To Establish the Summer Success Pilot Program Fund. (Sponsored by Rep. Pierce of Falmouth) **PL 2021, c. 32**

This Act directs the Department of Education to report annually to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on summer educational programs. The report must include information regarding: (1) the number of school administrative units administering and students participating in the programs; (2) partnerships with community based organizations to implement programs; and (3) sources of funding for the programs.

[LD 43](#) An Act To Require the Department of Transportation To Provide Ferry Service to Frenchboro. (Sponsored by Rep. McDonald of Stonington) **DEAD**

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to provide ferry service to Frenchboro.

[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) **Carried over**

This concept draft bill is the vehicle for Governor Mills' FY 21 supplemental General Fund budget.

[LD 40](#) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 305: Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Traffic Movement Permits, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Transportation. (Emergency) (Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072.) **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2021, c. 1 (3/17/21)**

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 305: Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Traffic Movement Permits, a major substantive rule of the Department of Transportation.

[LD 39](#) An Act To Remove the Plastic Bag Ban. (Sponsored by Sen. Guerin of Penobscot Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill repeals the law restricting the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags by retail stores and instead allows a retailer to use plastic at the point of retail sale if the retailer locates inside the store or within 20 feet of the main entrance to the store a receptacle for collecting any used plastic bags and ensures that the plastic bags collected are recycled or delivered to a person engaged in recycling plastics.

[LD 37](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Androscoggin Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 19 (3/17/21)**

This bill amends language contained in Public Law 2019, chapter 446 governing contributions under the open enrollment provisions of the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program by removing the provision requiring a person hired on or after Oct. 1, 2019 to enroll no later than five years after hire, conditioned on the enrollment and eligibility requirements of the applicable health plan. The bill also changes the percentage of gross wages for contributions and the time period during which contributions of gross percentages must be made and removes the requirement of 60 months of contributions by enrollees. The bill also changes the state's payment of certain premium subsidies from payment to the plan to payment directly to enrollees. The amendments to the open enrollment provisions are retroactive to Sept. 19, 2019, and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources, office of employee health and benefits is required to ensure correct contribution amounts for those who enrolled between Sept. 19, 2019 and the effective date of this legislation.

[LD 36](#) An Act To Amend the Definition of "Timber Harvesting." (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 30 (4/7/21)**

This Act clarifies the definition of “timber harvesting” to mean any cutting or removal of trees or forest products that when cut or removed are transported to a roundwood processing operation, excluding reclaiming trees, logs or bark from timber harvesting or other operations.

[LD 35](#) An Act To Facilitate Interagency Sharing of Information and Academic Research by Allowing Disclosure of Certain Confidential Information in Wood Processor and Forest Landowner Reports. (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to share wood processor report and forest landowner report information currently designated as confidential with other governmental agencies and the University of Maine System if, in the opinion of the director, the entity requires the information. It prohibits the director from disclosing information furnished by a state or federal agency when that information has been designated as confidential by the furnishing agency unless the furnishing agency authorizes the disclosure. It provides that a recipient of confidential information may not disclose the information or use the information except as authorized by the director and that the information remains the property of the bureau. It also provides that a person who receives confidential information and uses it for a purpose other than that authorized by the director commits a civil violation punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.

[LD 34](#) An Act To Create the Maine Forestry Operations Cleanup and Response Fund. (Sponsored by Sen. Dill of Penobscot Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 63**

This Act establishes the Maine Forestry Operations Cleanup and Response Fund for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry for the purpose of mitigating and remediating water quality violations that result from timber harvesting activities and require immediate action to prevent or minimize further damage to waters of this state. The fund is replenished with financial penalties, permit fees and other charges associated with timber harvesting, up to a limit of \$20,000. The Act allows the bureau to recover costs incurred through the use of this fund and to place a lien on a property when the responsible party is unwilling or unable to repay such costs.

[LD 32](#) An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Public Proceedings. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) **Emergency Enacted; PL 2021, c. 460 (6/21/21)**

After notice and public hearing, this Act authorizes municipal officials to adopt a policy regulating the use of remote meetings. The Act clarifies that remote participation by a member of the body is authorized only when a physical presence is not practical, which may include an emergency, illness or other physical condition or temporary absence from the jurisdiction making it significantly difficult for a member to travel to attend in person or when geographic characteristics impede or slow travel. The policy must also: (1) provide the public with an opportunity to participate remotely when a member of the body is authorized to do so; (2) provide an effective means of communication between the body and public, when allowed; (3) include in the notice of the meeting information on how members of the public can participate in-person and remotely; and (4) require all materials to be made available to the same extent available to those participating at the meeting location. The law also clarifies that votes must be taken by roll call and a member participating remotely is considered present for the purposes of establishing a quorum and for voting.

[LD 28](#) An Act To Update the Silver Alert Program To Include Missing Endangered Persons. (Sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 62**

This Act updates the existing Silver Alert Program within the Department of Public Safety to include missing endangered persons. Under the terms of the Act, a “missing endangered person” is defined as a person who is believed to be in danger because of: (1) the person’s age, mental or physical health or intellectual or developmental disability; (2) environmental or weather conditions; or (3) unexplained, involuntary or suspicious circumstances as determined by a local law enforcement agency.

[LD 24](#) An Act Regarding Certificates of Birth, Marriage and Death. (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty. on behalf of the Department of Health & Human Services) **PL 2021, c. 49**

This Act clarifies that the signatures on a marriage license of the parties intended to be married may be obtained at the issuance of the license or at the time the marriage is solemnized. The Act also requires that when a death or marriage occurs in an unincorporated place, it must be recorded or registered in the electronic registration system. It further clarifies that a birth certificate may be amended by the replacement of a genetic parent and makes technical changes to the laws governing electronic registration records to align with the Maine Parentage Act.

[LD 15](#) An Act To Amend the Intelligence and Investigative Record Information Act To Ensure Government Transparency and To Protect the Privacy and Safety of the Public. (Sponsored by Sen. Deschambault of York Cty. on behalf of the Department of Public Safety) **DEAD**

This bill amends the Intelligence and Investigative Record Information Act to allow Maine criminal justice agencies to refuse to confirm the existence or nonexistence of a record that is or contains intelligence and investigative record information, but only in specified circumstances. Current law broadly prohibits Maine criminal justice agencies from confirming the existence or nonexistence of such information to any person or public or private entity that is not eligible to receive the information. As specified in the bill, those circumstances include interfering with a law enforcement proceeding, endangerment of life, an unwarranted invasion of privacy or the disclosure of an investigatory technique unknown to the general public. The bill also enacts an appeals process for a person aggrieved by a decision of an agency to refuse to confirm the existence or nonexistence of a record that is or contains intelligence and investigative record information.

[LD 14](#) An Act To Require a Two-thirds Vote To Extend a State of Emergency. (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.) **DEAD**

This bill requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to permit the Governor to extend a state of emergency.

[LD 8](#) An Act To Support Collection and Proper Disposal of Unwanted Drugs. (Sponsored by Sen. Carney of Cumberland Cty.) **PL 2021, c. 94**

This Act requires certain drug manufactures to implement drug take-back stewardship programs for the purpose of collecting and disposing of certain medications. Of municipal interest, the Act explicitly authorizes law enforcement agencies to participate as collectors in a take-back stewardship program.

[LD 2](#) An Act To Require the Inclusion of Racial Impact Statements in the Legislative Process. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland) **Enacted; PL 2021, c. 21**

As amended, at the request of a legislative committee this bill requires a commissioner or other state agency official to provide the data and information within the agency's possession necessary for the Legislature to prepare a racial impact statement assessing a bill's potential impact on historically disadvantaged racial populations. The bill also directs the Legislative Council or designee to undertake a study to determine the best method to establish and implement a process of using racial impact statements. The study and report must be completed no later than Nov. 1, 2021 and the council must implement a pilot project for the use of racial impact statements no later than Dec. 1, 2021 for limited implementation during the 2022 legislative session.