



LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN



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County Bonding Debate

The State and Local Government Committee convened this week to accept testimony on LD 434, *An Act To Clarify the Bonding Authority of Counties for Capital Maintenance Projects*. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Danny Martin of Sinclair on behalf of the Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA).

As drafted, LD 434 would provide county commissioners, rather than the voters, with limited authority to issue bonds obligating repayment from the county's property owners to fund capital improvement needs for jails and other county buildings. The bill proposes to cap that bonding capacity to one-tenth of one million of the county's assessed value.

While widespread details on the potential fiscal impact were not available during the hearing, MCCA testified that in Cumberland County the commissioners would be able to bond for approximately \$3 million without the need for voter approval if the proposed legislation passes. Commissioners believe that the requested authority is necessary to avoid the time-consuming administrative burden associated with a referendum to bond and less expensive in the long run than paying for large scale projects in a piece meal fashion.

While the referendum process does require the county officials to draft the ballot question, describe the project, and certify the general obligation and the terms of bond, much of the administrative burdens fall on the municipalities, which administer all municipal, school, county, state and federal elections.

MCCA maintained they are just asking for the ability to have limited bond authority without necessitating a referendum process in the same way some municipalities have

been granted this authority.

However, unlike municipalities, county officials are asking the state, not the voters for the privilege that is currently available. For example, Cumberland County established limited authority in their county charter, voted on by the county's residents, allowing the commissioners to bond for projects that can be repaid by an associated activity and not impact the tax bill sent to municipalities.

MMA testified that the initiative struck municipal officials as problematic that the single point of veto power afforded to the voters over increased county expenditures would be removed. Instead local leaders believe the existing charter process should be used to directly ask residents for the authority. While many communities have received voter approval for limited bonding capacity sought in LD 434, others have not. In these

communities, residents who gather annually to engage in line-by-line budget making decisions not only retain the authority to reduce a proposed line item, but to strike an expenditure entirely.

No other individuals testified during the public hearing.

While municipal officials understand the pressures facing county government to carry out unfunded tasks vital to the justice system, relieving these pressures through the removal of a democratic process for the taxpayer further obscures the problem from view. Rather than seeing referendums as adversarial and laborious, they should be an opportunity to build voter awareness of these issues and increase the pressure on the state to chip in appropriately.

A work session on the bill has not yet been scheduled.

“Where are the Recycling Evangelicals?”

“Where are the recycling Evangelicals?” was the question posed by Environment and Natural Resources Committee chairman, Rep. Ralph Tucker of Brunswick, in response to a briefing from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the current state of solid waste management and capacity.

Last week, DEP reported the state failed to meet both of its statutory goals of (1) recycling 50% of municipal solid waste (MSW) by Jan. 1, 2021, and (2) reducing the annual per capita disposal rate to 0.55 tons by Jan. 1, 2019. The recycling rate was never close to the 50% goal; it peaked at 38.1% in 2017 and fell to 37.8% in 2019. Disposal reduction has fared no better. Since enacted in 2014, annual per capita disposal has increased from 0.57 to 0.63 tons.

As solid waste tonnage rises and recycling rates drop, the outlook is grim. First is the matter of capacity. While Maine has sufficient landfill capacity for at least ten years, recycling and recycled product infrastructure is lacking.

For instance, there are only two construction and demolition debris (CDD) recycling facilities in the state, which combined only process 2.5% of the in-state CDD. For many municipalities transportation of this waste is cost prohibitive to these few facilities.

Next is the hold-up over waste-to-energy facilities. Members of the committee continually asked DEP Director, Paula Clark, if turning municipal solid waste (MSW) into energy is a form of recycling, obliging Director Clark to reiterate that waste-to-energy cannot be

(continued on page 2)

Resurrecting the State Planning Office

Bills of municipal interest are virtually cranking out as the Legislature starts weighing the merits of legislation assigned to committees of jurisdiction. On Wednesday, the Committee on State and Local Government held a public hearing on LD 446, *An Act To Reestablish the State Planning Office*, sponsored by Rep. Kyle Bailey of Gorham. As drafted, the bill would resurrect the State Planning Office (SPO) and its municipal planning assistance functions that were eliminated under the LePage Administration.

During the hearing, Rep. Bailey acknowledged the groundwork he accomplished by engaging with many stakeholders in advance of the public hearing highlighting the desire is not to specifically resurrect the SPO. Rather, his goal is to find a way to coordinate

and improve on some of the former office's vital functions that were dispersed across a wide variety of state agencies. Additionally, Rep. Bailey underscored the need to fund regional and local planning initiatives to support municipalities as they prepare for increased weather hazards, flooding, and extreme weather events, along with other climate adaption recommendations proposed by Maine's Climate Council.

No one opposed the bill.

Proponents included Maine Association of Planners, GrowSmart Maine, Maine Audubon Society, Natural Resources Council of Maine and former employees of the defunct state agency. Proponents highlighted the deferential capacity at the local level, echoing statistics supplied by Hannah Pingree,

Director of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF), which show that 70% of Maine's communities do not have the planning capacity or access to regional assistance for planning activities.

MMA's neither for nor against testimony pointed to the valuable relationship developed with GOPIF throughout the pandemic, which helped to communicate the assistance necessary to provide vital government services during the health crisis.

Municipal officials feel this approach should serve as a model for increased municipal coordination, emphasizing the need for better interdepartmental coordination of locally implemented functions. At times, the messages to and regulatory burdens shouldered by communities from different state agencies conflict. However, local leaders are not asking the state to breathe new life into an old model.

Proponents of LD 446 offered many of the same concerns.

The sponsor also agreed that the bill could be used as a vehicle to study and identify the gaps in municipal support and coordination. A work session on the movement has not yet been scheduled but local leaders hope even a Frankenstein approach will connect the broken joints of the state and municipal partnership to weather Maine's planning future.

"Where are the Recycling Evangelicals?" (cont'd)

considered recycling or reuse. While some interested parties extol the benefits of waste-to-energy, the department only ranks it above landfilling and incineration.

Finally, market prices and fees make recycling unfavorable for cost conscious municipalities. The average per ton tipping fee for MSW in 2019 was \$77, compared to \$128 per ton of mixed recycling.

At one time recycling was more affordable, but since China reduced the amount of recycling it accepts and raised the standards of acceptable materials, the economic incentive to recycle has virtually disappeared. Between 2017 and 2019 the per ton price to recycle solid waste rose 829%, and according to one member of the committee it is mathematically impossible for prices to return to 2017 levels in a like amount of time.

Maine faces a predicament over solid waste. The state relied heavily on waste-to-energy for MSW instead of investing in recycling and recycled product infrastructure and markets, leaving it vulnerable to market influences. Now the state wants to be a national leader in solid waste recycling, but current forces are working against it. Market rates favor using virgin materials over recycled products and limited budgets favor landfilling over recycling.

For some municipalities, recycling is financially infeasible and for all municipalities

recycling is absent of economic incentive. More often than not recycled material finds its way to the landfill as ash at twice the cost.

Members of the committee recognized the state's recycling deficiencies and are interested in identifying a path forward that supports progress towards its solid waste goals without adding costs to property taxpayers that are already paying inflated prices for solid waste services.

Now comes the question, "Where are the recycling Evangelicals." Multiple DEP officials spoke to this. One official stressed the importance of building domestic markets for recycling and recycled products. Without this, he warned, the glut of recycling will not diminish and recycling will remain unaffordable for most communities. Another official hinted at stewardship programs like extended producer responsibility to ease the economic burden of solid waste infrastructure investment.

Programs like extended producer responsibility (EPR) are especially relevant since Maine's overall tonnage is increasing with no end in sight. EPR would reduce the amount of packaging produced and disposed of, and simultaneously share some of the cost associated with solid waste between the private and public sectors.

Whatever the path forward, policy that focuses on the municipalities stuck in the middle of market flow is no longer sustainable.

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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Editorial Staff: Kate Dufour, Rebecca Graham, Neal Goldberg and Laura Ellis of the State & Federal Relations staff.

Layout: Sue Bourdon, Communication & Educational Services.



The Plastic Bag Ban Debate

On Wednesday, the Environment and Natural Resources Committee convened a work session to discuss whether the law banning single-use plastic bags slated to begin later this year should be amended or repealed. An amended version of LD 39, now titled *An Act to Provide for Local Control With Respect to the Regulation of Plastic Bags*, originally sponsored by Sen. Stacey Guerin of Penobscot County, provided the vehicle for that discussion.

As amended, the bill would retain the ban on plastic bags and offer an opt-out to municipalities that want the ban lifted. The amendment was proposed by committee member Rep. Chris Johansen of Monticello, who does not feel the ban is necessary outside of southern Maine and wants to allow municipalities to opt-out of imposing the provision.

During the work session Rep. Johansen made it clear that the current plastic bag ban was not needed in more rural communities. “The people in my district, the retailers in my district, are very upset by this ban and do not want it at all... You can drive all day here and not see a plastic bag in the trees or alongside the road. My amendment would allow areas that are not having a problem [with plastic bags to] opt-out of this law.”

Some committee members saw the amendment as a step backwards with retail associations that only supported the original bill because it would be universal across all municipalities. Rep. Ralph Tucker of Brunswick worried retailers would object to the municipal opt-out amendment because of the difficulty operating under different conditions.

Ultimately the committee voted “ought not to pass” on LD 39 by a margin of 9 to 3, with the minority voting to support the amended version of the bill.

The committee was expected to reduce the legislature’s workload by disposing of similar bills, LD 108, *An Act to Improve Public Safety by Repealing the Single-use Plastic Carry-out Bag Ban*, sponsored by Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham of Winter Harbor and LD 244, *An Act to Repeal Maine’s Single-use Plastic Bag Law*, sponsored by Sen. Paul Davis of Piscataquis County. Instead, committee consensus was elusive and these bills received divided reports too. The 9 to 3 votes on both bills favored the “out not to pass” recommendation.

HEARING SCHEDULE

For the week of March 8, 2021

MONDAY, MARCH 8

Education & Cultural Affairs

Room 208, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-3125

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.

LD 281 – An Act To Address Student Achievement Gaps.

LD 566 – An Act To Address Labor Market Inequities in the School Funding Formula.

Environment & Natural Resources

Room 216, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-4149

LD 489 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment.

Labor & Housing

Room 202, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1331

LD 575 – An Act To Establish a Conditional Presumption of Compensability for Certain Employees in Cases of Impairment from Hypertension or Heart Disease.

State & Local Government

Room 214, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1330

LD 193 – Resolve, To Name a Mountain in Oxford County.

LD 375 – An Act To Create Greater Accountability in the Office of County Sheriff.

LD 462 – An Act To Reexamine the Relationship among County, Municipal and State Governments.

Veterans & Legal Affairs

Room 437, State House, 10:30 a.m.
Tel: 287-1310

LD 208 – An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots.

LD 580 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Early Voting.

LD 591 – An Act Regarding Agency Liquor Store Licensing.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

Energy, Utilities & Technology

Room 211, Cross Building, 11:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-4143

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.

LD 507 – An Act To Improve Consumer Protections for Community Solar Projects.

Marine Resources

Room 206, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1337

LD 332 – An Act To Reevaluate the Frenchboro Area Drugging Exclusion Zone.

Taxation

Room 127, State House, 9:30 a.m.
Tel: 287-1552

LD 328 – An Act To Fully Fund and Restore State-Municipal Revenue Sharing.

LD 403 – An Act To Assist Service Center Communities by Adjusting State-Municipal Revenue Sharing.

LD 409 – An Act To Provide Funding To Restore Fully State-Municipal Revenue Sharing.

LD 498 – An Act To Reauthorize a 3 Percent Tax on Income over \$200,000 To Lift All Maine Workers out of Poverty.

NOTE: You should check your newspapers for Legal Notices as there may be changes in the hearing schedule. Weekly schedules for hearings and work sessions can be found on the Legislature’s website at: <http://legislature.maine.gov/calendar/#Weekly/>.

Due to COVID-19 related restrictions (and until further notice), all public hearings and work sessions will be conducted remotely. Municipal officials interested in providing live remote testimony will need to email ljo@legislature.maine.gov or call (207) 287-1692 no later than 5 p.m. the day before the hearing for information on how to participate. Comments on bills can be submitted in advance of a public hearing using the Legislature’s testimony submission form ([Online Testimony Submission \(mainelegislature.org\)](https://www.mainelegislature.org/online-testimony-submission)) and interested parties can view committee proceedings, both live and recorded, on the Legislature’s YouTube channel ([News | Maine State Legislature](https://www.youtube.com/news-maine-state-legislature)).

IN THE HOPPER

(The bill summaries are written by MMA staff and are not necessarily the bill's official summary statement or an excerpt from that summary statement. During the course of the legislative session, many more bills of municipal interest will be printed than there is space in the *Legislative Bulletin* to describe. Our attempt is to provide a description of what would appear to be the bills of most significance to local government, but we would advise municipal officials to also review the comprehensive list of LDs of municipal interest that can be found on MMA's website, www.memun.org.)

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

LD 514 – An Act To Establish and Promote a System of Safe Disposal of Expired Marine Flares. (Sponsored by Rep. McCreight of Harpswell)

This bill directs the Department of Public Safety to establish a program for the convenient and safe collection of expired marine flares, which includes working with a statewide association of fire chiefs to identify fire departments that have the capacity and willingness to accept expired marine flares from members of the public. A participating fire department may choose to designate the geographic area from which flare will be accepted and coordinate for the timely pickup of the collect flares. The department is further directed to coordinate with marinas, municipalities and other groups that choose to include expired marine flares as part of annually collection events. The department is also directed to establish a program for the safe, nonpolluting disposal of marine flares and establish an education program for the public and state agencies regarding expired marine flares.

LD 521 – An Act To Modify the Rule-making Process for Establishing County and Municipal Jail Standards. (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill amends the laws governing the authority of the Commissioner of Corrections to establish standards for municipal and county jails and detention facilities by requiring the standards to: (1) be adopted through the major substantive rule-making process; (2) be evidenced-based; (3) minimize the imposition of additional costs; and (4) reflect best practices for the operation and administration of jails.

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

LD 626 – An Act To Clarify Temporary Mooring Privileges for Moorings on Inland Waters. (Sponsored by Rep. Stearns of Guilford)

This bill requires municipalities that border or contain inland waters to have a designated individual or entity responsible for dealing with inquiries related to mooring privileges and directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to develop model ordinance language to support municipalities or other governing entities that choose to regulate moorings.

Judiciary

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

This bill clarifies the provisions that must be in place to allow a member of a public body to participate remotely in a public proceeding. As proposed: (1) the public body must adopted 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 746 – An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Municipal Meetings. (Sponsored by Rep. Dillingham of Oxford)

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

Labor & Housing

LD 455 – An Act To Give the State the Sole Authority To Establish a Minimum Wage and Hazard Pay with Certain Exceptions. (Sponsored by Rep. Newman of Belgrade)

This bill prohibits a municipality from enacting an ordinance governing the minimum hourly wage paid by an employer or requiring adjustments to the minimum hourly wage for hazard pay. The bill provides an exception to the prohibition that allows a municipality to regulate the minimum hourly wage and hazard pay of municipal employees.

LD 553 – An Act To End At-will Employment. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This bill prohibits an employer from terminating the employment of an employee without cause. The bill specifies that an employer may terminate an employee for cause only after applying a three-step progressive discipline policy and providing notice of termination in accordance with certain requirements. The bill also eliminates references to at-will employment in current law.

LD 555 – An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This bill allows public employees, including municipal and county, but not including employees whose duties include protecting public safety to strike. The bill requires notice be given to the public employer stating the dates upon which the strike will begin and end and allows an employee organization or public employer to call for emergency bargaining within three days prior to the intended start of the strike. Furthermore, the bill prohibits a public employer from permanently replacing an employee because that employee engaged in a strike.

LD 607 – An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers. (Sponsored by Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland)

This bill annually raises the minimum salary that an employee who works in an executive, administrative or professional capacity must earn in order for that employee to be exempt from the laws governing the minimum wage and overtime pay until it is \$55,224 on Jan. 1, 2024. The bill also provides for an annual adjustment, beginning Jan. 1, 2025, based on the percentage annual increase in certain earnings as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

LD 609 – Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford)

This resolve establishes the 15-member Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions, which includes a representative of a statewide municipal association. The commission is directed to review data on housing shortages in the state for low-income and middle-income households, state laws that affect the local regulation of housing, and efforts in other states and municipalities to: (1) address housing shortages; (2) consider measures that encourage increased housing options in the state; and (3) review and consider the historical role of race and racism in zoning policies and the best measures to ensure that zoning laws do not serve

as barriers to racial equality. No later than Nov. 3, 2021, the commission must submit a report, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Labor and Housing Committee.

LD610 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Employer Recovery of Overcompensation Paid to an Employee. (Sponsored by Rep. Doore of Augusta)

This bill amends the definition of “overcompensation” by an employer to exclude compensation in the form of paid leave and amends from 10% to 5% the maximum amount an employer may withhold from an employee’s pay to recover for overcompensation. The bill also prohibits an employer from recovering more than the amount of overcompensation paid to an employee in the three years preceding the discovery and specifies that these provisions do not limit or affect an employee’s general civil remedies against an employer.

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

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

State & Local Government

LD 462 – An Act To Reexamine the Relationship among County, Municipal and State Governments. (Sponsored by Rep. Sylvester of Portland)

This concept draft bill would create a committee to study: (1) the relationship among county, municipal and state governments; (2) the roles of county government in other states, and which, if any, of those roles might be beneficial in Maine; (3) whether the existing powers of county government are adequate to fill those roles; and (4) whether the powers of county government should be increased to help county governments provide regional leadership in various areas, including health care, education data collection and workforce development.

LD 584 – Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal Mandates. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

This resolve establishes a 15 member commission directed to study the reduction of unfunded and outdated municipal mandates, which includes representatives from eight municipalities of varying populations, the Maine Town and City Clerks Association and MMA. The commission is required to meet at least twice a year for two years to review unfunded and outdated municipal mandates, provide recommendations and to report out a list of mandates for the Legislature to consider eliminating or revising.

LD 596 – An Act To Improve the Law Regarding Abandoned Roads. (Sponsored by Sen. Claxton of Androscoggin Cty.)

Effective Oct. 1, 2021, this bill repeals and replaces the current statute on the abandonment of town ways with a process in statute that a municipality may choose to follow to declare a town way abandoned. This process includes notice provisions to abutting property owners, property owners for

whom the town way is the only means of access and adjacent municipalities and counties and provides for a public hearing process and an appeals process. The bill clarifies that the public easement retained in a town way discontinued by abandonment is limited to rights of access by foot or motor vehicle. Furthermore the bill expressly states that the section of law does not alter the ability of a town way to be abandoned under the common law presumption of abandonment.

Taxation

LD 647 – An Act To Expand Eligibility for the Veterans’ Property Tax Exemption. (Sponsored by Sen. Keim of Oxford Cty.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Maine Municipal Association

60 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-9486

IN THE HOPPER

Transportation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Veterans & Legal Affairs

LD 638 – An Act To Ensure the Timely and Transparent Delivery of Unofficial Election Results in Maine. (Sponsored by Rep. Tuell of East Machias)

As soon as practicable after the election results are tabulated, this bill requires the election warden to post unofficial election results outside either the municipal office or each voting place and electronically transmit results to the Secretary of State for posting on a statewide publicly accessible website. The posting requirement applies to the results of all questions or candidates appearing on a municipal or state ballot. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to develop and implement a statewide education initiative to promote public awareness of the availability of unofficial election results.