



LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN



Vol. XLIII No. 14 April 16, 2021

Guns, Age & Ownership

SLG debates the hierarchy of residents and voice.

On Monday, the Committee on State and Local Government listened to a barrage of bills addressing contentious and common-sense issues that raised emotions, ignored reality, and framed Maine conversations in an inaccurate national narrative.

Guns in Polling Stations.

LD 805, *An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places*, sponsored by Sen. Cathy Breen of Cumberland County, would allow municipal officials to prohibit weapons from being carried inside a polling station located in a municipal building, which is similar to the authority preventing the carrying of weapons in schools, state buildings and privately owned facilities.

Gun advocates have no problem with existing law that applies common sense gun regulation protecting Maine’s legislators and officials conducting elections in schools and private buildings, such as the Cross Arena in Bangor, but for whatever reason these same advocates object to any attempts to apply

similar principles – exclusively on Election Day – in municipal buildings.

At issue is the creation of a uniform expectation for all voters and poll workers in all voting places in a community.

As drafted, the bill would allow municipal leaders in any community, in consultation with their residents, to declare the exclusion of the possession of weapons by any resident inside a polling location regardless of build-

ing ownership.

Opponents of the bill included several private individuals, the National Rifle Association and the Sportsman Alliance of Maine, who spoke to the fear of leaving their weapon behind in a secured vehicle for even the short period required to exercise their right to vote in a municipal location. Despite not having that ability to carry their weapons into a school, state, or private building to

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Legislation Aims to Make Swiss Cheese Out of Site Law

The interests of economic development and environmental protection coalesced during a joint public hearing on a bevy of site law related legislation before the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources this week. Generally speaking, these site law bills risk degrading the environment and increasing municipal responsibility in the name of expediting the permitting and licensing application process.

Site law provides protection from adverse development by requiring developers to obtain permits from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) attesting that the project will not have a substantial effect upon the environment. According to DEP testimony, in the last ten years the average application processing time is around 160 days. During this time DEP uses its expertise and resources to assess a project for its impact to such things as wildlife, noise, water quality, flood risk, soil health, historic sites, and odors. Applicants, meanwhile, are left waiting in limbo during this process. All parties agree the process takes longer than it

should, but not all agree on how to expedite important inspections, reviews, assessments, and public comment periods.

Sen. Lisa Keim of Oxford County thinks that since DEP is the bottleneck, reducing its workload will open the economic development floodgates. The senator’s ethos is don’t work harder, just do less. This begs the question; Who will pick up the extra responsibility, or is it just left undone?

Senator Keim’s site laws bills are LD 678 *An Act Regarding Timelines for Permitting by the Department of Environmental Protection*; LD 1028, *An Act to Ease Business Expansion by Increasing the Number and Applicability of Permit Exemptions under the Site Location of Development Laws*; LD 1038, *An Act to Facilitate a Timely Revision Process in the Site Location of Development Laws*; LD 1089, *An Act to Increase Municipal Oversight in the Site Location of Development Laws*; and LD 1097, *An Act Regarding the Definition of “Development of State or Regional Significance That May Substantially Affect the Environment.”*

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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.



HEARING SCHEDULE

For the week of April 19, 2021

MONDAY, APRIL 19 – HOLIDAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

Appropriations & Financial Affairs
Room 228, State House, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1635

LD 1507 – An Act To Establish a Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program and Allocation.

1:00 p.m.

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.

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.

LD 466 – An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support a Climate Center at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

LD 1235 – An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Connect Maine with a World-class Internet Infrastructure.

Energy, Utilities & Technology
Room 211, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-4143

LD 682 – An Act To Ensure the Viability of the Northern Maine Electric Transmission Grid.

LD 1219 – Resolve, To Facilitate the Modernization and Streamlining of the Utility Pole Attachment Process.

Health & Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1317

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.

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.

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Room 220, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1314

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.

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement & Business

Room 202, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-4880

LD 1476 – Resolve, Directing the Maine Economic Growth Council To Create and Share Measures of Progress.

LD 1493 – Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development To Create and Administer a Fund To Provide Seasonal and Tourism Industry Recovery Grants.

Judiciary

Room 438, State House, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1327

LD 841 – An Act Regarding Probation and Deferred Disposition.

1:00 p.m.

LD 741 – An Act To Establish a Bill of Rights for Maine Residents 65 Years of Age and Older.

LD 855 – An Act Regarding the Issuance of a birth Certificate Following a Gender Marker Change.

LD 982 – An Act To Protect against Discrimination by Public Entities.

LD 1180 – An Act To Prohibit Discrimination in Housing Based on a Person's Participation in a Rental Assistance Program.

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.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

Appropriations & Financial Affairs
Room 228, State House, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1635

LD 50 – An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless.

LD 175 – An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters.

LD 218 – An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Accelerate Weatherization Efforts in the State.

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.

LD 1084 – An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create Energy-efficient and Affordable Homes for Maine People.

LD 1094 – An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Reduce Homeowner and Municipal Energy Bills through Increased Efficiency and Weatherization Projects.

Criminal Justice & Public Safety
Room 436, State House, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1122

LD 663 – An Act To Make Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Treatment Available to Maine's Incarcerated Population.

LD 928 – An Act To Require Adequate Training for Police Officers Who Use Speed Measurement Devices.

2:00 p.m.

LD 1245 – An Act To Ensure the Provision of Adequate Personal Protective Equipment to Firefighters Who Are Women.

LD 1440 – An Act To Provide Safe Gear for Female Firefighters.

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Room 206, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1338

LD 1439 – An Act To Clarify All-terrain Vehicle Registration Requirements and Establish Regular Maintenance of Designated State-approved All-terrain Vehicle Trails.

Hearing Schedule (cont'd)

Judiciary

Room 438, State House, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1327

LD 1345 – An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee.

LD 1346 – An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Fees Charged for Responding to Public Records Requests.

Labor & Housing

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

LD 610 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Employer Recovery of Overcompensation Paid to an Employee.

LD 938 – An Act To Ensure Maine Workers' Right To Request a Schedule Change at Their Places of Employment.

State & Local Government

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

LD 889 – An Act Concerning Proportional Representation.

LD 1073 – Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Research Effective Strategies and Efficiencies of Legislatures.

LD 1256 – An Act Requiring Climate Impact Notes on Proposed Legislation and Agency Rules.

Veterans & Legal Affairs

Room 437, State House, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1310

LD 1013 – An Act To Provide Absentee Ballot Tracking for Maine Voters.

LD 1164 – An act To expand the Application Period for Absentee Ballot Requests and Allow Early Processing of Absentee Ballots.

LD 1165 – An Act To Provide Secured Drop Boxes for Absentee Ballots.

LD 1276 – An Act To Ensure All Legal Voters Are Able To Participate in Elections.

LD 1363 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Elections.

11:00 a.m.

LD 1354 – Resolve, To Study the Establishment of a System of Voting by Mail.

LD 1496 – An Act To Establish the Board of Canvassers for Certifying Election Results.

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 lio@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/OnlineTestimonySubmission)) and interested parties can view committee proceedings, both live and recorded, on the Legislature's YouTube channel ([News | Maine State Legislature.](#))

Please note that there is no longer a two-week requirement for advertising public hearings. Going forward, public hearing notices will only be required to advertise one week prior to the hearing.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
Room 214, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1312

LD 1407 – An Act To Provide That a Forestry Operation That Conforms to Accepted Practices May Not Be Declared a Nuisance.

Appropriations & Financial Affairs
Room 228, State House, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1635

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.

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.

LD 702 – An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Health & Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1317

LD 789 – An Act To Expand Administration of Lifesaving Opioid Medication.

LD 1333 – An Act Concerning the Dispensation of Naloxone Hydrochloride by Emergency Medical Services Providers.

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.

Judiciary

Room 438, State House, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1327

LD 32 – An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Public Proceedings.

LD 668 – An Act To Ensure Public Accountability While Implementing a Practical Approach to Remote Participation.

LD 746 – An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Municipal Meetings.

LD 1499 – An Act To Improve Accountability in Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Reporting.

Labor & Housing

Room 202, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1331

LD 1402 – An Act To Remove a Requirement Regarding Payment of Union Fees.

State & Local Government
Room 214, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1330

LD 1228 – An Act To Promote Transparency and Public Safety When Public Servants Request Towing Services.

LD 1365 – An Act To Prohibit Municipalities from Prohibiting Short-term Rentals.

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.

Veterans & Legal Affairs

Room 437, State House, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1310

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.

LD 1434 – An Act Regarding Controlled Entry Areas within Retail Marijuana Stores.

Guns, Age & Ownership (cont'd)

exercise the same right on Election Day, they felt their rights of possession in municipally owned buildings made their neighbors safer. Opponents did not offer testimony as to why such activity was not equally necessary in privately owned facilities or schools where polling also occurs in many communities.

Because of this, opponents' arguments ring hollow at best.

Despite the bill's construction, which requires a vote of the community to exclude weapons from the polling station, while creating a uniform experience across the community when exercising the right to vote, the opposition believes the right to carry openly supersedes the rights of all other voters who are uneasy with the presence of weapons in the polling place.

Proponents included MMA, Maine School Management Association, a number of the bill's sponsors, the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, and several members of the public. Proponents believe the balance of rights is appropriately apportioned on Election Day to promote the well-established principles of an intimidation free voting environment.

Property Owner Voice at Resident Forum

Somewhat ironically, another bill, LD 1088, *An Act to Allow Nonresidents Who Own Property to Speak at Town Meetings on Local Issues*, sponsored by Sen. Marianne Moore of Washington County, would demand equal voice at a municipal town meeting for any individual who simply owned property in the community regardless of their residency.

While uniformity of voting experience is unpalatable for those who own weapons, the proponents of LD 1088 felt those who own property should be afforded the right to have an equal experience as those who reside in a community year-round.

Current law allows non-residents the right to speak at town meeting if they receive authority from two-thirds of the eligible voters present at town meeting, which acts as the legislative body for town meeting communities under Title 30-A. While there is no expectation that a member of the public can speak at a legislative committee work session unless invited by the committee chair, or ever address the Legislature when convened in chambers at any time, some members of the State and Local Government Committee seemed to think that the simple ability to af-

ford property in another community should guarantee a voice in the process of enacting local regulations and adopting budgets.

While these same individuals can show up and speak at any town meeting or public hearing, including those to accept or decline new development or serve on any number of ad-hoc municipal boards, rarely do they exercise this right.

Overriding local control is never welcomed by full-time Maine residents, but equally problematic is the assumption that seasonal and out of state property owners have no voice in the municipal process. Rather than evaluating voting residents as most appropriate to make the final decisions on what year-round services they should pay for and enjoy, LD 1088 proposes to recreate the old system of land ownership as a protected and special category not requiring permission from the legislative body to speak.

MMA as well as several Maine residents agree that these points smack of elitism, highlighting the ability for individuals to become contributing members of any community or building local relationships that would allow them to exercise this right under existing law. Unfortunately, most non-residents speak to not wanting to pay for services that residents in the community desire or need as reasons why their voices deserve to be heard.

The Maine Town and City Clerks' Association testified neither for nor against the bill, pointing out that such a system would add to the current system of identifying eligible voters who could speak but not vote. This would require those individuals who purchased property after April 1 to bring a copy of their deed to prove eligibility, and require clerks to determine if that property is zoned as commercial or residential before they were permitted to speak.

Lowering Voting Age

The last proposal for expanding municipal voices came as an expansion of the voting age for municipal elections from 18 to 16 years of age. 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. Victoria Morales of South Portland, is an aspirational bill that seeks to make voting in local elections a mechanism to increase civic participation of youth in the local political process.

While the proponents' points were punctuated with two wonderful young students who sought to play a more active role in local government, each also made MMA's point that civics education was significantly lacking in public schools and education on issues is a core democratic duty of any voter.

As drafted however, the bill places municipalities in a sticky situation to expand voter rights. As 18, the age of majority, is also clearly defined in the Maine Constitution under Article 2 Sec. 1, a state constitutional amendment is required to rephrase the age provision. This requires ratification from Maine's eligible voters through a statewide referendum regardless of whether the elections at question are exclusively municipal.

Alternatively, because Maine's election law presents the age of 18 as a restriction, rather than a grant in Title 30-A § 2501, the law would need to be explicit that municipal elections are not governed by state law to circumvent the constitutional age restriction. If a municipality takes action to lower the voting age in their elections, they could be open to significant legal challenges without these changes in place.

While municipal officials support the encouragement of youth participation in government, even if LD 1051 were amended to be a constitutional amendment question for Maine's voters to decide, they believe the money required to administer the question or litigate the outcomes of future municipal elections would be better invested in promoting and supporting civic engagement for Maine's youth and public at large.

A work session on all these bills is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21 at 10 a.m. Contact the members of the State and Local Government Committee to have your say, while you still can.

CORRECTION. The "State Mulls One-Size-Fits-All Franchise Agreements," published in the April 16, 2021 edition of the Legislative Bulletin, misidentified public, educational and governmental or community television providers as local cable operators. To clarify, public, educational and governmental (PEG) or community television providers do not operate cable companies, rather they produce programs that air on local channels operated by cable companies like Comcast and Charter Communications.

Legislation Aims to Make Swiss Cheese Out of Site Law (cont'd)

The Association testified in opposition to all of the proposed site law legislation on the basis that they collectively abandon municipal officials to permit projects independently since they cannot escape federal and state regulations. Municipalities need the expertise of their state partners to play a more, not less, active role in assisting them to meet federal and state environmental obligations.

MMA asserted that staffing limitations are the root of DEP's barrier to expedient site review. Instead of supporting DEP staff, these bills address a human resources matter by either passing the buck to municipalities, creating sweeping exemptions that make Swiss cheese out of site law, or setting breakneck timelines that will result in needed review falling between the cracks. The result is a significant weakening of the state's site law that protects the environment from degradation and municipalities from violating federal regulations through permitting they should

not be approving.

LD 1097, for instance, extends site review exemptions to solar energy projects up to 10 megawatts. All of a sudden, municipalities will be without their state partner to help assess the environmental impact of what could be easily a 50 acre development that spans multiple wildlife habitats, flood zones or protected lands. Similarly, LD 1089 eliminates all acreage limits on developments that fall under municipal purview, and LD 1028 extends two- to fourfold increases for new construction or modification of existing permitted development. Inheriting these applications will be costly for most municipalities that do not have professional engineers or environmental impact experts on staff.

The Association was joined in opposition by the Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Council of Maine, the Sierra Club and members of the public. The Department of Environmental Protection also spoke against

the collective changes proposed in this site law legislation for their misguided approach to faster permitting through deadlines.

Support for the legislation came from Director of Economic Development Lincoln Jeffers who claimed Lewiston is using delegated authority to processes site review applications in about 50 days. Jeffers admitted these bills might be overstepping, but they are at least a first step. Peter DelGreco, President of Maine & Co., supported the legislation as a way to entice more businesses to move into the state. Scott Reed of ND Paper testified in support of two of the bills that would speed-up the company's mill expansion projects. The Maine Real Estate and Development Association spoke in favor of expediting applications, especially for minor revisions to existing permits.

Similar to the public hearing, these bills will likely have a joint work session on Wednesday, April 21 at 10 a.m.

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.)

Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

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

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

Energy, Utilities & Technology

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

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

report, including proposals and recommendations, to the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee.

Health & Human Services

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

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

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

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



Maine Municipal Association

60 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-9486

IN THE HOPPER *cont'd*

Judiciary

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

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

State & Local Government

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

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

Veterans & Legal Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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