

LD List 2017 (as of 5/19/17)

1/4/17

LD 3 – This bill authorizes plantations to adopt ordinances that control the sale and use of fireworks in the same manner that municipalities may control consumer fireworks. **Emergency Enacted; PL 2017, c. 3 (3/24/17)**

LD 5 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed amendment to the state’s constitution to provide that the state laws governing wildlife management may not be amended by the citizen initiative process. **DEAD**

1/5/17

LD 7 – This bill amends the terms of a 1971 transfer of real estate in Bridgton from the state to the town to allow the town to convey non waterfront portions of the parcel if the town determines those lots to have no public use and provided the revenue from those sales is held in trust for parks and recreational purposes of the town. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 18**

LD 9 – This bill prohibits the state or any municipality or other political subdivision of the state from keeping a list or registry of privately owned firearms or the owners of those firearms. The general prohibition does not apply to firearms that have been used in committing a violent crime dangerous to human life or the persons convicted of such a violent crime.

LD 10 – Current law establishes a 120 day period of disqualification from receiving any General Assistance (GA) benefits for a person who is found to have obtained GA by making a false or fraudulent representation to the municipal administrator. This bill increases the disqualification period to 24 months.

LD 11 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed amendment to the state’s constitution to establish an unfringeable right to hunt, fish and harvest game and fish, with such activities subject only to laws enacted by the Legislature and rules adopted by the state agency designated for fish and wildlife management. **Carryover Requested**

LD 13 – This bill establishes an express duty for five medically-related licensing boards (e.g., Osteopathic Licensure, Social Worker Licensure, Dental Practice, etc.) to report known or suspected incidents of sexual abuse of a client or patient to the Department of Health and Human Services or a law enforcement agency if such incidents involve a licensee or a licensee’s assistant. **DEAD**

LD 15 – This bill amends the procedure by which a town meeting may vote to exceed or increase the established “property tax levy limit.” Under current law, the levy limit can be exceeded or increased only by means of a separate article on the warrant specifically identifying the intent to exceed the limit, and that vote must be conducted by written ballot. This bill removes the obligations to have the vote placed on a separate article and to adopt that article by the written ballot method. **DEAD**

1/9/17

LD 18 – This bill establishes it as a crime if a person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly exposes a law enforcement officer to a substance that could temporarily disable, disorient, impair the sight or impair the breathing of the law enforcement officer. **DEAD**

LD 22 – In 2014, a number of archaic municipal licensing mandates were repealed in favor of a general statute recognizing the inherent municipal authority to license the various activities as a matter of home rule authority. The mandate to license roller skating rinks was inadvertently left out of the list of repealed mandates. This bill repeals the mandate that municipalities license roller skating rinks. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 12**

LD 23 – This bill repeals the provision of law that exempts from legislative review major substantive rules that must be adopted to comply with federal law or to qualify for federal funds. **DEAD**

LD 26 – This bill reduces the statutorily established motor vehicle excise tax rates by 10% each year beginning with 2018 registration years until the rates reach 50% of the current rates in 2022 and thereafter. **DEAD**

LD 28 – This bill allows a school bus to be equipped with a device that provides for alternate flashing of the school bus's headlights. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 26**

LD 30 – Current law requires any place licensed for the on-premise consumption of alcohol that also provides entertainment (beyond playing music from a radio or other mechanical device) to first obtain a special amusement permit from the municipal officers. This bill authorizes those facilities to provide for karaoke without first obtaining the special amusement permit.

As amended by Committee and passed to be enacted, this bill amends the “special amusement permit” law that mandates municipalities to adopt ordinances and otherwise implement and operate a “special amusement permit” process for establishments that serve alcohol for on premise consumption and also provide live music or dancing entertainment. Under the terms of the bill, the mandate becomes an option to be implemented pursuant to municipal home rule authority. The bill further specifies that the failure of an owner of such a business to obtain or comply with a permit required by such an ordinance can be considered by the municipal officers as a reason for the denial of a liquor license within the annual relicensing process. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 13**

LD 31 – Under the current terms of Maine's constitution, supporters of a citizen initiative must obtain signatures of registered voters statewide that number at least 10% of the total votes for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. This bill sends out to the voters a proposed amendment to the state's constitution that would require the 10% requirement to be met in each of the state's two congressional districts.

1/10/17

LD 33 – This bill reduces the lifetime limit on receiving public assistance benefits through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF). The current lifetime limit is 5 years. This bill reduces that limit to 3 years.

LD 36 – This bill establishes a limit on the duration of time certain persons can receive benefits under the General Assistance program. That limit is no more than 9 months (275 days) every 5 years for applicants who are capable of working and who do not have any dependents. **DEAD**

LD 40 – This bill amends the law regarding the testing of drinking water in public schools in three ways. Under current law, the testing does not have to be done in schools that get their water through public drinking water systems. This bill requires the testing even in those schools if the school building is more than 10 years old. The bill also requires the Department of Education to make the testing information available to the public upon request and the testing of water in nursery schools, even if provided by a public water supply, when the nursery school building is older than 10 years.

LD 44 – This bill lowers the age at which a person is allowed to carry a concealed handgun from 21 to 18 years of age. **DEAD**

LD 45 – This “concept draft” bill proposed to clarify ownership of a causeway linking Pelletier Island on Long Lake near St. Agatha and Sinclair to the Beaulieu Road.

As amended by Committee, this resolve directs the commissioners of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Department of Transportation to convene a working group to study the ownership of the causeway connecting Pelletier Island located on Long Lake near St. Agatha to the mainland. The working group is charged with examining options and developing a recommended plan to resolve the ownership of the causeway. The working group’s report and recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by November 30, 2017. **Engrossed as Amended**

LD 47 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$40 million bond issue to make capital improvements and purchase equipment for career and technical education centers for high school students.

LD 51 – This bill makes three changes to the law governing the withdrawal of a single municipality from a regional school unit. With respect to the elements of the withdrawal agreement, the bill adds two additional requirements: (1) a plan for providing child nutrition services in the schools operated by the petitioning municipality; and (2) the anticipated budget for the first year of operation of those schools. The bill also establishes a 30-day period within which the directors of the Regional School Unit must respond to a proposed agreement submitted by the withdrawal committee, and directs the Commissioner of the Department of Education to provide assistance with the negotiations between the withdrawal committee and the directors, if requested to do so.

LD 52 – This bill provides an exemption from the general requirement that a person seeking to obtain a hunting license show proof of having taken a hunter safety course for a veteran of the Armed Services provided the veteran can show his or her 214 discharge form verifying military service and honorable discharge. **DEAD**

LD 53 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed amendment to the state’s constitution that would prohibit a person who collects signatures for a written petition for a people’s veto or for a citizens’ initiative from being paid based upon the number of signatures the person collects.

1/11/17

LD 55 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to charge a fee to customers of the Kennebec Water District to be used to restore the water quality of China Lake. **DEAD**

LD 57 – This bill would prohibit a retailer from using plastic bags to bag products at the point of retail sale or otherwise make plastic bags available to customers, with exceptions for certain types of plastic bags.

As amended by Committee, this bill would add the promotion of reusable shopping bags and alternatives to disposable polystyrene foam food containers to state waste management policies in order to reduce the presence of those two products in the solid waste stream. To support the policy, the bill establishes the following benchmarks: by December 31, 2019, at least 20 municipalities will have adopted a reusable bag ordinance and a polystyrene foam food service container ordinance; 35 municipalities will have adopted such ordinances by the end of 2024, and 50 municipalities by the end of 2029. The Department of Environmental Protection is directed to publicize on its website a list of municipalities that have adopted these ordinances as well as the ordinances themselves, and to provide annual updates to the Legislature on the municipal progress beginning February 15, 2020. A reusable bag ordinance is defined in the bill as an ordinance that promotes the use of reusable bags and the reduction of waste caused by disposable plastic bags. A polystyrene foam food service container ordinance is defined as an ordinance that reduces waste cause by polystyrene foam food service containers and promotes the use of locally recyclable alternatives. **DEAD**

LD 58 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to limit the use of any grow light ballast that does not comply with Federal Communication Commission rules and interferes with short-wave radio transmissions. **DEAD**

LD 65 – This bill prohibits a person from being required to join a labor organization or pay any labor organization dues or fees as a condition of employment.

LD 66 – This bill prohibits a public employer from deducting service fees or member dues owed by an employee to a collective bargaining agent.

LD 67 – This bill provides a rebuttable presumption under the Workers’ Compensation laws that an injury sustained by a firefighter or emergency medical services personnel occurred as a result of that person’s employment as a firefighter or EMS worker if the injury occurs at any time after the person receives notice of a fire or emergency and is in the process of responding. **DEAD**

LD 70 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to allow municipal governing boards of three members to perform official duties via technology, such as conducting meetings remotely. **DEAD**

LD 73 – This bill creates a new category of the Homestead property tax exemption for a “senior homestead”, which is an household in which at least one of the applicants is 75 years of age or older and has claimed the homestead as a permanent residence for 10 or more years. Qualifying “senior homesteads” receive an additional \$30,000 exemption to supplement the regular homestead exemption (scheduled to be \$20,000 for the FY 2018 tax year), and the reimbursement rate for the senior homestead portion of the exemption is 100% of the lost tax revenue to the municipality.

LD 74 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to realign the percentage of revenue from the sales and income taxes that is transferred monthly from the General Fund to the Local Government Fund under state-municipal revenue sharing. **DEAD**

LD 78 – This bill allows an unenrolled voter to vote in a primary election without having to enroll in a political party. The unenrolled voter may only vote in one party’s primary election. The bill directs the municipal election clerks to establish procedures to ensure that this opportunity for unenrolled voters is provided. **DEAD**

LD 82 – This bill creates a 100% property tax exemption for the homestead of a veteran who can provide certification from the Armed Forces of 100% disability and who receives benefits based on a rating of 100% for a service-connected disability. The bill further provides that the state must reimburse municipalities for 100% of the property tax revenue they lose because of the new exemption. The estimated costs to the state for the reimbursement obligations are estimated to be \$4.8 million a year. **Engrossed as Amended**

LD 83 – This bill repeals and replaces the process by which the State Registrar of Vital Statistics may amend the birth certificate of a person when genetic testing identifies a parent who was not known or listed at the time of the adult’s birth. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 5**

LD 85 – This bill establishes a system by which “public service berthing vessels”, or boats that are licensed to carrying not fewer than 6 passengers including overnight berthing and meals preparation, may obtain licenses from the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages to sell and serve spirits, wine and malt liquor on the berthing vessels. In order for the vessel to sell alcohol for the on premise consumption when the vessel is in port or docked, the owners must first obtain the approval of the municipal officers of the municipality where the vessel is docked. No permission of the applicable municipal officers is required if the sales occur when the vessel is navigating on inland waters. **On Appropriations Table**

LD 86 – This bill repeals the element of current employment law that requires a person leaving employment to make a demand for all earned compensation from the employer, at the office of the employer, in order for the employer’s obligation to provide all earned compensation in a reasonable time to be triggered.

LD 88 – This emergency bill delays the full implementation of the retail elements of the citizen initiative that legalized recreational marijuana in Maine to February 1, 2018. The elements of the initiative providing lawful but non-retail personal use and possession and the right to limited

levels of personal cultivation are not affected by the bill and the effective date for those provisions of the initiative remains January 30, 2017.

As amended by Committee and enacted, this bill delays the full implementation of the retail elements of the citizen initiative that legalized recreational marijuana in Maine to February 1, 2018. The bill also makes several targeted amendments to the elements of the initiative providing for the lawful but non-retail personal use and possession and the right to limited levels of personal cultivation. Specifically, the enacted bill: (1) amends the initiative's definition of marijuana and creates a separate definition of "marijuana concentrate"; (2) provides, as does the initiative, that a person 21 years of age or older may possess or transfer to another such person for no remuneration up to 2 and ½ ounces of marijuana or a combination of marijuana and marijuana concentrate which can include no more than 5 grams of concentrate; (3) limit the areas where marijuana can be consumed to a private residence, including curtilage or on other private property, not generally accessible by the public, and the person is explicitly permitted to consume marijuana on that property; (4) prohibit the consumption of marijuana or marijuana concentrate (a) in a motor vehicle in the public way, (b) in a private residence or on private property used as a day care or baby-sitting service during the hours of operation, and (c) in a designated smoking area under the Workplace Smoking Act of 1985; (5) prohibit the possession of edible retail marijuana products until February 1, 2018 unless the edible marijuana is a product purchased for medical use; and (6) reinstates provisions of law repealed in the initiative that establish certain civil violations for any person under the age of 21 possessing marijuana.

Emergency Enacted; PL 2017, c. 1 (1/27/17)

1/13/17

LD 90 – This bill amends the charter of the Rumford Water District to require that all proposed commercial contracts for water extraction or water resale be subject to a ratification vote by the voters of the district.

LD 93 – Current law requires the state's purchasing agents to purchase cars and light duty trucks for state government that meet certain miles-per-gallon standards. The standards are 45 miles per gallon for cars and 35 miles per gallon for trucks, and vehicles purchased for law enforcement purposes and other specialty purposes are exempt from the requirement. This bill removes the exemption for law enforcement and other specialty vehicles and applies the purchasing standard to all county and municipal governments as well. **DEAD**

LD 94 – This bill requires all revenue raised by a law enforcement agency that auctions or sells confiscated firearms to be dedicated to educational programs taught by law enforcement officers to students in the public schools that target prevention of substance abuse, violence or high risk behaviors. **DEAD**

LD 98 – This bill eliminates the requirement that a person with a hunting license obtain a special wild turkey hunting permit, increases the number of wild turkeys that can be taken in each of the two turkey hunting seasons, and allows the registration of taken turkeys to be conducted electronically or by telephone.

LD 101 – This bill establishes a separate county reimbursement fund within an existing county reimbursement fund known as the Government Operations Surcharge Fund for the purpose of reimbursing county governments for transporting persons from the point of arrest to the county jail. The County Jail Transportation Reimbursement Fund is capitalized with 0.5% of the total fines, forfeitures, penalties and surcharges that are dedicated to the larger Government Operations Surcharge Fund. The bill authorizes municipal law enforcement officers having custody over a person pursuant to an arrest to request that the county sheriff transport the arrested person to the county jail. The county sheriffs are directed to honor those requests. The bill further authorizes the county sheriffs to seek reimbursement for the costs of that transportation from the arrested person. If that attempt at financial recovery is unsuccessful, the county is authorized to apply for reimbursement from the County Jail Transportation Reimbursement Fund. **DEAD**

LD 102 – This bill requires the courts to impose a fine on all persons convicted of a crime under the Maine Criminal Code that is equal to the actual costs of investigation and prosecution of the crime for which the person is convicted, including the related costs incurred by a law enforcement agency provided the law enforcement agency requests payments of the costs. The financial penalty must be imposed regardless of the financial incapacity of the convicted person to pay the fine and unpaid portions of the fine must be included in any terms of that person's subsequent probation. The fines collected must be disbursed to the various agencies (attorney for the state, law enforcement agencies, etc.) that identified costs related to the investigation and prosecution of the crime. **DEAD**

LD 104 – This bill amends the charter of the Kittery Water District. **Enacted, P &SL 2017, c. 1**

LD 105 – This bill establishes an office with the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate the efforts of law enforcement, health care, treatment programs and education initiatives to combat opiate addiction. **Carryover Requested**

LD 107 – This bill repeals the 24-month limit on MaineCare coverage or reimbursement for certain drugs used to treat opioid addiction. **DEAD**

LD 108 – This bill authorizes law enforcement agencies and municipal fire departments to seek and receive cost-based reimbursement from a person to whom the agencies administered naloxone hydrochloride to prevent a fatal opioid overdose. **DEAD**

LD 110 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to address the problem of excess populations of deer in island and coastal communities. **DEAD**

LD 115 – This bill prohibits dragging for mussels in any river in Washington County. It also establishes a closed season for marine worms from December 1st through March 31st regardless of location. **DEAD**

LD 116 – This bill increases the sales tax rate applied to the short-term rental of automobiles and light duty trucks from 10% to 15%. The title of the bill suggests the additional revenue would be used to fund multimodal transportation, but that dedication is not established in the terms of the bill. **DEAD**

LD 117 – This bill amends the Farm and Open Space tax law to provide that when a person wishes to add contiguous property to his or her existing Farmland enrollment, the landowner must demonstrate to the municipal assessor that the contiguous parcel separately meets the qualifying standards for enrollment apart from the acreage to which it is to be added.

LD 118 – This bill requires a person under 18 years of age who is either operating a moped or a passenger on a moped to wear protective headgear. The bill also requires that an operator of a moped operating under a learner’s permit or within one year of successfully completing a driving test must wear protective headgear and may not allow a passenger on the moped under 18 years of age unless the passenger is wearing protective headgear. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 51**

LD 119 – This bill amends the law regarding the placement of signs in the public right of way. That law was significantly amended in 2016 to achieve “content neutrality” in order to comply with a U.S. Supreme Court decision which sharply limited the ability of governments to regulate roadside signage on the basis of sign content. Under current law, roadway “informational” signs may not be placed in the right of way for more than 6 weeks in any calendar year and each sign must include the name and address of the individual, entity or organization that placed the sign, as well as the designated time period within which the sign will be maintained in the right of way. For the purpose of accommodating political signs, this bill repeals the requirement that the sign contain information about the persons responsible for placing the sign and allows all signs to be maintained in the right of way for up to 12 weeks in a calendar year, with a maximum of 6 weeks before the event to which the signs relate. **DEAD**

LD 120 – Without amending the financial penalties associated with simultaneously operating a motor vehicle and text messaging, this bill establishes an automatic 90 day suspension of the operator’s driver’s license for each offense. **DEAD**

LD 121 – This bill establishes a requirement that a person present to the municipal election clerk a photographic identification document or card issued by the state government, federal government or college or university located in the state. Persons without a photographic identification card are allowed to vote on a provisional ballot and a process is established for such a provisional ballot to be ultimately submitted if the voter can provide a photographic identification within 5 business days after the election. A temporary authority is also created (to be repealed immediately after the 2018 general election) for a municipal clerk to verify the identity of a voter by affidavit for voters who do not possess photographic identification. **DEAD**

1/17/17

LD 125 – This bill prohibits emergency medical treatment providers from performing resuscitation on a person when an indelible DNR mark (indicating ‘do not resuscitate’) is on the person’s chest. **DEAD**

LD 127 – This resolve provides for legislative review of a “major substantive” rule of the Department of Education, portions of Chapter 101, Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age 20.

LD 128 – Current law prohibits a person from cutting or transporting Christmas trees or evergreen boughs taken from the land of another person without written permission, and gradually expands the level of the crime depending on the value of the evergreen material taken. This bill adds to that law the harvesting of edible wild food. **DEAD**

LD 129 – This bill amends the definition of debt service costs within the Essential Programs and Services school funding model the cost of locally funded major capital projects for school construction that are not approved by the State Board of Education. **DEAD**

LD 131 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to amend the laws governing biomass facilities in order to help the biomass industry succeed.

LD 133 – This bill restores the percentage of state sales and income tax revenue dedicated to the municipal revenue sharing program to its historical level of 5% over a three year period. The current but temporarily established level of 2% is increased by the bill to 3% for FYL 2018, 4% for FY 2019 and 5% for FY 2020 and thereafter.

1-18-17

LD 137 – This bill creates a traffic infraction, subject to a fine of \$175, for operating a motor vehicle with snow or ice on the front windshield, rear windshield, or side wing mirror that obstructs the operator’s clear view. **DEAD**

LD 138 – This bill amends the law governing the sex offender registry to include any person who is a teacher, employee or other official having instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority in an educational institution who is convicted of the offense of gross sexual assault or unlawful sexual contact when the victim, regardless of age, is a student over whom the employee has control and the crime is committed on or after October 1, 2017. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 65**

LD 140 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$10 million bond issue to financially assist municipalities and multi-municipal regions in unserved and underserved areas in the expansion and enhancement of high-speed broadband internet infrastructure. **Carryover Requested**

LD 141 – This “concept draft” bill proposes that an appellate body or process be created to which a victim of theft of money or merchandise can appeal if the investigating law enforcement agency determines that the matter is civil and declines to bring criminal charges against the offender.

LD 142 – This bill establishes within the Maine State Police the responsibility to establish, operate and maintain a sexual assault forensic examination kit tracking system. The bill provides that law enforcement agencies, health care providers, prosecutors and other entities in the possession of a forensic examination kit must have access to the tracking system for the purposes of entering, updating and tracking the status and location of the kit. **DEAD**

LD 143 – This bill appropriates from the state’s General Fund \$25 million for each year of the FY 2018-2019 biennium for the purpose of capitalizing the School Revolving Renovation Fund

to be used to upgrade learning spaces in school buildings and for other necessary repairs approved by the Commissioner.

LD 144 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to establish a comprehensive, evidence-based pilot project in selected Piscataquis County communities and schools with the goal of reducing the harmful effects of substance abuse disorder and addiction.

LD 146 – This bill, which tracks similar confidentiality provisions for the personal information of state employees, provides that the record or the portion of the record in the municipal employer’s possession of an employee’s age, ancestry, ethnicity, genetic information, national origin, race or skin color, marital status, mental or physical disabilities, personal contact information, personal payroll management decisions, religion, sex or sexual orientation and social security information is confidential and not a public record.

As amended by the Committee, this bill expands the categories of information in personnel records that may be in the possession of state government, county government or municipal government regarding those governments’ employees that is confidential and therefore not subject to release to interested parties as a “public record” or part of public record. The bill amends several different chapters of state law so as to apply the same confidentiality provisions at all three levels of government. The protected categories of personal information are age, ancestry, ethnicity, genetic information, national origin, race or skin color, marital status, mental or physical disabilities, personal contact information, personal payroll management decisions, religion, sex or sexual orientation and social security information. The two new categories on this list are sexual orientation and genetic information. **Passed to be Enacted**

LD 150 – Under current law governing municipal appropriations to support an incorporated volunteer fire department, the municipal officers are authorized to issue their warrant to the treasurer to pay appropriations of \$1,000 or less without itemizing or specifying the purposes of the appropriation. This bill repeals that authority.

As amended by Committee and passed to be enacted, this bill amends the law authorizing municipal appropriations to support an incorporated volunteer fire department to expressly require that such appropriations are itemized. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 33**

LD 151 – This resolve authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to sell certain property formerly occupied by the Maine Forest Service to the Town of St. Agatha for \$1. **DEAD**

LD 153 – This bill prohibits a person who is receiving methadone for treatment of opioid dependency or as a pain medication from operating a motor vehicle until the Bureau of Motor Vehicles has received a medical report stating that the person is no longer receiving methadone treatment. **DEAD**

LD 155 – This bill requires the municipal registrar of voters to verify residency when a voter registration application lists a residence address as a dormitory or domicile provide by or located on the campus of a postsecondary educational institution. Residency is considered established under the bill if the applicant’s state identification card or driver’s license lists the same address

as the address on the registration application or that the applicant has a motor vehicle registered in the state or that the applicant pays personal income tax or property tax to the state. **DEAD**

1/19/17

LD 163 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to enact measures designed to strengthen the enforcement of Maine’s laws governing labor and employment. **DEAD**

LD 164 – This bill amends the law governing the legalization of recreational marijuana to require all marijuana and marijuana products sold at retail to be in “tamper-evident” packaging.

LD 165 – This bill appropriates \$3 million from the state’s General Fund in FY 2018 to provide municipalities one-time funds to match federal funding under the Community Development Block Grant program. **DEAD**

LD 167 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to find sources of revenue to fund animal control officers and animal shelters. **DEAD**

LD 168 – This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to install a blinking yellow caution light on Route 161 in the Town of New Sweden. **DEAD**

LD 169 – This bill requires prosecutors and all law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction over an alleged or suspected gross sexual assault to provide certain written information to the alleged victim, retain the results and reports associated with a forensic examination of the victim for the duration of the statute of limitations governing the offense, and provide formal notice to the alleged victim at least 60 days before the ultimate destruction of those records. The written information to be provided to the alleged victim at the time of the allegation or suspicion of gross sexual assault includes informing the alleged victim of the right to undergo a forensic examination and the right to receive the results and any report resulting from the examination. **DEAD**

LD 170 – This bill requires a party to the filing of an application for a marriage license who intends to change his or her name upon marriage to include the proposed new name of that party. The bill also provides that in that circumstance, the new name indicated on the license becomes effective upon the solemnization of the marriage and the completion of the marriage certificate.

LD 172 – Current law allows a police vehicle to utilize blue emergency lights or a combination of blue and white emergency lights. This bill authorizes the additional use of red emergency lights on police vehicles. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 21**

1/23/17

LD 174 – This bill controls the use of pesticides on school grounds and athletic fields. For all school grounds other than athletic fields, the bill allows the use of pesticides only: (1) to control, repel or eliminate stinging or biting insects when there is an urgent threat to the health or safety of a student or staff member, or (2) in response to the presence of animals or insects identified as a public health nuisance by the Maine Center for Disease Control or a local public health officer. For athletic fields, the bill allows pesticides to be use in accordance with the

manufacturer's instructions when determined necessary by the school for the health and safety of the field and students.

LD 178 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$5 million bond issue to provide state cost sharing of at least 50% on public water projects that correct downstream pollutions issues from rainfall and snowmelt deposits and provide contractor jobs and public safety improvements through improved storm water management and improved water quality.

LD 179 – This bill changes the offense of creating a police standoff from a civil violation to a Class E crime. The bill also removes an allowance in current law for a person involved in a police standoff to avoid being charged by surrendering within 30 minutes of being ordered to surrender.

LD 182 – With certain exceptions, this bill prohibits a person from selling or offering for sale new upholstered furniture containing more than 0.1% of a flame retardant chemical or 0.1% of a mixture that includes flame retardant chemicals. The exception is upholstered furniture purchased for public use in public facilities that meets a certain California flammability standard.

LD 183 – Beginning on July 1, 2018, this bill requires certificates of death to be filed using the electronic death registration system maintained by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics. The requirement does not apply to death certificates filed by family members and domestic partners of the deceased. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 37**

LD 191 – This bill establishes a 3-day all-terrain vehicle registration reciprocity with the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec. The reciprocity system begins on July 1, 2018 and provides for a one-time annually, 3 consecutive day period (2 days of which are weekend days) during which a nonresident with a valid registration from either of the provinces may operate their ATV in Maine provided their province allows for a similar cross-border opportunity.

As amended by Committee, this bill authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish one 3-day period annually during which a non-resident may operate in Maine a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle registered in another state or Canadian province. In creating this authority, the bill repeals the provision of current law that allows a snowmobile registered in another state or contiguous Canadian province to operate in Maine for at least 3 consecutive days without being registered in this state if that other state or province extends that same “reciprocal” opportunity. **Passed to be Enacted**

LD 195 – The state's “Good Samaritan” law provides a qualified immunity from liability to people who, without expectation of compensation, provide first aid, rescue or emergency treatment to a person who is unconscious, ill or in need of rescue assistance. This bill expands the protection from liability to people, non-profit organizations or faith-based organizations that voluntarily provide housing or shelter to a homeless person.

LD 196 – This bill creates a public records exemption under the Freedom of Access Act to protect the confidentiality of personal information of participants in “community well-being check” programs, defined as a voluntary program that involves daily or regular contact with a

participant and, when contact cannot be established, sends first responders to the participant's residence to check on that person's wellbeing. The bill provides that all of a person's application materials provided to a municipality or other public entity to participate in such a program, as well as other personal information, are confidential and do not constitute a public record, except that the otherwise confidential information may be made available to first responders as necessary to implement the program. **Engrossed as Amended**

LD 200 – This bill allows a municipal shellfish conservation warden who has completed the training required to make arrests to seize and sell any marine organism taken in connection with an alleged violation of a shellfish conservation ordinance. The proceeds of such a sale must be held by the municipality pending disposition. In the case of a conviction or adjudication of having committed a violation, the proceeds must be used by the municipality to support its shellfish conservation program. Otherwise, the proceeds must be returned to the person. **DEAD**

LD 202 – This bill eliminates the authority of a municipality to adopt a shellfish conservation program and ordinance and prohibits a municipality from adopting or enforcing any ordinance that regulates shellfish, provides protections from shellfish predators or authorizes municipal officials to open or close flats. **DEAD**

LD 204 – This bill exempts from the motor vehicle excise tax an automobile owned by a veteran who has been diagnosed with ALS. **DEAD**

LD 207 – This resolve designates a bridge on Route 191 in East Machias the Norman E. Bagley Memorial Bridge. **Finally Passed; Resolves 2017, c. 1**

LD 208 – This bill exempts vehicles hauling animal bedding from posted road restrictions imposed by the Department of Transportation, counties or municipalities.

As amended by Committee, this bill allows any truck delivering organic animal bedding material, and operating according to a permit issued by the Department of Transportation pursuant to the state law governing operating overweight vehicles on posted roads, to travel over any county or municipal posted road without a specific municipal or county permit. The law allows a municipality to impose additional restrictions for such trucks as long as those restrictions do not involve a permitting process. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 25**

LD 209 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to make changes to the laws regarding categorical signs to adjust the time, placement and content restrictions imposed on temporary signs placed within a public right of way.

LD 211 – This bill changes the annual requirement for non-commercial motor vehicles to undergo a safety inspection to a biannual requirement. **DEAD**

LD 212 – Currently in Maine's Constitution, citizen initiatives and “peoples' veto” initiatives can be advanced to the voters if the initiative receives a number of signatures, statewide, from registered voters equally or exceeding 10% of the number of voters who cast ballots in the most recent gubernatorial election. This bill requires that the 10% standard be met in all 35 of the state's senate districts. **DEAD**

LD 215 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to further regulate the cultivation, transportation, sale and possession of marijuana and marijuana products by established a tiered state licensing system for possession and cultivation based on quantity, requiring a state license for transportation within the state, prohibiting the possession or use of marijuana among certain professionals or employee groups, and allowing nonresidents to purchase a temporary possession license.

LD 216 – This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to place signs on Interstate 95 directing motorists to the Town of Lincoln. **DEAD**

LD 217 – This bill requires that when a person is imprisoned in a county jail for longer than 9 months, the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections may either have the prisoner transferred to a state correctional facility or choose to keep the prisoner in the county jail, in which case the county must be reimbursed on a per diem basis. The bill also provides that when a term of probation is vacated, the person convicted of the crime must be returned to the place in which he or she was imprisoned prior to release on probation. **DEAD**

LD 218 – This bill provides that in any criminal action in the Unified Criminal Docket, as determined by the court to be appropriate to the defendant and to make sound fiscal sense, an arraignment or hearing may be held by means of audiovisual telecommunications. **DEAD**

LD 219 – This bill clarifies the definitions of “available resource” and “potential resource” under the General Assistance program and establishes that an applicant who voluntarily abandons or refuses to use an available resource without just cause, or who forfeits the available resources due to fraud, an intentional program violation or the applicant’s refusal to comply with rules associated with the available resource, is ineligible to receive general assistance for a period of 120 days from the date the applicant abandoned or refuses the resource. The bill identifies a variety of circumstances that constitute “just cause”.

LD 220 – This bill provides that a person who is no longer eligible for benefits from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) because of reaching the 5-year lifetime limit is also ineligible to receive General Assistance until that person has not received any TANF benefits for at least 5 years.

LD 221 – This bill repeals a recently enacted provision of General Assistance law that provides when an applicant applies for benefits within 45 days of being released from a correctional facility, the municipality of financial responsibility for a period of 12 months is the municipality of the applicant’s residence immediately prior to incarceration. **Passed to be Engrossed**

LD 231 – This bill provides express municipal authority to adopt ordinances that either limit the cultivation of either medical or recreational marijuana to certain geographic locations within the municipality or prohibit the cultivation of marijuana within the municipality altogether.

1/24/17

LD 234 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to clarify the status of a certain section of the Pelletier Road in the Town of Frenchville as a town way. **DEAD**

LD 235 – This bill repeals the service provider tax, which is a form of the state’s sales tax applied to certain service providers. **DEAD**

LD 236 – This bill amends the section of law governing the location and construction of highway curb cuts in order to repeal outdated language and conform with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 9**

1/25/17

LD 237 – This bill authorizes the establishment of a state bank for the purposes of supporting job creation and economic development in the state by increasing access to capital for businesses and farms, providing stability the state’s financial sector and to reduce costs paid by the state for basic banking services. The bill also authorizes the creation of county banks and municipal banks, for the same purposes. **DEAD**

LD 238 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to amend the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act. **Carryover Requested**

LD 239 – Current General Assistance law includes a general requirement for banks or similar financial institutions to provide account balance information to the state or to a municipal General Assistance administrator for persons who have applied or are receiving General Assistance. An exemption is provided, however, for national banks, which do not have to provide that information upon request. This bill repeals that exemption.

As amended by Committee and passed to be enacted, this bill amends the law governing the municipal authority to obtain information from banks and other financial institutions in order to determine the financial assets of General Assistance applicants. Specifically, this bill: (1) removes the provision in current law that exempts national banks from providing information of a GA applicant’s financial assets to a municipal administrator; (2) clarifies that any request for that information from a GA administrator must be accompanied by a written release signed by the depositor; and (3) specifies that in the case where the municipality is inquiring to determine the assets of a deceased individual in order to determine eligibility for burial or cremation services, the financial institution will provide the information upon receipt of a written request for the information from the municipality or its agents along with a notarized affidavit signed by the GA administrator that the named depositor is deceased. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 28**

LD 242 – This bill allows additional auxiliary lights on the front of a motorcycle. **DEAD**

1/27/17

LD 243 – This emergency bill changes the state licensing authority under the Marijuana Legalization Act from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol Beverages and Lottery Operations with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. The bill also creates a fund to cover the costs of the rule making process to be undertaken by the Director and capitalizes the fund with an appropriation of \$1.6 million.

1/30/17

LD 247 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to implement changes to the Participating Local District Consolidated Retirement Plan (PLD) administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System based on recommendations of the PLD Advisory Committee. **Carryover Requested**

LD 248 – This bill exempts certain veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who served as military police officers from basic law enforcement training by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy provided the veteran’s military experience and education meet certain criteria. **DEAD**

LD 251 – This bill amends the law regarding refusal to submit to arrest or detention by adding a new category of that offense, which is to engage in a physical action that delays or interferes with the lawful arrest, established as a Class E crime. **DEAD**

LD 256 – This bill directs the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to convene a stakeholder group to evaluate whether the current method of collecting funds to support the telecommunications education access fund, which provides resources to connect the state’s public schools and libraries to high speed internet, is competitively neutral, equitable and sustainable. The PUC’s report with the stakeholder group’s recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by January 30, 2018.

LD 257 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to establish measures to allow municipalities, working cooperatively with electrical utilities, to create “microgrids”, which are described in the concept draft proposal as electricity distribution systems consisting of distributed energy sources, including demand management, storage and generation and loads capable of operating in parallel with, or independently from, the main power grid. **Carryover Requested**

LD 258 – This bill amends the charter of the Southwest Harbor Water and Sewer District. **Enacted; P & SL 2017, c. 4**

LD 262 – This “concept draft” bill proposes allowing the transfer of public assistance and other financial benefits to a relative caregiver of a child when the child’s parent or guardian is unable to care for the child. **DEAD**

LD 275 – Current law provides complimentary hunting, trapping and fishing licenses for disabled veterans with a disability evaluated at 50% or more if they are residents of Maine, New Hampshire or Vermont and, in the case of a nonresident, the other state has a reciprocal agreement with Maine. This bill provides the complimentary hunting, trapping and fishing licenses to qualified disabled veterans from any other state that has a reciprocal agreement with Maine. **Passed to be Enacted**

LD 277 – This bill provides an exemption to the requirement that a passenger under 18 years of age on an all-terrain vehicle wear protective headgear when a parent, grandparent or legal guardian is operating the ATV and the passenger is under 8 years of age and sitting beside the operator on an ATV equipped with side-by-side seating. **DEAD**

LD 280 – This bill adds tax-exempt, nonprofit regional public transportation agencies to the Maine Tort Claims Act, which limits liability for governmental entities.

LD 289 – This bill extends the veteran’s homestead exemption, which is currently provided to veterans over the age of 62 who served during federally recognized periods of war, to all honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces over the age of 62.

LD 291 – This bill lowers the top marginal income tax rate for all resident individuals with taxable income over \$200,000 from the current 7.15% to 4.15%. Under the terms of the school funding initiative adopted by the voters last November, that rate would then be subject to a 3% surcharge, bringing the actually effective rate back up to 7.15%.

LD 292 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$50 million bond issue for the purpose of investing in Maine’s rail infrastructure and expand passenger rail service.

LD 293 – This bill requires vehicles propelled or drawn by a horse during nighttime to be equipped with an orange and red reflector of specified dimensions which must be placed on the vehicle between 2 and 6 feet off the ground. **DEAD**

LD 294 – This resolve names the bridge that spans the Penobscot River in the towns of Enfield and Howland the King’s Bridge. **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2017, c. 3 (4/10/17)**

LD 298 – This bill prohibits all agencies of state government, counties, municipalities and other political subdivisions from expending public resources to influence the outcome of an election of a person to public office, a statewide citizens initiative, a people’s veto referendum or any other statewide referendum, other than to provide impartial, factual summaries regarding what is at issue, with a listing of the arguments both for and against the issue on the ballot and without providing an opinion or conclusion regarding the outcome. **DEAD**

LD 299 – With respect to proposed bond issues put before the voters on a statewide ballot, current law provides that the printed informational summaries of the State Treasurer regarding the total amount of bonded indebtedness and the amount of authorized but not yet issued bonds, etc., must either be printed directly on the ballot or printed separately from the ballot and posted at the polling place outside the guardrail. This bill requires that the Treasurer’s information must be both printed on the ballot and posted separately outside the guardrail.

As amended by Committee and passed to be enacted, this bill requires the posting in each voting booth at a statewide election to approve a proposed bond issue a copy of the State Treasurer’s statement, already required by law, setting forth the total amount of state bonds outstanding and unpaid, the total amount of state bonds authorized and unissued, the total amount of bonds of the State contemplated to be issued if the enactment submitted to the electors should be ratified, and the projected costs of the debt service. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 45**

LD 301 – This bill prohibits the issuance of a license under the Marijuana Legalization Act to an applicant that would operate a retail marijuana establishment or social club located within 2,000 feet of the property line of any pre-existing public or private school serving children from prekindergarten to grade 12.

LD 307 – This “concept draft” proposes to facilitate the implementation of mobile narcotic treatment programs in Maine’s rural counties in order to ensure access to treatment for patients who reside remotely from established narcotic treatment programs. **DEAD**

LD 310 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to amend the provisions of the Marijuana Legalization Act, as adopted by the voters, in unspecified ways.

LD 311 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to eliminate certain corporate tax expenditures and use the savings to reduce individual income tax rates. **DEAD**

LD 314 – This bill permits the use of a combination of blue and red emergency lights on police vehicles and on certain other vehicles used by law enforcement, corrections and court security personnel. **DEAD**

LD 316 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$50 million bond issue for the enhancement of existing railway service and for the expansion of railway service.

LD 317 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$100 million bond issue to improve the state’s highways, bridges and multimodal transportation facilities.

LD 318 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$6 million bond issue to provide partnership funds and matching grants for geospatial data acquisition to communities that are creating or improving digital parcel maps for the purpose of accurately identifying existing boundaries and land use, identifying potential community development areas and protecting environmental resources.

LD 319 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$25 million bond issue to enhance investments in economic revitalization, environmental improvements and community betterment projects along the rivers of the state.

LD 321 – This bill creates the Class E crime of criminal trespass in a public school building for persons who are not authorized to be on the school property and who have been asked not to enter the property or, if already on the property, have been asked to leave. The bill defines the various categories of “authorized person”. **DEAD**

LD 322 – This bill requires secondary schools to provide instruction in civics as part of the requirements for graduation. **DEAD**

LD 328 – This bill appropriates \$25 million from the General Fund for FY 2018 to capitalize the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services.

As amended by Committee, this bill appropriates from the General Fund \$5 million for each year of the biennium to capitalize the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services, referred to as the Local Government Efficiency Fund. The Local Government Efficiency Fund was established as a result of a citizen initiative adopted by the voters in 2004 that is more widely known for directing the Legislature to cover at least 55% of the cost of K-12 public education with state General Fund resources. A chapter of law was enacted in 2005 that governs the management of the Fund, establishes a review panel to oversee the distribution of

municipal grants, identifies the type of regionally-focused municipal service delivery proposals that are eligible for grant awards, etc. Except for one initial year, the Local Government Efficiency Fund has never been capitalized by the Legislature, so the operational statute has been dormant for approximately 13 years. In addition to capitalizing the Fund with \$5 million for each year of the biennium, this bill transfers from the Department of Administrative and Finance Services to the Department of Economic and Community Development the obligation to administer the Local Government Efficiency Fund program. The bill also adds a new category to the list of eligible costs that can be covered by the Fund, which are capital grants, including grants for: (1) facility, infrastructure or utility system acquisition, (2) the repair, rehabilitation or renovation of existing facilities; (3) new construction or expansion of existing facilities, and (4) purchase of major equipment or systems. **Engrossed as Amended**

LD 329 – Current law requires newspapers to provide a publicly accessible website containing the legal notices that are submitted to the newspaper for publication that may be accessed for free by the general public. That law also requires a statewide association of newspapers to provide a statewide repository of those notices as well as an email notification service when there are additions made to the repository. All of these requirements, however, are scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2018. This bill removes that “sunset clause”, thereby retaining the newspapers’ obligations to maintain these legal notices websites. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 19**

1/31/17

LD 332 – This emergency bill expressly establishes that a Maine search warrant or grand jury subpoena may compel production of records of a provider of electronic communication service or remote computing service even if the provider is outside of the state. The bill also establishes a procedure for service of that type of legal process.

2/1/17

LD 333 – This bill changes the way the Commissioner of the Department of Education is selected. Under current law, the Governor appoints the Commissioner who must be confirmed by the Legislature. Under this bill, the state board of education selects the Commissioner, in consultation with the Governor, and the person selected by the state board undergoes the Legislature’s confirmation process. Once confirmed, the Commissioner serves for a three-year term, which can be extended one year by the state board. The Commissioner also would undergo an annual performance evaluation by the state board. **DEAD**

LD 334 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to amend the provisions of the Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education, which was created as part of the school funding bill adopted by the voters last November, in order to clarify terminology and uses of the Fund.

Carryover Requested

LD 337 – This bill repeals the two central elements of the school funding bill adopted by the voters last November: (1) the 3% income tax rate surcharge imposed on taxable income of \$200,000 or more; and (2) the Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education.

LD 338 – This bill provides a motor vehicle excise tax exemption for veterans who are receiving benefits based on 100% permanent service-related disability. **DEAD**

LD 343 – This bill establishes as a Class E crime the offense of discharging a fire arm within 300 feet of a state-owned boat launching ramp, with an exception for law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties. **Passed to be Enacted**

LD 349 – This bill establishes a stewardship program for discarded mattresses. Following a relatively standard stewardship program structure, the manufacturers of mattresses or an association of those manufacturers are required to submit a plan to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the establishment of the stewardship program within a year of the effective date of the legislation. Ten required elements of that plan are detailed in the bill. Once the submitted plan is approved by the DEP, the operator of the plan will begin administering the program which allows any mattress retailer, wholesaler, municipality or solid waste management facility to voluntarily serve as a collection location for discarded mattresses. The operator of the stewardship plan must underwrite all costs of pick-up and transportation from the collection sites, and the collection sites may not charge fees of any kind to those depositing the mattress for the collection service, nor may the operators or collection sites discriminate with respect to the brand-name mattresses they accept or transport. The program is paid for by a separate assessment, as approved by the DEP, on the sale of all mattresses in the state.

As amended by Committee, this bill requires retailers who sell mattresses to collect and remit to the state a \$5 fee per mattress, beginning on January 1, 2018 and ending on December 31, 2021. The revenue collected from the mattress fee is dedicated to the Mattress Recycling Grant Program, administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. The grants provided by that program will be made available to public and private entities that can demonstrate that a proposed program, project, initiative or activity the entity is undertaking is likely to increase the recycling and diversion from disposal of discarded mattresses within a particular community, municipality or region of the state. The Department is to give priority in awarding the grants to applicants based in rural areas of the state. The entire program is repealed on December 31, 2022, which is one year after the \$5 per mattress fee is discontinued.

Engrossed as Amended

2/2/17

LD 351 – This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances that prohibit the carrying of a dangerous weapon at municipal public proceedings and voting places within the municipality, with the exception to allow the carrying of handguns by law enforcement officers.

LD 354 – This bill provides that the allowance for restoration to service after retirement enacted in 2011 for state employees and teachers applies to school superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals and assistant principals. Specifically, the bill provides that as of October 1, 2017, those school administrators who have reached normal retirement age and who have retired after September 1, 2011 may be restored to service as a school administrator for a maximum of ten years.

LD 355 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to enact measures designed to increase the speed with which the state reimburses school systems for unexpected spikes in special education costs. **DEAD**

LD 359 – This bill requires all non-motorized watergoing vessels, boats, canoes or craft, excepting houseboats, to be fitted with an “invasive species” sticker obtained in the same way as motorized watercraft registrations for a fee of \$5.00, 25 cents of which is retained by the agent issuing the sticker. The fees collected by the state are dedicated to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund. **DEAD**

LD 366 – This bill is a prohibition of a prohibition. The bill prohibits all state and local governmental agencies from prohibiting or restricting in any way their law enforcement personnel or any other employees or officials from sending, requesting or receiving information regarding the lawful or unlawful citizenship or immigration status of any individual to or from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, or otherwise maintaining or exchanging that information with other governmental entities for other purposes such as public assistance benefits, licensing purposes, verification of residency or identity, etc. The bill directs the Maine Attorney General to investigate all complaints of violation of this prohibition or restriction from any resident or legislator in the state, and upon a finding that such a violation occurred, the governmental entity would be immediately ineligible to receive any money that would otherwise be remitted to it by the state. In the event the Attorney General refuses to investigate a complaint, the bill provides a private right of action by a complainant in Superior Court.

LD 368 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to provide certain state income and employment tax incentives (i.e., reductions) and property tax reductions to businesses that are currently investing outside of the U.S. and taxed at lower federal-level rates but elect to repatriate their investments in Maine. The state and local tax incentives would be provided for a 10 year, phased-out period to offset the increased federal taxes those businesses would pay on their repatriated income. **DEAD**

LD 370 – This bill authorizes a municipality with a shellfish conservation program to designate a shellfish conservation area where harvesting any marine organism is prohibited provided the no-harvesting conservation area surrounds protective netting, fencing, traps or other gear placed by the municipality in the intertidal zone to enhance the shellfish resource and provide protection from shellfish predators. **DEAD**

LD 371 – This bill exempts commercial motor vehicles hauling perishable products from the posted road restrictions the Department of Transportation and the municipalities are otherwise authorized to put into place at certain times of the year. **DEAD**

LD 372 – With exceptions for recently constructed or recently inspected septic systems, current law requires a written statement from the seller of property with a septic system within the shoreland zone that the system has not malfunctioned within the last 180 days and further requires a full inspection of a septic system located on property being sold or transferred that is located within the coastal shoreland zone. This bill expands those same requirements to the sale

or transfer of property including a septic system no matter where the property is located in the state. **DEAD**

LD 375 – This bill establishes a stewardship program for discarded carpets. Following a relatively standard stewardship program structure (see LD 349), the manufacturers of carpets or an association of those manufacturers are required to submit a plan to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the establishment of the stewardship program within a year of the effective date of the legislation. Ten required elements of that plan are detailed in the bill. Once the submitted plan is approved by the DEP, the operator of the plan will begin administering the program which allows any carpet retailer, wholesaler, municipality or solid waste management facility to voluntarily serve as a collection location for discarded carpets. The operator of the stewardship plan must underwrite all costs of pick-up and transportation from the collection sites, and the collection sites may not charge fees of any kind to those depositing the carpets for the collection service, nor may the operators or collection sites discriminate with respect to the brand-name carpets they accept or transport. The program is paid for by a separate assessment, as approved by the DEP, on the sale of all carpets in the state. **DEAD**

LD 377 – This bill establishes the County Jail Drug Rehabilitation and Treatment Grant Program and an associated dedicated but uncapitalized fund to provide state funding in the form of matched grants to fund the creation of drug rehabilitation and treatment facilities and programs within or affiliated with the county or regional jails.

LD 382 – This bill requires the Governor to issue general obligation bonds that have been already ratified by the voters or will be ratified by the voters in the future unless one of five specific conditions exist. If one or more of those conditions is determined to exist by the Governor, the bill requires the Governor to provide certain information to legislative leadership along with the impacts of delaying or not issuing the ratified bond. **DEAD**

LD 385 – This bill establishes a stewardship program for certain rechargeable batteries. Following a relatively standard stewardship program structure (see LDs 349 and 375), the manufacturers of the nickel-cadmium or small sealed lead-acid rechargeable batteries, defined as “covered batteries”, or an association of those manufacturers are required to submit a plan to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the establishment of the stewardship program within a year of the effective date of the legislation. Ten required elements of that plan are detailed in the bill. Once the submitted plan is approved by the DEP, the operator of the plan will begin administering the program which allows any covered battery retailer, wholesaler, municipality or solid waste management facility to voluntarily serve as a collection location for discarded covered batteries. The operator of the stewardship plan must underwrite all costs of pick-up and transportation from the collection sites, and the collection sites may not charge fees of any kind to those depositing the covered batteries for the collection service, nor may the operators or collection sites discriminate with respect to the brand-name covered batteries they accept or transport. The program is paid for by a separate assessment, as approved by the DEP, on the sale of all such covered batteries in the state. **DEAD**

LD 390 – This is the Governor’s proposed biennial budget for the FY 2018-2019 biennium.

The municipally-relevant elements of the budget include:

- **GA Repeal (Part ZZZ).** The Governor's budget proposes to completely repeal the state/municipal General Assistance program.
- **GA & Asylees Amendment (Part HHHH).** After entirely repealing the body of General Assistance law in one section of the budget, a following section of the budget amends one of the GA statutes, enacted in 2015, that expressly allows certain asylees and other non U.S. citizens to receive General Assistance benefits. Federal law requires such an express statutory authority at the state level.
- **Revenue Sharing (Part K).** In 2015, the Legislature statutorily, but temporarily, reduced from 5% to 2% the portion of state sales and income tax revenue distributed to communities under the municipal revenue sharing program. According to current law, the share of state sales and income tax revenue is restored to 5% in FY 2020. The Governor's budget proposes to repeal the restoration to 5% by permanently reducing transfers to the revenue sharing program at the 2% level.
- **Homestead Exemption (Part G).** Under existing law, both the value of the Homestead Exemption provided to all qualifying Maine resident homeowners and the amount of state reimbursement for the lost property tax revenue are scheduled to increase on April 1, 2017. The value of the exemption is to increase from \$15,000 to \$20,000 and the state reimbursement from 50% to 62.5%. The Governor's budget proposes to amend those scheduled program changes. Beginning on or after April 1, 2017 the Homestead Exemption would be set at \$20,000 but only Maine resident homeowners 65 years of age or older would qualify. In addition, the state reimbursement for lost property tax revenue would be reduced from 62.5% to 50%.
- **BETR to BETE Conversion (Part I).** The Governor's proposed budget seeks to convert the taxable property currently enrolled in the Business Equipment Reimbursement Program (BETR) to tax exempt status by transferring its enrollment into the Business Equipment Tax Exemption Program (BETE) over a four-year period. The conversion schedule requires that in FY 2018, 25% of the value of the property enrolled in the BETR program be shifted to the BETE program, in FY 2019, 50% of value, in FY 2020, 75% of the value, until FY 2021 when 100% of the value of the property enrolled in BETR is shifted to the BETE program.
- **Two-way Telecommunications Services (Part H).** Under current law, the state is the taxing authority for two-way telecommunications personal property (e.g., telephone and broadband infrastructure). As proposed by the Governor, on April 1, 2018 that property would become taxable at the local level, resulting in a shift of roughly \$6.5 million of annual revenue from the state to the municipalities.

- **Property Tax Fairness Credit (Part D).** Under current law, Maine residents are eligible for an income tax credit that is equal to 50% of a portion of the property taxes or rent paid that exceeds 6% of a resident's income. For individual and married joint income tax filers, the maximum credit provided to a resident under the age of 65 is \$600 and \$900 for residents 65 years of age and older. For married individuals that file separate income tax forms, the maximum credit for a resident under the age of 65 is \$300 and \$450 for a resident 65 and older.

In the Governor's proposed budget, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018, Maine residents would be eligible for an income tax credit that is equal to 100% of a portion of property taxes or rent paid that exceeds 5% of a resident's income. The maximum credit for a resident under 65 years of age would be \$750. The maximum credit for a resident age 65 and older would \$1,000. All Maine tax filers age 65 or older with annual incomes of less than \$20,000 would be guaranteed a minimum income tax credit of \$400. Married taxpayers that file separately would not qualify for the property tax credit.

- **Income Tax Reduction (Part D).** The Governor's budget proposal over the next three years would reduce both the number of income tax brackets and the tax rates assessed. For tax year 2017, the current three brackets of 5.8%, 6.75% and 7.15% would be retained. In tax year 2018, the Governor is proposing two brackets of 2.75% and 3.15%. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, a flat tax rate of 2.75% would be assessed on all Maine income tax filers (who would all, also, be subject to the 3% surcharge. See below.).
- **Surcharge for K-12 Public Education (Part D).** As enacted by the voters of Maine at the November 8, 2016 referendum election, beginning on January 1, 2017 a 3% surcharge is to be assessed on the portion of taxable income that exceeds \$200,000. The revenue generated by the surcharge was dedicated by the initiative to support K-12 classroom expenses. The Governor's budget proposes to delay the implementation of the surcharge to January 1, 2018, apply the surcharge on all Maine income taxpayers (rather than just those with an income over \$200,000), and repeal the provision adopted by the voters requiring the revenues to be transferred to the Fund to Advance K-12 Public Education.
- **Sales Tax on Lodging (Part E).** As proposed by the Governor, the sales tax rate for lodging would be increased from 9% to 10%. The proposal also would require the 10% sales tax rate to be applied to the sales of rental space procured through the use of an electronic or internet-based system.
- **Expanded Sales Tax Base (Part E).** With exceptions for business-to-business transactions, the Governor is proposing to apply the general 5.5% sales tax to the following services:

- Household services (e.g., interior home decorating, painting, cleaning, property maintenance, waste management, domestic staffing services, etc.);
 - Installation, repair and maintenance services other than for motor vehicles, watercraft and aircraft;
 - Personal services (e.g., all services provided by barber shops, hair salons, massage parlors, spas, tattoo parlors, etc.);
 - Personal property services (e.g., dry cleaning, laundry, vehicle restoration services, moving services, etc.);
 - Recreation and amusement services (e.g., admission to concerts, festivals, athletic events water and theme parks, golfing, skiing, bowling, etc.), excluding school sponsored events, admission to agricultural fairs, value of wagers or lottery tickets, reasonable and separately stated charges for instruction in art, sport, game or other recreational activities, and services provided to campers by licensed youth camps.
- **Modified Sales Tax Exemption for Nonprofit Organizations (Part E).** The proposed budget seeks to modify the sales tax exemption provided to charitable, nonprofit or other public purposes to exclude purchases of prepared food, the rental of living quarters, and the rental or lease of a motor vehicle.
 - **Local Government Efficiency Fund (Part U).** The budget includes a \$10 million appropriation - \$5 million in each year of the biennium - to capitalize the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services.
 - **Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services (Part UUU).** The budget includes a \$10 million appropriation - \$5 million in each year of the biennium - to capitalize the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services. The one-time funding would be used as an adjustment to school systems willing to implement regionalized and collaborative educational services delivery systems.
 - **Changing the structure of the state’s 55% K-12 Education funding obligation (Part C).**
 - The Governor’s budget proposes to change the state’s “55%” school funding obligation so that it no longer applies to the total allocation under the Essential Programs and Services school funding model (EPS), as originally intended. Instead, under the budget proposal, the 55% standard would apply to the EPS allocation plus a significant annual payment by the state to cover an unfunded actuarial liability in the MEPERS system. This change would result in the state not being obliged to fully fund 55% of the EPS allocation.
 - **Mill rate expectation.** The property tax mill rate expectation is established at 8.29 mills. For comparison purposes, the mill rate expectation for the current fiscal year is 8.30 mills. As seen immediately below, the local share

obligation is held essentially flat, on paper, because a sizable part of the funding-model (system administration) is being removed from the model and will have to be paid 100% with local dollars.

- **“System administration”**. The component of the EPS model that calculates each school system’s appropriate cost of “system administration” is repealed under the proposed budget, thereby eliminating any state subsidy for the costs associated with the superintendent’s office.
- **Change the “minimum subsidy” adjustment**. “Minimum receiver” school systems, that would otherwise receive no state subsidy through the regular operation of the school funding system, have always been granted a “minimum subsidy” adjustment. For the current school year, that adjustment is 30% of the school’s special education costs, as calculated by the EPS. There is a schedule in current law, however, to increase the minimum subsidy adjustment to 35% of the special education costs for the upcoming school year (FY 2017-2018), and to 40% of those costs in FY 2018-2019, 45% in FY 2019-2020 and level off at 50% of those costs in FY 2020-2021 and thereafter. The Governor’s proposed budget repeals that transitional ramp and fixes the minimum subsidy allocation at 33% of the special education costs.
- **Special Education per-pupil weights**. Under the current EPS model, a school’s special education allocation utilizes a system of giving a 20% increase (1.2) to the standard per-pupil cost for each special education student. The Governor’s budget proposes to increase that weighting to 50% (1.5). In addition, the budget creates a special education budgeting hardship adjustment that can be provided when unexpected special education enrollments cause significant school budget disruption.
- **Title 1 subtractions attached to student-to-teacher ratio changes**. The proposed budget repeals the current policy that subtracts from a school system’s calculated subsidy the amount of Title 1 money the school receives from the federal government for additional teaching staff.
- As a collateral policy change, and because those federally funded teaching positions were not included in the original establishment of the EPS model’s student-to-teacher ratios, those ratios are also changed in the budget. The current ratios are 17:1, 16:1 and 15:1 for the elementary level, middle school level and high school level, respectively. The proposed new ratios are 17:1, 17:1 and 16:1.
- **Development of entirely new school funding model**. The proposed budget directs the Department of Education Commissioner to develop a new school funding model based on a single statewide teacher contract. The budget directs the new school funding model to be implemented no later than the FY 2019-2020 school year.

- **TANF/SSI/SNAP (Parts EEEE, FFFF, GGGG, KKKK).** The Governor’s budget proposes several amendments to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which could shift greater burdens onto the GA program, if the GA program is not repealed. The Governor’s proposal would shorten the lifetime limit on TANF benefits from 60 to 36 months and flatly disqualify persons convicted of drug felonies from receiving TANF benefits. The proposal would also repeal three separate laws that expressly authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to provide food supplement (SNAP), supplemental security income and TANF assistance to certain asylees and other non U.S. citizens.
- **100% General Fund Support of State Police Patrol Services (Part NNNNN).** Currently, state police expenses for the patrol of state rural highways, the Maine Turnpike and the interstate system is shared between the General Fund (65%) and the Highway Fund (35%). The Governor’s budget proposes to shift 100% of the funding to the General Fund, resulting in a \$40 million increase in Highway Fund revenues over the next two years.
- **County Assessment for Jails (Part V).** In 2016, the Legislature relaxed the cap on property tax assessments for county jail operations by authorizing each of the 16 counties’ established maximum assessments to be annually increased by no more than 3%. That change was enacted without amending a conflicting provision that prohibited increasing the assessment. The Governor’s proposal allows the counties’ jail-based tax assessments to municipalities to be greater than the base, but it retains the requirement that the increase be limited to no more than 3%.
- **Repeal of State’s “LD1” Reporting Obligation (Part GG).** The Governor’s Office of Policy and Management (OPM) was established in 2011 for the purpose of assisting the state in achieving long-term state economic goals and improving efficiencies in the delivery of state services. As proposed by the Governor, many of OPM’s economic projection and data analysis-related tasks would be reassigned to the Department of Administration and Financial Services. Of particular interest to municipal officials, the budget also proposes to repeal OPM’s charge to annually track municipal, county and school administrative unit progress with the so-called “LD 1” tax burden reduction-goals.
- **COG & RPC Funding.** The Governor’s proposal would reduce from \$159,550 to \$0 the state funds provided to Regional Councils of Governments and Regional Planning Commissions to provide technical, financial and planning assistance to municipalities.
- **COLA Adjustment for Retirees Suspended (Part HH).** The Governor is proposing to eliminate cost of living adjustments for state employee and teacher retirement benefits in both FY 2018 and FY 2019.

- **Coastal Zone Management Program (Part QQ).** The Governor is proposing to transfer oversight and management of the state coastal zone management program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Marine Services.
- **Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (Part GGGGG).** As proposed in the budget, oversight authority of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code would be transferred from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Economic and Community Development.
- **Sealers of Weights and Measures (Part RR).** The municipal obligation to appoint a sealer of weights and measures was repealed in 2014 as part of an effort to cleanse state statutes of archaic and unnecessary mandates. In 19th Century language, the Governor’s budget proposes to reinstate the obligation for the municipality to participate in this obvious state function, including the establishment of a \$10/month fine should the municipal officers fail to remove an unqualified sealer. The municipal officers would be authorized to either appoint a local sealer of weights and measures or request that the state make the appointment on the community’s behalf. Issues of the sealers’ compensation and the liabilities on their “employers” are not covered in the budget proposal.
- **Office of Broadband Development (Part W).** The budget creates the Office of Broadband Development within the Department of Economic and Community Development to replace the ConnectME Authority. The Office would be charged with expanding broadband services for the purposes of encouraging job creation and improving accessibility for unserved and underserved communities and populations. The Office would obtain administrative oversight of the ConnectME Fund and the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund.

2/3/17

LD 393 – This bill provides as a “clarification” that when the Department of Transportation acquires property by condemnation, neither the Department nor the former property owner are responsible for paying the property taxes assessed against that property for any prorated period of time of the tax year after the Department’s acquisition.

As amended by the Committee and passed to be enacted, this bill merely provides that the Department of Transportation is not required to pay any taxes on property it acquires for transportation purposes. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 40**

LD 397 – This bill requires the additional school subsidy distributed as a result of the school funding citizen initiative adopted by the voters last November to be distributed entirely on the basis of each school system’s pupil count and regardless of the school system’s local cost share expectation. **DEAD**

LD 399 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to revise laws governing environmental protection.
Carryover Requested

LD 400 – This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinance provisions under the shoreland zoning law that would allow the construction of a deck on a private residence that extends into the shoreline setback area provided the deck was no larger than 192 square feet, is for residential use or storage of small watercraft or portable docks, does not extend over or into the waterbody or wetland, and the construction of which does not create a cleared opening greater than 250 square feet in the forest canopy.

LD 403 – This bill amends the triggers that apply to conducting a statewide recount of a ballot question. The bill provides that when the difference between the yes and no votes is 0.25% or less, the state will cover the costs of the recount. When that yes-and-no differential is greater than 0.25%, the party requesting the recount must cover the costs of the recount. **DEAD**

LD 406 – This bill expands the Public Utilities Commission’s authority to order the joint use of space on utility poles and other communications conduits. It adds providers of unlit fiber-optic cable, information and telecommunications services to the list of entities subject to an order, and requires the Commission to take into account a broadband group of stakeholder interests when considering orders regarding the joint use of communication infrastructure.

LD 409 – This bill makes a number of administrative and clarifying amendments to the laws governing the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MEPERS). Among those amendments, the bill establishes express tax exempt status to all property owned by MEPERS. The bill also allows the board member representing the Participating Local Districts (PLD) to be a person who is either a member or a retired member of the PLD program.

2/6/17

LD 420 – This bill creates an exception to the way a municipality’s certified valuation is used to determine its “fiscal capacity” for the purpose of school subsidy distribution. Under the terms of the bill, when a municipality’s valuation declines more than 35% from the preceding year and the loss in value is attributable to a single taxpayer, the most recent certified valuation must be used to determine the “fiscal capacity” rather than the preceding three-year rolling average.
DEAD

LD 421 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to increase funding to the ConnectME Authority from \$1 million to \$5 million to expand universal broadband and high-speed internet into rural areas of the state.

LD 422 – This bill imposes a two year moratorium on new contracts or agreements by consumer-owned water utilities, municipalities, state agencies or other governmental entities involving or allowing the extraction of more than 75,000 gallons of groundwater during any week or more than 50,000 gallons of groundwater on any day, with an exception for extraction solely for agricultural use or storage for agricultural use. The bill also establishes a 10-member working group that is charged during the period of the moratorium to develop the Maine Water Trust. The working group must develop and recommend laws that establish the control and dominion of

the state government over all groundwater in the state and the trust must be designed to monitor groundwater levels and quantity, determine the quantities of groundwater that can be accessed for commercial use, regulate the use of groundwater for commercial purposes and inventory water infrastructure, including municipal drinking water and wastewater pipelines. The working group's report and recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by January 15, 2019.

As amended by Committee, this bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene the Water Resources Planning Committee, which must include membership from five state agencies and six members of the public with expertise in the areas of agriculture, public water utilities, water bottling and the sale of bottled water, the use of water by private well owners, the environment and conservation, and the use of water by commercial entities. The Committee is given its charge in three phases, with the first phase focusing on water withdrawal data review, coordinating state water resources information and identifying watersheds at risk by examining various sources of information, including information provided by municipalities with multi-municipal aquifers and significant local aquifers. In the second phase, the Committee must focus on convening planning groups focused on the watersheds identified at risk. The planning groups are charged with developing water use management guidance, with the planning group membership including the same basic make-up of state agency personnel and public members with various areas of expertise, including expertise in municipal government. The third phase, which kicks-in only if an oversubscription of water remains after the second phase, requires the Committee to recommend a process to resolve the oversubscription. The Committee is also charged with providing guidance to municipalities and water districts and develop and disseminate educational materials on water resources and the regulatory regime. **Engrossed as Amended**

LD 423 – This bill appropriates \$50,000 from the state's General Fund to the Maine State Library to provide mobile wireless hot spot devices to libraries in Washington County. **On Appropriations Table**

LD 430 – Current law exempts highway contractors and subcontractors who remove trees during the performance of contracts for the construction and maintenance of highways from the laws governing arborists. This bill amends that exemption to make it apply only to the extent those contractors remain on the ground while removing the trees. **DEAD**

LD 431 – This bill amends the law governing the required notifications and related procedures associated with harvesting shellfish in flats that are closed for contamination reasons, an authorized practice when permitted by the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) known as "deuration harvesting". For municipalities that have shellfish harvesting conservation programs, the bill requires the DMR commissioner to provide a copy of a deuration harvesting application to the municipality, the appropriate regional marine wardens and the municipal shellfish management committee at least 3 working days before granting the deuration certificate. The bill also requires the deuration certificate holder to provide the municipality and the appropriate marine wardens at least 48 hours' notice prior to commencing the deuration activity, and the bill details the specific notification procedures. The bill also amends the fee the person conducting the deuration harvesting must pay the municipality with the conservation program.

The current fee of 50 cents per harvested bushel is changed to 25% of the current market value. **DEAD**

LD 432 – This bill establishes the first Saturday in May as Maine Community Litter Cleanup Day. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 41**

LD 433 – This bill authorizes a municipality that approves the location of a retail marijuana store or social club to impose, presumably by ordinance, a local option sales tax that would piggyback on the 10% state tax that current law imposes on the retail sale of marijuana. The local option sales tax revenue would be collected and issued to the state treasurer by the retailer in the same manner as the state sales tax revenue. In conjunction with Maine Revenue Services, the local option portion of the collected revenue would then be remitted to the municipality.

LD 434 – This bill allows motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles and other “lightweight vehicles” that are not substantial enough to trigger a traffic control device to proceed cautiously to take a right hand turn against a red light at an intersection even if governed by ‘No Turn on Red’ signage. **DEAD**

LD 435 – This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to study the feasibility and cost of providing passenger rail service to the City of Bangor. **DEAD**

LD 437 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to enact measures designed to strengthen the laws concerning transportation infrastructure in the state. **DEAD**

LD 439 – This bill establishes a procedure to allow a voter to be provided ongoing absentee voter status upon application to the Secretary of State. Upon the Secretary’s approval and notification to the municipality, the municipal clerk is directed to automatically mail an absentee ballot to the voter with ongoing status for every election until such a time as the status is terminated by the Secretary for one (or more) of five reasons listed in the bill. **DEAD**

LD 440 – Current law requires municipal election clerks to designate one or more times during the 30-day period prior to an election when the municipal election personnel shall be set up in licensed nursing homes, residential care facilities and assisted housing programs, each with 6 or more beds, for the purpose of conducting absentee balloting for those facilities’ residents. This bill extends that requirement to independent living facilities providing housing for senior citizens as long as the company managing the facility has made a request for that service. **DEAD**

LD 441 – This bill requires any person or entity that contracts with a building owner to engage in painting, renovation, remodeling, maintenance or repair activity on a building constructed before 1978 to ensure that there will be person on site when the contracted activities are occurring who holds a particular U.S. Environmental Protection Agency certification. The bill also requires a person performing maintenance on any multi-unit residential housing, the owner of which receives public housing assistance or voucher, must be similarly certified. **DEAD**

LD 443 – This bill allows a municipally funded hospital to restrict possession or use of firearms and firearms-related items on property used by the municipally funded hospital. **DEAD**

LD 448 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to appropriate funds for research on cancer in firefighters. **DEAD**

LD 454 – This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to develop a uniform recommendation for laboratories to test samples from private drinking water wells for such substances as arsenic, uranium, manganese, fluoride and radon. The bill directs the state’s Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory to establish a fee not to exceed \$10 per sample to perform those testing services, and creates a Private Well Safe Drinking Water Fund to accept that fee revenue and other donations, grants or appropriations from all sources for the purposes of improving the rate of testing the water in private drinking water wells, educational outreach programs and to defray DHHS costs in administering the program.

2/7/17

LD 461 – This emergency resolve provides for a legislative review of a rule promulgated by the Public Utilities Commission, Chapter 220: Removal of Provider of Last Resort Service Obligation. **Emergency Passed, Resolves 2017, c. 4 (4/11/17)**

LD 463 – This bill makes two substantive changes to the law governing the charges that can be assessed when prisoners are transferred between “sending” and “receiving” jails and the limitations on the amount of the annual increase in the assessment on the municipal property taxpayers to cover the cost of jail operations. With respect to the transfer of prisoners between the sending and receiving jails, the bill repeals the existing language that imposes certain limitations and straightforwardly allows the receiving jails to charge a per-diem rate up to \$108. With respect to the year-to-year limitation on the assessments on the assessments on the municipal tax base, the bill restricts the annual growth to no more than the county’s “LD 1” assessment limit. Current law restricts the annual growth to either the LD 1 limit or 3%, whichever is less.

2/8/17

LD 466 – This bill establishes as an unlawful employment practice the actions of an employer subjecting an employee to an abusive work environment. The bill defines the terms “abusive conduct”, “abusive work environment” and other terms defining the nature of an abusive work environment, establishes standards of employer liability and vicarious liability (related to the unaddressed actions of abusive employees), establishes standards governing employer and employee defenses, etc. **DEAD**

LD 467 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$5 million bond issue to support improvements to sea level prediction models by providing more detailed mapping of coastal zones and monitoring sea level changes in order to mitigate the impact of rising sea levels.

LD 469 – This bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a generally applicable regulatory standard that addresses the impact of sea level change and increased storm surges on coastal resources and to apply that standard to the various related activities under its jurisdiction. **DEAD**

LD 474 – This bill provides for the reimbursement of a public safety answering point’s (PSAP) training costs for a dispatcher who finds employment at another PSAP within 5 years of completion of training by the Emergency Services Communication Bureau. The level of required reimbursement for the full costs of the training is prorated depending on the number of years that have passed since the conclusion of the training and the start date of the new-found employment.

DEAD

LD 475 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to require a law enforcement officer who has administered Narcan to a person to provide the name and contact information for that person to the nearest publically funded mental health treatment provider, and further requires the treatment provider to contact the person who received the Narcan so as to provide that person with available treatment options. **DEAD**

LD 478 – This “concept draft” resolve proposes to continue the efforts of the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a rate study initiated in 2016 to account for MaineCare provider costs related to ambulance services and to assess the feasibility of MaineCare reimbursing for community paramedicine services. **DEAD**

LD 480 – This bill repeals the three sections of law that, pursuant to a state authorization requirement in federal law, provide eligibility to certain non-U.S. citizens (e.g., asylees) for TANF, SNAP and SSI benefits.

LD 488 – This bill authorizes a municipality by ordinance to allow grocery stores with no more than 10,000 square feet of interior customer selling space to be open on Easer Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. **Passed to be Enacted**

LD 489 – Under current law there is a “rebuttable presumption” in Workers’ Compensation law that if a municipal firefighter contracts one of ten types of cancer, the cancer was contracted as a result of that person’s employment as a firefighter and the claim is compensable. This bill amends that law to establish the presumption as conclusive rather than rebuttable, so the compensability of the cancer claim would be automatic. **DEAD**

LD 492 – This bill is designed to restore the percentage of state sales and income tax revenue dedicated to the municipal revenue sharing program to its historic 5% level rather than the temporary 2% level that was enacted into law in 2015. The bill ramps up to the 5% level over a three year period by restoring the 5% standard in law more or less immediately but authorizing the state to “transfer” specific amounts of revenue out of the revenue sharing program and into the state’s General Fund for the remainder of FY 2018 and throughout FY 2019. **DEAD**

LD 493 – This bill creates an excise tax of 1 cent per 25 gallons of groundwater or surface water extracted from springs or other underground sources by a bottled water operator that extracted more than 1 million gallons in the previous calendar year if the water is packaged for sale. The excise tax revenue is dedicated to the Maine Water Quality Testing and Monitoring Fund, established by this bill. 85% of the resources in that Fund is dedicated to well water testing programs and 15% is dedicated to lake water quality monitoring and support.

LD 499 – This bill allows municipalities by ordinance to prohibit the location of retail marijuana establishments and retail marijuana social clubs within any youth congregation “safe zone” designated by the municipality.

LD 500 – This bill authorizes a municipality or a group of municipalities to form a transportation corridor district for the purposes of funding public transportation and accessibility needs, including passenger rail, ferry, bus, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and routes, and promoting economic development at transportation station areas and in downtown areas. The bill details the district formation procedures, which include required public hearings with notice provided to all property owners within the proposed district and notice to municipalities adjoining the proposed district and the Department of Transportation. The creation of a transportation corridor district requires the approval of voters in each participating municipality by referendum. **DEAD**

2/9/17

LD 511 – Under current law governing improper contact with a family or household member prior to the setting of preconviction bail, a person who is notified by county jail staff not to contact the family or household member but who nonetheless makes the contact is in violation. This bill provides the same consequences of violation when the person is so-notified by a law enforcement officer. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 66**

LD 513 – This bill provides an income tax exemption for the retirement benefits provided 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.

LD 516 – This bill requires a law enforcement agency that commits a prisoner to the sheriff’s charge prior to arraignment on a nonviolent Class D or Class E crime to reimburse the sheriff for each day that the prisoner is held by the sheriff prior to arraignment and to pay a one-time surcharge of \$50. The per-diem rate to be paid by the law enforcement agency is the same per-diem rate established by the Department of Corrections for the purposes of funding county jail operations.

LD 518 – This bill amends General Assistance (GA) law with respect to the responsibility of certain relatives to financially contribute toward the costs of burial or cremation of a deceased person determined potentially eligible for GA. To the current list of responsible relatives, the bill adds the decedent’s spouse or registered domestic partner. The bill also strikes the provision of current law that restricts potentially responsible relatives to just those relatives who live or own property in Maine, thereby expanding the potential capacity of relatives to contribute toward the burial or cremation to liable relatives who reside out of state. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 62**

LD 520 – This bill sends to the voters a proposed \$100 million bond issue for the provision of broadband internet service in unserved and underserved areas of the state through the ConnectME Authority (or successor organization) partnerships with private, municipal and nongovernmental service providers.

LD 535 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to make the activity of flying an unmanned aerial vehicle into the airspace over or crossing the boundary of another person’s property and

recording or videotaping or otherwise violating the privacy of the property owner a form of trespass. **DEAD**

LD 539 – This bill allows municipalities or regional shellfish management committees to designate conservation areas where harvesting any marine organism is prohibited. The conservation areas, in aggregate, may not exceed 10% of the total harvestable area in the intertidal zone, and must be marked with signs that identify the municipality or regional shellfish management committee that designated the area and indicate the purpose of the area. **DEAD**

LD 540 – This bill amends the laws governing municipal and multi-municipal comprehensive planning to add an additional goal in the list of goals which form the foundation of the growth management law. The additional goal is to plan for the effects in sea level on buildings, transportation infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities and other relevant infrastructure proximate to the coastal area. In the section of law detailing the elements of a comprehensive plan, the bill authorizes coastal municipalities to include projections regarding changes in sea level and the potential effects of the rise in sea level on those same types of infrastructure.

Passed to be Enacted

LD541 – This bill repeals the current system used by the State Tax Assessor to calculate the commercial forestry excise tax and establishes a flat 26 cents per acre tax for that purpose. As does the current law, the bill exempts the state, municipalities and the federal government from the excise tax.

LD 545 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to ensure that unorganized townships and plantations maintain local control under laws legalizing marijuana.

2/14/17

LD 549 – This bill prohibits the Land Use Planning Commission from requiring proof that a preexisting, grandfathered nonconforming use legally existed more than 20 years.

As amended by Committee, this bill amends the law governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission, which serves a planning board function for the unorganized territories. The bill provides that if a person can demonstrate that a land use or structure that does not conform with the applicable land use standards that apply in that district has existed for at least 30 years, there is a rebuttable presumption that the use is a legal, nonconforming use or the structure is a legal, nonconforming structure. **Engrossed as Amended**

LD 554 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to require employers to create a parental leave policy to provide certain full-time employees who become parents through child birth or adoption with additional flexibility and time to be with their new children, adjust to new family situations and balance professional obligations. **DEAD**

LD 559 – With exceptions for recently constructed or recently inspected septic systems, current law requires a full inspection of a septic system located on property being sold or transferred that is located within the coastal shoreland zone. This bill expands those same requirements, effective

on and after April 1, 2018, to the sale or transfer of property including a septic system in all shoreland zones, not just the coastal shoreland areas. **DEAD**

LD 564 – This resolution sends out to the voters a proposed amendment to the state’s Constitution that would increase the number of registered voters’ signatures required to advance a citizen initiative. The current requirement is 10% of the total vote for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. The proposed amendment would increase it to 15% of the total vote for President in the most recent presidential election. **DEAD**

LD 565 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to address issues related to the opiate addiction crisis in Maine. **Carryover Requested**

2/15/17

LD 568 – Under existing election law, the term “independent” is used as the political designation for a candidate who is not enrolled in a qualified or proposed party. This bill would prohibit the use of “independent” as the political designation. The bill also prohibits a candidate who intends to form a new party to be placed on the ballot by petition. Instead, the candidate would be required to follow the existing procedures for forming new parties.

LD 569 – This resolve provides for legislative review of a “major substantive” rule of the Department of Defense Veterans and Emergency Management, Chapter 5, Maine Disaster Recovery Fund. The proposed rule governs the process for the expenditure of funds from the Disaster Recovery Fund, and establishes priorities for expenditure of the Fund among the uses authorized by statute including aid to individuals, families and municipalities and low-interest loans to businesses. **Emergency Passed; Resolves 2017, c. 7 (4/21/17)**

2/16/17

LD 571 – As enacted by Maine voters, beginning on January 1, 2017 a 3% surcharge is to be assessed on the portion of taxable income that exceeds \$200,000 and the funds used to support K-12 education classroom expenses. This “concept draft” bill proposes to repeal and replace the funding source. As proposed, the tax revenue generated from the sales of recreational marijuana products, except for the amount retained for training law enforcement personnel and used to develop the regulations and rules, is dedicated to fund K-12 public education. In addition, all surplus state revenue generated by growth in Maine’s economy is similarly dedicated until the state reaches its 55% cost obligation. **Carryover Requested**

LD 574 – Under existing law, a person without a concealed weapons permit who is carrying a concealed handgun is required to immediately inform a law enforcement officer of the presence of the firearm during the course of an arrest, detainment or routine traffic stop. This bill eliminates the requirement that a law enforcement officer be informed of the concealed handgun in the course of detainment or routine traffic stop. **DEAD**

LD 576 – Under existing law, the state funds 75% of the closure costs for landfills licensed to operate on or before September 1, 1989. This bill provides that if an application for a license was received on or before September 1, 1989 and approved by the commissioner of the

Department Environmental Protection within one year of receipt of the application, the landfill is also eligible for state funding. **Passed to be Enacted**

LD 584 – This bill establishes the Fund for Municipalities To Improve Pedestrian Safety, to be administered by the Department of Transportation as a program within the Highway Fund. The funds allocated to the program must be used for pedestrian safety improvements, including, but not limited to, lights, paint, signs, speed bumps and reconstruction of intersections. A municipality or group of municipalities may apply for funding for up to two-thirds of the cost of a qualifying project. The Department is further directed to adopt the rules necessary to award the funds according to a competitive rating system. Beginning January 15, 2018 and biennially thereafter, the Department is required to report to the Transportation Committee on the implementation and operation of the pedestrian safety fund. **Carryover Requested**

LD 588 – Under existing law, a law enforcement agency or association is prohibited from soliciting donations from the general public for the direct benefit of a law enforcement officer, or an immediate family member, suffering from a catastrophic illness. A law enforcement agency or association may host ticketed funding-raising events or make general public solicitations for donations through public announcements or paid advertisements, provided that the tickets are sold by, and the donations sent to, a designated public benefit corporation. This bill removes the designated public benefit corporation requirement, allowing law enforcement agencies and associations to engage directly in the fund-raising activities. The bill also explicitly prohibits door-to-door solicitation.

As amended by Committee this bill amends the law governing the authority of law enforcement agencies to engage in limited solicitation of funds from the general public for the tangible benefit of a law enforcement officers, or an immediate family member of a law enforcement officer, suffering from a catastrophic illness. Under current law, that type of solicitation must involve the services of designated public benefit corporation. This bill allows a law enforcement agency to retain a public benefit corporation for this purpose but also allow the law enforcement agency to conduct the limited solicitation without retaining a public benefit corporation. All other existing limitations on the solicitation effort, including the prohibition on door-to-door solicitation, remain in effect. **Engrossed as Amended**

LD 590 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$50 million bond issue to provide funds for investment in railroad infrastructure to expand passenger rail services, with a priority for railroad track corridors that could support passenger and freight intermodal operations and enhance the movement of agricultural products.

LD 591 – This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt local ordinances requiring vehicle operators to yield the right-of-way to buses.

LD 595 – This bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from ordering subordinates, pursuant to federal law or regulation or executive order of the President of the United States, to seize or confiscate a firearm, firearm accessory or ammunition in the possession of a Maine resident. The first offense is a civil violation punishable by a fine of \$1,000. Second and subsequent violations are designated as Class D crimes. This provision does not apply to the seizure or

confiscation of firearms, firearms accessories or ammunition used in the commission of a Class A, B or C crime or an enforcement action against suspected drug trafficking or organized criminal activities. **DEAD**

LD 596 – Similar to the laws regarding alcohol, this bill makes consuming marijuana or possessing an open container of marijuana in the passenger area of a motor vehicle a traffic infraction.

LD 597 – This bill makes the reimbursement rate for transfers of inmates from a county jail to another county jail or to the Department of Corrections equal to the federal reimbursement rate for housing prisoners, but no less than \$90 per diem per prisoner. **DEAD**

LD 598 – This bill removes the requirement that a person who is carrying a concealed handgun without a permit to inform a law enforcement officer of that fact during the course of an arrest, detainment or routine traffic stop (see, also, LD 574). **DEAD**

LD 599 – This bill increases the classification of the assault of a law enforcement officer, firefighter or emergency medical care provider from a Class C to Class B crime. The bill also extends the hate crime sentencing laws to a defendant who has committed a crime against a law enforcement officer, firefighter or emergency medical care provider because of that person's status as a first responder.

LD 600 – This resolve directs the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to establish a one-year grant program to assist law enforcement agencies to acquire and train drug-detecting dogs. The Department is authorized to provide grants to not more than 10 law enforcement agencies to pay of the cost and training of the dog and drug detection training and certification for the law enforcement officer handling the dog. The commissioner is directed to adopt the rules for the program by January 1, 2018 and award the grants by April 1, 2018. **DEAD**

LD 601 – This bill repeals provisions in existing K-12 school funding law that requires school administrative units and private schools to pay for teacher retirement, shifting 100% of the costs those premiums back to the state. Under current law, the cost of those premiums are effectively shared, on a statewide basis, between the state and the school systems on a 50:50 basis. **On Appropriations Table**

LD 607 – This bill requires mental health crisis intervention teams or agencies to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with law enforcement agencies providing services in the area of the state served by the team or agency. The MOU must be effective for 3 years, renewed every three years and include a description of the: (1) internal process the law enforcement agency uses to identify a person in need of mental health crisis services; (2) protocol the law enforcement agency uses to share a contact report with a crisis intervention team or agency; (3) process the crisis intervention team or agency uses to receive the report; (4) protocol the crisis intervention team or agency uses to communicate with a person in need of services; and (5) procedures used to convene quarterly multidisciplinary team meetings to review experiences and discuss opportunities for improvement. **DEAD**

LD 618 – This “concept draft” resolve proposes to authorize the Mount Hunger area of the Town of Gray to proceed with the secession process. **DEAD**

LD 619 – This “concept draft” resolve proposes to authorize the west side of Little Sebago Lake of the Town of Gray to proceed with the secession process. **DEAD**

LD 622 – This bill establishes that the training courses that municipal harbor masters and deputy harbor master are required to complete for certification purposes must be offered by a statewide harbor masters association that represents Maine harbor masters. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 54**

LD 623 – This bill changes the noncommercial automobile inspection requirement from an annual to a biennial inspection.

LD 625 – This bill prohibits a retail marijuana establishment or social club from being located within 2,000 feet of a house of public worship or property associated with a house of public worship.

LD 626 – This bill distributes 25% of tax revenues from the sales of marijuana and related products to the counties for county jail operations. The funds must be used to supplement and not supplant other sources of jail operations funding.

LD 628 – Current law provides that a subdivision is not created by the transfer of any interest in land to the owner of land abutting that land, unless the intent of the transferor is to avoid the objectives of the law governing subdivisions. That law further provides that a subdivision is created if the land that was transferred is again transferred within 5 years to another person without all of the merged land. This bill retains the first qualification but repeals the second. **DEAD**

LD 631 – This bill requires an operator of an all-terrain vehicle who travels more than 500 yards on a public way designated as an ATV-access route to possess a valid driver’s license and motor vehicle liability insurance for the ATV. **DEAD**

LD 634 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to provide solutions to combat addiction to heroin, opioids and other illegal drugs through enforcement, prevention and treatment. **DEAD**

2/23/17

LD 637 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to enact measures to protect Maine’s lands.

LD 638 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$50 million bond issue, \$35 million of which would be dedicated to reconstruct and renovate bridges and to meet the state’s highway and bridge capital goals, and \$15 million of which would be dedicated to improve or replace facilities or equipment related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, aviation, freight and passenger railroads, transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

LD 641 – This emergency resolve establishes the Commission To Study the Availability of Information Regarding Related Incidents in Domestic Violence Cases, which is directed to conduct a comprehensive examination of domestic violence prosecutions and develop recommendations on the best method to provide judges and prosecuting attorneys with

information regarding related domestic abuse incidents. The 13 member commission includes one representative of a municipal police department, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

DEAD

LD 646 – This bill makes two changes to the law governing the municipal authority to adopt shellfish conservation ordinances. The bill restricts the area within the municipal boundary that such an ordinance can affect to the intertidal zone within the municipality rather than the municipality, generally. The bill also authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources to grant powers to regional shellfish management programs that go beyond the authority granted to municipal shellfish conservation programs, and allows the municipal ordinances to authorize the regional management programs to undertake those additional powers.

DEAD

LD 649 – Current law establishes as an infraction the activity of causing moving motor vehicles to be stopped on a roadway for the purpose of soliciting contributions, subscriptions, etc., except when conducted by a charitable nonprofit corporation that has received municipal and law enforcement approval. This bill limits the right for charitable nonprofits to conduct the activity of soliciting financial contributions to town ways only. **DEAD**

LD 653 – This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a working group of interested stakeholders to propose changes to the animal welfare laws. The working group's report must be submitted to the Legislature by December 15, 2017.

DEAD

LD 661 – This bill requires crematories to prepare a certificate of cremation in order to certify the identity of the body that was cremated, with the certificate including the deceased person's full name, date and place of death, sex, race, date of birth, age and whether a veteran.

As amended by Committee, the bill provides that if cremated remains are buried in a public burying ground, the person in charge of the cemetery or, in that person's absence, another appropriate municipal official must endorse and provide the date the cremated remains were buried on each burial permit and within 7 days of the burial return the permit to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics or to the clerk of the municipality in which the cemetery is located. The bill further provides that the funeral director or other authorized person must also present a copy of permit, after endorsement, to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics or the clerk of the municipality where the person died and to the municipal clerk who issued the permit. **Passed to be Enacted**

LD 667 – This bill suspends the legalization of marijuana as approved by the voters on November 8, 2016 and schedules a referendum question to go back out to the voters in November 2017 to allow the voters to formally repeal the legalization law.

LD 672 – This bill clarifies that a municipality may adopt and enforce land use regulation that applies to marijuana facilities that grow, process, package, distribute, sell or provide either medical or recreational marijuana in the same regulatory manner as any other activities generating similar land use and compatibility effects.

LD 674 – This bill allows a per-pupil allocation in the Essential Programs and Services school funding model for capital expenses for a public charter school that does not have access to capital funds from the date or from a school administrative district. **DEAD**

LD 676 – This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Corrections and the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office to jointly study and recommend a proposal for the development of a behavioral health unit at the Cumberland County Jail to provide support such as substance abuse and mental health services and a diversion program to allow for the rehabilitation of prisoners with behavioral issues. The results of that study and any recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by December 6, 2017. **DEAD**

LD 680 – Current law does not allow a member of a school board or a spouse of a school board member from being simultaneously employed by the school system or serving as a volunteer with primary responsibility for a curricular, cocurricular or extracurricular activity. This bill allows for such employment or volunteer activity if authorized by a two-thirds or better vote of the school board. **DEAD**

LD 682 – The Essential Programs and Services school funding model, as currently designed, applies a “regional adjustment factor” to the salary and benefit allocation for a particular school system initially calculated by the model for a school system’s teachers and other staff. The regional adjustment factor is designed to adjust for the region’s relative cost of living rate. This bill discontinues the use of the regional adjustment factor. **DEAD**

LD 683 – This bill amends Maine’s “bottle bill” law to end its application to beverage containers containing 46 ounces or more of a beverage. The 5 cent deposit fee would be ended on December 1, 2017 and the ability for a consumer to redeem those empty containers for the 5 cent deposit would end on January 1, 2018. For a five year period, the manufacturers of refillable beverage containers between 46 fluid ounces and 4 liters in size would pay a recycling fee of \$0.005 per container (one tenth of a nickel) to the Maine Solid Waste Management Fund for use by the Maine Solid Waste Diversion Program. **DEAD**

LD 684 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to amend the laws governing shoreland zoning to increase the vegetative buffer requirement from 75 feet to 150 feet for certain areas in the shoreland zone, and to remove the grandfathering provisions that allow smaller vegetative buffers on the grandfathered parcels. **DEAD**

LD 693 – Current law prohibits in some cases and restricts in others the practice of shooting from a motor vehicle or motorboat or possessing a loaded firearm or crossbow in a motor vehicle. This bill limits those prohibitions and restrictions to the situations when the operator of the motor vehicle or motor boat is hunting.

LD 694 – This bill authorizes a municipality, plantation or a county with regard to its unorganized territory to petition the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to allow deer hunting on Sunday within the municipality’s or plantation’s jurisdiction during the regular deer hunting season, and further authorizes the IF&W Commissioner to allow Sunday hunting when so-petitioned. If authorized through the petition process, a person may hunt for deer on Sunday

within the municipal jurisdiction provided the hunter has obtained and is carrying the written consent of the property owner with a map of the property.

LD 707 – Maine law since 1929 has applied the motor vehicle excise tax rates to the maker’s list price of the motor vehicle, with some exceptions for large trucks. This bill changes the base of the motor vehicle excise tax to the purchase price of the vehicle, rather than the list price. **DEAD**

LD 708 – This bill increases the sales tax rate on the retail sale of marijuana, as established in the initiated law approved by the voters last November, from 10% to 15%. The bill also increases the per-pack excise tax on the sale of cigarettes from \$2.00 per pack to \$2.50 per pack. The revenue generated from those two tax rate increases is dedicated by the bill to a “Surcharge Relief Fund”, also established by the bill, which must be used to provide relief to taxpayers whose income is subject to the 3% income tax rate surcharge created by another citizen initiative adopted by the voters last November to increase the state’s financial contribution to funding K-12 public education.

LD 710 – This bill allows municipal and volunteer firefighters who are responding to emergency calls in personal vehicles to use red or red and white emergency lights on the rear of the vehicles similar to those permitted to be used on the front of the vehicles. **DEAD**

LD 712 – This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Route 43 from its intersection with Route 15 in the Town of Corinth to its intersection with Route 7 in the Town of Corinna the Donald Strout, Sr., Memorial Highway. **Finally Passed; Resolves 2017, c. 5**

LD 715 – This resolution sends out to the voters a proposed amendment to the state’s Constitution that changes the signatures required to advance citizen-initiated legislation. The current signature standard is 10% of the total number of votes for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. This proposed amendment would change the tally to 15% of the registered voters in each county. The resolution would also amend the Constitution to direct the Secretary of State to hold at least one public debate on any citizen initiated measure at least 30 days prior to the referendum vote in each state senate district, where the proposed initiative must be read aloud in its entirety. **DEAD**

2/27/17

LD 717 – This bill requires all schools and nursery schools to have the water used in the school for drinking or culinary purposes tested for contamination, including for lead and arsenic. Current law requires the testing only for schools using water from a source other than a public drinking water system.

LD 719 – This bill advanced as a citizens’ initiative allows slot machines or a casino in York County. A condition of locating the gaming facility in any municipality is the approval by the voters of that municipality by referendum or by an affirmative vote of the town or city’s municipal officers. As is the case with all the initiated legislation authorizing a gaming facility, the bill provides a “cascade” of dedicated revenue distribution of a certain percentage of the net slot machine income and the net table game income to various programs, including harness

racine purses, public education funding, generalized property tax reduction, the host municipality, etc.

LD 723 – This resolution sends out to the voters a proposed amendment to the state’s Constitution that would extend the pay-back amortization period for an unfunded actuarial liability created by experience losses from 10 years to 20 years.

LD 725 – This bill defines the term “local food system” to mean a community food system within a municipality that integrates food production, processing, consumption, direct producer-to-consumer exchanges and other traditional foodways to enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health and well-being of the municipality and its residents. The bill also cites municipal home rule authority to expressly authorize a municipal government to regulate local food systems by ordinance as well as the transport of water for commercial purposes beyond the boundaries of the municipality.

LD 727 – This bill amends the law governing the definition of a “benevolent and charitable corporation”, the property of which is entirely exempt from taxation, to exclude holding land primarily for conservation purposes or public access purposes.

2-28-17

LD 729 – This bill requires that public boat launching ramps built, repaired or refurbished on or after the effective date of the legislation, if enacted, must be accessible to and usable by persons with physical disabilities in conformance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

DEAD

LD 733 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to make changes to certain taxes imposed pursuant to Maine law. **DEAD**

LD 734 – Under the law legalizing the use of recreational marijuana, the state licensing authority for recreational marijuana facilities is supposed to forward a licensing application it receives for a marijuana facility to the municipality where the facility is going to be located and that municipality has 14 days to review the application and report back to the state as to whether it approves or denies each application. This bill extends that timeframe to 60 days.

LD 736 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to create equity in funding of rural schools by examining the funding of the most disadvantaged school administrative units under the school funding formula and determining how best to provide financial resources to better assist them.

DEAD

3/1/17

LD 737 – This bill authorizes school administrative districts to establish a reserve fund to cover up to three months’ of operating costs, including salary and benefits. The reserve funds would be exempt from the statute that limits the size of lapsed unexpended balances carried over from one school budget year to the next to no more than 3% of the previous fiscal year’s school budget.

LD 738 – This bill changes the local school budgeting approval process from an annual process to a biennial process, beginning with the FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021 biennium.

LD 739 – This bill adds to the list of activities for which a Natural Resources Protection Act permit is not required. The addition is the municipal removal of beach-cast seaweed from a coastal sand dune system after a large storm or tide has deposited a large amount of seaweed on the dunes. **DEAD**

LD 741 – This bill repeals the subsection of school funding law that provides “minimum receiver” school systems with an adjustment of a certain percentage of the school’s special education costs and authorizes, instead, the municipalities of those minimum receiver school system to adopt, by referendum approval of their voters, a local option sales tax of up to 1% of the sales tax base. If approved by the voters, the sales taxes would be collected in the same manner as the state sales tax, distributed by the State Tax Assessor to each participating municipality, with the revenue being dedicated to funding K-12 education and reducing property taxes. **DEAD**

3-2-17

LD 743 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$25 million bond issue to promote and improve intermodal transportation systems, with the funds used exclusively for public transportation, including but not limited to rail and bus transportation, bicycle lanes and pedestrian sidewalks.

LD 747 – This bill authorizes each school administrative unit’s school board to establish the minimum age necessary for student enrollment. **DEAD**

LD 748 – This bill requires each school administrative unit to provide for all students a lunch period of at least 30 minutes unless the school board votes, after notice and public hearing, that a 30-minute lunch period would be impracticable. **DEAD**

LD 749 – Currently, the Town of Frye Island is prohibited from withdrawing from the school district which it is in (SAD #6). This bill authorizes the Frye Island to withdraw from SAD #6 according the general withdrawal procedures in current law provided it joins another school administrative district within two years of withdrawal. **DEAD**

LD 752 – This bill requires all school administrative units to post signs on each public way in each applicable school zone that read “School Zone – Speed Limit 15 mph When Children Are Present.” **DEAD**

LD 757 – This bill amends the charter of the Richmond Utilities District. **Engrossed as Amended**

LD 759 – This bill authorizes sewer districts and sanitary districts to invest their funds in the same way and subject to the same restrictions as municipalities are authorized to invest municipal funds.

LD 768 – This bill establishes resident and nonresident comprehensive hunting licenses that

allow hunting of all legal species subject to the moose, pheasant, migratory waterfowl, special season deer and antlerless deer permit requirements. The fee for the resident comprehensive hunting license is \$38 and the fee for the nonresident comprehensive hunting license is \$143. The bill also establishes resident and nonresident comprehensive combination hunting and fishing licenses that allow fishing and hunting of all legal species, subject to the moose, pheasant, migratory waterfowl, special season deer and antlerless deer permit requirements. The fee for the resident comprehensive combination hunting and fishing license is \$55 and the fee for the nonresident comprehensive combination hunting and fishing license is \$178. The bill establishes January 1, 2018 as the effective date of these licenses. **Carryover Requested**

LD 772 – This bill adds to the list of “public proceedings” under Maine’s Freedom of Access Act all collective bargaining meetings between a public employer and a collective bargaining unit.

LD 777 – This bill creates another “rebuttable presumption” under Maine’s Workers’ Compensation law, in this case for correction officers employed by the state or county governments. The bill provides that there is a rebuttable presumption that a corrections officer who contracts heart disease or hypertension has contracted those medical problems in the course of his or her employment as a corrections officer. **DEAD**

LD 779 – This bill authorizes Aroostook County to act as the “municipality” for the geographic area within the County for the purpose of designating and administering economic development districts (e.g., TIF districts or special assessment improvement districts for blighted areas or areas in need of rehabilitation, etc.) in the areas the County the commissioners choose to designate. The Aroostook County commissioners are designated by the bill as both the municipality and the municipal legislative body for that purpose. **DEAD**

LD 780 – This bill authorizes the deorganization of Cary Plantation in Aroostook County, subject to approval at local referendum. **Carryover Requested**

LD 785 – This bill empowers a school crossing guard to direct traffic with statutory authority provided the guard meets four qualifying criteria: (1) is 18 years of age or older; (2) is under the control of a local law enforcement agency or school administrative unit; (3) has completed training to perform traffic direction duties as prescribed by the law enforcement agency or school administrative unit; and (4) is wearing an appropriate uniform as specified by the law enforcement agency or school administrative unit.

As amended by Committee, this bill establishes the necessary qualifications for a school crossing guard to be empowered to control traffic with hand signals or a handheld traffic control device so that the violation of that crossing guard’s direction is a traffic offense. To meet that level of qualification, the school crossing guard must: (1) be 18 years of age or older; (2) be under the control of a local law enforcement agency; (3) have completed applicable training approved by the Bureau of Labor Standards; (4) be wearing an appropriate uniform as specified by the supervising law enforcement agency; (5) be directing traffic in an intersection with a marked crosswalk on a public way; and (6) not contradict or override a lighted traffic control device or pedestrian control device. The bill does not prohibit a school crossing guard who does not meet those specifications from assisting a pedestrian to cross a public way as long as the school crossing guard does not attempt to do so by directing traffic. **Engrossed as Amended**

LD 788 – This bill changes the annual registration requirement and fee for automobiles, pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles to a biennial registration requirement, with a fee of \$50. **DEAD**

LD 790 – This resolve names the bridge that spans the outlet of the Grand Falls Flowage into Lewy Lake on U.S. 1 between Indian Township and the Town of Princeton the Sakom John Stevens Bridge. **DEAD**

LD 795 – This bill requires that the full text of a citizens’ initiative be printed on the initiative’s statewide ballot.

LD 796 – This resolution sends out to the voters a proposed amendment to the state’s Constitution that requires that the minimum 10% signature tally currently required (of the number of votes for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election) be applied to each of the 16 counties, and that each signature must be of a person registered to vote in each respective county. **DEAD**

LD 797 – This bill dedicates 20% of the revenue generated by the sales tax on the retail sale of marijuana to the Multimodal Transportation Fund to be used to support the multimodal forms of transportation limited to passenger marine, road surface and passenger rail transit of the state, municipalities and multimodal providers.

LD 805 – Under current law, a municipality is essentially preempted by state law from adopting a definition of “subdivision” that differs from the statutory definition, except a municipality is expressly allowed to expand the definition to include in its definition, and in the subdivision review process, the division of a structure into three or more units for commercial or industrial uses. This bill repeals that municipal authority. The bill also adds a new exemption to the definition, which is the division of a new or existing structure into 3 or more dwelling units however the division is accomplished (by sale, lease, development or otherwise) if the project is also subject to municipal site plan review pursuant to the law that delegates to qualifying municipalities the authority to perform state-level Site Location Act review for major development projects. The effective date of the new exemption is July 1, 2018. Also under current law, when a variance is granted with respect to a subdivision application, the variance must be recorded in the registry of deeds within 90 days of the final subdivision approval or the variance is void. This bill retains the requirement that the variance must be recorded to be valid, but expands the 90-day recording window to a two-year recording window before the variance is voided. **Engrossed as Amended**

LD 809 – This bill requires all school administrative units in which at least 50% of the students qualify for a free or reduced lunch to either operate an alternative breakfast delivery service that provides breakfast after the start of the school day or, in the alternative, have the school board hold a public hearing and ultimately vote not to operate such a program because it would not be financially or logistically viable. The bill appropriates \$500,000 for each year of the biennium to fund the program.

LD 813 – This bill amends the political party considerations that need to be made with respect to the appointment of election clerks by the municipal officers. Under current law, the election clerks need to be equally balanced between the major political parties, without one political party being over or under represented by more than one clerk. This bill requires the selection to be based on 33% from one major party, 33% from another major party, with 34% being selected without regard to party enrollment.

LD 815 – This bill expressly authorizes a Council of Governments (COG) to enter into a contract with a municipality to provide municipal services to that municipality. The bill also amends the Maine Tort Claims Act to include in the definition of “political subdivision” a COG when performing those municipal services pursuant to a contract.

LD 818 – This bill amends the laws governing public education in a number of ways designed to improve the quality of teachers, such as by requiring school teachers seeking certification to meet certain grade point averages in their college-level teacher preparation course work and by requiring the educational institutions that provide educator training programs to successfully graduate prospective teachers as those grade point level standards or above. The bill also establishes a minimum teacher salary of \$40,000 beginning after June 30, 2018, directing the necessary incremental salary increases to be covered by the Essential Programs and Services school funding distribution to those school systems that are currently not providing that level of salary to some school teachers.

LD 819 – This resolve establishes the Commission To Study the Adequacy of Housing Safety Laws, which is charged with studying the housing safety laws, including landlord and tenant relations and rights, the eviction process, bank foreclosure actions on abandoned property and rental housing fire safety issues, and making recommendations for any necessary changes. The 10-member commission includes three municipal officials including a police chief, a fire chief and a code enforcement officer, each of them from a town or city with a population greater than 20,000 inhabitants. The commission’s report must be submitted to the Legislature by December 6, 2017. **DEAD**

LD 823 – This bill requires a state entity (defined to include municipalities, counties, all law enforcement agencies, etc. as “instrumentalities” of the state) to hold a public hearing and ultimately obtain legislative approval prior to: (1) seeking funding or in-kind support to acquire surveillance technology, (2) sharing or borrowing surveillance technology, (3) using surveillance technology for a purpose or in a manner not previously approved by the Legislature, or (4) issuing requests for proposals or entering into an agreement with another entity to acquire, share, borrow or otherwise use surveillance technology. The bill includes the public notice and content requirements of the public hearing and describes the nature of the state legislative approval required. **Carryover Requested**

LD 825 – This bill requires that any public or private entity that installs or operates a multiline telephone system ensures that the system is connected to the public switched telephone network in such a way that an individual dialing 911 is connected to the public safety answering point without being required to first dial any other number or set of numbers. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 48**

LD 826 – This bill amends the law governing the School Revolving Renovation Fund to add renovation and repurposing of underutilized space when done in conjunction with closing a school to the list of projects that qualify for Priority 1 status. **DEAD**

3/3/17

LD 827 – Under current law, motor vehicles, mobile homes, camp trailers and truck campers, which are the slide-in campers designed to be mounted on a truck body to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping and travel uses, need to be registered and, prior to being registered, proof needs to be shown that the sales taxes on those vehicles, trailers and slide-on campers have been paid. This bill repeals that requirement for truck campers. **Enacted; PL**

2017, c. 67

LD 829 – The school funding initiative adopted by the voters last November established an income tax rate surcharge of 3% for filers applied to any taxable income over \$200,000. This bill increases that surcharge threshold to \$300,000 for taxpayers filing as heads of household and \$400,000 for taxpayers filing married joint returns.

LD 830 – This bill authorizes the incorporation of certain portions of the City of Caribou into the Town of Lyndon if the legal residents of the seceding portion of Caribou approve the separation from Caribou. **DEAD**

LD 844 – This bill makes excessive watercraft noise a public nuisance that may be enforced by a law enforcement officer or a private right of action. **DEAD**

LD 847 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to amend the law governing the tax status of refugee settlement agencies that refuse to consult with state and local governments or that otherwise disregard the concerns of state or local governments, and to make those agencies liable for acts of terrorism committed by refugees placed by those agencies in Maine.

LD 848 – This bill establishes a rebuttable presumption under the laws governing workers' compensation that when a law enforcement officer, firefighter, corrections officer or emergency medical services worker is diagnosed by a licensed physician specializing in psychiatry or a licensed psychologist as having post-traumatic stress disorder, the posttraumatic stress disorder is presumed to have arisen out of and in the course of the worker's employment.

LD 850 – This bill makes it a crime for any person other than a legislator from purposely providing false testimony, falsifying testimony or omitting or concealing a material fact in that person’s testimony to a legislative committee. For false testimony provided if not under oath, it’s a Class E crime. If under oath, it’s a Class D crime.

LD 851 – This bill repeals the citizens’ initiative adopted by the voters last November that established a 3% income tax rate increase to a filer’s income over \$200,000 for the purposes of increasing state funding for K-12 public education. The bill also puts the initiative back out to the voters in the November 2018 election for a reconsideration.

LD 852 – Under the Maine Liquor Liability Act, a plaintiff seeking damages must give written notice to all defendants within 180 days of the date of the server’s conduct creating the alleged liability under the Act, unless good cause can be shown why notice could not have reasonably been filed. This bill establishes “good cause” as including the inability of the plaintiff to obtain investigative records from a law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency. **Passed to be Enacted**

LD 854 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to correct errors and inconsistencies in the Marijuana Legalization Act as approved at referendum in November 2016.

3-6-17

LD 858 – This bill amends the law governing the determination and management of dangerous dogs. The bill provides that the sheriff, local law enforcement officer or animal control officer, upon an investigation of complaint, may determine that the dog subject to that complaint is dangerous and further provides that a court must take that determination into account. Under current law, a dangerous dog must be ordered euthanized by the court if it has killed, maimed or inflicted serious injury on a person. This bill requires euthanasia if that level of attack was done to a domestic animal, as well. Finally, the bill repeals an allowance in current law for a dangerous dog to be kept at the owner’s home pending the adjudication of a complaint as long as certain muzzling and tether controls on that dog are followed. **Carryover Requested**

LD 859 – This bill requires the State Police to process all forensic examination kits designed to be used by a health care provider for the purpose of collecting forensic evidence with regard to an alleged sexual assault within 180 days of receipt of a kit or within 180 days of receipt of consent to analysis of that kit by the alleged victim, whichever occurs later. **DEAD**

LD 862 – This resolve directs the Department of Education to establish a pilot program with selected school administrative units to install video cameras in school buses and study the effectiveness of the cameras with respect to the maintenance of order and safety on the buses. **DEAD**

LD 864 – This bill puts into motion the development of a statewide school teacher contract. First, the bill establishes that beginning on January 1, 2021, a public employer acting on behalf of a school administrative unit is represented in collective bargaining by the Governor or the Governor’s designee. The bill also directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to develop a plan to implement statewide collective bargaining for public school teachers. The plan must be designed to: (1) permit school administrative units to maintain local control and direction of teacher employment; (2) include for all teachers a uniform compensation system that is based upon performance results that are competitive and fair across the state; and (3) maximize opportunities for certain economies of scale through the statewide negotiation of public school teacher’s benefits, including health insurance.

LD 866 – This bill requires the state to pay \$500 per year to every school administrative unit, including public charter schools and magnet schools, for every student provided residential services by the school system. **DEAD**

LD 867 – This bill appropriates \$15,000 for the Town of Monmouth for the purpose of constructing a gate with an electronic locking mechanism to restrict motor vehicles from entering the public access point to Wilson Stream. The bill further requires the town to record an educational voice message regarding invasive milfoil and its damaging properties and integrate that message with the gate. The message must end with the code needed to unlock the gate. **DEAD**

LD 871 – This bill requires that the seller of residential real property accessible only by a private way must disclose to any buyer the name of the person who owns the private way and the name of the person who is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the private way.

LD 873 – This bill requires the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, which oversees the ongoing maintenance of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC), to ensure that “tiny house” construction is permissible under that code, and that the Board adopt standards for tiny house construction consistent with the Tiny House Appendix to the International Residential Code. A tiny house is defined as a dwelling that is less than 400 square feet in floor area, excluding the area of any floor level located above the main floor. **DEAD**

LD 874 – Current law authorizes a municipality by ordinance to establish a property tax deferral program that may be provided to homeowners at least 70 years of age who have resided in the home for at least 10 years and who have a household income that does not exceed 300% of the federal poverty level. This bill authorizes the establishment of a property tax deferral system without these limiting factors provided the recipients of the deferral benefit occupy the eligible homestead and meet the age, income and asset standards provided in the municipal ordinance. **DEAD**

LD 875 – This bill repeals and replaces the law governing the distribution of municipal revenue sharing. The bill establishes a threshold full value property tax rate of 10 mills in order to receive any revenue sharing. For those municipalities with a full value mill rate over 10 mills, the bill creates an additional adjustment to the distribution that advantages those municipalities with a current mill rate that is less than the previous 5-year average property tax rate and disadvantages municipalities with a current mill rate that is greater than the previous 5 year average. The bill establishes the total distribution at the historical 5% of state sales and income tax revenue, except that for the FY 2018-2019 fiscal year, the distribution is fixed at 2% of those revenues. **DEAD**

LD 876 – This resolve requires a municipality with a residential population of 20,000 inhabitants or greater to undertake a study to determine the busiest pedestrian crosswalks and vehicular traffic areas in that municipality and to adopt a 10-year plan to address the enhancement of pedestrian crosswalk safety in that municipality through changing physical and lighting conditions. **DEAD**

LD 878 – This bill allows municipalities, the counties with respect to county roads, and the Department of Transportation with respect to state roads, after making a finding regarding the safety of operating golf carts along the extreme right hand side of certain public ways, to designate those public ways as “golf cart access routes”. Designated golf cart access routes must be posted conspicuously at regular intervals with highly visible signs, and the respective governmental units may require golf carts utilizing the golf car access routes to register their golf carts. **DEAD**

LD 879 – Current law allows only candidates for office, office holders, political action committees and persons or organizations involved in “get out the vote” efforts to purchase voter lists and voter registration information from the Secretary of State’s Office or the local registrar. This bill allows any person to purchase that information. **DEAD**

LD 881 – This bill defines a “municipal satellite collection system” as a sewage collection system that is owned and operated by a municipality or quasi-municipal entity and that directly or indirectly conveys wastewater to a publicly owned treatment works that is owned and

operated by a separate legal entity. The bill further requires the owner of a municipal satellite collection system to obtain a license from the Department of Environmental Protection for the operation of that system pursuant to rules adopted by the Department for that licensing purpose.

DEAD

LD 882 – This bill prohibits any public entity, including municipalities and quasi-municipal entities, from boycotting the State of Israel or contracting with or giving a grant to a person that is boycotting the State of Israel and requires all contracts and grants by those public entities to expressly certify that the person awarded the contract or grant will not boycott the State of Israel for the duration of the contract or grant.

LD 883 – This bill provides that if a person is paid to circulate a petition for a citizens' initiative or people's veto referendum on a per-signature basis, the person must be paid at least \$25 a signature. **DEAD**

LD 886 – This bill prohibits a recipient of benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) from using an electronic benefits transfer system card to access those benefits from out of state.

LD 887 – This "concept draft" proposes to change the method for providing property tax relief through the state-municipal revenue sharing system by providing benefits directly to property tax payers through a state tax credit rather than through distributions to municipalities. The maximum an individual taxpayer could receive would be 80% of the individual's annual property tax bill. The maximum a corporate taxpayer could receive would be 40% of its annual property tax bill. The credit would be calculated as a percentage of the total revenue sharing funds based on a taxpayer's annual bill, the percentage of total revenue sharing funds attributable to the municipality where the taxpayer's property is located and the taxpayer's annual property tax liability as a percentage of annual property tax liability statewide. **DEAD**

LD 888 – This bill restricts the circumstances allowing for the ultimate forfeiture of firearms or dangerous weapons when seized by law enforcement officers to when the owner of the firearm or dangerous weapon is convicted of a crime in which the particular weapon is involved. The bill also prohibits a law enforcement agency, prosecuting attorney, state agency, county or municipality from entering into an agreement to transfer or refer seized property to a federal agency directly or indirectly in a manner that might circumvent that restriction. **DEAD**

LD 892 – This bill allows a vehicle operated by an attorney involved in and responding to an incident involving the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer to use emergency lights that emit a blue light or a combination of a blue and white light and a siren. **DEAD**

LD 895 – This bill requires that all contracts let by the state government and its departments, agencies, boards, commissions and institutions for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, improvement or maintenance of a public building or public work contain a provision that the manufactured goods, including iron and steel, used or supplied in the performance of the contract or any subcontract to the contract must be manufactured in the United States. The requirement does not apply to the counties, municipalities or school administrative units. An affected public agency may apply to the Governor for a waiver based on a set of four circumstances identified in the bill.

LD 897 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$25 million bond issue to for the support of efficient biomass thermal and power projects in Maine. \$12 million of the issue is dedicated to construct steam piping form existing stand-alone biomass generators to adjacent manufacturing facilities, \$5 million is dedicated to construct biomass combined heat and power generation boilers at sawmill manufacturing facilities, and \$8 million is dedicated to convert fossil fuel boilers in public buildings and commercial facilities to biomass boilers.

LD 904 – When the county commissioners decide a property tax abatement request in a way that reduces the assessed value of a certain property, this bill requires the commissioners to also adjust downward by an equal amount the assessed value of the municipality where the property is located as that value applies to the county’s assessment of property tax revenue. **DEAD**

LD 905 – This bill authorizes the construction of a connector in Cumberland County from Route 114 in South Gorham to an interchange on the Maine Turnpike provided an evaluation of reasonable alternatives, as required by the Sensible Transportation Policy Act, determines there is no reasonable alternative. The bill also authorizes the Maine Turnpike Authority to issue special obligation bonds or other evidences of indebtedness up to \$150 million to pay for the planning, design and construction of the connector. **Enacted; PL 2017, c. 68**

LD 906 – This bill amends the law governing the required procedures to collect signatures to advance a proposed citizens’ initiative. Under current law, the circulator must provide an opportunity for a potential petition signer to read the initiative’s summary statement and fiscal statement before signing a petition. This bill requires the circulator to provide the potential signer with the signer’s own full text of the initiative and provide the potential signer with the opportunity to read the full text before signing the petition. **DEAD**

3-7-17

LD 915 – This bill establishes a new property tax relief program under which the State Treasurer would distribute to each municipality 5% of the sales taxes collected by the state attributable to sales transacted in that municipality during the previous fiscal year. The bill prohibits the state from treating the distribution in a way to cause the reduction of other forms of state aid received by the municipality. The revenue received by the municipality must be used to reduce the municipality’s property tax levy.

LD 917 – This resolve directs the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to convene a working group to evaluate and design retirement plan options for all state employees and teachers. The working group’s report and recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by January 1, 2018.

3-8-17

LD 926 – This bill creates a negative “adjustment” within the Essential Programs and Services school funding model. The adjustment subtracts from the state share of the EPS allocation distributed to a “highly funded school”. A highly funded school is a school that spends in total more than 108% of the total EPS allocation for that school, and the adjustment subtracts from that school’s state distribution the difference between what it actually spends and the 108% of EPS allocation value. **DEAD**

LD 927 – This bill creates another “rebuttable presumption” under the state’s Workers’

Compensation law that a corrections officer who incurs an impairment of health caused by an infectious disease that results in total or partial disability or death is presumed to have incurred that impairment as a workplace-related injury. **DEAD**

LD 933 – This bill prohibits the use of personal watercraft on Third Pond in the Town of Blue Hill. **DEAD**

LD 937 – This bill requires that the ballot for any citizens’ initiative include the measure’s fiscal impact statement as prepared by the Legislature’s Office of Fiscal and Program Review. **DEAD**

LD 938 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to harmonize certain public health provisions applicable to the medical and recreational use of marijuana, including, but not limited to, laboratory testing of the product, product labeling requirements, child-safe packaging requirements and inspection requirements.

LD 939 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to protect Maine’s agriculture.

LD 942 – This bill prohibits an employer from inquiring about a prospective employee’s prior compensation history until after an offer of employment that includes all terms of compensation has been negotiated and made to the prospective employee.

LD 950 – This emergency resolve establishes the Commission to Study Using Blockchain Technology in Conjunction with Paper Ballots in Maine Elections. The 11 member Commission, made up mostly of legislators, is charged with studying the potential uses for blockchain technology to support and enhance Maine’s current paper ballot election system for the purpose of improving paper ballot security, increasing election transparency and reducing costs. The Commission’s report and recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by December 6, 2017. **DEAD**

LD 955 – This bill sends out to the voters a \$6 million proposed bond issue to recapitalize the Municipal Investment Trust Fund to provide grants and loans to municipalities for public facilities infrastructure.

LD 956 – This bill requires that all contracts let by the state government and its departments, agencies, boards, commissions and institutions for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, improvement or maintenance of a public building or public work contain a provision that the manufactured goods, including iron and steel, used or supplied in the performance of the contract or any subcontract to the contract must be manufactured in the United States. The requirement does not apply to the counties, municipalities or school administrative units. An affected public agency may apply to the Governor for a waiver based on a set of four circumstances identified in the bill (see LD 895).

3-9-17

LD 957 – This resolve requires the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to convene a study group, including representatives of entities that enforce the laws governing alcoholic beverages, to review and propose revisions to the laws governing alcoholic beverages to eliminate outdated laws, respond to industry concerns and support the emerging craft beer, wine and liquor industry.

LD 959 – Under current law, at the end of each state fiscal year there is a distribution of the unappropriated surplus of the state’s General Fund to recapitalize several special self insurance-based and operating capital-based reserve funds, with 80% of the remainder distributed to the

state's budget stabilization or "rainy day" fund and 20% of the remainder distributed to a special fund to finance reductions to the state's income tax rates. This bill creates a new high-priority dedication of 1% of the remainder unappropriated General Fund surplus to the Property Tax Fairness Credit Fund, which would be used to finance enhanced property tax fairness credits within the state's income tax code.

LD 963 – For any bridge falling under the Department of Transportation's responsibility for maintenance, this bill requires that a certified coating application specialist be present at all times when surface preparation or painting the bridge is being performed. **DEAD**

LD 964 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$10 million bond issue to provide funds for a competitive grant program for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings in order to improve fish and wildlife habitats and prepare for road-related water management in the circumstance of extreme storms and floods.

LD 966 – This bill requires the Department of Health and Human services to contract with a private provider of behavioral health services to place a mental health liaison in every county or regional jail for the purposes of connecting prisoners with serious mental health illness to services, developing a treatment plan for those prisoners to be implemented on their release and developing a diversion plan for those prisoners convicted of Class D or lesser crimes.

Carryover Requested

LD 970 – This bill establishes the Housing First Program, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA). The bill directs MSHA to work with emergency shelters and other crisis responders in the neediest areas of the state with respect to chronic homelessness with the goal of providing permanent housing and support services for homeless individuals and families and homeless individuals addicted to opiates. The bill appropriates \$675,000 from the General Fund for each year of the biennium, which is estimated to fund 30 housing units along with the necessary and related support services.

LD 972 – This bill amends the statute governing the make-up and authority of the Lincoln County Budget Advisory Committee. Under current law, the advisory committee membership is from one to three municipal officers for each county's three commissioner districts, chosen by caucus. Under the bill, the board of municipal officers of each of the 19 municipalities in the county could choose a municipal officer from that municipality to serve or, alternatively, choose not to be represented on the advisory committee. The bill also converts the authority of the advisory committee from an advisory-only committee to what is referred to as a "strong" budget committee in that final decisions on the county budget can be determined by the advisory committee with a two-thirds supermajority vote. **DEAD**

LD 973 – This bill amends the statute governing the Waldo County Budget Committee to deal with the circumstances of a Committee vacancy. **Passed to be Enacted**

LD 974 – This bill increases the value of the Homestead property tax exemption to \$30,000 beginning on April 1, 2018.

LD 977 – This bill allows a vehicle operator to make a left turn at red light if not prohibited from doing so by a sign, after stopping, and after yielding to pedestrians and to all green-lighted vehicles. **DEAD**

LD 979 – This bill allows municipalities to provide and conduct early voting in person which is different from absentee voting in person. Early voting takes place in the municipal offices during

their normal business hours and during the same period of time as absentee voting, but effectively replicates the election day polling place procedures whereby the early voter actually casts his or her ballot in the ballot box. **DEAD**

LD 980 – This bill amends the law governing absentee balloting to provide that when an application for an absentee ballot is rejected, the list of absentee voters must include the reason why the absentee ballot was rejected. **DEAD**

3/10/17

LD 988 – This bill provides that the prohibition on the possession of a firearm on school property does not apply to a person who possesses a firearm in a motor vehicle while dropping off or picking up a student.

LD 989 – This bill establishes limits on the charges that can be applied for holding and storing a motor vehicle at the request of any person, including a law enforcement officer. Under the bill, in order to charge more than 3 days' storage fees, the entity holding the vehicle must provide notice that storage charges are incurring by filing a certain form with the Secretary of State's Office. The bill also establishes a maximum 30-day storage charge of \$900. **DEAD**

LD 990 – This bill creates the separate and more serious crime of “aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer” when the nature of such an assault parallels the standards that define aggravated assault generally.

LD 992 – This bill relocates all portions of Park Road and the Baileyville Commercial Park, currently in Baring Plantation, into the Town of Baileyville. **Enacted; P & SL 2017, c. 6**

LD 997 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to increase funding to schools by repealing unnecessary and burdensome regulations. **DEAD**

LD 998 – This bill amends the law that requires reimbursement for qualifying ambulance services to be covered under MaineCare to also include reimbursement for community paramedicine services that do not involve transporting patients.

LD 1001 – Current law authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) drinking water testing program to waive the well water quality testing fees for any household's “showing of indigency”. This bill requires DHHS to waive the fees for all households with an income equal to or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

LD 1006 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to establish a statewide commission to study housing insecurity in the context of aging in place.

LD 1009 – This resolve directs the Maine Turnpike Authority to study the feasibility of undertaking the planning, design and construction of a connector from Route 114 in South Gorham to an interchange on the Maine Turnpike.

LD 1010 – Current state law provides a blanket preemption of municipal authority to enact ordinances that regulate the activities of transportation network companies such as Uber or Lyft. This bill provides an exception to that general preemption by allowing a primary airport as designated by the Federal Aviation Administration that annually has at least 20,000 enplaned passengers to regulate the traffic flow and parking for, and charge reasonable fees to, a transportation network company in a manner consistent with the airport's regulation of other reserved transportation providers. **Engrossed as Amended**

LD 1012 – This bill creates an exception to the limit on the number of agency liquor stores allowed by municipal population threshold to allow the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to license an agency liquor store in a municipality without a store as long as another agency liquor store is not located within 3.5 miles of the municipality. **DEAD**

3/13/17

LD 1014 – This bill makes it a Class D crime for a person being detained by a law enforcement officer to fail to inform that officer of the person’s possession of a hypodermic apparatus on the person’s body during the course of that detainment or arrest.

LD 1016 – This bill amends the Essential Programs and Services school funding model to require state subsidy to be distributed to schools that are starting up career and technical education (CTE) centers or regions on the basis of projected costs, projected enrollment, and a “program-driven” model that considers components for direct instruction, central administration, supplies, operation and maintenance of plant and other student and staff support equipment. Under current law, CTE programs are subsidized after their start-up based on enrollments in a prior year.

LD 1017 – This bill removes all the good cause exceptions that prevent a person from being sanctioned under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) for failing to participate in the subsidiary ASPIRE program, with the exception of the domestic violence good cause exception. **DEAD**

LD 1021 – This emergency resolve establishes a 10-member Committee to Develop a Disposition Plan for Future Surplus State Property in York County, which is charged with planning for the disposition of the three courthouses in York County to be vacated when the courts are consolidated into one building in 2021. **On Study Table**

LD 1035 – This bill directs the Legislature to request an opinion of the justices of Maine’s Supreme Judicial Court on any direct initiative of legislation that will be submitted to the voters, and further directs that opinion to be printed on the ballot containing the citizens’ initiative. **DEAD**

LD 1036 – This bill directs the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to study and develop recommended legislation that leads to the removal of all licensing, permit, certification or other occupational authorizing requirements for 24 potential occupations, including underground oil storage tank inspector, animal control officers, teacher assistant, and fire alarm installer. The Department’s report and recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by December 1, 2017. **DEAD**

3-14-17

LD 1040 – This bill makes a number of amendments to the state’s Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA). Among the various amendments, the bill: (1) Allows the establishment of significant groundwater wells for a community public water system, including a public water system used solely or partially to bottle water for sale, without first obtaining a NRPA permit; (2) changes the notification standard that applies to a community public water system when a person seeks to alter the area over groundwater utilized by that system from a certified mail notice to a regular U.S. mail notice; (3) includes existing water or sewer lines, road crossing culverts and natural gas pipelines in the NRPA permit exemption for existing crossings; and (4) provides that a replacement of existing public works does not require a NRPA permit and that

the exemption applies, as well, to outstanding river segments. **DEAD**

LD 1041 – This bill makes shooting with a firearm with a rifled barrel during the open firearm season on deer at any wild animal or wild bird a Class E crime if the shooting occurs: (1) from any public paved way; or (2) from within 100 feet from the centerline of the pavement of any paved public way, or (3) from within the right of way of any controlled access highway. **DEAD**

LD 1045 – This bill requires the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MEPERS) to prepare an actuarial report on normal teacher retirement costs and present that report to the Legislature by July 31st of every even-numbered year. The bill directs that the report must be relied upon to justify the determination of the total percentage of teacher compensation required to fund the normal teacher retirement costs. It also directs the Legislature to conduct a review of the historical and projected future actuarial value of normal teacher retirement costs. **Passed to be Enacted**

3-15-17

LD 1048 – This bill requires the use of the Uniform Summons and Complaint form for criminal violations of laws established in Title 12 (laws enforced by IF&W wardens, DMR wardens, etc.), Title 17-A (Maine’s criminal code) and Title 29-A (governing motor vehicle violations), and the Violation Summons and Complaint form for civil violations of those titles.

LD 1050 – This bill authorizes a political subdivision of the state, including counties and municipalities, to adopt an order, ordinance, rule or regulation that prohibits a person from having a firearm in the person’s possession while inside an emergency medical services vehicle that is owned or operated by the political subdivision.

LD 1052 – This bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to require an applicant for benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) to complete a written screening tool to determine the applicant’s propensity to substance abuse. If the screening creates a reasonable suspicion or the applicant has been convicted of a drug-related felony, the bill authorizes DHHS to administer a drug test to the applicant. Positive tests for illegal drugs or controlled substances can lead to a denial of benefits unless the applicant enrolls in a treatment program.

LD 1058 – This bill repeals the requirement in current law that before a “city’s” local election, the election clerk must publish a composite specimen ballot containing the names of all the nominees in a newspaper having general circulation in the city. The bill also removes the requirement that in those “city” elections, the clerk post multiple copies of the instruction poster and specimen ballot in the voting room, and specifies instead that at least one each of those documents be posted. **Passed to be Enacted**

LD 1059 – This bill provides that when a municipality or a county discontinues a town way that includes a bridge, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must engage in the establishment of an agreement as to the governmental entity responsible for ownership and maintenance of the bridge or to understand that the DOT may choose to remove the bridge.

LD 1068 – This bill requires a person that engages in the construction or repair of public buildings or public works constructed or established by state government or otherwise financed by state funds, including public school buildings, to use wood products, including cross-laminated timber, for structural components to the extent that suitable wood products are feasible for use, competitively priced and permitted under applicable building codes. **Carryover**

Requested

LD 1071 – Under current Tax Increment Financing law, a component of the overall economic development program to which TIF revenues can be dedicated are the costs of services and equipment to provide skills development and training, including scholarships to in-state educational institutions or to online learning entities when in-state options are not available. The skills being developed must be for jobs created or retained because of the TIF program. This bill: (1) caps the dedication of TIF resources for this purpose to no more than 20% of total project costs, but (2) relaxes the strict requirement that the skills development be focused only on the locally created or retained jobs. **DEAD**

LD 1072 – This bill amends the law governing dealers in secondhand precious metals, including gold (other than coins or bullion), silver and, with this bill, palladium and platinum. Under current law, dealers in secondhand precious metals must obtain a permit from the municipal officers of the town or city where their place of business is located, and the statute provides a standard upon which such permits may be denied. This bill changes the requirement from a permitting system to a registration system, whereby the dealer would just have to register with the municipal officers, who would play no role in permitting the business.

3/16/17

LD 1076 – This bill requires the state to reimburse any municipality for its lost tax revenue associated with the conversion of taxable real estate to tax exempt real estate associated with an acquisition of land after April 1, 2018 under the Land For Maine’s Future program. **DEAD**

LD 1078 – This bill establishes the “municipal cost components” for state and county services provided to the unorganized territory (UT). The municipal cost components form the basis of the property tax for the UT. After computing all the appropriations, identifying tax increment financing payments, and subtracting the general revenue and educational revenue deductions, the total UT tax assessment for FY 2018 is proposed to be \$25,186,968 (not counting overlay), representing a 12.5% increase over the assessment for the current fiscal year.

3-17-17

LD 1079 – This bill exempts a person from arrest or prosecution for a several specific violations of law regarding illegal drugs (e.g., possession, illegal purchasing, possession of hypodermic needles or other paraphernalia, etc.) when the person in good faith is seeking medical assistance for experiencing a drug-related overdose for him or herself or another person.

LD 1080 – This bill prohibits the Town of Newry from withdrawing from School Administrative District #44 and additionally requires Newry’s assessment to be based on the assessment established by statute. **DEAD**

LD1081 – Under current law governing property subdivisions, a transfer of any parcel of land to an abutter does not count as a subdivided lot for the purpose of regulatory review at the time of the transfer, but if the transferred parcel is subsequently transferred within five years to another person without the rest of the land the parcel merged into, the exemption is erased and the originally transferred lot becomes a reviewable subdivision lot. This bill eliminates the language that provides for the removal of the exemption. **DEAD**

LD 1082 – Under current law governing the granting of variances by a municipal board of appeals from municipal land use standards, there is the standard 4-criteria test (no reasonable return, unique circumstances of the property, essential character of the neighborhood and actions of the owner or previous owner) that needs to be met for the variance to be granted. Current law also authorizes municipalities to amend their land use ordinances to somewhat soften those standards under the so-called “practical difficulty” alternative, which essentially converts the “no reasonable return” standard to a less-strict “practical difficulty” standard. This bill repeals the need to amend the local ordinance to utilize the alternative variance standard and make it a co-existing set of variance standards, significantly amends that alternative standard by repealing the “practical difficulty” standard altogether, repeals the variance standard that blocks a variance when the need for the variance was created by an action of the owner or previous owner, and allows variances to be granted within the shoreland zone, although not to reduce the minimum dimensional standards established in state law. **DEAD**

LD 1084 – This bill establishes that the name and addresses of applicants for the position of school superintendent, county administrator, town manager or city manager are public records upon application by the applicant. **DEAD**

LD 1086 – This bill removes all references or requirements in election statutes for a voter to be enrolled in the applicable political party in order to vote in a primary election for state legislators, other state or county elected officials, or the primaries for candidates for U.S. Senate or House seats, thereby make these primary elections open to all registered voters.

LD 1087 – With respect to a proposed land use development decision, whether an approval or denial, made at the municipal level, this bill establishes that such a decision is ripe for appeal to the Superior Court as a “final agency action” only after both the municipal planning board and the board of appeals have heard the land use matter and issued findings of fact. **DEAD**

LD 1089 – This bill prohibits a person from using a mobile telephone or handheld electronic device while operating a motor vehicle unless the hands-free features of the telephone or device are being utilized or the handheld telephone or device is being used in order to communicate with a law enforcement agency in an emergency.

LD 1090 – This bill essentially creates a rebuttable presumption that a person who is a registered owner of a vehicle at the time that vehicle is involved in eluding a law enforcement officer has committed a traffic infraction. Defenses to the presumption are provided in the circumstances when: (1) someone else is convicted of operating the vehicle at the time; (2) the car is leased; (3) the car has a dealer or transporter plate; and (4) the car was reported stolen.

3/20/17

LD 1093 – This bill amends the labor relations law as it pertains to municipal employees to provide that the involuntary transfer of a teacher or other municipal employee is included in the definition of “working conditions” that must be collectively bargained in good faith.

LD 1094 – Under current subdivision law, the creation of leased dwelling units is not subject to subdivision review if the municipal reviewing authority has determined that the units are otherwise subject to a municipal review as least as stringent as the subdivision review standards. This bill applies that same exception to the creation of all dwelling units, whether they are to be leased or sold outright. Presumably the exception is meant to apply when the dwelling units are being created within a single structure. **DEAD**

LD 1095 – This bill creates the 36 member Maine Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission, which is charged with developing and recommending legislation and other actions to address and prepare for coastal and coastal watershed hazards related to storm surges, extreme precipitation events, projected sea level rise, increased river flooding and storm water runoff, etc. Membership includes four legislators, nine state agency commissioners or directors, seven representatives of regional planning commissions or municipal councils of government, fifteen representatives of various interest groups including fisheries, tourism, local government, etc. The Commission is directed to submit a report and recommendations for legislation or other actions to the Legislature at least every five years, beginning no later than November 1, 2019. **Carryover Requested**

LD 1096 – This bill makes four changes to the law governing the shoreland zoning program. The bill: (1) requires the Office of Community Development within the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide an advanced training course in the practice of shoreland zoning management for municipal code enforcement officers to be available in addition to the basic training course currently available, (2) requires municipal shoreland zoning ordinances to establish a requirement for all applicants seeking a permit for development within the shoreland zone to provide as part of that application preconstruction photographs and, ultimately, post construction photographs of the shoreland vegetation and development site, (3) increases the maximum per day civil penalty established in statute for a specific violation of a municipal land use ordinance from \$2,500 to \$5,000, and (4) increases the special maximum per day penalty for a violation of a land use ordinance within a resource protection zone from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

LD 1104 – This bill exempts from the school personnel background check and fingerprinting requirements law enforcement officers from a local law enforcement agency who are undertaking the assignment of the “school resource officer”.

LD 1106 – This resolution sends out to the voters a proposed amendment to the state’s Constitution that would dedicate all sales and use tax revenue associated with the sales of motor vehicles and the sales related to motor vehicle to the state’s Highway Fund for road and bridge capital improvements.

LD 1107 – Under current law, the period of time during the day when an establishment selling liquor for on-premises consumption can sell or deliver liquor is from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. of the following day. This bill authorizes municipalities by a vote of the legislative body to authorize the extension of those hours of operation by one hour, either opening an hour earlier or shutting down an hour later, provided the municipality has a full time police department or contracts with the county sheriff or State Police to provide coverage during the extended hour.

LD 1109 – This bill repeals and replaces the law governing “residency” for the purpose of determining financial responsibility for providing General Assistance benefits to qualifying individuals. Under current law, physical presence through the GA application process is the general rule for determining municipal GA responsibility, although there are specific exceptions when one municipality assists in the applicant’s relocation to another municipality. This bill establishes the “municipality of record” as the general rule to determine municipal financial responsibility, which is the municipality where the applicant was an occupant of a house, apartment or other dwelling unit immediately prior to applying for assistance, as verified by a lease document, utility bill or similar evidence.

LD 1110 – This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to allow an incarcerated person who has had his or her Medicaid coverage suspended while incarcerated to be given an opportunity and assistance to reapply for Medicaid at least 45 days before release from incarceration. **DEAD**

3/21/17

LD 1118 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$15 million bond issue to provide funding for the Municipal Investment Trust Fund to support local infrastructure projects.

LD 1119 – Current law requires schools that take drinking water from sources other than public water systems to have that water annually tested for compliance with the state’s primary drinking water regulations. This bill expands that requirement to include all public buildings, defined as any building or structure operated or maintained for use by the general public, including buildings used for state municipal or county purposes, education, health care, residential care nursing, facilities licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services, any places of public assembly, hotels, motels, inns, rooming or lodging houses or restaurants. **DEAD**

LD 1120 – This resolve directs the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse to study the effect of economic abuse, the enforcement of laws to prevent economic abuse, and the provision of training opportunities for public officials to recognize the occurrence of economic abuse. Economic abuse is defined in the bill as the exercise between domestic or dating partners of control over access to economic resources. **DEAD**

LD 1121 – This bill amends the definition of a “benevolent and charitable” corporation and a “literary and scientific organization”, both of which are entitled to a property tax exemption with respect to the property they own that is used solely for their respective purposes, to provide that such property may not be used “incidentally” to provide goods, services or materials in exchange for any amount, type or form of remuneration. The term incidental use, a term coined by Maine’s State Supreme Judicial Court, is defined in the bill as a use of the property that is not directly related and necessary to the charitable or literary or scientific purposes of the corporation or institution. **DEAD**

3/22/17

LD 1124 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to enact measures designed to promote the development of solar energy in the State.

LD 1125 – This bill establishes a procedure by which the voters of any election district in the state can petition for and, if successful, participate in an election to recall any elected office holder, including elected representatives to Congress, the state Senate or House, county elected office or municipal elected office. The grounds to initiate a petition are neglect of duty, misuse of office, incompetence, criminal conduct, corruption, misappropriation of public funds, obstruction of voter-approved initiatives or violations of ethics laws. The bill establishes the number of necessary signatures to trigger a recall election at 15% of the number of voters who participated in the election of the office holder, and further provides the process to submit the petition to the appropriate filing official (either the Secretary of State for the recall of federal or state office holders or the appropriate county clerk for county or municipal office holders) and otherwise carry out the recall elections. **DEAD**

3-23-17

LD 1128 – This resolve establishes the 11-member Committee To Study the Processing of Evidence from Sexual Assault Test Kits. The Committee is charged with receiving information on the use of sexual assault test kits from law enforcement agencies, determine the current status of the processing of those kits and the reasons for some kits not being analyzed, and review information on the funding necessary to ensure the timely processing of those kits. The membership of the Committee includes one member who represents a statewide organization of chiefs of police.

LD 1131 – This bill directs the Treasurer of State to establish education savings accounts that may be used by the parents or legal guardians of children to pay for the education of their children outside of the public school system. The funding for these savings accounts would come from shifting 90% of the essential programs and services funding that would otherwise be provided by the state and the school administrative unit for each child into a savings account. The bill specifies what educational expenditures are permitted and provides for review of spending from the accounts.

LD 1132 – This bill directs the Department of Education to establish education savings accounts for children with disabilities that may be used by the parents or legal guardians of such children for educational purposes. The funding for these accounts would come from shifting 90% of the essential programs and services funding that would otherwise be provided by the state and the school administrative unit for the child into the savings account. The bill provides mechanisms for approval of educational expenditures and review of spending from the accounts.

LD 1135 – This bill makes a number of amendments to the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act, including: (1) allowing municipalities to limit the number of primary caregivers that may operate within that municipality and allowing for the enactment of reasonable municipal regulations of those facilities, and (2) requiring a primary caregiver to disclose upon the request of a law enforcement official, municipal code enforcement officer or planning board, any of the information contained in applications and supporting information submitted by the primary caregiver to the Department of Health and Human Services with the exception of confidential

and personally identifying information regarding any qualifying or registered patients.

Carryover Requested

LD 1139 – This bill provides that a conveyance after January 1, 2018 of an easement or a right-of-way leading to or touching upon a water body does not include any right by implication to install a dock or other fixture on that waterbody unless expressly stated in the conveyance document. The bill further provides that a municipality, upon written request of the owner of a land subject to such an easement or right-of-way, may enforce the fact that the installation of the dock or fixture is not permitted by implication by ordering removal after notice and hearing.

LD 1140 – This bill limits the obligation for the business owner of a designated historic property to comply with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC) when found out of compliance during an inspection or when seeking license renewal or a permit for renovation. The limitation is that the property owner must meet only the standards under the version of the code adopted most recently after the license to operate the business was first issued by the municipality in which the property is located, and must update the condition to the next subsequent version of the code in increments of time no more than 3 years until the condition is brought up to current standards.

LD 1141 – This bill designates Election Day, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, as a state holiday. **DEAD**

LD 1142 – This bill repeals the private and special law enacted in 1971 that created the Cumberland County Recreation Center for the purpose of establishing the Cumberland County Civic Center and transfers the rights and responsibilities of that district to the Cumberland County commissioners, who are directed by the bill to appoint a 9-member Board of Trustees from residents throughout Cumberland County to advise the commissioners with respect to the needs of what is now known as the Cross Insurance Arena.

LD 1149 – This bill is designed to increase the amount of fee and tax revenue dedicated to the state's Highway Fund. Specifically, the bill: (1) increases a variety of fees established in statute for driver's license examination, temporary license plate, nondriver identification cards, issuance of duplication registrations, etc., by \$3 - \$10, (2) imposes a \$200 surcharge on the registration of hybrid motor vehicles, battery-electric motor vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell motor vehicles; (3) expressly dedicates to the Highway Fund 10% of the state sales tax imposed on motor vehicles and the products related to the repair and maintenance of motor vehicles; and (4) increases the excise tax imposed on motor fuels to 36.5 cents per gallon, an increase of 7 cents. **Carryover Requested**

LD 1150 – This resolve establishes a 10-member task force which is charged with studying a road usage charge alternative to the state's "gas tax" system of capitalizing the Highway Fund. The task force is specifically charged with developing a pilot program to test alternative road usage charge approaches, gather public comment regarding the proposed pilot program and provide recommendations on the criteria to be used to evaluate the pilot program. The report and recommendations of the task force must be submitted to the Legislature by February 5, 2018.

LD 1153 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to authorize the Town of Frye Island to consolidate with another municipality and then establish the territory within the limits of Frye Island as a village corporation within the other municipality. **DEAD**

LD 1158 – This bill repeals the law that requires the Maine Charter School Commission to limit the number of schools approved for the public charter school program.

LD 1168 – This resolution sends to the voters a proposed amendment to the state’s Constitution that would enumerate 10 specific rights for victims of crimes that would apply with respect to the adjudication of the crime, including the right to be informed when the person accused of the crime is released from custody or has escaped, the right to refuse an interview, deposition or other discovery requests by the accused, the right to read presentence reports related to the crime, the right to receive prompt and full restitution, etc. The proposed constitutional amendment expressly does not create a cause of action for compensation or damages against the state or a political subdivision of the state.

3/24/17

LD 1169 – Current law requires temporary signs placed in the right of way for their maximum 6-week period per calendar year to be labeled with the name and address of the individual, entity or organization that installed the sign, and the sign’s intended duration in the right of way. This bill repeals that labeling obligation for political signs by eliminating the labeling requirement for any sign placed in the right of way six weeks prior to either the primary or general election. **DEAD**

LD 1172 – This bill entirely repeals the personal property tax in Maine and removes all related references in statute to the personal property tax.

LD 1173 – This bill requires the sheriff or administrator of a county jail or regional jail and the chief administrative officer of a correctional facility or detention facility to report information on a prisoner who is granted a furlough to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Crime Information Center; the Department of Public Safety for access to that information by law enforcement officers; and the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification. **DEAD**

LD 1175 – Through the creation of a statutory gun violence restraining order this bill authorizes a court to order a person to surrender that person’s firearms and ammunition for a specific period of time when it has been proved that the person poses a danger of causing personal injury to that person or another person. Under the terms of the bill, law enforcement officers or family or household members may file for a temporary 21 day gun violence restraining order, and during the 21 days requests can be made for the court to consider ordering a one year restraining order. The subject of such restraining orders must either surrender all firearms and ammunition in the person’s possession to a law enforcement agency or sell the guns and weapons to a licensed firearms dealer. The weapons and ammunition surrendered to a law enforcement agency must be held and returned to the subject of the restraining order at its expiration.

LD 1178 – During calendar year 2018, this bill increases the annual fee for the registered watercraft lake and river protection sticker by \$1, from \$20 to \$21, with the extra one-dollar fee

dedicated to a study of the state's efforts to prevent the infestation of invasive aquatic plants and nuisance species. **DEAD**

LD 1179 – This bill increases the resident fishing license fee by \$1 and the nonresident season fishing license fee by \$2, and dedicates the revenue to support the Maine Outdoor Programs and Activities Fund, to be administered by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The Fund is designed to provide on a regional basis financial resources to department and other outdoor programs and activities, including funding for snowmobile and ATV trail improvements, fish and game organization and youth outdoor activity programs. **DEAD**

LD 1180 – This bill defines the term “primary residence” for the purpose of considering an application for a poverty abatement as the home, appurtenant structures necessary to support the home and reasonable acreage sufficient to support the siting the homestead of the person making application for the abatement.

LD 1181 – This bill establishes the Maine Brown-tail Moth Caterpillar Management Fund, to be administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, that is designed to provide financial resources to municipalities to mitigate Brown-tail Moth infestations on residential properties and publicly owned properties. The bill appropriates \$500,000 from the General Fund in FY 2018 to capitalize the Fund.

LD 1184 – This bill exempts public safety buildings, defined as state, county or municipal buildings with the primary function of housing police, fire or emergency medical services, from restoration or preservation standards imposed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission or by a historical society.

LD 1191 – As established by current law, and unless otherwise controlled by charter or ordinance, a municipal employee who has completed his or her probation period of 6 months, may only be terminated from employment for cause. This bill extends the probation period to one year for municipal employees who are classified as exempt from the hourly rate overtime requirements pursuant to the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

LD 1194 – This resolve creates an 11-member Commission to Study and Assess Maine's Regulatory Environment, which is charged with reviewing the regulatory environment in the state by studying the approval rates of large-scale development projects permitted by state regulatory agencies, comparing Maine's approval rate with the approval rates in other states, reviewing the historical regulatory approval rates in Maine, identifying benchmark approval rates, etc. The 11-member commission is made up of 6 legislators, a representative of the Governor's Office, 2 state agency representatives, and representative of the energy industry and a representative of the forestry industry. The Commission's report and recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by December 6, 2017. **DEAD**

LD 1195 – This bill authorizes municipalities to create a local property tax exemption for personal property if approved by the municipality's voters at referendum.

LD 1196 – This bill reestablishes the property tax deferral program managed by state government that was originally established in the 1980s, closed off to all new applicants in the early 1990s, and finally closed out as a state expenditure account in 2017. Under this bill, all Maine resident homeowners over the age of 65, or over the age of 60 if unemployed due to disability, and with a household income below \$40,000, could apply to the state for a property tax deferral. The property taxes for the qualifying households would be paid to the appropriate municipality by the state, with the state holding a lien on the property for reimbursement at the time the property is ultimately sold or transferred.

3/28/17

LD 1204 – Unless the express consent of a person to whom power of attorney has been granted, this bill prohibits an election clerk from providing an absentee ballot to an immediate family member, 3rd person or the voter directly when the voter is a resident of a nursing home, residential care facility or an assisted housing program, has granted power of attorney to another, and is receiving medical care due to dementia.

LD 1209 – This bill dedicates 1% of the sales tax revenue generated from the sale of retail recreational marijuana and marijuana products be provided to the counties to offset the costs of enforcing the standards of the Marijuana Legalization Act.

LD 1212 – This bill transfers the tax status of personal property that is exempt from taxation by virtue of being personal property leased by hospitals to the tax exempt status provided by enrollment in the Business Equipment Tax Exemption program.

LD 1215 – Under current law, matters of educational policy are not subject to collective bargaining between the management of a school administrative unit and the teachers' union. This bill authorizes but does not expressly require the public employers of school teachers to meet and negotiate with respect to matters of educational policy.

3/29/17

LD 1226 – This bill amends the law governing municipal excise taxes in two significant ways. It (1) requires municipalities to use the motor vehicle excise taxes collected solely for the purpose of maintenance and improvement of transportation infrastructure, and (2) diverts from municipalities to the Highway Fund the excise taxes collected on trucks and truck tractors that haul trailers. The bill also imposes an annual registration fee of \$250 on hybrid vehicles and \$350 on electric vehicles instead of the annual fee of \$35 fee imposed on other passenger vehicles. **DEAD**

LD 1227 – This bill amends the law governing the municipal revenue sharing program to: (1) permanently retain what is currently the temporary reduction in the amount of revenue sharing distribution at 2% of state sales and income tax revenues, (2) establish a new Local Infrastructure Fund to be administered by the Department of Transportation (DOT) which is capitalized with 3% of state sales and income tax revenue; and (3) authorize DOT to distribute from the Local Infrastructure Fund matching grants to municipalities for the improvement or construction of roads or bridges in the municipality. **DEAD**

LD 1230 – This bill authorizes a municipality by referendum vote to impose a local option sales tax up to 1% on the sale of prepared food and short term lodging. The local option tax may be designed to apply for the entire year or just seasonally.

LD 1232 – Using the Bureau of Motor Vehicles as the primary “source agency”, this bill establishes a system whereby individuals in the process of obtaining their driver’s license who provide the Bureau with the personally identifying information that confirms the applicant’s eligibility to register to vote in Maine will be automatically registered to vote unless they choose to opt out of that otherwise automatic registration. The bill provides for the possibility of additional “source agencies” to participate in the automatic voter registration process, including municipal election clerks, entities that provide services to persons with disabilities, and public or private universities or colleges. According to the bill, any source agency, when collecting or reviewing the information or documents normally collected that also provide proof of voter eligibility, must provide the potential voter with an option not to have the information supporting voter eligibility relayed to the appropriate election officials for the purpose of automatic voter registration. If the individual does not opt out, and the Bureau or other source agency determines that it has the necessary information to support a person’s automatic voter registration, the Bureau or source agency must transmit electronically the individual’s registration record to election officials – it is unclear whether state-level or local-level – and the election officials must notify the individual and provide a second opportunity to opt out. If the individual does not decline to be automatically registered as a voter within 21 calendar days after the notification, the individual’s voter registration will be processed.

3/30/17

LD 1235 – This bill prohibits the sale of coal tar sealant products beginning October 1, 2019 and prohibits the application of coal tar sealant products on driveways or parking areas beginning October 1, 2020. **DEAD**

LD 1243 – The framework of the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) was enacted into law in 2015 as an entirely unfunded statewide pension program for municipal volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services. If the system was operational, eligible firefighters or emergency medical services personnel would vest in the program after 5 years of service and receive a pension upon the attainment of 65 years of age or after having earned 20 years of service credit before 65 years of age. Despite its lack of funding, the LOSAP enactment established a 7-member Board of Trustees charged with administering the program utilizing the services of firms providing administrative, investment, custodial, and auditing functions. The trustees of the dormant LOSAP system have apparently not been appointed by the Governor, and this bill directs the Governor to make those appointments within a specified time frame. If the Governor does not make the appointments within the designated timeframes, the authority to make those appointments is delegated by this bill to the chair of the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission.

LD 1245 – This bill applies to the state government and to all municipal or county governments that provide a development subsidy to a company with a value of at least \$25,000. The term

“development subsidy” includes grants, loans, loan guarantees, tax increment financing benefits, matching funds, tax exemptions or abatements, etc. The bill requires those “granting” entities to track the number of full-time and part-time jobs created as a result of the subsidy, the wages and benefits provided for those jobs, and other performance data, and further requires that the subsidy be recaptured or rescinded to the degree the company failed to meet any established performance requirements of the development subsidy. The bill provides guidelines governing how the subsidy must be incrementally and proportionally recaptured or rescinded. The bill also requires the granting governmental entity to provide the subsidy performance data on a publicly accessible website.

LD 1246 – This bill establishes a property tax exemption for recreational trails open to public use. To qualify for the exemption, the trail must be recognized by the state or a statewide nonprofit organization as a trail that is organized or used for recreational purposes and be at least 20 feet wide if a snowmobile or ATV trail and at least 10 feet wide if a hiking trail. **DEAD**

LD 1248 – This bill appropriates \$28 million from the state’s Highway Fund over the FY 2018-2019 biennium to be administered by the Department of Transportation to expand the services of regional transportation providers (\$26 million), establish a pilot “purchase of services program” in a selected regions of the state to provide senior citizens and persons with disabilities vouchers to purchase their own transportation services (\$1 million), and to support volunteer driver networks that collaborate with regional transportation providers to leverage additional resources (\$1 million).

As amended by Committee, this bill appropriates \$4 million from the state’s General Fund, \$2 million for each year of the FY 2018-2019 biennium, to be administered by the Department of Transportation to enhance funding for recipients of Federal Transit Administration funds to expand their services to the general public (\$3 over the biennium), establish a pilot “purchase of services program” to provide senior citizens and persons with disabilities vouchers to purchase their own transportation services (\$500,000 over the biennium), and to support local non-profit volunteer driver networks (\$500,000 over the biennium).

Engrossed as Amended

LD 1249 – This bill provides for issuance of special firefighter registration plates for emergency medical services persons. The bill also provides that the issuance of special firefighter registration plates for emergency medical services persons for those eligible is contingent upon the Secretary of State’s receiving donations from public or private sources to cover the cost of the registration plates.

LD 1250 – Current law authorizes law enforcement officers to enforce disability parking restrictions. This bill requires law enforcement officers to enforce disability parking restrictions on public property and on private property open to public use. **DEAD**

LD 1252 – This bill allows for the registration of an ATV that is similar to the registration of an automobile and further allows those specially registered ATVs to operation on all public roads with speed limits 50 mph or less. The bill provides 16 specific equipment standards that must be met for the ATV to qualify for this type of registration, and the operator of the ATV must show

proof of appropriate liability insurance as in the case of regular automobile registration. The bill authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances to restrict or prohibit the operation of an ATV on any road under municipal jurisdiction upon a determination that the restrictions are necessary in the interest of public safety. **DEAD**

LD 1256 – This resolve establishes the 9-member Task Force to Implement Ranked-choice Voting. The Task Force is charged with making recommendations for the development of rules and necessary changes to state law necessary to implement the ranked choice voting system as adopted by the voters through the citizens' initiative process in November 2016. The Task Force's report and recommendations must be submitted to the Legislature by December 6, 2017. **DEAD**

LD 1262 – This bill prohibits the permitting of an offshore wind energy project within the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area or within 10 nautical miles of that area.

LD 1264 – This resolve directs the Judicial Department to terminate all construction, contracts and contract negotiations related to the development and construction of a new central York County Judicial Center in Biddeford and to maintain the current court buildings in Alfred, Biddeford, Springvale and York unless such a termination will result in excessive monetary losses to the state. In that event, the resolve requires Judicial Department to provide free rent space in the consolidated new judicial center for the District Attorney's Office and to otherwise compensate York County for extra costs incurred as a result of the consolidation.

LD 1265 – This bill authorizes a municipality to impose a local option sales tax, if approved at municipal referendum, of up to 1% on the retail sales that occur in the municipality and that are subject to the state sales tax, except for the sales of motor vehicles, aircraft, furniture, watercraft, household appliances with a retail value of more than \$500 and certain other items. The local option sales tax can be applied year-round or seasonally.

LD 1266 – This bill establishes the process for transferring county jail facilities and operational responsibilities to the state as of July 1, 2020.

LD 1269 – This bill changes or otherwise establishes that the deadline for requesting a recount in a municipal, school or local referendum election is 10 business days after the election. The bill also provides that in a municipality that counts all ballots by hand, a recount must automatically be conducted in those elections if the total vote difference is 10 votes or fewer.

LD 1270 – This bill authorizes a municipality that issues a property tax bill to include in the bill other fees or assessments owned by the taxpayer to the municipality provided those fees and assessments are itemized and distinct from the information otherwise required to be on the tax bill.

4/3/17

LD 1284 – This bill directs the Secretary of State to: (1) publish a guide to election procedures for public distribution that must be revised annually to reflect current law, rules and procedures regarding elections, (2) provide local election procedure and ballot reconciliation forms for local

officials to complete, (3) develop an election complaint form which voters can use to report excessive wait times, noncompliance with election procedures or other concerns about the election process, and (4) routinely monitor the central voter registration list and resolve instances of persons registered in more than one municipality or state or registered voters who are deceased. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to conduct a study and develop a pilot program for conducting a post-election audit designed to limit the risk that election returns may produce an incorrect outcome. **DEAD**

LD 1286 – Under current law, teachers and certain other public school staff must undergo a criminal history background check in order to be employed by a school administrative unit. This bill requires all school personnel to undergo such a background check prior to public school employment.

LD 1289 – This bill authorizes tax exempt entities with property located in the Unorganized Territories to make voluntary “payments in lieu of taxes” (PILOTs) to the State Tax Assessor, which must be used to pay for municipal services provided to those territories.

LD 1298 – Current law provides exemptions from a general prohibition against the discharge of defined pollutants into certain low-flow waterbodies, small drainage areas and wetland waterbodies for aquatic pesticide or chemical discharges approved by the Department of Environmental Protection and conducted by or under the auspices of either that department or the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in order to restore biological communities affected by an invasive species. This bill repeals those exemptions. **Carryover Requested**

LD 1299 – This bill amends the charter of the electric utility district of the Town of Madison. **DEAD**

LD 1302 – This bill directs the Department of Human Services to implement and administer a program that would provide funds to households under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for motor vehicle repairs, registration and inspection when the motor vehicle is needed for employment purposes.

LD 1306 – This bill establishes but does not capitalize within the Department of Economic and Community Development’s Office of Tourism the Small Communities Tourism Fund for the purpose of issuing grants to small communities to promote tourism and events.

LD 1307 – This bill requires an employer, before employing a person or referring a person for employment, to make a good faith inquiry as to whether that person is a United States citizen or an alien, and if the inquiry reasonably indicates that the person is an alien, the employer must use the E-Verify program operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security to verify the employment eligibility of that person.

LD 1312 – This resolve appropriates \$300,000 from the state’s Highway Fund in FY 2018 to pay for a study to be conducted by the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the cities of Lewiston, Auburn, Augusta, Waterville, Rockland, Bangor and other interested municipalities, that is intended to result in a plan for the implementation of passenger rail service in the state

northward and westward from existing passenger rail routes. The department is directed to submit its report and recommendations to the Legislature by November 7, 2018. **DEAD**

4/4/17

LD 1319 – Under the current Essential Programs and Services school subsidy system, the Title 1 resources a school receives from the federal government to provide targeted educational services for certain low-income student populations is subtracted from the amount of school subsidy provided by the state. This bill repeals the law that requires that subtraction and establishes a requirement that the schools receiving Title 1 funding must use that funding to supplement and not supplant any state and local funds allocated to the school system for the designated Title 1 purposes.

LD 1326 – This bill makes several amendments to laws directly or tangentially related to opioid misuse. Among those amendments, the bill: (1) repeals the law making possession of a hypodermic apparatus a crime, (2) creates a medical assistance exemption from criminal liability for a person who seeks medical assistance for that person’s self or another person who experiences a drug overdose, with the exemption applying to arrest, prosecution or incarceration if the grounds for those actions were obtained as a result of the person’s seeking assistance; and (3) appropriates to the Department of Health and Human Services \$75,000 for each year of the FY 2018-2019 biennium to support syringe exchange programs and an additional \$50,000 for each year of the biennium to support Narcan distribution programs through the community-based drug prevention systems.

LD 1328 – This bill requires the Department of Transportation and all municipalities to place bicycle warning signs on public ways or town ways that have speed limits over 35 miles per hour and have motor vehicle travel lanes in which a motor vehicle and a bicycle cannot safely travel side by side. The bill also establishes a voluntary income tax check-off system whereby income tax filers can add \$5.00 or any larger amount to their state income tax obligation for the purpose of capitalizing the Bicycle Roadway Safety Fund, which is administered by the Department for pay for the expenses of the state and local mandate. **DEAD**

4/5/17

LD 1330 – This bill sends to the voters a proposed \$20 million bond issue for the development of multidistrict, consolidated and integrated prekindergarten through grade 16 public school facilities. The bill also establishes the Maine Innovative Regional School Facilities Finance Program and Revolving Loan Fund, administered by the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, to provide loans to school systems to finance small-scale construction projects, including additions or renovations to existing buildings, in order to improve the regional delivery of educational services.

LD 1331 – This bill sends to the voters a proposed \$20 million bond issue to recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund for the purpose of providing funds to public schools for renovation and capital repairs.

LD 1333 – This bill creates the Drug Trafficking Offender Registration and Notification Act, structured like the existing Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, for the registration of persons convicted of certain drug trafficking and drug manufacturing offenses on or after October 1, 2017. **DEAD**

LD 1334 – This bill authorizes the Town of Atkinson to withdraw from School Administrative District 41 if it meets the requirements established for the withdrawal of a single municipality from a school district.

LD 1336 – This bill amends the law governing the withdrawal of a single municipality from a school district in several ways, including: (1) allowing the withdrawal committee, with the permission of the Commissioner of the Department of Education, to extend for an additional 90 days the current 90-day period provided in law for the withdrawal agreement to be submitted to the Commissioner for approval, or potentially longer; (2) authorizing the withdrawal committee to petition the Commissioner to establish a binding arbitration process if the withdrawal committee and the board of directors of the school district fail to enter into a withdrawal agreement according to the deadlines provided in statute; and (3) requiring that the withdrawal plan include a plan for providing child nutrition services to the students from the withdrawing municipality as well as an anticipated budget for the schools operated by the petitioning municipality for the first year of operation.

LD 1339 – Under current law the Secretary of State, according to a certain process allowing for public input, determines the wording of the ballot question for a citizens' initiative. This bill would require the Secretary's proposed wording to be approved by the 10-member Legislative Council before being finalized. **DEAD**

LD 1340 – This bill amends the statutes governing the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) in numerous ways. The amendments most related to municipal government and municipal housing authorities include: (1) rewriting and clarifying the jurisdictional authority of housing authorities to provide that a municipal housing authority has exclusive jurisdiction within its municipal boundaries to administer regular tenant-based housing choice ("Section 8") vouchers but that jurisdiction does not limit MSHA's authority to administer project-based vouchers or specialty vouchers that are associated with services such as case management, clinical services, child welfare services or other housing stability services; (2) removing archaic language that requires MSHA to meet and discuss with the local legislative body (i.e., the town meeting or town or city council) regarding such matters as permissible and preferred developers, potential project sites, etc., (3) repealing the requirement that MSHA meet with local planning boards and regional planning commissions to discuss MSHA's affirmative housing action plans; (4) clarifying that MSHA's obligation to provide a municipality with an opportunity to review and discuss proposed development projects should be extended to the municipal officers rather than the municipal legislative body; (5) repeals the requirement that each municipality report to the state's Bureau of General Services on any municipally-owned land or building that may be suitable for affordable housing; (6) and eliminates the prohibition against MSHA entering into contracts with the federal government until the municipality in which the project is to be located adopts a resolution approving the contract.

LD 1343 – This bill establishes the Locating Businesses Downtown Loan Program within the Communities for Maine's Future Program to provide forgivable loans for businesses seeking to initially locate or to relocate in a downtown area, village area or along a main street within the state. Applications for loans under the program are evaluated by the Department of Economic and Community Development in conjunction with a three-member loan review panel. Successful applicants must execute a loan agreement prepared by the department specifying the terms and conditions of the loan, including the length of time that a business must remain in the downtown area, village area or along a main street for the loan to be forgiven.

LD 1346 – This bill amends the definition of “ancient burying ground” to include, but not be limited to, all private cemeteries established before or pursuant to certain public laws enacted in the early 1800s, as well as all family burying grounds established before 1880. With respect to ancient burying grounds that are surrounded by privately owned land and without direct public access, the bill also clarifies that a municipality must be provided access to ancient burial grounds for maintenance and preservation purposes annually or as the municipality deems necessary. The bill also requires the owners of the surrounding private land to provide access to any descendants or relatives of a person buried in the ancient burial ground or their designated agents and further provides that the landowner may prescribe the route of access and may not be held liable for injuries sustained by the descendants, relatives or agents when accessing the ancient burial ground. In the cases where no unobstructed route to the ancient burial ground exists, the landowner is authorized by this bill to file a notarized document listing all obstructions with the municipal clerk.

4-6-17

LD 1348 – This bill allows public employees, including municipal and county employees, state and legislative employees, university, academy and community college employees and judicial employees, to strike under a process in which an affirmative vote to strike by union membership is held. The bill requires that notice be given to the public employer stating the dates upon which the strike will begin and end. The bill also provides that the employee organization or public employer may call for emergency bargaining within 3 days of the start of the strike.

LD 1351 – Current law allows temporary signs to be placed in the public way for no more than six weeks during the calendar year, but to comply with a First Amendment decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, the law is otherwise content neutral and the signs may be installed to convey any variety of non-commercial messages. This bill amends the current sign law to allow those signs to be installed for 12 weeks of the calendar year, but those twelve weeks must be the five weeks before and the week after a primary election day and the five weeks before and the week after each general election day. **DEAD**

LD 1352 – This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to issue a request for proposals to procure 35 megawatts of grid-scale solar electricity, with one qualifying project generating 10 megawatts of electricity and located on a municipally-owned capped landfill or brownfield site, 3 qualifying projects generating 5 megawatts, and 5 projects generating 2 megawatts of electricity. The Commission must also give preference to a 2-megawatt or a 5-megawatt project also located on a capped landfill or brownfield site. In addition to meeting other requirements, an applicant for a grid-scale project must document a resolution of support for the project adopted by the host

municipality's legislative body or municipal officers. The commission may direct investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to enter into contracts with a term of 20 years for the energy and capacity of a project at a rate of \$0.067 per kilowatt-hour. **DEAD**

LD 1353 – This bill establishes the Maine Domestic Trade Center, a private nonprofit corporation with a public purpose. The center is charged with helping Maine businesses, particularly small businesses, to innovate, grow and create new jobs by providing and enhancing services to facilitate the export of goods and services from Maine to other states. The center will have a board of directors and the International Trade Director at the Department of Economic and Community Development shall serve as the president of the center. Dues-paying members of the Center, from whom the 12-member board of directors is elected, may include without limitation private individuals, partnerships, firms, corporations, municipal and county governments, councils of government, local and regional development corporations, regional planning commissioners, development districts, state agencies, higher educational facilities, etc. **DEAD**

LD 1358 – Under current law governing labor management disputes in the public sector, when the dispute cannot be resolved by negotiation according to a certain timeframe, the matter goes to arbitration. For controversies over salaries and benefits, the decision of the arbitrators is advisory; for other controversies, the arbitrator's decision is binding. This bill amends labor relations law governing municipal public employees as well as other public employees to provide that the determination by arbitrators with respect to controversies over all subjects, including salaries, pensions and insurance, are final and binding on the parties.

LD 1366 – This bill establishes the White-collar Crime Offender Registration Act, which creates a crime registry that requires offenders who commit certain criminal offenses involving fraud or theft to register with the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification for 10 years to life depending on how many registrable offenses they commit. An offender's requirement to register can be triggered under the bill by a notification from a court of jurisdiction, the Department of Public Safety or a law enforcement agency.

4/7/17

LD 1369 – This bill requires certain percentages of the purchase of food by the state government or the public schools for preparation and consumption to come directly from Maine food producers or food brokers who distribute food produced and harvested by Maine food producers. The percentages ramp up over a 20 year period, beginning at 15% by 2023, 20% by 2027, 25% by 2037 and 35% by 2038. Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program are exempt from the requirement. The bill also establishes an uncapped grant program, administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, to provide resources for school and state facilities to upgrade their kitchens and provide up to one full-time employee to help comply with this requirement. **DEAD**

LD 1371 – This bill amends the way the Essential Programs and Services school funding model subsidizes a school system for providing special education services. Specifically, the bill provides school systems with students who individually generate special education costs greater than \$100,000 100% of those costs that exceed the \$100,000 threshold. **DEAD**

LD 1372 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to enact measures designed to increase broadband access for rural communities by directing the ConnectME Authority to map out the broadband

needs throughout the state, identify the infrastructure necessary to address those needs and provide funding for the provision of digital literacy programs. **Carryover Requested**

LD 1373 – This bill amends in several ways the laws governing net energy billing, also known as net-metering. As proposed, customers with this billing arrangement would receive credits per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated equivalent to that customer’s transmission and distribution and generation service rates. Eligible facilities’ electricity generation capacity would be limited to 2 megawatts in the territory of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility, and limited to 100 kilowatts in the territory of a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility, although that utility may elect to allow an eligible facility with capacity up to 2 megawatts. Facilities with shared or third party ownership would be eligible for net energy billing, with the Public Utilities Commission prohibited from limiting the number of participants in a shared ownership project, while allowing the Commission to set a minimum share size. A new solar energy rebate program for commercial and residential customers, to be administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust, would also be established with funding from transmission and distribution utilities as adopted via rulemaking by the Trust. The bill also requires the Commission to conduct a comprehensive review of ratepayer costs and benefits each time an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility’s total net energy billing-related generation capacities reach a series of specified annual peak demand benchmarks.

LD 1377 – This bill makes it a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act for a person to represent him or herself as a representative of a government or governmental agency or otherwise distribute documentation that is represented as official governmental documentation if those representations are false. The bill also requires a notice to be placed on every offer of the sale of a governmental document that can be obtained from the applicable governmental entity for free or at a lesser charge informing the consumer and providing the contact information of the governmental entity.

LD 1381 – This bill gives specific definition to the term “final agency action” for the purpose of determining when a municipal land use decision regarding a development proposal is ripe for judicial review at appeal. The bill provides that a final decision occurs when an application has received all required municipal administrative approvals by a municipality’s board of appeals, planning board or municipal review authority, a site plan or design review board, a historic preservation review board and any other review board created by municipal charter or ordinance.

LD 1382 – This bill establishes “responsible contractor” requirements, and a process for being given responsible contractor designation, for publicly funded construction projects that receive in excess of \$50,000 in state funds or other financial assistance from the state that exceeds \$50,000 in value.

LD 1383 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed amendment to the state’s Constitution that would authorize an “early voting” process that allows voters to vote at polling places in or outside their election districts during the 15-day period immediately preceding an election, or to vote by another method, and to authorize voting by absentee ballot for any sufficient reason.

LD 1384 – This bill makes several amendments to the laws governing the conduct of elections. Of most direct municipal interest, the bill: (1) prohibits a voter from filing an application to change or withdraw party enrollment on the day of primary election, (2) prohibits a municipality from charging a rental or janitorial fee for a municipal party committee’s use of an available public building provided for the biennial municipal caucuses, (3) removes the requirement for

state ballots to include a write-in space after the list of candidates for office unless there is a write-in candidate who has filed a declaration for that office, and (4) moves the filing deadline for municipal nomination petitions from the 45th day to the 70th day prior to the election.

LD 1390 – This bill amends the current law regarding victims’ rights associated with unsolved murders and missing persons cases. Included among those amendments, the bill: (1) requires the law enforcement agency responsible for the investigation of one of those open cases to hold a press conference or issue a press release annually on the anniversary date of the murder or missing persons report regarding the status of the case; (2) allows the victim’s family to require the investigating law enforcement agency to seek help from a federal law enforcement agency if the case has not been solved in 10 years; (3) requires annual communication between the investigating law enforcement agency and a victim’s advocate with the victim’s family regarding the status of the case, and (4) requires the personal property of the victim in the possession of the law enforcement agency to be returned to the victim’s family if the personal property has no investigative or evidentiary value.

LD 1392 – Under current law, all municipalities with a population over 4,000 residents must enforce the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. Formal adoption of the code by the municipality’s legislative body is not necessary. This bill requires all of those municipalities that wish to enforce a building code to either adopt and enforce the Maine Uniform Building Code, the Maine Uniform Energy Code or the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. The bill authorizes those municipalities to choose not to adopt and enforce a building code.

LD 1395 – This resolve designates a bridge that spans the Androscoggin River between the towns of Peru and Mexico as the PFC Buddy Wendall McLain Bridge. **Engrossed as Amended**
4/10/17

LD 1399 – This bill repeals the law governing the ConnectME Authority and establishes in its place the Maine Broadband Initiative as a nonprofit corporation with public and charitable purposes to encourage, promote, stimulate, invest in and support universal high-speed broadband to unserved and underserved areas of the state. The Initiative is governed by a 14 member board of directors with 12 voting members, and directly managed by its President, who is appointed by the Governor. The Initiative is authorized to issue grants, loans, loan guarantees and other forms of financial assistance to public and private entities for the purposes of expanding the reach of high-speed broadband services throughout the state, and for that purpose the revenue generated from two sources, one existing and one newly established, are dedicated to the Initiative’s purposes. The existing revenue for this dedication is the state-level property tax revenue collected on the assessments on two-way, interactive telecommunications personal property, currently estimated to generate approximately \$6.5 million a year. The new revenue source for this dedication is an assessment of 0.25% of the revenue received or collected for all communications services provided in this state except for facilities-based providers of wireless voice or data retail service.

LD 1400 – This bill provides for the creation of the Bar Harbor Port Authority. **Carryover Requested**

LD 1402 – This bill requires all public employers to deduct funds from a public employee’s pay as authorized by the employee for the cost or partial cost of insurance or an employee benefit offered by the employee’s bargaining unit or a contribution to a political action committee.

LD 1403 – This bill requires all persons employed as flaggers on road construction projects, whether publicly or privately employed, to submit to substance abuse testing, which may be either randomly administered or when subject to probable cause. The bill also directs the Department of Transportation to adopt rules to implement the testing program for all flaggers based on existing state policy regarding employee substance abuse testing. **DEAD**

LD 1405 – This bill requires “remote sellers” that sell for delivery into Maine either personal property, a product delivered electronically or a taxable service and the annual sales from those transactions are greater than \$100,000 a year to collect and remit to the state the appropriate sales tax associated with such a purchase. The bill also provides a collection allowance for the benefit of any retailer required to register with Maine Revenue Services for the purposes of collecting and remitting a state sales tax. The collection allowance is 2% of the tax revenue collected by the retailer.

4/12/17

LD 1427 – This bill makes community paramedicine pilot projects established by the Emergency Medical Services’ Board permanent. The bill also prohibits the use of state funds to fund those projects.

LD 1428 – This emergency bill requires that a person on probation who is being held without bail for a probation violation must be transferred to the custody of the Department of Corrections (DOC) and transported within 7 days to a DOC corrections facility.

LD 1429 – This bill makes several changes to the laws related to the management of opioid abuse. Pertinent to municipal government, the bill allows funds from property forfeited to the state pursuant to the criminal forfeiture law to be distributed by the court to a law enforcement agency that provides case management and other social services to persons with substance abuse disorders.

LD 1431 – This bill establishes the Substance Abuse Education, Prevention and Treatment Fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial resources to education programs regarding substance abuse prevention and treatment, regulatory oversight of the retail marijuana industry and law enforcement agencies and the courts with respect to overseeing the retail marijuana industry. The Fund is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and disbursed on the basis of recommendations of the Substance Abuse Services Commission. The Fund is capitalized by three tax policy changes: (1) the sales tax on retail marijuana is increased from 10%, as established in the initiated law, to 15%, and 5% of all the retail marijuana sales tax proceeds is dedicated to the Fund; (2) the sales tax on medical marijuana is increased from 5.5%, which is the current rate, to 15%, and 5% of all the medical marijuana sales tax proceeds is dedicated to the Fund; and (3) a wholesale transaction sales tax of 3% is established, and 5% of the proceeds generated by that wholesale tax is dedicated to the Fund.

LD 1432 – This bill establishes the authority of a governmental agency or official to require all authorized costs associated with providing requested public records to be paid before providing those public records to the requestor.

4/13/17

LD 1433 – This bill requires all school administrative units to hire a person with appropriate qualifications to test an occupied school building every 5 years for radon and to mitigate for

excessive radon if the screening reveals levels over 4.0 picocuries per liter of air or above.

LD 1438 – This bill makes several amendments to the laws governing aquaculture leasing and licensing laws. Among the various amendments, the bill provides a process by which the holder of a standard lease can seek an expansion of the lease area by up to 10% once during the duration of the lease. The process includes submitting an application to the commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources. When the commissioner determines the application is complete, the commissioner must provide notice to the municipality or municipalities adjacent to the lease expansion and also publish a summary in a newspaper of general circulation. According to the bill, if the commissioner receives no comments on the proposed expansion and otherwise finds the expansion will not unreasonably interfere with habitat, flora and fauna, the commissioner may approve the expansion.

LD 1440 – This bill is the Governor’s proposed biennial Highway Fund budget for FY 2018-2019. Among the various allocations, transfers and policy changes, the bill changes the allocation of Highway Fund resources for the Bureau of the State Police from 35% Highway Fund and 65% General Fund to 100% from the General Fund. That change frees-up an additional \$20 million each year of the biennium for DOT highway and bridge maintenance and construction projects, while placing an equivalent additional burden on the General Fund. Because the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP), as a matter of statute, is funded with 9% of the total Highway Fund allocation to the DOT, the increase in the DOT allocation related to the proposed policy change regarding State Police funding translates to a 10% increase to the local road program. The LRAP budget is just short of \$21 million for the current fiscal year but in the proposed budget is slated to be just over \$23 million for the upcoming fiscal year, beginning on July 1.

LD 1441 – This central element of this bill is to establish the Veteran-friendly Workplace Program, administered by the Bureau of Maine’s Veterans’ Services, to encourage employers to establish veteran-friendly workplaces. One element of the bill requires all employers to allow an employee who is a veteran to take paid leave to attend scheduled appointments at a medical facility operated by the United States Veterans Administration.

LD 1444 – This bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to enter into long-term contracts with a duration of 20 years for the procurement of 120 megawatts of “large-scale community solar distributed generation resources” by 2022, beginning with a solicitation for 30 megawatts of output by March 1, 2018. The bill defines such resources as electric generating facilities that use renewable solar fuel or technology with a nameplate capacity of up to 5 megawatts or other limit as determined by the Public Utilities Commission. Of the many specific parameters established to govern the procurement process, the most directly relevant to municipalities is a provision which allows municipalities to subscribe to up to 70% of the entire resource.

LD 1448 – This bill makes certain amendments to both criminal law and the initiated law legalizing recreational marijuana regarding the implementation of retail recreational marijuana in the state. Among those changes, the bill allows for the limited sale of recreational marijuana while the state agencies begin the rule-making process by allowing existing medical marijuana

dispensaries to sell marijuana retail products to persons 21 years of age or older in accordance with certain conditions. The early sales would begin on the effective date of the legislation and be authorized through December 31, 2018 unless the state was not issuing licenses for retail marijuana establishments at that time, in which case the dispensaries could continue to sell the recreational-use product.

4/14/17

LD 1452 – This bill establishes public school student data privacy practices for the Department of Education, school administrative units and other agencies and 3rd parties handling protected student data. **DEAD**

LD 1459 – This bill modernizes the dangerous building statute without significant substantive change except that the bill allows the order issued by the municipal officers prescribing the required disposal of the dangerous building to allow for delay of disposal if the owner or party in interest has demonstrated the ability and willingness to satisfactorily rehabilitate the building.

Engrossed as Amended

4/18/17

LD 1461 – This bill creates a state-level tax credit for owners of low-income housing developments that qualify for federal low income housing tax credits financed with tax-exempt bonds, whether or not the development is actually utilizing the federal tax credit. Eligibility for the state tax credit is contingent on the developer entering into a 15-year agreement to maintain and operate the development as low income housing. **Carryover Requested**

LD 1462 – This emergency resolve directs the Maine Emergency Medical Services Bureau to establish an emergency medical services apprentice pilot project designed to expand the pool of available EMS personnel. The apprenticeship programs are to be established in four geographically diverse towns in the state with 5,000 or fewer residents. The pilot projects must ensure that accessible and affordable basic emergency medical training classes are provided in the pilot project towns.

LD 1470 – This bill repeals two chapters in the laws governing public school education that are designed to support or stimulate regional school cooperation and collaboration and replaces them with a new chapter that is based on the “interlocal cooperation” statute in municipal law. Under this new chapter, school systems and career and technical education regions are authorized to exercise any of their powers on a joint or cooperative basis if approved by the school boards in each of the participating school systems, including the undertaking of joint school construction projects and the issuance of bonds or notes.

LD 1472 – This bill requires the installation of broadband conduit during all roadway-related construction projects that are financed in whole or in part with federal, state or local funding and that construct new or replace existing water or sewer lines in a public road right of way, construct a new highway or road, or construct or relocate an additional lane or shoulder for an existing highway or public road. The public entity responsible for the construction is authorized by the bill to lease the broadband conduit at a cost-based rate to providers to install fiber-optic or other cables that support broadband and wireless facilities for broadband service.

LD 1478 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to provide funding to the Maine Rural

Development Authority in the amount of \$10 million.

LD 1479 – This bill makes several substantial changes to the law governing the taxation of industrial property and the system of appealing the assessment of industrial property. Specifically, the bill: (1) changes the make-up of the Board of Property Tax Review by eliminating the “engineer” category of Board member and replacing it with “representatives of business and industry who are experienced in taxation, finance or valuation”, and further providing that the “public member” category of board member cannot be an assessor, former assessor, municipal official or former municipal official; (2) establishes Maine Revenue Services as the primary assessor for any industrial facility”, which is defined as a manufacturing facility with a value exceeding \$10 million, and requires the municipal assessor of the jurisdiction where the industrial property is located to use the MRS-calculated value; (3) substantially amends the section of assessing law authorizing assessors to seek and obtain information from taxpayers (Section 706) by: (a) repealing the provision that bars taxpayers who do not provide the requested information of the right of appeal, and (b) limiting to no more than 30 the number of document requests or interrogatories that can be asked of the taxpayer; (4) repeals the requirement that appeals of abatement requests regarding property with a value over \$1 million go the Board of Property Tax Review and allows those appeals to go directly to Superior Court; (5) allows taxpayers appealing an assessment over \$1 million to waive participation in the local board of assessment review process and, instead, appeal directly to the Board of Property Tax Review or Superior Court; (6) establishes that a tax appeal before the Board of Property Tax Review or Superior Court is a “de novo” process rather than an appeal from the established record; and (7) establishes the route of appeal from a decision of the Board of Property Tax Review to go directly to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, bypassing the Superior Court.

Carryover Requested

LD 1483 – This bill prohibits a school system from using contact information regarding a student or the student’s parent or guardian to advance any campaign, as the term “campaign” is defined in the state’s election laws.

LD 1484 – This bill authorizes the deorganization of the town of Atkinson in Piscataquis County.

Carryover Requested

4/19/17

LD 1488 – This bill requires the State Tax Assessor to notify affected property owners whenever the Assessor increases the valuation of a parcel under the Tree Growth Tax law, presumably within the unorganized territory, within 90 days of the determination of the increase.

LD 1490 – This bill transfers \$5.65 million in each year of the FY 2018-2019 biennium out of the County Jail Operations Fund, which provides general financial resources to support county jail operations, and into the Community Based Corrections Fund, which provides more targeted county jail resources that support preventive or diversionary correctional programs, pretrial release or conditional release programs, alternative sentencing or housing programs, electronic monitoring, residential treatment and halfway house programs, community correctional centers and temporary release programs, etc.

LD 1491 – This bill amends the laws regarding the sale and distribution of marijuana for adult use and medical purposes primarily for the purpose of allowing medical marijuana dispensaries to begin selling “limited (recreational) marijuana retail products” (a maximum of ¼ ounce of retail

marijuana) before the entire recreational marijuana regulatory system is put in place in 2018. In addition to establishing financial qualifications on applicants for retail marijuana establishments and retail marijuana social clubs, imposing annual financial audit responsibilities on all recreational marijuana facility license holders, and making several other changes to the initiated law regarding residency requirements for license holders, the bill: (1) transfers the state licensing authority from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations; (2) establishes the special authority of the dispensaries to sell “limited marijuana retail products”; (3) repeals that special authority as of December 31, 2018 unless the Bureau has not begun issuing licenses for retail marijuana establishments at that time; (4) allows registered dispensaries to purchase marijuana and marijuana products from registered primary caregivers for purposes of retail sale of recreational marijuana; (5) imposes a special tax of 10% of the sale price of limited marijuana retail products, which is levied in addition to the 5.5% general sales tax; and (6) allocates the revenue generated by the special 10% tax on limited marijuana retail products as follows: 10% to the municipality where the tax-paying dispensary is located, 45% to the Department of Health and Human Services to fund regulatory oversight and enforcement of sales of limited marijuana retail products and 45% to the Bureau to fund administration, regulatory development and enforcement of the Marijuana Legalization Act.

LD 1492 – This bill creates various programs to attract, educate and retain immigrant populations in the state’s workforce. In addition to creating the new Office of New Mainers in state government, along with an associated advisory committee, the bill: (1) establishes an initiative that creates welcome centers in adult education programs to attract, educate and retain in employment foreign-trained workers in municipalities or regions of the state that have immigrant populations or areas of the state that have industries experiencing a shortage of trained workers. The welcome center initiative is patterned after the New Mainers Welcome Center operated by the City of Portland adult education program through a pilot program created by the 126th Legislature; (2) appropriates \$75,000 from the General Fund for each year of the FY 2018-2019 biennium for the expansion of the Welcome Center Initiative within Lewiston’s adult education program; (3) appropriates funds in the \$520,000 to \$600,000 range over each year of the biennium to provide grants to providers of English-language instruction serving the employment sector as well as adult education programs focused on English-language acquisition; and (4) appropriates \$200,000 for each year of the biennium to provide funds to counties, municipalities and school systems to manage new immigrant populations who have settled within those jurisdictions.

4/20/17

LD 1498 – This bill amends the law governing a \$3 surcharge that a register of deeds may collect for the records that are recorded in the registry. Under current law, that surcharge cannot be imposed on agencies of the state government and municipalities. This bill includes quasi-independent agencies of state government and municipal government as entities qualifying for the exemption from the surcharge.

LD 1499 – This “concept draft” bill proposes to revise the laws regarding recreational marijuana sales and use in largely the same was as provided in LD 1491 (see above), except that this bill also increases the sales tax rate on marijuana and marijuana products from 10%, as in the initiated law, to 20%.

4/24/17

LD 1504 – This bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to enter into long-term contracts with a duration of 20 years for the procurement of 50 megawatts of large-scale commercial solar distributed generation resources by 2022. The bill directs the Commission to conduct competitive solicitations twice per year for 20% of the 5-year target procurement for long-term contracts for the output of large-scale commercial, municipal and industrial solar electricity generation sources. The bill requires that 8 megawatts of the 50-megawatt procurement target be from large commercial solar distributed generation resources for projects associated with an agricultural or forest products businesses. The bill additionally directs the Commission to give preference to projects associated with affordable multifamily housing. The bill requires the commission to review bids for projects associated with affordable multifamily housing at 1¢ less per kilowatt-hour than the actual bid, but if such a project is awarded a contract, it is paid at the actual bid rate and not the rate used for review. This same process is allowed in the bill after December 31, 2019 for projects associated with an agricultural or forest products business if the commission determines that solicitations are not likely to result in the procurement of 8 megawatts of solar projects associated with an agricultural or forest products business by 2022.

LD 1505 – This bill prohibits a municipality from adopting or continuing to enforce any ordinance or rule regarding the sale of use of pesticides. All existing pesticide related ordinances that have been adopted by the various municipalities are made void by this bill.

LD 1508 – This bill establishes a system whereby cat owners can voluntarily license their cats with the municipal clerk or other licensing agent of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The fee for the voluntary licensing is \$6 which is retained by the municipality and dedicated to the town or city’s animal welfare account. The required information to obtain the license is the cat owner’s name and address, the breed, sex, color and markings of the cat, if known, and the proof of rabies immunization, if known. The municipal clerk must terminate any cat license that has not been renewed for 24 months.

LD 1510 – This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$50 million bond issue designed to improve water quality, support the planning and construction of wastewater treatment facilities and assist residents whose homes are served by substandard or malfunctioning wastewater treatment systems. \$2 million of the bond issue is dedicated to the Small Community Grant Program, administered by the Department of Environmental Protection, that can provide funds for the municipally-supervised repair of malfunctioning wastewater systems, \$350,000 of the issue is dedicated to the Overboard Discharge program which is similarly designed with respect to the malfunctioning residential wastewater systems in coastal watersheds, and \$47.65 million of the issue is dedicated to wastewater treatment facility planning and construction grants.

LD 1512 – This bill makes it a Class C crime for a person who knows that he or she is infected with an aggressive blood-borne pathogen to intentionally cause any of the person’s body fluids to be exposed to a first responder while the first responder is performing official duties.

LD 1516 – This bill establishes a new chapter in the laws governing broadband communication systems entitled “Municipal Broadband Private Industry Safeguards”. Through the new chapter of law, the bill creates requirements that a municipality must meet in order to provide broadband services to its residents. Those requirements include: (1) the municipality’s legislative body holding a public hearing to consider providing the service; (2) the municipality ordering a feasibility study to be accomplished and provided to the legislative body before deciding whether to establish the broadband service; (3) a referendum question placed before the voters to determine

whether the municipality will establish the broadband service; (4) a series of general operation limitations governing the establishment of rates, the prohibition of the services being subsidized by tax or other resources, and a prohibition on the use of eminent domain; and (5) the required adoption of an ordinance relating to service quality and quality enforcement. The bill also removes antitrust liability protections from a municipality with respect to the municipality's provision of broadband services and further requires that any municipality that seeks grants from the ConnectME Authority must meet all the standards of this chapter of law.

LD 1519 – This bill amends the law governing municipal shellfish conservation ordinances to establish that the intertidal zone extends from the high-water mark to the extreme low-water mark and that the shellfish conservation ordinances apply only within the intertidal zones.

LD 1521 – This bill amends the laws governing the tax exemption for “benevolent and charitable” corporations, the Open Space tax law system, and the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax rate structure. Specifically, the bill establishes that holding land primarily for conservation or public access purposes is not a benevolent and charitable purpose. The bill allows, however, a land trust organization to enroll land owned by it in the Open Space tax law program, which would provide up to a 95% reduction in the assessed value of that land as long as certain conditions are met. The bill also removes the 15,000-acre limit on the size of land that may be enrolled in the Open Space tax law program.

The bill expands the authorization for the municipal assessment of service charges to cover certain municipal costs against certain property exempt from the property tax. The amendments to the existing “service charge” statute remove the exemption for student housing and parsonages and remove the limit on application of the charge to residential property used for rental income. Under the bill, the service charges may not be levied against any churches and may be levied only against an owner that has total real estate assets in the municipality with an assessed value of \$10,000,000 or more. The services charges must be designed to reflect the value of municipal services the exempt entities receive for fire protection, police protection and snow removal. The existing cap of 2% of the gross annual revenues of the institution or organization is retained.

Finally, in an overall revenue-neutral fashion, the bill reduces the rate of the excise tax imposed on motor vehicles for the first and 2nd year from 24 mills to 18 mills and 17 1/2 to 16 mills, respectively; and increases the excise tax for the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th year from 13 1/2 mills to 14 mills, 10 mills to 11.5 mills, 6 1/2 mills to 10 mills and 4 mills to 6 mills, respectively. For the seventh year and thereafter, the mill rate reverts to 4 mills.

LD 1522 – This bill authorizes a municipality to adopt a local option sales tax if approved by the municipal voters at referendum. The local option sales tax rate and the specific uses of the local option sales tax revenue must be part of the referendum question to be approved by the voters. A municipality adopting a local option sales tax may not alter the range of items subject to taxation under the state sales tax code, but it may adopt a “single transaction limitation” of up to \$100, which is a dollar limit placed on the amount of tax the municipality collects from a single transaction. The collection of the tax would piggy-back on the collection of the state sales tax, with the municipality's portion of the collected taxes being distributed by the state. The bill provides that the municipality must be remitted 50% of the net sales tax revenue. 25% of the net local option tax revenue must be distributed to the municipal revenue sharing's “Local Government Fund” and 25% must be distributed to the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program.

LD 1523 – This bill exempts a motor vehicle that is less than 12 years old from the annual motor

vehicle inspection program.

LD 1526 – This bill appropriates \$10,500 from the General Fund in the current fiscal year (FY 2017) to the Department of Public Safety to pay for passport cards to allow first responders to access federal facilities in order to receive training. **DEAD**

LD 1527 – This bill amends the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act to impose mandatory testing, labeling and record-keeping requirements on registered dispensaries and primary caregivers and to provide that registered dispensaries and primary caregivers are subject to inspection by the local fire department, building inspector or code enforcement officer to confirm that no health or safety concerns are present and compliance with local health and safety ordinances. The bill also provides that registered primary caregivers are subject to inspection by the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure regulatory compliance. With respect to the initiated law to legalize the recreational use of marijuana, the bill imposes a special tax of 20% on retail marijuana and retail marijuana products sold by retail marijuana stores and retail marijuana social clubs, which would be levied in addition to the state's general 5.5% sales tax. The bill divides the revenue generated by the special 20% tax so that 45% goes to the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations for administration and enforcement, 5% goes to the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of creating a public awareness campaign to reduce youth marijuana, alcohol and tobacco consumption, 10% goes to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to provide funding for DPS investigative agents and District Court Judge positions, and the remaining 40% goes to the state's General Fund. **Carryover Requested**

LD 1528 – This bill validates the referendum votes of RSU 5 (Durham, Freeport, Pownal) conducted on January 10, 2017 to overcome a bond issue technicality associated with the public hearing regarding the bond issue referendum being formally noticed six days rather than the required 7 days before the public hearing.

4/25/17

LD 1531 – This bill makes a number of amendments to the laws governing K-12 public education. Included in those amendments is the repeal of the so-called “declining enrollment adjustment” within the calculation of a school system's total allocation under the Essential Programs and Services school funding model. The declining enrollment adjustment allows for the calculation of a school's overall student count (which significantly affects the value of a school's total allocation) to average over the preceding three years the school system's actual student counts on the first of April and October for each year. By repealing the declining student adjustment, the pupil count will be just the average of the two pupil counts in April and October of the most recent calendar year prior to the year of funding.

LD 1533 – This bill makes over a dozen changes to the laws governing the licensing of establishments that serve liquor for on premise and off premise consumption, including the mobile service bars used on golf courses. Among the proposed amendments, the bill requires that an application for the relocation of an agency liquor store show proof that all agency liquor stores in the same municipality as the applicant's proposed relocation site received notice of the proposed relocation before the municipal approval of the relocation.

LD 1534 – This bill establishes the 13-member Maine Food Recovery Commission. One member of the Commission must be a city or town manager, councilor or municipal officer. The duties of the Commission are to assess current systems of food production, distribution and waste to

determine where and how food is wasted in a manner inconsistent with the state's food recovery hierarchy pursuant to solid waste recovery and recycling law. The Commission is charged with developing strategies for keeping food waste out of the solid waste stream, ways to educate food waste generators about the economic, human and environmental costs of wasting food, guidance documents on the topic of food waste reduction methods, etc. The report and recommendations of the Commission must be submitted to the Legislature by December 6, 2017. The bill also creates a food producers' donation tax credit under the state's income tax code whereby food producers may receive a tax credit equal to 50% of the fair market value of donated food when donated to nonprofit food assistance organizations or schools. **Carryover Requested**

LD 1536 – This bill allows the sale of wine, spirits and malt liquor manufactured in Maine for off-premises consumption at taste-testing events and the sale of spirits manufactured in Maine at farmers' markets. Under current law, the sale of wine and malt liquor at farmers' markets is allowed. The bill also allows taste testings to be conducted at farmers' markets. Taste testing at farmers markets would not be allowed in any municipality where on-premises and off-premises sales of alcoholic beverages are not allowed.

4/26/17

LD 1542 – This bill increases the Real Estate Transfer Tax to generate revenue dedicated to a Lead Abatement Fund administered by the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA). The purpose of the Lead Abatement Fund is to provide grants to a municipality that has administered a lead hazard program grant in the previous 5 years. The grant funding must be distributed on a basis proportional to the children who have been determined to have lead poisoning for the most recent year for which that information is available. MSHA is directed to establish eligibility standards for housing units or housing projects to participate in the program according to certain standards established in the bill. To capitalize the program, the bill increases the rate of the Real Estate Transfer Tax by \$0.30 for every \$500 of the value of real property that is being transferred and subject to the tax, bringing the total rate to \$2.50 for every \$500 in value or fractional part of \$500 of the value of the transferred property.

LD 1543 – Current law requires that a Class A restaurant, Class A lounge, Class A restaurant/lounge, club licensed to sell liquor, hotel or bed and breakfast that wishes to acquire an off-premises catering license from the State also receive approval from the municipal officers or their designee in which the catered event is to occur. This bill eliminates the requirement that an applicant for an off-premises catering license from the state receive approval from the municipal officers in the town or city where the premises to be catered are located.

4/27/17

LD 1549 – This bill imposes an excise tax on wind energy producers who generate electricity for sale or trade beginning January 1, 2018. The tax is equal to \$1 per megawatt-hour of electricity produced as measured at the point of interconnection with an electric transmission line. The tax first applies 3 years after the turbines producing the electricity first begin operation. The tax does not apply to the federal or state government, counties or municipalities or any individual producing electricity from wind resources for that individual's personal use.

LD 1551 – This bill is an omnibus tax bill submitted by Maine Revenue Services (MRS) that makes dozens of amendments running throughout the state's tax code. Of municipal interest, the bill: (1) establishes a lien on behalf of the state government on the property of persons who have

tax liabilities with respect to state taxes, although the lien is expressly junior to municipal tax lien; and (2) establishes an avenue for a municipality to appeal a decision by MRS to withhold an amount of reimbursement under the Business Equipment Tax Exemption program if an MRS audit finds the exemption improperly granted.

LD 1552 – This bill sends to the voters a proposed \$100 million bond issue for transportation purposes. \$80 million of the proposed issue provides funds to construct, reconstruct or rehabilitate Priority 1, Priority 2 and Priority 3 state highways, rehabilitate and replace bridges and fund the municipal partnership initiative. \$20 million of the proposed issue provides funds for capital projects related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, aviation, freight and passenger railroads, transit and bicycle/pedestrian trails.

LD 1553 – This bill directs the executive director of the Maine Labor Relations Board to periodically direct a secret ballot election among all the employees in a certified bargaining unit in a labor union of state employees, judicial employees, county employees or municipal employees to determine if there remains majority support for the union’s bargaining agent. If the election fails to muster majority support for the bargain agent, that bargaining agent must be decertified and may not represent the employees. The employees would be allowed to certify a new bargaining agent after such a decertification, except that for a period of at least one year, the new bargaining agent could not be substantially similar to or affiliated with the previous bargaining agent.

5/1/17

LD 1555 – This bill establishes the Governor or the Governor’s designee as the representative of the state and the entity to be considered the public employer for the purposes of negotiating salaries and benefits with the labor union for all public school teachers. The bill provides that aside from the negotiation of salary and benefits, the school teachers remain the employees of their respective public school system and that all other matters appropriate to collective bargaining except for salaries and benefits must be negotiated between the teachers’ union and the appropriate school system. The bill also allows for negotiations between the teachers and the school systems to supplement the salaries and benefits negotiated between the teachers’ and the state.

LD 1556 – Under current law, there are 32 occupations that are identified as “mandated reporters” and persons in those occupations are required to report any suspicions of child abuse they observe in the course of conducting their business to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Emergency medical services personnel, school teachers, school guidance counselors, school bus drivers, law enforcement officials, municipal fire inspectors and code enforcement officers are among the occupations included in the list of “mandate reporters”. Also under current law, a health care provider who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that an infant has been born affected by illegal substance abuse must report that information to the DHHS. This bill would expand the obligation to report suspected instances of infants being born who are affected by substance abuse to the entire list of mandated reporters.

LD 1558 – This bill requires municipal and county personnel, when administering Narcan or a similar drug to a person in a state of drug overdose, to make all reasonable efforts to identify whether that individual has previously been administered with drug overdose medication. If so, the municipality or county must make all reasonable efforts to recover the cost of the dose of Narcan administered. Failure to do so results in a \$1,000 fine against the municipality or county, to be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

LD 1559 – This bill removes the requirement that a motor vehicle must display a registration plate on the front of the motor vehicle. **DEAD**

LD 1565 – This bill amends the municipal Tax Increment Financing District law to provide that on or after April 1, 2018, the Department of Economic and Community Development may only approve development programs for tax increment financing if 80% of the area within the TIF district is designated for development by an entity engaged in qualified business activity, with the term “qualified business activity” defined as a business directly related to financial services, manufacturing or certain “targeted technologies”, including biotechnology, aquaculture and marine technology, composite materials technology, environmental technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, information technology and precision manufacturing technology.

LD 1566 – This bill prohibits an employer from asking an applicant for employment to disclose information concerning the applicant's criminal history, or considering such information, until after the applicant has received a conditional offer of employment. It restricts the way a private employer, the state government or any of its subdivisions (e.g., the counties or municipalities) may use criminal history information in the course of making employment decisions and adds similar restrictions to the existing restrictions applicable to licensing agencies' consideration of criminal history information. It also makes certain criminal history information in the possession of the state or its political subdivisions confidential and makes all criminal background check information obtained by the state in connection with an employment decision confidential.

Carryover Requested

5/2/17

LD1567 – This bill amends the law to clarify the duties, powers and respective authorities of the State Archivist and the Archives Advisory Board with respect to the long-term management, retention, protection and ultimate disposition of state and local government public records. In one element of the bill, the Archives Advisory Board is re-established as a 9-member board with the board members designated according to certain areas of expertise and appointed by the Secretary of State. Two board members must be appointed from municipal or county government with expertise in local government records.

LD 1570 – This bill makes a number of technical changes to the state’s tax laws, generally of a non-substantive nature. The amendments to the property tax elements of the state’s tax code in this bill include: (1) removing the requirement that Maine Revenue Services publish a list of certified assessors and requires MRS, instead, to provide the list to municipalities upon request; (2) pushing out the due date for the annual distribution to municipalities for revenue lost under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law, from August 1st to October 15th; and (3) clarifying that property of institutions and organizations exempt from property taxes under Section 652 of the tax code (e.g., as “charitable and benevolent” corporations, etc.) are not exempt under the business equipment tax exemption program (BETE).

LD 1571 – In response to legal issues raised by the Libertarian Party of Maine in a lawsuit filed in 2016, *Libertarian Party of Maine v. Dunlap*, and addressed by the United States District Court, this bill creates a new category of political party, defined as a "minor party," with a minimum of 5,000 and a maximum of 50,000 enrolled voters. A party with more than 50,000 enrolled voters is defined as a "major party" and nominates candidates through the primary election process. Minor parties do not participate in primary elections but instead nominate candidates for office at state

conventions and are required to file consent forms and statements of qualification for those candidates with the Secretary of State within 30 days of the convention or by August 8th of the election year, whichever first occurs.

5/3/17

LD 1573 – This bill requires all state agencies and all local governments that contract for or acquire lumber or other solid wood products, such as wood chips, conduit or other wood waste, to give preference to those wood products that are harvested in Maine by an in-state harvester as long as the price and quality are at least equal to those wood products harvested out-of-state.

LD 1574 – This resolve directs the Bureau of Public Lands to contract with third parties to cut back vegetation 20 feet from the edges of portions of Route 161 in the Town of Allagash.

LD 1577 – This bill makes a number of changes to the state’s motor vehicle laws of a technical, clarifying and minor substantive nature. Of municipal interest, the bill: (1) amends and clarifies the law governing the authority of the Secretary of State (SOS) to appoint municipal clerks and other agents to accept applications for drivers’ licenses and license renewals to provide that the SOS may authorize municipal clerks and other agents to receive and process applications, through the municipality, for non-commercial driver’s license renewals and duplicates as well as non-driver identification card renewals and duplicates; and (2) allows a person to have and present to law enforcement a driver’s license in electronic form if one is made available, with the express condition that such a presentation does not constitute consent for the law enforcement officer to access other contents of the person’s portable electronic device.

5/4/17

LD 1579 – This bill requires the municipal officers of each municipality to appoint or arrange for the election of the municipal “sealer of weights and measures”. The appointed or elected municipal sealer must successfully complete certification through the National Conference on Weights and Measures professional certification program. The state’s “sealer” retains final approval authority over the appointment. A failure of the municipal officers to appoint a sealer of weights and measures subjects the municipal officers to a fine of \$10 for each month that they fail to make the appointment. Also, if the municipal clerk fails to notify the state’s “sealer” of the appointment or election within 10 days, the clerk is subject to a fine of \$10. The municipal officers may request the state sealer to appoint a qualified person to serve as the municipal sealer of weights and measures in lieu of a local appointment, but the structure of the bill appears to require the actual sealers of weights and measures to be municipal officials and the task of overseeing the accuracy of the weights and measures of the various products sold at retail to be a municipal task.

5/5/17

LD 1588 – This bill amends the laws governing the process of discontinuing a town way to municipal maintenance, the presumption of road abandonment, and a very old statute regarding “mail routes”. Specifically, the bill: (1) prohibits the discontinuation of a town way that includes the discontinuation of the public easement if the public easement provides the sole access to any property; (2) provides that if public easement is retained in a discontinuation order, the purpose of the retention must be stated in the order and the municipality must keep the public easement passable for that purpose; (3) provides that no town way can be discontinued if there is a residential structure on the roadway and the town way is the only way to provide access to that residential structure, and that any town way that cannot be discontinued for that reason must be maintained

by the municipality for motor vehicle access; (4) allows for any presumption of road abandonment after 30 consecutive years of no municipal maintenance to be rebutted upon the showing of evidence that a residential structure was on the town way and depended on the town way for sole access; and (5) mandates the year-round municipal maintenance of any established mail route in the municipality regardless of the legal status of the town way or discontinued, abandoned or private road.

5-10-17

LD 1595 – This bill allows a municipality or a portion of a municipality that is located on an island not connected to the mainland by a bridge to satisfy the motor vehicle inspection requirements of an authorized emergency vehicle stationed on the island by either: (1) having the vehicle inspected at a licensed inspection station every 5 years or every 500 miles of use, or (2) having the emergency vehicle inspected by a licensed inspection mechanic (rather than a licensed inspection station) on an annual basis.

LD 1596 – This bill establishes the 15-member Cannabis Advisory Commission which is charged with performing an ongoing review of the marijuana legalization laws and rules after full implementation. Specifically, the Commission is charged with reviewing the laws and rules pertaining to the use, possession, transportation and consumption of cannabis, including the issues regarding public health, public safety, juvenile and adult criminal and civil offenses, workplace drug testing, workplace safety, motor vehicle operations, alcohol use, landlord and tenant relations, the medical use of marijuana and taxation. The Commission is authorized to submit legislation as it considers appropriate and must issue a report of its findings and concerns to the Legislature by January 15th annually. Four of the members of the Commission are legislators, five are state agency commissioners, two are members of the general public, one is a representative of municipal government, one is a proponent of the Marijuana Legalization Act, one is a representative of the medical marijuana industry, and one is representative of a statewide medical association.

5/11/17

LD 1599 – This bill proposes to make the following substantive changes to Maine’s Tree Growth Tax program:

- **April 1, 2018 Eligibly - Minimum Acreage.** Beginning on April 1, 2018, the number of acres eligible for enrollment in the Tree Growth program would increase from 10 to 25 acres.
- **Pre- April 1, 2018 Enrollments.** Parcels between 10 and 25 acres enrolled in the program before April 1, 2018 could: (1) continue to stay enrolled in the program in a grandfathered status; (2) be moved from the Tree Growth program to the Open Space tax program; or (3) be completely withdrawn from any current use tax program. The penalty assessed for withdrawing from the program would be equal to the full value taxes that would have been assessed on the property over the past five years less the taxes actually paid.

- **Eligibility – Qualifying Uses.** Program eligibility standards would be amended to expressly include tree harvesting as a necessary element of enrollment in the Tree Growth program and exclude parcels not used for commercial timber harvesting, including parcels used for cultivating and harvesting Christmas trees and gathering nursery products used for ornamental purposes, such as wreaths, bough material or cones or other seed products. Enrollment for maple syrup operations would still be allowed.
- **State Review for Compliance.** An existing compliance pilot program would be extended to January 1, 2020. The Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, would be authorized to review the forest management and harvesting plans developed for the property enrolled in the Tree Growth program to determine if the landowner is making “reasonable” efforts to manage the property according to the plan. In the process of reviewing the plan, the Bureau would be authorized: (1) to enter and examine the forest land after notification to the land owner; (2) to request and review a current forest management and harvesting plan; and (3) to request and review and expired forest management and harvesting plan. The Bureau’s focus would be on parcels in coastal or waterfront enrollments where there is a significant deviation from the per acre market value and Tree Growth values of the enrolled property. If the Bureau determines that a land owner is not in “substantial” compliance with the plan, the landowner would be provided 90 days to come into substantial compliance with the statutory standards governing enrollment and one year to come into compliance with the parcel’s forest management plan. If the landowner fails to come into substantial compliance with either the Tree Growth standards within 90 days or the forest management plan within one year, the Bureau will inform the municipal assessor that the parcel must be removed from Tree Growth enrollment.
- **Municipal Enforcement.** Upon receiving notification from the Bureau that a landowner has failed to comply with the directives to come into compliance with the Tree Growth statute or forest management plan, the municipal assessor would be required to withdraw the land from the program. Any municipality failing to withdraw the noncompliant parcels from the program would be ineligible to receive any state Tree Growth program reimbursement in the following year.
- **Other Changes.** As printed, LD 1691 would also make several less substantial changes. For example, to ensure landowner compliance with management and harvesting plans, landowners would be required to provide a copy of the current management plan, as well as, any plan that had expired within 2 years, at the request of the municipal assessor, State Tax Assessor of the Bureau of Forestry.

LD 1610 – This bill prohibits a provider of broadband internet access service from using, disclosing, selling or permitting access to customer personal information unless the customer expressly consents to that use, disclosure, sale or access. Exceptions are provided in the bill, including when the information is needed in response to a customer’s call for emergency services, communication to a public safety answering point (PSAP), a provider of emergency medical or emergency dispatch services, a public safety, fire service or law enforcement official or hospital emergency or trauma care facility.

5-18-17

LD 1615 – This bill requires an applicant for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, and an ongoing TANF recipient upon suspicion, to complete a written screening tool to determine the applicant's likelihood of current substance use. If the results of the screening tool or other factors provide the department with a reasonable suspicion that the applicant or recipient is using an illegal drug or abusing a controlled substance, the department must identify and pay for an appropriate substance abuse treatment program for the applicant or recipient as a condition of obtaining or receiving benefits.