

Next Week in Advance

The Legislature took school vacation week off, providing time for staffers to catch up with the legislative committee work that has been processed thus far and prepare for the onslaught of legislative initiatives that will be going to public hearing next week (see Public Hearing Schedule). Two bills of particular municipal interest will be presented to the Legislature next week.

LD 1465, *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Freedom of Access.* LD 1465 is scheduled for public hearing on Wednesday afternoon, April 27th before the Judiciary Committee. This legislation was informally advanced via press release at the end of the last legislative session by the Maine Heritage Policy Center and the Maine Civil Liberties Union. LD 1465 would amend Maine's Freedom of Access Act, or "Right to Know" law, in the following ways.

The bill creates an affirmative duty for a governmental entity to provide copies of public records to people at their request rather than just providing a right to examine, inspect and/or cause those records to be copied. The bill also requires as a general rule that those documents be provided immediately upon request, unless the documents require some form of redaction or are in storage. This legislation provides the requestor with the right to obtain the copies of those records in all available formats, such as by photocopy or electronic or magnetic formats if available. If the provision of the documents in the requested medium is not available, the bill creates a duty for the governmental entity to explore obtaining assistance at a reasonable cost so that the public record can be provided in the requested medium. The bill also requires the public records to be mailed if so requested at a charge no

greater than actual mailing costs. If there is any delay in providing the requested documents immediately, LD 1465 requires the municipality to provide certification explaining the delay and then provide the requestor with the right to copy or inspect the record within 5 business days or have the records mailed or e-mailed within that same period of time.

With respect to "large or multiple requests", LD 1465 requires a cost estimate to be provided within 3 business days for any request that may exceed \$100 in costs (calculated at the maximum \$10 per hour rate allowed under current law) for searching for, retrieving and compiling requested records. The bill prohibits a governmental

entity from inquiring as to the purpose of any request for public records, and treats any government's failure to comply with the established response-time schedule as a denial of the request and subject to enforcement procedures. Finally, LD 1465 requires every governmental agency to designate a "public access officer" who must be certified to the Right to Know law requirements according to the same certification program now required of various elected officials. The public access officer is charged with overseeing that governmental agency's response to public records requests.

LD 1465 is sponsored by Senator

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Trying to Break the Code: An Act to Repeal MUBEC

It's April 7th at the Labor, Research, Commerce and Economic Development Committee Room and the Committee is holding a public hearing on LD 43, *An Act to Repeal the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.* LD 43, if enacted, would repeal the laws enacted in 2008 which created and implemented the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC).

Up until 2008, MMA had resisted the adoption of a uniform building code. At that time, municipalities felt that the authority should be coupled with the responsibility. In other words, whoever had the responsibility to enforce the building code should also have the authority to choose which building code it wanted to adopt and enforce.

Then in 2008, MMA decided to support a reduction of local control (don't get any ideas) for a state adopted building

code because of the presumed economic development benefits. It was believed the requirement of uniformity would remove some regulatory obstacles and make the development process somewhat easier and more predictable in Maine. Based on the turn out at the public hearing, apparently MMA was not the only one to believe this.

The Sponsor. Rep. Lance Harvell of Farmington introduced LD 43 to the Committee.

During this introduction, Rep. Harvell quoted the author C.S. Lewis by indicating, "The day will come in England when England is so tightly regulated that a man cannot be allowed to cut down his own trees and build a shed or even a ladder." Equating MUBEC to the state of affairs in C.S. Lewis' England, Rep. Harvell found the process by which the State can dictate

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Next Week (cont'd)

Richard Rosen of Bucksport, and co-sponsored by 17 other senators, as well as 13 members of the House.

LD 1387, *An Act to Restore Exemptions in the Natural Resources Protection Act*. This legislation is a reprise of the so-called “culvert bill”. The public hearing on LD 1387 is scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday, April 26th before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Despite its title, this bill repeals the current law generally authorizing the maintenance, repair and replacement of existing road culverts without obtaining a permit under the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA). In place of that general exemption, LD 1387 establishes a much more limited exemption from the permitting requirement. Under the terms of this bill, a NRPA permit is not required provided the maintenance and repair of an existing culvert does not include the slip lining or invert lining of a culvert or any other alteration that results in reduced flow area through the crossing structure. For culverts needing replacement, LD 1387 requires: (1) the replacement to match the stream grade and not exceed 2% between the inlet and outlet of the crossing structure; and (2) the culvert be embedded in the stream bottom a minimum of one foot and at least 25% of the culvert’s diameter. If either standard cannot be met, full NRPA permitting is required. The bill also establishes a working group made up of state agencies and other interested stakeholders to develop a statewide aquatic conservation and restoration strategy plan.

From the municipal perspective, LD

1387 puts the cart squarely in front of the horse. If there was objective information obtained through an on-the-ground study that identifies the location of problematic culverts that need to be redesigned at the time of replacement, and if the state was willing to dedicate some resources when the mandatory culvert repair-and-replacement standards are imposed, this municipal mandate might be a lot easier to work with.

MUBEC (cont'd)

how private property owners (that pay taxes) should build their homes “morally offensive”. In closing, Rep. Harvell indicated that he’s learned the legislative motto of “let’s pass a bill and then fix it later”. He’s proposing a new motto: “let’s repeal (bad law) and start over”.

Repeal. A number of proponents of LD 43 testified that repealing MUBEC made sense for a number of reasons. Concerns with MUBEC revolved around increased project costs associated with complying with the Code that would be incurred by the property owner. This added expense could hamper economic growth as homeowners decide to hold off on various construction projects. More issues highlighted by proponents of repeal were how: (1) control was being shifted from homeowners to the state; (2) enforcement would be difficult and not very responsive due to the need for more and better trained third party inspectors; and (3) the Code would be used by other institutions involved in the process which would further slow down the construction process and make it even more costly for the homeowner. Examples included the banks imposing Code compliance as a requirement for a loan closing or the insurance companies requiring compliance with the Code before an insurance policy is provided.

Many of these proponents were curious about examining alternative approaches in order to provide more efficient and safer homes. One suggestion was to license building contractors and carpenters. According to these individuals, this licensing requirement would bring professionalism to the building trades and would offer security to homeowners that construction would be held to a certain standard without these contractors being responsible for additional permitting and

inspection costs.

Amend. As many proponents in attendance at the public hearing, there were even more opponents. These supporters of MUBEC claimed that a standard building code brings predictability, uniformity, and coordinated evolution for the developers, owners, designers and contractors. These characteristics enhance Maine’s business climate, reduce energy costs, and improve the quality and safety of homes and commercial businesses.

MUBEC was supported for “leveling the playing field” and restricting activities of some builders tempted to undercut a job by using substandard specifications. This ultimately protects the consumer. As to the energy standards required by MUBEC, some opponents of the repeal effort stated that the higher upfront construction costs should be mitigated by the energy savings property owners will realize with the more energy efficient building standards.

MMA testified in opposition to LD 43, as did a representative from the Governor’s Office who informed the Committee that they have convened interest groups and are working with legislators in order to endorse a proposal that would maintain uniformity and, in the process, keep the current structure in place while affording municipalities more flexibility in adopting uniform residential, commercial, rehabilitation, and energy codes. At the encouragement of the Committee, many other opponents of repeal shared their suggestions as to how to improve MUBEC as well. There will be another day (if not multiple days) to determine which suggestions make the grade and get incorporated into a MUBEC fix-up bill.

Work Session. Most Committee members agreed with the opponents of the bill that MUBEC should be given more time so that its effectiveness can be better evaluated. It was brought up at the work session that there are four other bills related to tweaking MUBEC and these will provide an opportunity to address some of the issues raised at the public hearing with the current law.

One of the bills referenced is MMA’s bill, which is sponsored by Senator Tom Saviello (Franklin Cty.). This bill, LD 1253, entitled *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Enforcement of Statewide Uniform Building Codes*, would among

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Legislative Bulletin

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Editorial Staff: Greg Connors, Kate Dufour, Geoff Herman, and Laura Veilleux of the State & Federal Relations staff.

2nd Amendment Rights – Mixed Messages and Double Standards

Last Friday, the Criminal Justice Committee took positions on two bills that regulate the carrying of firearms in offices and meeting spaces where state and local legislative bodies convene to perform the people’s business and employees provide public services. Taking into account a majority of the Committee’s stance on these two bills, it would appear that the sauce for the goose is not good for the gander.

One of the bills, LD 578, *An Act to Allow Municipalities to Restrict the Possession of Firearms in Certain Circumstances*, sponsored by Sen. Roger Katz of Kennebec County, would authorize a municipality’s legislative body (town meeting or council) to adopt an ordinance to prohibit the carrying of firearms in essential municipal offices and places of legislative assembly.

For a more detailed description of the bill and its April 11th public hearing, please see the April 15th edition of the *Legislative Bulletin*.

The other bill, LD 932, *An Act to Allow Concealed Weapons in the State House*, sponsored by Rep. Dale Crafts of Lisbon, would repeal the existing rule that prohibits the carrying of firearms in state buildings located in the “capitol area complex”. The “capitol area complex” essentially includes the State House and all surrounding buildings (e.g., State Museum, Health and Human Services and Cross Office Building) and parking lots and garages. The zone also extends across the river to the eastern side of Augusta, and encompasses the entire former Augusta Mental Health Institute (AMHI) campus, which includes the Department of Public Safety and all other state agency offices located there (e.g., the Departments of Environmental Protection, Corrections and Agriculture).

With respect to LD 578, the local control bill, the members of the Committee voted “ought not to pass” by a margin of 7 to 3. While the opponents of the bill noted the importance of home rule authority, they stressed that the right of citizens to possess firearms should supersede the rights of these same citizens to regulate their communities.

One of the Committee members

who voted to oppose LD 578 observed that most mass killings occur in gun free zones where people are unable to protect themselves, and for that reason could not support the bill. Although in his testimony Sen. Katz shared a firearm-related incident he experienced while serving on the Augusta City Council, another opponent of the bill suggested that no case had been made at the public hearing to suggest that residents needed the authority being requested in LD 578.

The Committee members opposing the bill also expressed grave concerns that the authority sought in LD 578 would lead to a “patchwork quilt” approach to firearms restrictions in municipal buildings, as some communities would adopt the limitation and others would not.

Shortly after disposing of the local control bill, the Committee then voted by a margin of 7 to 4 “ought to pass as amended” on LD 932. As amended by a majority of the Committee, the bill would allow the carrying of concealed firearms in the State House, Cross Office Building and in parking lots and garages servicing the two buildings. Firearms would not be permitted in all other state office buildings located in the “capital area complex”, as is the case now.

LD 932 was further amended to require any individual choosing to exercise the newly-created right to carry a concealed firearm while attending state

legislative public hearings or touring the State House to register with the Capitol Area police force.

While the opponents of LD 578 raised concerns over the patchwork quilt of local regulations, they had no objections with supporting an amended version of LD 932, which effectively applies different policies to various state buildings located in the same general area. While the opponents of LD 578 believe that a person’s constitutional right to bear arms should be unfettered when attending town meetings, they believe that the right to bear arms should be limited when citizens attend legislative public hearings and work sessions. Finally, although the opponents of LD 578 believe that municipally-adopted limits on openly carrying firearms would restrict the ability of law abiding citizens to protect themselves and their families at the local level, they believe that on the state level the privilege should be reserved just for concealed weapons permit holders who register with Capitol Security.

When comparing the Committee’s actions on both of these bills, the public policy process gets a little confusing. A guide is provided immediately below in order to help steer law abiding citizens through the patchwork quilt of legislative decision making.

The firearm restriction issue will now be forwarded to the entire Legislature for possible final enactment.

Guide to Firearms Carrying Regulations in State Buildings & Municipal Buildings Assuming Enactment of the Committee’s Recommendations on LD 578 and LD 932

	State House, Cross Office Building & Parking Facilities <i>(if LD 932 is enacted)</i>	State Buildings in Capitol Area Complex* <i>(if LD 932 is enacted)</i>	Municipal Meeting Spaces <i>(if LD 578 is enacted)</i>	Municipal Offices <i>(if LD 578 is enacted)</i>
Open Carry	Prohibited	Prohibited	Allowed	Allowed
Concealed	Allowed	Prohibited	Allowed	Allowed
Notification	Required	N/A	Prohibited	Prohibited

*Includes State Museum, Health and Human Services buildings, and the entire AMHI complex, which houses several state agencies, including the Departments of Public Safety, Environmental Protection, Corrections and Agriculture.

Taxation Committee Forwards Budget Recommendations to Appropriations

On Friday last week, the Taxation Committee gave its “report back” to the Appropriations Committee covering its recommendations around the tax provisions in the Governor’s proposed biennial budget. In some areas the tax panelists were unanimous in their recommendations, in other areas they were split along party lines.

Municipal Revenue Sharing. One area of consensus is in the area of municipal revenue sharing. The Governor’s budget proposed to end the program as a system where the state actually shares a fixed percentage of broad-based tax revenue with local governments. Instead, the Governor proposed making the revenue sharing distribution subject to an appropriation, the amount of which would be decided each year by the Governor and the Legislature. The Taxation Committee unanimously has rejected that idea, and is recommending that the current revenue sharing formula (5% of all sales and income tax revenue) stay in place.

Although the Tax Committee is proposing to retain the structure of the municipal revenue sharing program, it is not recommending that the full amount of revenue generated by that formula should be distributed to the towns and cities over the next two years. Instead, the recommendation is that the financial parameters around revenue sharing laid out in the Governor’s proposed budget be retained. The Governor’s proposed budget, under his “appropriation” model, would distribute \$94 million in revenue sharing in FY 2012, rather than the \$136 million that would be distributed according to the formula. In FY 2013, the Governor’s budget would distribute \$94 million as well, rather than the \$143 million that would otherwise be distributed according to projections.

The alternative approach recommended by the Taxation Committee would be let the revenue sharing formula work as designed, but take \$42 million out of the revenue sharing pot during FY 2012 and put that money in the state’s General Fund. During the following year, nearly \$50 million would be scooped out of those revenue sharing resources and given over

to the state’s General Fund. This recommendation, therefore, provides the Governor’s budget exactly the same amount of municipal revenue sharing resources as the original proposal. The chief difference is that if state sales and income tax revenue outperforms the current projection over the next two years, the municipal revenue sharing program will see the benefit of 5% of that heightened performance. The opposite is also true. If state tax revenue slumps over the next two years from current projections, the revenue sharing program is exposed to that risk.

With respect to the state’s bottom line, this recommendation guarantees the delivery of \$92 million in municipal revenue sharing resources over the next two years to help fund initiatives within the state budget, including the income tax proposals described below.

Income and Estate Tax Issues. The Governor’s proposed changes to the state’s income tax code included three major elements:

- **Estate Tax.** Beginning in 2013, increasing the value of an estate that is exempt from the estate tax from \$1 million to \$2 million. Because of the implementation date, the revenue impacts of this initiative are pushed into the next biennium.

- **Income Tax.** Making a series of changes to the income tax code, including conforming the Maine standard deduction amount and personal exemption amount to the federal standards, allowing mortgage insurance premiums to be included as an itemized deduction from income, eliminating the Maine alternative minimum tax, repealing the tax on certain retirement plan distributions and dropping the highest marginal income tax rate from 8.5% to 7.95%, beginning January 1, 2013. This package of income tax changes would reduce state income tax revenue by nearly \$136 million over the biennium.

- **Bonus Depreciation.** Allowing business taxpayers to take advantage under the State’s tax code of increased depreciation deductions and higher expensing levels that are available under the federal tax code. This initiative was projected to reduce state income tax revenue by \$67 million over the biennium.

The estate tax proposal and the income tax proposal were given approval by the Committee along party lines in an 8-5 vote, with Republicans supporting.

The “bonus depreciation” proposal was uniformly rejected by the Committee (although the component of that proposal regarding higher expensing levels was supported). The rejection of the Governor’s bonus depreciation proposal gave the Committee an opportunity to develop about \$57 million in other tax reduction ideas and still fall within the Governor’s overall financial parameters for \$200 million in income tax cuts.

The alternative plan put forward by the Republican majority would spend that \$57 million by:

- **Further changes to the income tax code.** Making further changes to the income tax brackets by distilling the current 4-bracket rate structure (2% applying to the lowest income range, 4.5% to the next narrow bracket, 7% to the next narrow bracket, and 8.5% to the highest bracket of income) into a 2-bracket system. As reconstructed, the current 2% range would be taxed at 0%, the 4.5% and 7% brackets would be combined and taxed at 6.5%, and the highest current bracket would be taxed at 7.95% as the Governor proposes;

- **Sales tax holiday.** Creating a one-day sales tax holiday each year on the Columbus Day weekend;

- **Sales tax exemptions.** Exempting from the sales tax the following: meals served at retirement facilities, fuel used in commercial fishing vessels, plastic bags used by redemption centers, and parts and supplies used for the operation, repair or maintenance of the windjammer ships.

- **Public fisheries credit.** Providing an income tax credit for investments in public fishery infrastructure.

The Minority Report: Circling back to property taxes. The Democrats on the Tax Committee provided the Appropriations Committee with an alternative plan. There are only a few points of convergence between the Republican and Democrat plans.

Both plans agree to retain the municipal revenue sharing structure, reject

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Taxation Committee (cont'd)

the bonus depreciation proposal, create sales tax exemptions (retirement meals, fishing vessel fuel, redemption center bags, windjammer maintenance), and provide an income tax credit for public fisheries investments. That's where the agreement ends.

The Democrats' stated concerns with the Republican plan are two-fold. First, they express concern with the sizable "tail" on the Republican plan, meaning that the financial impacts on the state budget not only continue into future biennia, but actually get bigger. Doubling the estate tax exclusion, for example, doesn't impact the state budget in this biennium. The biggest impact of reducing the highest marginal income tax rate, similarly, doesn't kick in until two years from now.

The other stated concern of the minor-

ity members of the Taxation Committee is the shift in overall tax burden onto the property tax by restricting the Circuit Breaker benefits and taking so much out of municipal revenue sharing.

The Democrats' plan would:

- Adjust all the current income tax brackets upwards by 5% in dollar value;
- Expand the state's Earned Income Tax Credit to 10% of the federal credit (up from 5%) and make it payable to the wage earner even if there is no underlying state income tax obligation;
- Restore the Circuit Breaker benefits to the 100% benefit level (rather than the 80% benefit level under the Governor's proposal); and
- Restore the municipal revenue sharing distribution to the greatest extent possible.

The precise financial impacts of the minority report were not immediately

available. The taxation piece of the two-year budget is now in the hands of the Appropriations Committee.

MUBEC (cont'd)

other things: (1) authorize a municipality to review the work of a third-party inspector for accuracy; (2) narrow the prohibition on municipal building officials serving as third-party inspectors by allowing building officials to serve as third-party inspectors provided they are providing that service outside of their geographic jurisdiction as a building official; and (3) direct the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board to determine where in Maine and with respect to which types of development the radon and internal air quality building codes should be applied.

The public hearing for LD 1253 and a few other MUBEC-related bills will be held on Thursday, April 28th at 1pm.

LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS

NOTE: You should check your newspapers for Legal Notices as there may be changes in the hearing schedule. Weekly schedules and supplements are available at the Senate Office at the State House and the Legislature's web site at <http://www.state.me.us/legis/senate/Documents/hearing/ANPHFrame.htm>. If you wish to have updates to the Hearing Schedules e-mailed directly to you, sign up on the ANPH homepage listed above. Work Session schedules and hearing updates are available at the Legislative Information page at <http://www.state.me.us/legis/>.

Monday, April 25

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Rm. 436, State House, 9:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-1122

LD 523 – An Act To Modify the Regulation of Fireworks.

LD 562 – An Act Regarding Municipal Authority To Review Construction Permits for Public Buildings.

LD 737 – An Act To Grandfather Certain Existing Buildings and Structures with Respect To Fire Safety Codes and Standards.

LD 1217 – Resolve, Directing the Office of the State Fire Marshal To Amend Its Rules Relative to Construction Permit Applications.

1:00 p.m.

LD 717 – An Act To Increase the Penalties for Possessing and Displaying a Firearm on School Property.

Education & Cultural Affairs

Room 202, Cross State Office Building, 10:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-3125

LD 952 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the School Revolving Renovation Fund.

LD 1356 – An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the School Revolving Renovation Fund.

LD 1060 – Resolve, To Require Regional School Unity No. 20 To Transfer Certain Property to the Town of Searsport.

Energy, Utilities & Technology

Room 211, Cross State Office Building, 10:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-4143

LD 1042 – An Act To Preserve and Protect Citizens' Property Rights and Values.

LD 711 – An Act To Regulate Noise from Wind Turbines in Residential Developments.

LD 865 – An Act To Require the Department of Environmental Protection To Enforce Standards for Smaller-scale Wind Energy Development in Organized Areas.

LD 1234 – An Act To Restore the Uniform Visual Permitting Standard for Wind Power Projects.

LD 1362 – An Act To Ensure Accurate Valuation of a Community Benefits Package for Communities That Host Wind Energy Developments.

Environment & Natural Resources

Room 214, Cross State Office Building, 10:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-4149

LD 872 – An Act To Clarify the Natural Resources Protection Act.

LD 156 – An Act To Clarify the Regulation of Impacts to Significant Vernal Pool Habitats under the Natural Resources Protection Act.

LD 341 – An Act To Exempt Artificial Wetlands and Artificial Significant Vernal Pool Habitats from State Regulation.

Health & Human Services

Room 209, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1317

LD 1296 – An Act To Amend the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act To Protect Patient Privacy.

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Room 206, Cross State Office Building, 9:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-1338

LD 1121 – An Act To Provide for Incentives and Reparations to Landowners in Connection with All-terrain Vehicle Access.

LD 692 – An Act To Reduce Nonresident Hunting and Fishing License Fees and To Add Archery Hunting to Combination Licenses.

HEARINGS (cont'd)

State & Local Government

Room 216, Cross State Office Building, 9:30 a.m.

Tel: 287-1330

LD 40 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Reduce the Size of the House of Representatives.

LD 153 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Reduction of the Size of the Legislature.

LD 669 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Change the Number of Members of the Legislature, the Length of Legislative Sessions and the Requirements for Introduction of Bills in a Second Regular Session.

1:00 p.m.

LD 942 – An Act To Exempt Municipalities from Indemnification Provisions in State Contracts.

LD 954 – An Act To Promote Rural Job Creation and Workforce Development.

Taxation

Room 127, State House, 10:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-1552

LD 876 – An Act To Convert Vacant Commercial Property to Occupied Commercial Property.

1:00 p.m.

LD 603 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require Approval by a 2/3 Vote of Each Branch of the Legislature in Order To Raise a Tax.

LD 1468 – An Act Concerning Technical Changes to the Tax Laws.

Veterans & Legal Affairs

Room 437, State House, 9:30 a.m.

Tel: 287-1310

LD 985 – An Act Regarding Establishing a Slot Machine Facility.

LD 1203 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Deadline and Conditions for Municipal Approval of a Second Racino and To Allow a Tribal Racino in Washington County.

Tuesday, April 26

Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Room 206, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1312

LD 850 – An Act To Improve the Enforcement of Laws Protecting Dogs.

LD 467 – An Act To Simplify Dog Licensure By Establishing a 3-year License.

LD 1169 – An Act To Require Timely Reporting of Dog Licensing.

Energy, Utilities & Technology

Room 211, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-4143

LD 1170 – An Act To Establish a Code of Ethics for Individuals Involved in Grid-scale Wind Energy Development.

LD 1366 – An Act To Update the Maine Wind Energy Act To Include Low-emission Energy.

Environment & Natural Resources

Room 214, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-4149

LD 1398 – An Act To Amend the Laws Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection.

LD 1156 – An Act To Exempt from Subdivision Requirements Land Sold by 65 Years of Age or Older Persons.

LD 1328 – Resolve, To Create a Working Group To Study the Subdivision Laws.

LD 1387 – An Act To Restore Exemptions in the Natural Resources Protection Act.

LD 1390 – An Act To Revise the Reporting Requirements for Oil Spills.

LD 515 – An Act To Review State Water Quality Standards.

LD 1458 – An Act To Transfer Recycling Technical Assistance and Solid Waste Policy Responsibilities from the State Planning Office to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Health & Human Services

Room 209, Cross State Office Building, 1:15 p.m.

Tel: 287-1317

LD 193 – An Act To Require an Applicant for State Assistance To Show Proof of Legal Residence in the United States and Proof of Residency for at Least the Previous 90 Days in This State.

LD 539 – An Act To Build Accountability into the General Assistance Laws.

LD 1001 – An Act To Assist Persons Who May Be Eligible for Social Security Disability Assistance.

LD 1039 – Resolve, To Create a Working Group To Make Recommendations To Improve the Efficiency, Accountability and Proper Administration of Municipal General Assistance Programs.

LD 1294 – An Act To Impose a 90-day Residency Requirement in Order To Receive State Assistance.

LD 1370 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing General Assistance Programs.

LD 1431 – An Act To Establish Standards for the Administration of General Assistance Programs.

Insurance & Financial Services

Room 427, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1314

LD 1354 – An Act To Require a Person To Carry Liability Insurance on a Snowmobile.

Judiciary

Room 438, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1327

LD 939 – An Act To Enhance Mandated Reporting and Prosecution of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation.

Labor, Commerce, Research & Economic Development

Room 220, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1333

LD 1127 – An Act To Amend the Authority of the Washington County Development Authority.

LD 1288 – An Act To Amend the Pine Tree Development Zone Laws Regarding Average Weekly Wages.

LD 1342 – An Act To Amend the Washington County Development Authority.

Taxation

Room 127, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1552

LD 1157 – An Act To Protect Property Tax Revenue in the Unorganized Territory.

Transportation

Room 126, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-4148

LD 1313 – An Act To Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws.

HEARINGS (cont'd)

LD 1340 – Resolve, To Suspend Fuel Tax Rate Adjustments for the 2012-2013 Biennium.

LD 1348 – An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, Highway Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

LD 1367 – An Act To Restore Maine's Secondary Roads.

LD 1405 – An Act To Amend the Laws Restricting Advertising on Public Ways.

Wednesday, April 27

Education & Cultural Affairs

Room 202, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-3125

LD 813 – An Act To Require Every School Administrative Unit To Have a Food Service Director.

LD 1446 – An Act To Establish the Maine Farm and Fish to School Program.

3:00 p.m.

LD 1211 – An Act To Require That a Student Satisfactorily Complete a Course in Civics and Government To Receive a High School Diploma.

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Room 206, Cross State Office Building, 2:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1338

LD 108 – An Act To Amend the Fees for Infant Lifetime Hunting Licenses.

Judiciary

Room 438, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1327

LD 1082 – An Act Concerning the Protection of Personal Information in Communications with Elected Officials.

LD 1154 – An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee.

LD 1465 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Freedom of Access.

State & Local Government

Room 216, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1330

LD 987 – An Act Regarding the Sale of Surplus Land Owned by the Department of Transportation.

LD 543 – An Act To Protect Legislative Intent in Rulemaking.

LD 1359 – An Act To Enhance Local Control of Noise Ordinances.

Veterans & Legal Affairs

Room 437, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1310

LD 1339 – An Act To Amend the Process for Appeals of Liquor Licensing Decisions.

LD 1300 – An Act To Create a New Liquor License, Provide Funding for Prevention of Underage Drinking and Provide Municipal Control over the Agency Liquor Store Application Process.

Thursday, April 28

Energy, Utilities & Technology

Room 211, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-4143

LD 1382 – An Act To Protect Homeowners Regarding Sewer Liens.

LD 1441 – An Act To Amend the Yarmouth Water District Charter.

LD 1077 – An Act To Enhance Public Participation in Decisions Relating to the Large-scale Extraction and Transportation of Water.

Health & Human Services

Room 209, Cross State Office Building, 1:15 p.m.

Tel: 287-1317

LD 547 – Resolve, Directing the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention To Conduct a Review of Public Health Nuisance Laws.

LD 560 – Resolve, To Increase the Effectiveness of Accessibility Requirements for Persons with Disabilities.

LD 1181 – An Act To Increase Access to Vital Records.

LD 1271 – An Act To Require Use of the Electronic Death Registration System.

Labor, Commerce, Research & Economic Development

Room 220, Cross State Office Building, 2:30 p.m.

Tel: 287-1333

LD 188 – An Act To License Residential Builders and Register Specialty Contractors.

LD 1253 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Enforcement of Statewide Uniform Building Codes.

LD 1264 – An Act To Improve the Energy Efficiency of Public Buildings and Create Jobs.

Taxation

Room 127, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1552

LD 563 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Use a Portion of the Sales and Use Tax for the Protection of Maine's Fish and Wildlife.

LD 826 – An Act To Permit a Local Option Sales Tax.

Transportation

Room 126, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-4148

LD 1064 – Resolve, To Expand the Scope of the Study of Existing Highway Infrastructure and Future Capacity Needs West of Route 1 in York and Cumberland Counties Being Conducted by the Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority.

LD 1319 – An Act To Prohibit the Unwarranted Collection of Identifying Data of Motor Vehicles.

1330 – Resolve, To Expand Commuter and Passenger Rail Transportation in Maine.

LD 1379 – An Act To Establish Training Routes for School Bus Drivers.

LD 1381 – An Act Regarding the Requirement That Construction Equipment Have a License Plate.

Friday, April 29

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Rm. 436, State House, 9:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-1122

LD 82 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing County Jail Budgeting for York County.

LD 422 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Tax Assessment for Correctional Services in Lincoln County and Sagadahoc County.

LD 1178 – An Act To Repeal the Laws Governing the Consolidation of Jails.

LD 1419 – An Act To Improve the Coordination of State and County Correctional Services.

HEARINGS (cont'd)

Education & Cultural Affairs

Room 202, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-3125

LD 1033 – An Act To Support Resource Sharing among Maine Libraries.

Environment & Natural Resources

Room 214, Cross State Office Building, 9:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-4149

LD 981 – An Act To Increase Recycling Jobs in Maine and Lower Costs for Maine Businesses Concerning Recycled Electronics.

Health & Human Services

Room 209, Cross State Office Building, 9:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-1317

LD 897 – An Act To Amend the Application Process for the Progressive Treatment Program.

Labor, Commerce, Research & Economic Development

Room 220, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1333

LD 698 – An Act To Bring Wage Equity to the Workplace.

LD 994 – An Act To Promote Responsible Business Practices through a Livable Wage.

Taxation

Room 127, State House, 10:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-1552

LD 931 – An Act To Ensure Proper Tax Assessment of Property Owners.

LD 1295 – An Act To Amend the Process of Resolving Property Tax Abatement Disputes.

LD 1401 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution

of Maine To Restrict Property Revaluations.

1:00 p.m.

LD 305 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Allow Land and Buildings To Be Assessed Differently.

LD 191 – An Act To Define Lienholder Rights under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law.

LD 1138 – An Act To Prevent Unnecessary Expulsion of Landowners from the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law Program.

LD 459 – An Act To Improve Municipal Reimbursement under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law.

LD 507 – An Act To More Closely Coordinate the Classification of Forested Farmland under the Farm and Open Space Tax Laws with the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law.

LD 1142 – An Act To Amend the Farm and Open Space Tax Law.

Veterans & Legal Affairs

Room 437, State House, 9:30 a.m.

Tel: 287-1310

LD 1355 – An Act To Encourage Transparency in Certain Organizations Involved in Political Campaigns.

IN THE HOPPER

This edition of the Legislative Bulletin is filled with copy which has crowded out the “In the Hopper” space to file descriptions of recently printed bills. Please review the comprehensive list of LDs of municipal interest on MMA’s website: http://memun.org/public/MMA/svc/SFR/LD/LD_fr.htm