

## Second Session Begins

### Everyone Awaits the Proposed Supplemental State Budget

The Second Regular Session of the 123rd Maine State Legislature has begun.

As all the news outlets and political commentators have reported, this upcoming session will be dominated by two phenomena: (1) a state budget shortfall; and (2) a parade of consolidation proposals from Governor Baldacci, including:

- Modifications to the school consolidation law enacted in 2007;
- A proposed state take-over of the 15 county jails (details not yet available);
- A proposed consolidation of the resource-based state agencies (e.g., Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Agriculture, Marine Resources, etc.) under one umbrella agency (details not yet available);
- Another shot at last year's unsuccessful proposal to consolidate the Departments of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; and
- The perennially-proposed (and perennially-dismissed) merger of the Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority.

The state budget shortfall is currently defined as a \$95 million gap between projected General Fund revenues and budgeted spending. In round numbers, the revenue-to-budget imbalance for the current fiscal year (FY 08) is \$38 million, and the shortfall for the second year of the biennium (FY 09) is \$57 million.

Several weeks ago, Governor Baldacci implemented an order to "curtail" state spending. A Governor's authority to curtail state spending is autho-

rized by law to ensure that the state ends each fiscal year in budgetary balance. The curtailment order focuses on the \$38 million shortfall for the current fiscal year, and under its terms \$20 million of the \$38 million problem was to be recovered from the Department of Education's budget, entirely in the category of General Purpose Aid to Education (GPA).

Some of that \$20 million was an easy find. Apparently \$3.5 million of GPA funding was unspent in FY 07 and has therefore become available in FY 08 as "carry forward" funding.

According to the curtailment order, the remaining \$16.7 million would be recovered from various lines within the GPA appropriation over which the Department of Education "has discretion". The discretionary accounts within GPA

do not include the monthly school subsidy payments. From what we can tell, some examples of the discretionary accounts would be contracts the Department might enter into with private companies for student testing or assessment services, professional development services, etc.

According to the curtailment documents released to the public, however, the Administration's position was that "*if the full (\$16.7 million) cannot be achieved in discretionary programs, a reduction in payments to school administrative units in June 2008 may be required, in which case those funds would be restored in the first payment of fiscal year 2008-09 that is paid in July 2008.*"

In legislative parlance, this finan-

*(continued on page 2)*

## Reshaping the School Consolidation Law

The Education Committee has roughed-out the schedule it will follow in the development of the bill to fix the problems with the school consolidation law enacted in 2007.

This yet-to-be-developed legislation, in concert with an emergency bill already given an "ought-to-pass" report by the Committee on a split vote, is described by the legislative proponents of the school consolidation concept as the legislative package that will fix the problems that are being experienced by the Reorganization Planning Commit-

tees around the state who are actually trying to implement the law.

The emergency bill is LD 1932, *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding School Funding*. LD 1932 would: (1) allow the cost sharing formulas for multi-municipal school districts to be developed locally rather than be necessarily fixed by statute; (2) repeal the requirement that every municipality entering into a new school district organization levy a mill rate effort for education of at least 2 mills; (3) provide the minimum subsidy benefit

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## SESSION (cont'd)

cial strategy is called a “push”, because a financial obligation of the state is “pushed” into the next fiscal year to help balance the present-year budget. Pushing state financial obligations into subsequent fiscal years creates obvious problems for the intended recipients of those payments who have financial obligations of their own that need to be honored in a timely manner. In addition, the history of legislative “pushes” is that while they are promoted as temporary, short-term solutions, they tend to stick around for a long time, if not forever. In the early 1990s, the June GPA payment was “pushed” into the subsequent fiscal year, and that annual “push” was repeated during the rest of that decade until the Legislature finally found the extra revenue to “buy back” the push.

Beginning in 2006, the Legislature also “pushed” into the subsequent fiscal year the Tree Growth tax program reimbursements that are distributed to the municipalities. That push has never been “bought back”. The delay in payment has essentially been made permanent.

It is perhaps for these or other reasons that the Administration is apparently rethinking this element of the curtailment order as it develops its proposed supplemental state budget. According to a presentation made this week to the Appropriations Committee, both the Commissioner of the Department of Education, Susan Gendron, and the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Rebecca Wyke, said that the soon-to-be released supplement budget will not include any proposal to “push” GPA payments into subsequent fiscal years.

### Legislative Bulletin

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This does not mean that the Governor’s curtailment order is rescinded or has been amended or otherwise goes away. Instead, the curtailment order should be thought of as a backstop plan. If a supplemental budget is not enacted by the Legislature in a timely manner, the curtailment order would have to be implemented. On the other hand, if a supplemental budget is enacted that addresses the \$38 million shortfall for FY 08 in a manner that is different from the curtailment order, the curtailment order would then be rescinded.

Balancing the state budget for both FY 08 and FY 09 will no doubt be a difficult task. Although Maine’s municipal leaders are strong proponents of comprehensive tax reform, they certainly understand that tax reform must be an entirely revenue neutral exercise and they respect Governor Baldacci’s often-stated position that he will not support any broad-based tax increases for the purpose of bridging the imbalance in the state budget.

In contrast, some legislative leaders have told newspaper reporters that municipal revenue sharing and school subsidy funds are “on the table” for state budget balancing purposes. Indeed, there has been a growing trend over the last several years for the Legislature to divert municipal revenue sharing resources to help balance the state budget. Over the state’s budgetary time period of FY 06 through FY 09, \$13 million has been diverted out of the revenue sharing fund into the state’s General Fund.

From the municipal perspective, the term “broad-based taxes” includes the property tax. If the goal is to refrain from increasing “broad-based taxes” to balance the state budget, the Legislature must not dip any further into the municipal revenue sharing account.

## SCHOOL (cont'd)

that so-called “minimum subsidy receiver” municipalities receive under current law even when those municipal school systems become part of larger school districts and therefore lose their minimum subsidy receiver status; and (4) delay until 2009 the implementation of the mandatory school budget validation process. The mandatory budget vali-

ation procedures were originally enacted to begin in 2008.

LD 1932 has been on a fast track to get to the full Legislature for a vote, but the Committee is still holding the bill at least until next Tuesday, when a work session is scheduled to reconsider one element of the bill. It is MMA’s understanding that the aspect of LD 1932 to be reconsidered is the part about delaying the implementation of the mandatory school budget validation process.

The mandatory school budget validation process consists of two elements. The first element is a mandatory school budget format that breaks all school budgets down into 11 cost center categories for the purpose of providing better information to the voters. The second element is the mandatory referendum validation process.

One idea the Committee might consider next Tuesday is implementing the mandatory school budget formatting process this year, but delaying the mandatory budget referendum process until next year.

Another idea that has surfaced and may be discussed next Tuesday would be to only delay the mandatory budget referendum process for those school systems that are actively engaged in the school reorganization process, and require those schools that are exempt from reorganizing (i.e., the so-called “alternative plan” school systems) to implement the full budget validation process this year. This would still require the Legislature to enact emergency changes to the validation law.

The second bill – to be completely created by the Committee – is designed to deal with all the other corrections, subtractions, modifications or reshaping of the school consolidation law that the Legislature may want to enact. Here is the Committee’s schedule for action:

**Friday, January 4, 2008** – Public forum to allow the 44 legislators who previously submitted 65 separate bills to amend the school reorganization law to formally present their various ideas to the Committee.

**Tuesday, January 8** – Committee work session on LD 1932.

**Tuesday, January 8 — Friday January 18** – Committee work sessions

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## IN THE HOPPER

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

### **Business, Research & Economic Development**

LD 2124 – An Act To Prevent the Theft of Certain Metals. (Sponsored by Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham; additional cosponsors.)

This bill establishes standards of record keeping and transaction information governing the business of scrap metal recycling for the purpose of preventing the theft of certain metals. Among the various provisions of the bill, it prohibits a person from establishing, operating or maintaining a scrap metal recycling business without first obtaining a permit from the municipal officers of the municipality where the business is located.

### **Criminal Justice & Public Safety**

LD 1981 – An Act To Exempt Certain Facilities from Increased Fire Sprinkler Requirements. (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Aroostook County; additional cosponsors.)

This bill prohibits the Department of Public Safety from applying any more stringent fire sprinkler requirements to nonresidential buildings in existence on January 1, 2007 than the sprinkler requirements that were in effect at that time.

LD 2029 – An Act To Reduce Property Taxes, Eliminate Duplication and Streamline Government by Unifying the State Prisons and County Jails. (Sponsored by Rep. Gerzofsky of Brunswick; additional cosponsors.)

This bill is a “concept draft” that proposes to merge the administration of county jails and state prisons under one unified state agency.

LD 2080 – An Act To Better Coordinate and Reduce the Cost of the Delivery of State and County Correctional Services. (Sponsored by Rep. Crockett of Augusta; additional cosponsors.)

This “concept draft” bill proposes to establish the Maine Jail and Community Corrections Authority, made up of state, county and municipal officials and representatives of other interests involved in the criminal justice system. The Authority is created to coordinate and oversee a system within the state for the operation and maintenance of county and regional jails, programs and services. The bill establishes 11 specific duties of the authority, including developing statewide “standards of care and operations”, establishing the purpose and rating capacities of each jail, conducting jail inspections and accrediting jail facilities, coordinating bed space availability, establishing per-diem boarding rates, establishing an inter-county inmate transportation system, etc.

### **Education & Cultural Affairs**

LD 1932 – An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding School Funding. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Bowman of York County; additional cosponsors.)

LD 2062 – An Act Regarding Education Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Norton of Bangor; additional cosponsor.)

Among other changes to education law, this bill expands the existing mandate to provide transportation to school for public elementary school students. Under the bill, transportation is also required for public preschool students.

### **Health & Human Services**

LD 2084 – An Act To Protect Vulnerable Children by Allowing the Use of Emergency Medication. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Miller of Somerville; additional cosponsors.)

This bill requires a municipality that operates a municipal recreational program to train the program's supervising personnel to administer medication, including an asthma inhaler or an epinephrine pen, to all children in the municipality's care.

LD 2085 – An Act To Protect Children from Secondhand Smoke. (Sponsored by Rep. Blanchette of Bangor; additional cosponsors.)

This bill, modeled on a Bangor City Ordinance, prohibits smoking in a motor vehicle when a person under 18 years of age is present in that vehicle. Violators are subject to a \$50 fine or, at the discretion of the law enforcement officer, a written warning.

### **Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

LD 2045 – An Act To Enact Guidelines for the Operation of Motorboats by Minors. (Sponsored by Rep. Sykes of Harrison; additional cosponsor.)

This bill: (1) prohibits a person under the age of 16 from operating a motorboat; (2) prohibits a person between the age of 16 and 18 from operating a motorboat unless accompanied by an adult or possessing proof of having completed a boater safety education course; (3) requires all motor boat operators and passengers to wear an approved life jacket; and (4) prohibits the operation of a motor boat between sunset and sunrise.

LD 2088 – Resolve, To Direct the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Allow Maine Residents To Register Their Watercraft Online. (Sponsored by Rep. Driscoll of Westbrook; additional cosponsors.)

This resolve directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to institute a system of registering watercraft over the Internet in the same way that motor vehicles and all-terrain vehicles can be registered on-line.

### **Insurance & Financial Services**

LD 2092 – An Act To Amend the Public Workers Contractors' Surety Bond Law of 1971. (Sponsored by Rep. Haskell of Portland; additional cosponsors.)

This bill amends the Public Works Contractors' Surety Bond Law of 1971 by: (1) increasing from \$100,000 to \$250,000 the threshold limit for a contract for the construction, alteration or repair of any public building or other public improvement or public work for which a person must provide a performance bond and a payment bond; and (2) allowing, at the discretion of the state or other contracting authority, the person to provide an irrevocable letter of credit instead of either or both the performance bond and the payment bond.

### **Judiciary**

LD 1988 – An Act To Protect Persons Responding to an Emergency Situation Involving a Water Utility. (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. Bryant of Oxford County; additional cosponsors.)

This emergency bill limits the liability of a water utility or private water company and their employees and staff who perform water utility work and service for another water utility during a declared emergency.

LD 2036 – An Act To Clarify Governmental Liability with Respect to Transfer Stations. (Sponsored by Rep. Mills of Farmington; additional cosponsors.)

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This bill creates a municipal liability for any negligent acts and omissions in the construction, operation or maintenance of a solid waste transfer station.

### **Labor**

LD 2055 – An Act To Improve the Elections Process under the Maine Labor Relations Board Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Cummings of Portland; additional cosponsors.)

This bill amends the Maine Labor Relations Act as it applies to governmental employees (municipal, county, state, judicial, etc.).

First, this bill requires the executive director of the Maine Labor Relations Board to conduct a hearing in the event of a dispute over the appropriateness of the composition of the proposed bargaining unit.

Second, under current law either the employer or the employees can appeal to Superior Court from a decision of the Maine Labor Relations Board when the Board is reviewing a decision of its executive director. Under this bill, the decision of the Maine Labor Relations Board could not be appealed to the courts.

Third, under current law an employer can either voluntarily recognize an employee organization or the employer can ask for an election to determine that the employee organization enjoys the support of a majority of the employees in the bargaining unit. Under this bill, the employer can not ask for an election unless the employer can demonstrate to the Maine Labor Relations Board “good cause” to believe that the majority support was obtained by fraud or duress.

### **Marine Resources**

LD 2006 – An Act To Give Municipalities Control of Mussels Located in Intertidal Zones. (Sponsored by Sen. Raye of Washington County; additional cosponsors.)

This bill amends the law creating the municipal authority to adopt shellfish conservation programs to expand the definition of “shellfish” to include mussels.

LD 2038 – An Act To Facilitate the Timely Reopening of Closed Clam Flats. (Sponsored by Rep. Gerzofsky of Brunswick; additional cosponsors.)

This bill authorizes a municipality to contract with a private entity to conduct water sampling in an area closed by regulation to shellfish harvesting. The municipality may submit the sampling results to the Department of Marine Resources for consideration in determining whether or not to reopen the area to shellfish harvesting.

### **Natural Resources**

LD 1947 – An Act To Clarify the Waste Motor Oil Disposal Site Remediation Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Koffman of Bar Harbor; additional cosponsor.)

This bill amends the law enacted in 2007 that establishes a \$1 - \$3 fee (called a “premium”) to be paid to the state whenever engine oils are changed in motor vehicles. The amendments clarify or establish that: (1) the premium is imposed with respect to construction equipment and logging equipment registered for road use; (2) the premium applies to all oil-type changes, but not to the changing of brake fluid; (3) when several oils are changed on a motor vehicle at the same time, the premium applies to each type of fluid change; (4) the premium applies regardless of how the replaced oil is used or disposed; and (5) the premium charge applies even to entities exempt from paying sales taxes.

LD 1950 – An Act To Repeal the Premium Imposed on Motor Vehicle Oil Changes. (Sponsored by Rep. Schatz of Blue Hill; additional cosponsors.)

This bill repeals the fee or “premium” imposed on motor vehicle oil changes.

LD 1952 – An Act To Streamline the Administration of Significant Vernal Pool Habitat Protection. (Sponsored by Rep. Koffman of Bar Harbor; additional cosponsors.)

Under current law, municipalities and their legislators must be

notified by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife if a new area in the municipality is designated as either “significant vernal pool habitat” or “high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat” or a “shorebird nesting, feeding and staging area”. This bill would repeal that requirement with respect to significant vernal pool habitat. The bill also directs the Department of Environmental Protection to incorporate certain additional specific standards in the Department’s rules governing the determination of a significant vernal pool habitat.

LD 1964 – Resolve, To Determine Appropriate Buffer Zones for Landfill Construction and Expansion. (Sponsored by Sen. Schneider of Penobscot County; additional cosponsors.)

This resolve directs the State Planning Office and the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules establishing buffer zones for landfill construction and expansion.

LD 2009 – Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 150: Control of Emissions from Outdoor Wood Boilers, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Quality Control. (Emergency) (Reported by Rep. Koffman of Bar Harbor for the Department of Environmental Protection.)

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 150, *Control of Emissions from Outdoor Wood Boilers*, which is a “major substantive” rule adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection.

LD 2017 – An Act To Provide for Enforcement of the Office Paper Recycling Program. (Sponsored by Rep. Wagner of Lewiston; additional cosponsors.)

This bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt major substantive rules to enforce the mandate under current law that any employer of 15 or more people must implement an office paper and corrugated cardboard recycling program. According to the bill, the rules must include the application of civil penalties for noncompliance.

LD 2018 – An Act To Require the Accurate Designation of Floodplain Areas. (Sponsored by Rep. Hill of York; additional cosponsors.)

This bill is a “concept draft” that proposes to require that the most current topographic and geographic information system data available be used when making or changing municipal maps, including any maps used for the designation of floodplain boundaries.

LD 2056 – An Act To Conserve Gasoline and Preserve Clean Air. (Sponsored by Rep. Hinck of Portland; additional cosponsors.)

This bill restricts the idling time of commercial diesel and gasoline powered commercial motor vehicles. As a general rule, idling time for both diesel and gasoline powered commercial vehicles is restricted to 5 minutes unless specifically exempted. The exemptions include: (1) diesel vehicles may idle for up to 30 minutes at “loading and unloading facilities”; (2) diesel and gasoline powered vehicles may exceed the 5 minute idling limit if public safety vehicles at the scene of an emergency; and (3) passenger buses in order to provide for the heating or air conditioning comfort of passengers.

LD 2072 – An Act To Conform the Laws Governing Underground Oil Storage Tanks to the Requirements of the Federal Energy Policy Act. (Sponsored by Rep. Koffman of Bar Harbor; additional cosponsors.)

This bill amends the current inspection requirements for owners of underground and above ground oil storage tanks. Under current law, the owners must submit annual inspection reports to the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the tank’s quality and compliance with leak detection and prevention devices. This bill requires that at least every three years the annual inspection must be performed by a qualified inspector who is not the tank owner, an employee of the tank owner, or otherwise interested in the operations where the oil tank is located. The bill also provides the DEP with the authority to shut down the use of non-compliant oil storage tanks

after providing the owner with notice.

LD 2073 – An Act To Prevent Contamination of Drinking Water Supplies. (Sponsored by Rep. Duchesne of Hudson; additional cosponsors.)

This bill generally prohibits in a going-forward manner the location of underground or above ground oil storage tanks; automobile graveyards; automobile body shops, maintenance or repair facilities; dry cleaning facilities; metal finishing or metal plating facilities; and commercial hazardous waste facilities in a “wellhead protection zone”. A “wellhead protection zone” is defined as: (1) a “source water protection area” as mapped by the Department of Health and Human Services; (2) an area within 300 feet of a private drinking water well; or (3) an area within 1,000 feet of a public drinking water well.

LD 2119 – An Act To Amend Certain Laws Related to Environmental Protection. (Sponsored by Sen. Martin of Aroostook County; additional cosponsors.)

This bill makes several amendments to Maine’s environmental laws. Among the amendments pertinent to municipal activities, this bill: (1) increases the annual fee for owning or operating an underground oil storage facility from \$35 to \$100; and (2) clarifies that municipalities that close landfills are obligated to inspect, monitor and maintain the closure according to statutory closure cap specifications.

### State & Local Government

LD 1962 – An Act To Amend the Informed Growth Act. (Sponsored by Sen. Hastings of Oxford County; additional cosponsors.)

In 2007, the Legislature enacted a law known as the “Informed Growth Act” that requires all municipalities to engage a “qualified preparer” to conduct an analysis of the economic impacts of proposed big-box developments. This bill allows a municipality to opt out of implementing that analytical procedure by a majority vote of its legislative body, followed by a ratifying referendum vote.

LD 1968 – An Act To Clarify the Election of Municipal charter Commission Members. (Sponsored by Sen. Brannigan of Cumberland County; additional cosponsors.)

This bill creates an additional method of electing members to a municipal charter commission. Current law requires all members of a charter commission that are elected to that position to be elected either at large or according to voting ward. This bill would require that a municipality that has a town or city council that includes some at-large councilors and some councilors elected by ward to elect a charter commission according to that same structure; that is, by the same mix of ward seats and at-large seats as exists for the town or city council. This bill would also allow the charter commission members to be elected at the next general election after the vote to form a charter commission, rather than at the same time as the vote to form a charter commission, as required by current law.

LD 2020 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Granting of Disability Variances from the Zoning Laws. (Sponsored by Rep. Casavant of Biddeford; additional cosponsors.)

This bill amends the law governing the granting of disability variances by municipal appeal boards pursuant to the local zoning ordinance. Under current law, the variance is limited to the installation of equipment or construction necessary for access or egress to a dwelling. This bill would expand the opportunity for a variance to cover garages or similar structures.

### Taxation

LD 1972 – An Act To Provide Property Tax Relief. (Sponsored by Sen. Bartlett of Cumberland County; additional cosponsors.)

This bill provides a refundable income tax credit for 25% of the property taxes paid on a person’s primary residence, up to a

maximum credit of \$500 per year. That tax benefit would be integrated with any person’s application for Circuit Breaker property tax rebates.

LD 2008 – An Act To Provide Ongoing Funding for the Historic Preservation Tax Credit. (Sponsored by Sen. Courtney of York County; additional cosponsors.)

This bill would finance the state’s Historic Preservation Tax Credit by dedicating to that purpose the sales tax and employment tax revenues accruing to the state that are directly associated with historic properties’ retail sales and employment activities.

LD 2099 – An Act To Provide Property and Excise Tax Relief to Disabled Maine Veterans. (Sponsored by Rep. Wheeler of Kittery; additional cosponsors.)

This bill amends the law governing the veterans’ property tax exemption by creating a total property tax exemption for the residential property of any veteran who was permanently and totally disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service in the line of duty or who is receiving any form of pension or compensation from the United States Government for total and permanent service-connected disability. Under current law, those veterans are eligible for a \$50,000 homestead-type exemption. This bill also creates a motor vehicle excise tax exemption for those veterans.

### Transportation

LD 2040 – An Act To Ban the Use of Liquid Calcium Chloride on Roads. (Sponsored by Rep. Miramant of Camden; additional cosponsors.)

This bill bans the use of liquid calcium chloride on all state, state aid and town roads in Maine for snow removal purposes.

LD 2102 – An Act To Allow Road Associations To Determine Assessments According to Majority Vote Cast at a Duly Held Meeting. (Sponsored by Rep. Knight of Livermore Falls; additional cosponsors.)

This bill repeals and replaces the law that governs the rights of road associations or abutters to private roads to organize and convene town-meeting type meetings to approve the costs of the private road’s maintenance and assess those costs to all the abutters to the road benefiting from the maintenance program. In addition to establishing more detail (e.g., warrant standards, quorum requirements, etc.) with respect to how those meetings may be called and conducted, the bill expands the applicability of the law. Currently, the option to utilize this private road maintenance financing system applies to the community of property owners abutting private roads. Under the bill, the law option would be extended to the community of property owners on “public easements” that are not maintained by the municipality. The bill also deletes the current provision of law that requires the costs of road maintenance to be apportioned according to each abutting property’s assessed value, thereby allowing the basis for the apportionment to be determined by the assembly of the road’s abutters.

## **SCHOOL (cont'd)**

on the fix-up bill.

**By Friday, January 18** – Committee votes on which of the proposed changes get moved into the fix-up bill.

**Remainder of January** – Education Committee staff works with the Committee in the preparation of final language for the fix-up bill.

**Wednesday, February 6** (tentative) – Public hearing on the fix-up bill.

**February 7 – February 15** – Committee’s finalization of fix-up bill and release to the full Legislature.

**Week of February 18 – February 22** – School vacation week.

## 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/>.*

### *Wednesday, January 9*

#### **Marine Resources**

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

**Tel: 287-1337**

LD 2006 – An Act To Give Municipalities Control of Mussels Located in Intertidal Zones.

LD 2038 – An Act To Facilitate the Timely Reopening of Closed Clam Flats.

### *Monday, January 14*

#### **Criminal Justice & Public Safety**

**Rm. 436, State House, 10:00 a.m.**

**Tel: 287-1122**

LD 1990 – Resolve, To Prevent Domestic Violence and Protect Our Citizens.

#### **State & Local Government**

**Room 216, Cross State Office Building, 10:00 a.m.**

**Tel: 287-1330**

LD 1965 – An Act To Amend the Lucerne-in-Maine Village Corporation Charter.

### *Tuesday, January 15*

#### **Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

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

**Tel: 287-1338**

LD 2045 – An Act To Enact Guidelines for the Operation of Motorboats by Minors.

LD 2090 – An Act To Impose a Horsepower Restriction for Boat Motors on Long Lake and Brandy Pond.

LD 2088 – Resolve, To Direct the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Allow Maine Residents To Register Their Watercraft Online.

LD 1858 – An Act To Protect Inland Water Access.

### *Wednesday, January 16*

#### **Criminal Justice & Public Safety**

**Rm. 436, State House, 9:30 a.m.**

**Tel: 287-1122**

LD 1981 – An Act To Exempt Certain Facilities from Increased Fire Sprinkler Requirements.

### *Thursday, January 17*

#### **Business, Research & Economic Development**

**Room 208, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.**

**Tel: 287-1331**

LD 2003 – An Act To Create the Southern York County Regional Development Authority.

#### **Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

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

**Tel: 287-1338**

LD 2087 – Resolve, To Study the Feasibility of a Public Dock on Mooselookmegtunc Lake.

#### **Judiciary**

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

**Tel: 287-1327**

LD 1988 – An Act To Protect Persons Responding to an Emergency Situation Involving a Water Utility.

LD 2036 – An Act To Clarify Governmental Liability with Respect to Transfer Stations.

#### **Natural Resources**

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

**Tel: 287-4149**

LD 1933 – An Act To Extend the Deadline for Application for Loans Associated with the Remediation of a Waste Oil Site in Plymouth.

LD 1947 – An Act To Clarify the Waste Motor Oil Disposal Site Remediation Program.

LD 1950 – An Act To Repeal the Premium Imposed on Motor Vehicle Oil Changes.

LD 2072 – An Act To Conform the Laws Governing Underground Oil Storage Tanks to the Requirements of the Federal Energy Policy Act.

LD 2073 – An Act To Prevent Contamination of Drinking Water Supplies.

#### **Utilities & Energy**

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

**Tel: 287-4143**

LD 1936 – An Act To Include the Town of Nobleboro within the Service Area of the Great Salt Bay Sanitary District.