

03/28/2025 - LPC LD List
132nd Legislature – First Special Session

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

[LD 1295](#) *An Act to Waive Basic Law Enforcement Training Requirements for Full-time Law Enforcement Officers Who Have Successfully Completed Equivalent Courses in Other Jurisdictions* (Sponsored by Sen. Moore of Washington Cty.)

This bill requires the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to waive basic training requirements for newly employed law enforcement officers that have completed an equivalent basic law enforcement training course, which is currently a discretionary authority. The bill also directs the board to conduct a study and make suggestions for reducing unnecessary or burdensome requirements that prevent a law enforcement officer from qualifying for a basic training waiver.

EDUCATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

[LD 1282](#) *An Act Regarding Eligibility for Historic Preservation Bond Proceeds* (Sponsored by Sen. Hickman of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill amends the eligibility requirements for grants through the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for the preservation and restoration of historic properties to allow eligibility for properties designated as historic by municipal historic preservation ordinances.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

[LD 1274](#) *An Act to Cap State General Assistance Reimbursement to Municipalities* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from reimbursing a single municipality for general assistance in an amount greater than 50% of the total reimbursement to all municipalities in a fiscal year.

[LD 1326](#) *An Act to Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances* (Sponsored by Rep. Shagoury of Hallowell)

This bill establishes maximum levels of PFAS in the drinking water of community and non-transient, noncommunity water systems and allows the Department of Health and Human Services, through rulemaking, to lower the maximum levels of regulated PFAS contaminants or include additional contaminants on the list. Beginning January 1, 2029, the bill also requires the department to direct water systems to implement treatment and notify consumers of PFAS, if contaminants exceed acceptable levels, as well as to submit drinking water samples. Beginning January 1, 2026, all water systems must conduct monitoring of PFAS at detectable levels established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[LD 1226](#) *An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Residential Building Contractors*
(Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

This bill establishes the nine-member Residential Construction Board, which includes a municipal code enforcement officer, directed to establish licensing requirements for residential general contractors, as well as practice standards that are consistent with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

[LD 1232](#) *An Act to Require Radon Testing for Certain Commercial and Residential Construction*
(Sponsored by Rep. Rudnicki of Fairfield)

This bill requires a radon permit in cases where a building permit is required for either new construction or renovation to a commercial building or new residential construction. A person registered by the Department of Health and Human Services to test radon must apply for the permit and conduct testing, and if it is determined that radon mitigation measures are required, the person designing and installing the radon mitigation measures must be registered by the department. Residential construction in a municipality without a building code or performed by a homeowner acting as a general contractor and who performs more than 50% of the framing

[LD 1246](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to Convene a Working Group to Review the Process of Setting Impact Fees* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development and Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to convene a working group to study the process by which municipalities impose impact fees. The working group must include representatives of municipalities and developers and include a review of the process by which impact fees are established and imposed, the guidance provided to municipalities and developers, and resources municipalities rely on when establishing impact fee ordinances. By December 3, 2025, the department is further directed to submit recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

[LD 1247](#) *An Act to Restrict Municipal Ordinance Requirements Regarding Housing Developments* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This bill provides that if a housing development is served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and the system is located in an area where dwelling units are allowed, a municipality is required to allow the development of a unit on the a lot with a minimum size of 5,000 square feet and may not require more than two off-street parking spaces for every three units. Municipalities are also prohibited from establishing dimensional standards that are more restrictive than those for single-family dwelling units in effect on October 1, 2023, as well as road frontage standards that are greater than 50 feet and front, rear or side setbacks greater than 10 feet. Developers are required to provide written verification that each unit is connected to adequate sewer and water services, before the municipality can certify the development for occupancy.

[LD 1272](#) *An Act to Address the Housing Crisis by Reducing Barriers to Building More Accessory Dwelling Units* (Sponsored by Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford)

This bill allows up to four single-family, duplex, triplex or accessory dwelling units on a single lot, and exempts only the first accessory dwelling unit on a lot from municipal housing density requirements. The bill also prohibits a municipality from adopting an ordinance or other restriction that requires the owner of the lot to reside in one of the units on the lot or requires a fire sprinkler system to be installed in certain accessory dwelling units and further directs the Department of Public Safety to develop rules to meet a fire resistance standard to for townhouses without a sprinkler system. The bill amends the definition of "subdivision" from a division of a tract or parcel of land into three or more lots to a division of a tract or parcel of land into five or more lots as of December 31, 2025, requires municipalities to amend their subdivision ordinance that conflicts with the new definition by June 30, 2026 and clarifies that an accessory dwelling unit that otherwise complies with applicable state and local zoning requirements must be allowed on a nonconforming lot as long as the unit does not further increase nonconformity. The bill also prohibits a municipality from restricting or limiting the owner's ability to separately sell or transfer and accessory dwelling unit located on the owner's lot.

LABOR

[LD 1307](#) *An Act to Suspend the Remittance Obligation for Paid Family and Medical Leave Private Plan Users (Emergency)* (Sponsored by Sen. Bradstreet of Kennebec Cty.)

This emergency bill immediately suspends the payroll premiums imposed on employers under the paid family and medical leave program until January 1, 2026, but allows an employer that wants to participate in the program to continue to pay the premiums. The bill also requires the Department of Labor to amend its rules to establish an expedited process for approval of an employer's substitute private plan that is substantially equivalent to the program and to waive the payroll premiums during consideration of an employer's application for exemption. The rules must be in effect no later than November 1, 2025.

[LD 1333](#) *An Act to Make Changes to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier of Skowhegan)

This bill makes the following changes to the paid family and medical leave benefits program, it: (1) requires an employee to be employed with an employer for 120 days before being eligible to take leave; (2) allows employers to have intermittent leave schedules reviewed by the program administrator; (3) prohibits the taking of paid leave unless the employee simultaneously takes any available unpaid leave; (4) reduces the retroactive application deadline from 90 days to 30 days; (5) requires the program administrator to give five days' notice of an employee's leave being approved; (6) requires the Department of Labor to post on its publicly accessible website the dates by which contribution reports and premiums must be remitted as well as appropriate tax forms that employers with approved private plans must provide to employees taking leave; (7) relieves employers with collective bargaining agreements of the obligation to bargain over the employee's share of the premium; (8) allows employers to correct mistakes in the employee share of taxes for up to three months; (9) establishes a 52-week formula for calculating the 15-employee threshold; (10) changes the applications of penalties against employers from mandatory to discretionary; (11) clarifies that an employee who is taking retroactive paid leave and did not notify the employer for more than five days of the employee's absence is not entitled to be restored to the employee's former position; and (12) clarifies that at no time may an employee receive benefits of over 100% of the employee's wages.

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

[LD 1244](#) *An Act to Establish Requirements for Warming Shelters* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

Whenever the temperature is expected to drop below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, this bill requires counties and municipalities to make warming shelters available at an accessible and appropriate public venue and open outside normal operating hours.

[LD 1302](#) *An Act Regarding the Number of Voters of a Municipality Required to Petition for Consideration of Deorganization of That Municipality* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill specifies that a petition for consideration of deorganization must be signed by a number of residents equal to at least 50% of the votes cast in the municipality during the last gubernatorial election.

TAXATION

[LD 1278](#) *An Act to Change the Property Tax Appeal Process* (Sponsored by Rep. Underwood of Presque Isle)

This bill prevents an applicant for a property tax abatement from applying to the county commissioners to appeal a decision of the assessors or the municipal officers with respect to nonresidential property having an equalized municipal valuation of \$1 million or greater. Instead, an applicant must appeal the decision to the State Board of Property Tax Review.

[LD 1304](#) *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Limit Property Tax Increases for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older and Shift the Tax Burden to State Gaming Revenues* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This resolution amends Maine's constitution by capping at 2% annually the property taxes assessed on the homesteads of residents who are at least 65 years of age and have owned a home in Maine for at least 12 months. The bill also requires the state to reimburse municipalities for 90% of the lost property tax revenue, generated by a 2% tax on lottery and sports betting sales.

VETERANS & LEGAL AFFAIRS

[LD 1320](#) *An Act to Prevent Illicit Cultivation and Trafficking Within Maine's Regulated Cannabis Industry* (Sponsored by Sen. Timberlake of Androscoggin Cty.)

This bill amends the definition of "disqualifying drug offense" in the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and in the Cannabis Legalization Act to provide that a conviction within the three-year period prior to an application for licensure or registration, for a crime related to the cultivation or distribution of cannabis that is not authorized in related statutes, is a disqualifying drug offense.