

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

ANIMALS

DOGS

LR: 2379 SPONSOR: Rep. McKane of Newcastle
Title: An Act To Strengthen the Laws Regarding Dangerous Dogs
Comment: This bill would strengthen the laws regarding dangerous dogs.

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

STATE PARKS

LR: 2584 SPONSOR: Rep. Harlow of Portland
Title: An Act To Protect State Park Employees
Comment: This bill would permit state park employees to obtain, on request, bulletproof vests from the State.

FARMS

FERTILIZER

LR: 2506 SPONSOR: Rep. Libby of Waterboro
Title: An Act To Remove the \$100 Fee Required When Reporting Fertilizer and Agricultural Liming Materials Tonnage
Comment: This bill would remove the \$100 minimum fee required when submitting annual reports of commercial fertilizer and agricultural liming materials sold in the State.

FARMS

PRESERVATION

LR: 2509 SPONSOR: Sen. Saviello of Franklin
Title: An Act To Authorize the Registration of Farmland in 2012 and 2013
Comment: This bill would authorize the registration of farmland during calendar years 2012 and 2013 under the existing laws governing farmland registration.

LR: 2516 SPONSOR: Rep. Libby of Waterboro
Title: An Act To Help Promote Farming in Maine by Limiting the Liability of "Pick Your Own" Farms
Comment: This bill would limit the liability of "pick your own" farms. The bill would protect these farms from lawsuits should a customer trip and fall, for example, on uneven ground. A farm would be required to have signs that urge customers to use caution while at the farm and also inform customers that the farm is not liable in the event of an injury.

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Bill Requests For Screening

LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION

LURC PLANNING

LR: 2615

SPONSOR: Rep. Black of Wilton

Title: An Act To Exempt Maple Sugar Houses from the 1,000-foot Setback
Requirement of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission

Comment: This bill would exempt maple sugar houses from the 1,000-foot setback
requirement of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission.

PUBLIC LANDS

STATE PARKS

LR: 2347

SPONSOR: Rep. Long of Sherman

Title: An Act To Provide for Grooming of the Perimeter Road at Baxter State Park

Comment: This bill would allow and provide for the grooming of the perimeter road used
by snowmobiles during the winter months.

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SVC DEPT
INFORMATION SERVICES BUREAU**

LR: 2530 SPONSOR: Rep. Cray of Palmyra
Title: An Act To Eliminate the Office of Information Technology
Comment: This bill would eliminate the Office of Information Technology within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

BOND ISSUES

ENERGY

LR: 2590 SPONSOR: Sen. Katz of Kennebec
Title: An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create Jobs through Development of Natural Gas Distribution
Comment: This bill would authorize a \$40,000,000 bond for the promotion of distribution of natural gas throughout Maine.

BOND ISSUES

MILITARY

LR: 2345 SPONSOR: Sen. Jackson of Aroostook
Title: An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Redevelop the Former Loring Air Force Base
Comment: This bill would authorize a general fund bond issue to redevelop the former Loring Air Force Base.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

ADMINISTRATION

LR: 2372 SPONSOR: Sen. Katz of Kennebec
Title: RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Extend the Length of Time To Retire Unfunded Liability of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System
Comment: This bill would propose an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to increase from 10 years to 15 years the length of time within which the unfunded liability of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System resulting from experience losses must be retired.

LR: 2442 SPONSOR: Sen. Katz of Kennebec
Title: An Act To Amend the Internal Appeals Process Used by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System
Comment: This bill would limit the ability of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to overturn a decision of a hearing officer.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

BENEFITS

LR: 2534 SPONSOR: Rep. Nelson of Falmouth

Title: An Act To Remove Limitations on Restoration to Service for Education Technicians Who Retire on or after July 1, 2011

Comment: This bill would provide that education technicians who retire on or after July 1, 2011 may be restored to service without being limited to 5 years and 75% of normal compensation.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2594 Senator Hill
LR 2588 Senator Rector

LR: 2588 SPONSOR: Sen. Rector of Knox

Title: An Act To Exempt Teachers' Aides and Tutors from Certain Retirement Requirements

Comment: This bill would exempt teachers' aides and tutors from the requirement that an employee in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System who retires cannot return to work until 30 days after retirement and then at only 75% of pay.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2594 Senator Hill
LR 2534 Representative Nelson

LR: 2594 SPONSOR: Sen. Hill of York

Title: An Act To Amend Provisions Limiting the Return to Work after Retirement by Teachers, School Employees and State Employees

Comment: Current law limits the return to work after retirement of teachers, school employees and state employees to 5 years, no health insurance benefits and 75% of the normal salary for state employees and school employees. This bill would limit the application of that law to superintendents and administrators.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2534 Representative Nelson
LR 2588 Senator Rector

SPENDING

EDUCATION

LR: 2524 SPONSOR: Rep. Fredette of Newport

Title: An Act To Appropriate Funds To Support the University-Business Information Technology and Computer Science Partnership

Comment: This bill would appropriate funds to the University of Maine System to support the University-Business Information Technology and Computer Science Partnership.

SPENDING

NATURAL RESOURCES

LR: 2373 SPONSOR: Rep. Clark of Millinocket

Title: An Act To Provide Funding To Operate the Dolby Landfill in East Millinocket

Comment: This bill would provide an annual appropriation of \$250,000 for operation of the Dolby Landfill in East Millinocket.

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STATE FINANCES

BONDED DEBT

LR: 2656

SPONSOR: Sen. Raye of Washington

Title: An Act To Provide for an Advisory Referendum on the Approval of Tax-exempt Student Loan Revenue Bonds

Comment: This bill directs the Secretary of State to hold an advisory referendum at a statewide election to determine whether the voters of the State favor the Governor's approval of no more than \$50,000,000 of tax-exempt student loan revenue bonds for the next 3 years to be repaid by the loan recipients.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

CRIMES

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

LR: 2644 SPONSOR: Rep. Cain of Orono
Title: An Act To Mandate the Use of Standardized Risk Assessment in the Management of Domestic Violence Crimes
Comment: This bill would require the use of a standardized risk assessment protocol in the management related to bail, monitoring and the legal process of domestic violence crimes. The changes would be based on recommendations from the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse.

CRIMES

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

LR: 2527 SPONSOR: Rep. Morissette of Winslow
Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Disorderly Conduct at Funerals in Order To Protect Grieving Families
Comment: This bill would amend the laws governing disorderly conduct at funerals to specify where and when the provisions apply in order to protect grieving families.
Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 91

CRIMES

DRUG OFFENSES

LR: 2406 SPONSOR: Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham
Title: An Act To Avert Future Drug Epidemics and Corrections Costs by Expanding the Availability of the Drug Court
Comment: This bill would expand the availability of the drug court in northern Maine.

LR: 2440 SPONSOR: Rep. Stevens of Bangor
Title: An Act To Establish a Pilot Program as an Alternative to the Drug Court
Comment: This bill would establish a pilot project in Penobscot County to provide that persons arrested for illegal drug possession be assessed for substance abuse and drug dependence at their own expense and to make available opportunity for treatment and monitoring.

LR: 2586 SPONSOR: Rep. Webster of Freeport
Title: An Act To Implement an Integrated and Coordinated Statewide Approach To Addressing the Use of Synthetic Hallucinogenic Drugs and Other Drugs
Comment: This bill would enact measures designed to implement an integrated and coordinated statewide approach to addressing the use of synthetic hallucinogenic drugs and other drugs. The bill would include components that amend the laws in the following subject areas: education; public safety; the judiciary; detoxification and treatment; and criminal prosecution.

CRIMES

DRUG OFFENSES

LR: 2587 SPONSOR: Rep. Webster of Freeport

Title: Resolve, Establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission To Develop an Integrated and Coordinated Statewide Response to Synthetic Hallucinogenic Drug Abuse

Comment: This resolve would establish the Blue Ribbon Commission To Develop an Integrated and Coordinated Statewide Response to Synthetic Hallucinogenic Drug Abuse. The commission would include representatives of the judicial branch, experts on substance abuse education and treatment, law enforcement personnel and prosecutors.

CRIMES

FRAUD

LR: 2397 SPONSOR: Rep. Soctomah of Passamaquoddy Tribe

Title: An Act To Impose a Penalty for Making False Claims Regarding Affiliation with a Federally Recognized Tribe

Comment: This bill would make it a crime to falsely claim affiliation with a federally recognized tribe in order to obtain services to which a member of a federally recognized tribe is entitled.

CRIMES

MINORS

LR: 2308 SPONSOR: Rep. Blodgett of Augusta

Title: An Act To Establish or Increase Criminal Penalties for Failure To Report a Missing or Deceased Child

Comment: This bill would make it a Class C crime for a parent, guardian or caretaker to fail to report the death or unexplained absence of a child.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2312 Representative Maker
 LR 2311 Representative McCabe
 LR 2310 Representative Olsen
 LR 2309 Senator Thibodeau
 LR 2313 Representative Timberlake

LR: 2309 SPONSOR: Sen. Thibodeau of Waldo

Title: An Act To Require That Authorities Be Notified within 48 Hours after a Child is Missing

Comment: This bill would require that authorities be notified within 48 hours after a child is missing and notified within 2 hours of a child's death.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2312 Representative Maker
 LR 2311 Representative McCabe
 LR 2310 Representative Olsen
 LR 2308 Representative Blodgett
 LR 2313 Representative Timberlake

CRIMES

MINORS

LR: 2310 SPONSOR: Rep. Olsen of Phippsburg

Title: An Act To Increase to a Class C Crime the Failure To Report a Missing Child within 24 Hours

Comment: This bill would make it a Class C crime for a parent or legal guardian to fail to report a missing child within 24 hours.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2312 Representative Maker
 LR 2311 Representative McCabe
 LR 2308 Representative Blodgett
 LR 2309 Senator Thibodeau
 LR 2313 Representative Timberlake

LR: 2311 SPONSOR: Rep. McCabe of Skowhegan

Title: An Act To Enhance the Criminal Penalties for Failure To Report the Disappearance of a Child

Comment: This bill would make it a Class C crime to fail to report the disappearance of a child within 24 hours after the disappearance.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2312 Representative Maker
 LR 2308 Representative Blodgett
 LR 2310 Representative Olsen
 LR 2309 Senator Thibodeau
 LR 2313 Representative Timberlake

LR: 2312 SPONSOR: Rep. Maker of Calais

Title: An Act To Increase Criminal Penalties for Failure To Report the Death or Disappearance of a Child

Comment: This bill would increase criminal penalties for failure to report the death or disappearance of a child.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2308 Representative Blodgett
 LR 2311 Representative McCabe
 LR 2310 Representative Olsen
 LR 2309 Senator Thibodeau
 LR 2313 Representative Timberlake

LR: 2313 SPONSOR: Rep. Timberlake of Turner

Title: An Act To Increase Penalties for Not Reporting the Disappearance or Death of a Child

Comment: This bill would make it a Class B crime to fail to report the death or disappearance of a child.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2312 Representative Maker
 LR 2311 Representative McCabe
 LR 2310 Representative Olsen
 LR 2309 Senator Thibodeau
 LR 2308 Representative Blodgett

CRIMES

MINORS

LR: 2324 SPONSOR: Sen. Hobbins of York

Title: An Act To Prohibit Verbal Sexual Solicitation of a Minor

Comment: This bill would make it illegal for a person to verbally solicit a minor to commit a prohibited act.

LR: 2473 SPONSOR: Rep. Volk of Scarborough

Title: An Act To Define, Prevent and Suppress Gang Activity in the State

Comment: This bill would provide a legal definition for "gang" in Maine and make it a felony for an adult to recruit another person, particularly a juvenile, for gang-related activity.

CRIMES

MOTOR VEHICLE

LR: 2478 SPONSOR: Rep. Bolduc of Auburn

Title: An Act To Give Parents the Option To Require Their Minor Child Who Has a Motor Vehicle Violation Record To Operate Only a Motor Vehicle That Can Be Monitored by Means of a Global Positioning System Device

Comment: This bill gives parents the option to require their minor child who has a motor vehicle violation record to operate only a motor vehicle that can be monitored by the parents or the police by means of a global positioning system device.

CRIMES

SEX OFFENSES

LR: 2353 SPONSOR: Rep. Maker of Calais

Title: Resolve, To Create the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children

Comment: This bill would create a task force to identify and recommend ways to prevent the sexual abuse of children.

LR: 2470 SPONSOR: Sen. Diamond of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and To Make Improvements to the Sex Offender Registry and the Computer Crimes Unit

Comment: This bill would establish 4 tiers in the sex offender registry based on the severity of the offense committed by the sex offender. The tiers would have different registration requirements. The bill would also include a description in lay terminology of the various sex offenses in the sex offender registry and establish the computer crimes unit as a separate bureau in the Department of Public Safety.

CRIMES

STALKING

LR: 2605 SPONSOR: Sen. Mason of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Stalking and Domestic Violence
Comment: This bill would increase the penalty for a 2nd offense under the laws governing stalking. It would also create the new crimes of "aggravated stalking" and "aggravated violation of a protective order."

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

BAIL AND RECOGNIZANCE

LR: 2333 SPONSOR: Rep. Fredette of Newport
Title: An Act To Amend the Maine Bail Code To Protect Victims of Domestic Violence
Comment: This bill would amend the Maine Bail Code to protect victims of domestic violence.

LR: 2517 SPONSOR: Rep. Casavant of Biddeford
Title: An Act To Ensure That Bail Conditions Are Promptly Entered into the Metro Switch System
Comment: This bill would require that conditions of bail be entered into the State Police Metro Switch System within one hour of an individual's release from custody. The prompt filing of bail conditions would provide immediate access to law enforcement across the State and would better ensure public safety.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

LR: 2401 SPONSOR: Rep. Haskell of Portland
Title: An Act To Ensure Equal Treatment of Juvenile Case Records
Comment: This bill specifies that, whenever a juvenile has been adjudicated of a juvenile crime involving operation of a motor vehicle and the court transmits the abstract to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State may use those records only for purposes of any hearing held by the Secretary of State and that the records may not otherwise be made public or become part of the juvenile's driving or motor vehicle record. This bill would protect the record of a juvenile who is adju

LAW ENFORCEMENT

LOCAL POLICE

LR: 2480 SPONSOR: Rep. Bolduc of Auburn
Title: An Act To Equalize Starting Salaries of Police Officers, Firefighters and Teachers
Comment: This bill would equalize the starting salaries of police officers, firefighters and teachers.

PRISONERS

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

LR: 2386 SPONSOR: Rep. Clarke of Bath

Title: An Act Regarding Inmates on Public Works Projects

Comment: This bill would ensure that the administrator of a regional jail has the same authority as a sheriff has over a county jail to permit certain inmates to participate in public works-related projects or in the improvement of property owned by charitable organizations. It also removes the restriction that such inmates may work only on projects in the county where the jail is located.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2389 Senator Gerzofsky

LR: 2389 SPONSOR: Sen. Gerzofsky of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Amend the Law Regarding Prisoner Participation in Public Works Projects

Comment: This bill would permit participation in public works projects by inmates in regional jails in the same manner as inmates in county jails are permitted.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2386 Representative Clarke

PUBLIC SAFETY

COMMUNICATIONS

LR: 2585 SPONSOR: Rep. Lajoie of Lewiston

Title: An Act To Require Users of Disposable Cellular Telephones To Provide Identifying Information

Comment: This bill would require users of disposable cellular telephones to provide identifying information when these telephones are purchased to enable law enforcement officers and emergency responders to identify the callers.

SENTENCES

TIME SERVED

LR: 2502 SPONSOR: Rep. Haskell of Portland

Title: An Act To Clarify the Court's Authority To Grant Credit toward Payment of Fines Given for Jail Time

Comment: This bill would clarify the court's authority to grant persons credit toward their fines for time served in incarceration. Two provisions currently exist in statute, one for fines for days and one for days for fines; however, the restrictions on the application of these provisions are inconsistent. The purpose of this bill is to make the 2 provisions consistent to eliminate confusion and ensure the law is properly applied.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

NOTIFICATIONS

LR: 2377

SPONSOR: Rep. Casavant of Biddeford

Title: An Act To Better Provide Notification to Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking When Defendants Make Bail

Comment: This bill would seek to ensure that victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking receive notice from the jail when a person is released on bail. Current law requires law enforcement agencies to adopt notification policies, but the practice of notification is not uniform across the State. This bill would require notification by the releasing jail; direct communication with the victim will improve victim safety and consistency in notification procedures.

WEAPONS

CONCEALED WEAPONS

LR: 2424

SPONSOR: Rep. Crafts of Lisbon

Title: An Act To Amend the Law Relating to Concealed Firearms Locked in Vehicles

Comment: This bill would allow a state employee to keep a firearm locked in that employee's car on state property.

WEAPONS

POSSESSION

LR: 2381

SPONSOR: Rep. Bickford of Auburn

Title: An Act To Maintain a Safe Workplace

Comment: This bill would amend Public Law 2011, chapter 393 to specify that, in the absence of a policy prohibiting weapons at an employer's place of business, an employer may not prohibit an employee from keeping a firearm in the employee's locked vehicle. Current law provides employers no discretion regarding this issue.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

ADMINISTRATORS

DUTIES

LR: 2613 SPONSOR: Rep. O'Brien of Lincolnville
Title: An Act To Enhance Professional Development for School Superintendents and Principals
Comment: This bill would require superintendents and principals in public schools to teach in classrooms each year as part of their continuing education.

ADULT EDUCATION

PROGRAMS

LR: 2631 SPONSOR: Sen. Patrick of Oxford
Title: An Act To Establish an Adult Education College and Career Pathways System in Maine
Comment: This bill would establish an adult education college and career pathways system in Maine by building on the existing Maine college transition programs.

CONSOLIDATION

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

LR: 2436 SPONSOR: Rep. Burns of Whiting
Title: An Act To Modify the Alternative Organizational Structure Budget Approval Process
Comment: This bill would give the member entities of an alternative organizational structure the choice to continue with the budget process in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 1461-B, subsection 3, paragraph C or to apportion the costs of system administration and special education administration among the school administrative units in proportion to the services to be performed.

CULTURAL AGENCIES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

LR: 2327 SPONSOR: Rep. Fredette of Newport
Title: Resolve, To Amend the Resolve Establishing a Task Force on Franco-Americans
Comment: This bill would amend Resolve 2011, chapter 102, which established the Task Force on Franco-Americans, to extend the date by which the task force may obtain funding and reduce the cost.

EDUCATION DEPT

POWERS

LR: 2597 SPONSOR: Sen. Jackson of Aroostook

Title: Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program for Partnering Employers with Skilled Employees for Training and Employment

Comment: This resolve would direct the Department of Education to establish a pilot program based on a Rhode Island initiative that partners employers with adult education programs, community colleges and state agencies to identify jobs that need filling and to assist workers who need training.

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

CHARTER SCHOOLS

LR: 2531 SPONSOR: Rep. Ayotte of Caswell

Title: An Act To Update the Laws Concerning the Maine School of Science and Mathematics

Comment: This bill would update the laws concerning the Maine School of Science and Mathematics to change the designation of the school from a "chartered school" to a "magnet school" and change the title of "superintendent" of the school to "executive director" to avoid confusion with other statutory terms.

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

SCHOOL CHOICE

LR: 2482 SPONSOR: Sen. Sullivan of York

Title: An Act To Improve School Choice for Maine Students

Comment: This bill would require that a contracted school where more than 49% of the student population is paid for using tax dollars must adhere to all state and federal requirements for public schools and must perform above the state average as determined by the Maine Department of Education.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

CONSTRUCTION

LR: 2523 SPONSOR: Rep. Fredette of Newport

Title: An Act To Eliminate the Priority Treatment of Innovative Schools for School Construction Funds

Comment: This bill would eliminate the funding set aside for innovative school construction projects and eliminate the priority treatment of innovative schools for school construction funds.

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

ADJUSTMENTS

LR: 2325 SPONSOR: Rep. Malaby of Hancock

Title: An Act To Create an Equal Education Funding Model

Comment: This bill would repeal the current school funding formula and instead distribute to municipalities exactly the same amount of money per student for each day a student is in attendance.

Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 93

LR: 2380 SPONSOR: Rep. Gifford of Lincoln

Title: An Act To Enforce Prompt Payment to Career and Technical Education Regions

Comment: This bill would enact measures designed to ensure prompt payment by school administrative units to career and technical education regions.

LR: 2382 SPONSOR: Rep. Turner of Burlington

Title: An Act Regarding the School Fund in the Town of Burlington

Comment: This bill would allow the Town of Burlington to lapse the funds remaining in a school fund to the town's general fund.

LR: 2432 SPONSOR: Rep. Lovejoy of Portland

Title: An Act To Ensure Equitable School Funding in the State

Comment: This bill would amend the school funding formula to repeal the changes enacted in Public Law 2011, chapter 419. In addition, this bill would amend the formula that established the stipend for student poverty and direct the Department of Education to study the current funding formula.

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

LR: 2400 SPONSOR: Sen. Snowe-Mello of Androscoggin

Title: An Act To Improve the Budget Approval and Validation Process

Comment: This bill would require that a regional school unit's last approved budget stay in effect if a municipality votes down a proposed school-year budget.

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

STATE/LOCAL SHARE

LR: 2618 SPONSOR: Sen. Raye of Washington

Title: An Act To Clarify Municipal Budget Requirements within an Alternative Organizational Structure

Comment: This bill would clarify that an alternative organizational structure follows the same procedure as a regional school unit for committing taxes in the absence of approval of the school unit budget.

SCHOOL POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

LR: 2458 SPONSOR: Rep. Soctomah of Passamaquoddy Tribe

Title: An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing School Enrollment for Children Who Are Placed in Foster Homes by Indian Child Welfare Agencies

Comment: This bill would specifically authorize children who are placed outside the reservation by Indian Child Welfare agencies to attend school where the foster family resides.

SCHOOL POLICIES

COMPUTERS

LR: 2504 SPONSOR: Rep. Russell of Portland

Title: An Act To Update Options under the Maine Learning Technology Initiative

Comment: This bill would permit school districts to provide alternative technologies to students under the Maine Learning Technology Initiative.

SCHOOL POLICIES

DISCIPLINE

LR: 2341 SPONSOR: Sen. Craven of Androscoggin

Title: An Act To Prevent Bullying in Schools

Comment: This bill would enact an anti-cyberbullying law based on Massachusetts law.

Closely Related CO: LD 1237
LD 980

SCHOOL POLICIES

SCHOOL YEAR

LR: 2317 SPONSOR: Sen. Thibodeau of Waldo

Title: An Act To Require a Minimum Number of School Days for All Schools

Comment: This bill would require all public and private elementary and secondary schools, regardless of the accrediting body, to meet for at least 175 days.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

LR: 2342 SPONSOR: Sen. Craven of Androscoggin

Title: An Act To Encourage Choice in Alternative Education

Comment: This bill would require a provider of alternative education to be paid by a school administrative unit if that provider is already being paid by another school administrative unit.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

LR: 2443 SPONSOR: Rep. Pilon of Saco
Title: An Act To Establish the Maine State High School Marching Band
Comment: This bill would establish the Maine State High School Marching Band.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

HEALTH CARE

LR: 2646 SPONSOR: Rep. Cain of Orono
Title: An Act To Prevent Cost Increases in Health Care for Rural Maine School Districts
Comment: This bill would prevent cost increases in health care for rural school districts.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

STATE MANDATED PROGRAMS

LR: 2607 SPONSOR: Sen. Alfond of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Encourage Parental Involvement in Education
Comment: This bill would require every local school district to develop and implement a program to involve parents in the schools and classrooms. Plans must be submitted to the Department of Education every August. The Department of Education would develop a forum on their website to post the plans by district and by school, along with opportunities for parents to communicate about plans via the website.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

LR: 2525 SPONSOR: Sen. Langley of Hancock
Title: An Act To Clarify the Membership of Intermediate Educational Unit Boards
Comment: This bill would clarify that employees of Head Start programs may serve as members of the boards of directors of Child Development Service System units.

TEACHERS

CERTIFICATION

LR: 2635 SPONSOR: Sen. Alfond of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Restructure the National Board Certification Program for Teachers
Comment: This bill would restructure Maine's participation in the National Board Certification program for teachers to provide incentives for teachers to improve their effectiveness through national certification.

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**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATION**

LR: 2449 SPONSOR: Rep. Sanborn of Gorham

Title: An Act To Improve the Opportunity Maine Program

Comment: This bill would allow a person who transfers to a postsecondary Maine school to be eligible for the Opportunity Maine program on a prorated basis.

LR: 2533 SPONSOR: Sen. Alford of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Improve the Readiness of Maine High School Graduates

Comment: This bill would require the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System to report annually on the number of Maine high school students who are enrolled in remediation course work at each campus within their respective systems.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

EMISSIONS

LR: 2363 SPONSOR: Rep. Sirocki of Scarborough
Title: An Act To Withdraw the State from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
Comment: Current law requires the State to withdraw from the regional greenhouse gas initiative if other participating states have a total carbon dioxide emissions budget totaling less than 35,000 tons. This bill would eliminate this condition for withdrawal, and instead require the State simply to withdraw from the regional greenhouse gas initiative.

AIR QUALITY

OPEN BURNING

LR: 2433 SPONSOR: Sen. Courtney of York
Title: An Act To Reduce Open Burning in Community Neighborhoods
Comment: This bill would reduce open burning in community neighborhoods by authorizing limited open burnings at the primary business location of commercial operators engaged in the business of removing and disposing of leaves, brush, deadwood and tree cuttings.

CONTAINERS - RETURNABLE

BOTTLES

LR: 2456 SPONSOR: Rep. Hamper of Oxford
Title: An Act To Reduce Fraud Relating to Returnable Containers
Comment: This bill would reduce the incidence of the redemption of beverage containers on which no deposit has been paid.
Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 900 ONTP

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPT

PROCEDURES

LR: 2513 SPONSOR: Sen. Saviello of Franklin
Title: An Act To Refine the Definition of "Person Aggrieved" in Proceedings before the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission
Comment: This bill would amend the laws governing proceedings before the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission to define "person aggrieved."

GROUND WATER

WELLS

LR: 2357 SPONSOR: Rep. Sirocki of Scarborough
Title: An Act To Improve Well Water Testing at Licensed Child Care Facilities
Comment: This bill would require testing of well water used at licensed child care facilities for arsenic and cadmium.

LAND USE

COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

LR: 2476 SPONSOR: Rep. Beliveau of Kittery
Title: An Act To Amend the Definition of "Zoning Ordinance"
Comment: This bill would specify that only a town-wide cluster development ordinance or a design ordinance is exempt from being consistent with a comprehensive plan.

LAND USE

EXEMPTIONS

LR: 2511 SPONSOR: Sen. Saviello of Franklin
Title: An Act To Clarify Site Location Exemptions for Previously Developed Sites
Comment: Current law provides that developments that are in existence, authorized, licensed or under construction prior to specified dates are exempted from the laws governing site location of development. This bill would specify that any modification to, change in use of, or addition to such a development does not affect the exemption.

PROTECTED NATURAL RESOURCES

SAND DUNES

LR: 2407 SPONSOR: Rep. Chase of Wells
Title: An Act To Provide for the Reconstruction of an Existing Structure in a Frontal Dune
Comment: This bill would permit the reconstruction of an existing structure on a frontal dune if the structure existed before June 18, 2006, the reconstructed structure will be located on poles, and relocation is minimized.
Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 256

WASTES

MEDICAL WASTES

LR: 2505 SPONSOR: Sen. Dill of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Facilitate the Environmentally Sound Processing of Biomedical Waste
Comment: This bill would amend the law to allow the use of a biomedical waste treatment device by a health care provider to treat waste generated by that health care provider.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2514 Senator Saviello

LR: 2514 SPONSOR: Sen. Saviello of Franklin
Title: An Act To Facilitate the Use of Alternative Biomedical Waste Treatment Devices
Comment: This bill would authorize the use of alternative biomedical waste treatment devices by a health care provider to treat waste generated by that health care provider.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2505 Senator Dill

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WASTES

RECYCLING

LR: 2445

SPONSOR: Rep. Knapp of Gorham

Title: An Act To Improve Recycling of Mercury-containing Lamps

Comment: This bill would make improvements in the recycling program for mercury-containing fluorescent lamps by creating efficiencies in the collection program, improving recycling education and enhancing the long-term viability of the program.

WATER QUALITY

SALT RUNOFF

LR: 2576

SPONSOR: Rep. Knapp of Gorham

Title: An Act To Reduce Sedimentation in Lakes and Ponds

Comment: This bill would require that culverts provided by the Department of Transportation within one mile of a body of water have plunge pools on either end of the culverts and check dams where appropriate to slow the velocity of water in order to reduce sedimentation and phosphorous runoff in lakes and ponds.

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

HYDROPOWER

LR: 2350 SPONSOR: Rep. Sarty, Jr. of Denmark

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Extraction of Water from Great Ponds for Purposes of Generating Energy

Comment: This bill would require that the State, through the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Conservation and Department of Environmental Protection, authorize the volume of water to be extracted from great ponds for purposes of generating electricity.

LR: 2375 SPONSOR: Rep. Johnson of Greenville

Title: An Act To Improve Maine's Capacity To Produce Low-cost Renewable Energy

Comment: This bill would prohibit the issuance of a permit to remove a dam from hydroelectric generating capacity unless there is a demonstrated replacement for the energy.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

PRODUCTS

LR: 2632 SPONSOR: Rep. Fitts of Pittsfield

Title: An Act To Support Maine's Biomass and Forest Products Industries

Comment: This bill would amend the Community-based Renewable Energy Act to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to enter into short-term bridge contracts with qualifying biomass generators to ensure their continued operation during market fluctuations.

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

DELIVERY

LR: 2619 SPONSOR: Sen. Raye of Washington

Title: An Act To Increase Energy Options

Comment: This bill would grant to communities not served by consumer-owned utilities the opportunity to manage their own standard-offer electricity supplies in the same manner permitted for consumer-owned utilities.

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

PLANNING

LR: 2399 SPONSOR: Sen. Snowe-Mello of Androscoggin

Title: An Act To Expedite Restoration of Utilities after Storm Damage

Comment: This bill would allow electricians and local municipally-approved workers, including arborists and foresters, to begin work on downed trees and limbs during power outages after damaging storms.

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

PLANNING

LR: 2541 SPONSOR: Rep. Beavers of South Berwick

Title: Resolve, Regarding Opt-out Charges for Smart Meters

Comment: This bill would prohibit the assessment of additional charges to consumers who opt out of having a smart meter connected to the home.

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

RESTRUCTURING

LR: 2489 SPONSOR: Sen. Sherman of Aroostook

Title: An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing Electric Industry Restructuring

Comment: This bill would clarify the laws governing electric industry restructuring by providing that affiliates of transmission and distribution utilities, as well as transmission and distribution utilities, are not permitted to own, have a financial interest in or otherwise control generation or generation-related assets located in Maine or used to provide electric service in Maine unless permitted by the Public Utilities Commission.

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

TRANSMISSION LINES

LR: 2591 SPONSOR: Rep. Boland of Sanford

Title: An Act To Secure the Safety of High-voltage Transmission Lines

Comment: This bill would require the Public Utilities Commission, when approving the construction of a transmission line, to consider the impact of electromagnetic fields on public health and the vulnerability of the electric transmission system to interruption. Projects previously approved would be required to incorporate protection measures.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2642 Representative O'Connor

LR: 2642 SPONSOR: Rep. O'Connor of Berwick

Title: An Act To Protect Maine Children through an Emergency Update of Electric Power Transmission Rules

Comment: This bill would enact regulations restricting how close to homes, schools, childcare centers and playgrounds a high-voltage power line may be installed.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2591 Representative Boland

ENERGY

AUDITS

LR: 2581 SPONSOR: Rep. Chapman of Brooksville

Title: An Act To Establish Disclosure Standards for Energy Auditors and Weatherization Contractors

Comment: This bill would require energy auditors to disclose to customers and potential customers relationships with businesses that provide the type of services recommended by the auditor and the right of the customer to choose service providers.

GAS UTILITIES

NATURAL GAS

LR: 2589 SPONSOR: Sen. Katz of Kennebec
Title: An Act To Expand the Availability of Natural Gas to Maine Residents
Comment: This bill would establish a minimum equity contribution and a minimum and maximum capital reserve requirement for applicants to the Finance Authority of Maine seeking funds to finance energy distribution system projects for natural gas.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

9-1-1 EMERGENCY SYSTEM

LR: 2348 SPONSOR: Sen. Thibodeau of Waldo
Title: An Act To Create Efficiency in E-9-1-1 Call Centers
Comment: This bill would create efficiency in E-9-1-1 call centers.

UTILITY DISTRICTS

CHARTER CHANGES

LR: 2434 SPONSOR: Sen. Hill of York
Title: An Act To Amend the Charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District
Comment: This bill would amend the charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District.

LR: 2528 SPONSOR: Rep. Parker of Veazie
Title: An Act To Amend the Charter of the Veazie Sewer District
Comment: This bill would amend the charter of the Veazie Sewer District.

UTILITY DISTRICTS

NEW

LR: 2501 SPONSOR: Rep. Espling of New Gloucester
Title: An Act To Create the New Gloucester Water District
Comment: This bill would create the New Gloucester Water District.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CHILD CARE

LR: 2593 SPONSOR: Rep. Stevens of Bangor
Title: An Act To Update the Standards for Identification of Quality Child Care Providers for Purposes of Payment Differentials
Comment: This bill would update the method of identifying quality child care providers for the purpose of payment differentials to reflect recent changes in professional standards.

FOOD STAMPS

GUIDELINES

LR: 2474 SPONSOR: Sen. Sullivan of York
Title: An Act To Prohibit Soda and Candy from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Comment: This bill would seek a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture that would prohibit the purchase of soda and candy with food stamps.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPT

PROCEDURES

LR: 2343 SPONSOR: Sen. Craven of Androscoggin
Title: An Act Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services To Specify Duration of Service When Setting Rates by Rule
Comment: This bill would require that the Department of Health and Human Services establish by rule that the department must specify duration of service when setting rates for service.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

HOSPITALS

LR: 2469 SPONSOR: Rep. Espling of New Gloucester
Title: An Act To Allow Hospitals To Charge a Copayment for Nonemergency Use of an Emergency Room by Certain MaineCare Recipients
Comment: This bill would allow a hospital to charge a copayment for emergency room visits by MaineCare recipients when the hospital determines the patient does not have an emergency medical condition and provides that patient with assistance in finding an alternative provider.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

HOSPITALS

LR: 2477 SPONSOR: Rep. Bolduc of Auburn

Title: An Act To Withhold Subsidies from Any Hospital That Pays Its Hospital Administrators Annual Salaries Greater than the Annual Salary of the Governor

Comment: This bill would prohibit the State from paying subsidies to any hospital that pays its hospital administrators annual salaries greater than the annual salary of the Governor.

Closely Related CO: LD 29

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

NURSING HOMES

LR: 2450 SPONSOR: Rep. Strang Burgess of Cumberland

Title: Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Health and Human Services To Develop an Alternative Method of Calculating Minimum Staffing Levels in Nursing Homes

Comment: This resolve would authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to develop an alternative method of calculating minimum staffing levels in nursing homes.

HEALTH CARE RECORDS

CHILDREN

LR: 2481 SPONSOR: Rep. Bolduc of Auburn

Title: An Act To Repeal the Law Governing the Collection and Use of Health-related and Personal Information Regarding Minors

Comment: This bill would repeal the law governing the collection and use of health-related and personal information regarding minors.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

HOSPICES

LR: 2351 SPONSOR: Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham

Title: An Act To Improve Care Options for Sufferers of Serious Illness

Comment: This bill would direct the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to develop a plan that includes goals and benchmarks to enable all Maine residents to have access to affordable hospice care by 2025.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

LR: 2426 SPONSOR: Sen. McCormick of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Conform Maine's Prescription Privacy Laws with the United States Constitution

Comment: This bill would repeal provisions of Maine's laws providing confidentiality for certain prescription drug information relating to prescribers to conform state law to the United States Supreme Court decision in *Sorrell v. IMS Health, Inc.*, 131 S. Ct. 2653 (2011) holding unconstitutional similar provisions in the laws of Vermont.

LR: 2490 SPONSOR: Rep. Gifford of Lincoln

Title: An Act To Require That Pseudoephedrine Be Made Available by Prescription Only

Comment: This bill would make pseudoephedrine and products containing pseudoephedrine available by prescription only.

Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 774

LR: 2544 SPONSOR: Rep. Willette of Mapleton

Title: An Act To Restrict Further the Amount of Methamphetamine Precursors That May Be Bought or Sold

Comment: This bill would amend the current restrictions on the sale of a targeted methamphetamine precursor to limit sales to 3.6 grams per day and 9 grams per 30 days. It also places the same restrictions on purchases.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

SCREENING

LR: 2315 SPONSOR: Rep. Beck of Waterville

Title: An Act To Require Birthing Facilities To Screen Newborns for Congenital Heart Disease

Comment: This bill would require licensed health care facilities with inpatient birthing services to perform pulse oximetry screening on newborns to detect congenital heart disease.

MEDICAID

FRAUD

LR: 2614 SPONSOR: Rep. Gifford of Lincoln

Title: An Act Relating to False Claims under the Medicaid Program

Comment: This bill would amend the laws regarding the penalties for false claims under the Medicaid program to model those laws after the federal False Claims Act.

MEDICAID

MAINECARE

LR: 2540 SPONSOR: Sen. Craven of Androscoggin

Title: An Act To Require That a Proposed Cut to the MaineCare Program Be Accompanied by an Economic Impact Statement

Comment: This bill would require the committee of jurisdiction and the appropriations committee to provide a formula that would show how many provider jobs would be lost when any cuts to MaineCare are made.

LR: 2600 SPONSOR: Rep. Eves of North Berwick

Title: An Act To Ensure the Continuation of Federal Matching Funds for Certain MaineCare Services

Comment: This bill would make explicit the existing legal authority of licensed health care practitioners to deliver case management services as part of their licensed scope of practice and to supervise certain qualified personnel.

LR: 2629 SPONSOR: Rep. Chipman of Portland

Title: An Act To Restore Health Care and Other Benefits for Legal Immigrants

Comment: This bill would restore MaineCare benefits to legal immigrants, repealing the limits imposed by the state budget passed earlier this year. This bill would also repeal the 5-year residency requirement for legal immigrants to receive any benefits such as TANF or food stamps, another restriction imposed by the state budget passed earlier this year.

LR: 2640 SPONSOR: Rep. Burns of Whiting

Title: An Act To Improve Accountability Concerning Travel Reimbursement under MaineCare

Comment: This bill would improve accountability in travel reimbursement payments to MaineCare methadone clients by verifying the travel of the recipients.

MEDICAID

REIMBURSEMENT

LR: 2645 SPONSOR: Rep. Cain of Orono

Title: An Act To Ensure Access to Prescription Drugs in Rural Maine by Ensuring Fairness in Reimbursement for Mail Order Pharmacies

Comment: This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to provide the same Medicaid reimbursement rate for prescriptions purchased through the mail as it provides for prescriptions bought on-site. This bill would take effect only if the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services changes the reimbursement pricing model and allows states to equalize reimbursement rates.

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MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
CIVIL COMMITMENTS

LR: 2630

SPONSOR: Rep. Moulton of York

Title: An Act To Clarify the Status of Patients Held under Involuntary Commitment Applications

Comment: This bill would clarify that a judicial finding that an application and certificate are in order for transport of a person for mental health evaluation and treatment is not a determination of involuntary commitment.

INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

FINANCIAL PRACTICES

DISCLOSURE

LR: 2572 SPONSOR: Rep. Richardson of Warren
Title: An Act To Permit Financial Institutions To Share Certain Information for the Purpose of Preventing Electronic Bank Card Losses
Comment: This bill would permit financial institutions to share information about persons other than individuals to the same extent that information about individuals may be shared under federal law.

FINANCIAL PRACTICES

INVESTMENTS

LR: 2486 SPONSOR: Rep. Richardson of Warren
Title: An Act To Require Funds for Prearranged Funerals To Be Invested Subject to the Requirements of the Maine Uniform Prudent Investor Act
Comment: This bill would require that funds held in prearranged funeral and burial plans be invested and managed in a manner consistent with the Maine Uniform Prudent Investor Act.

FINANCIAL PRACTICES

MORTGAGES

LR: 2368 SPONSOR: Rep. Russell of Portland
Title: An Act To Prohibit the Mortgage Securitization Practice of Endorsement in Blank
Comment: This bill would prohibit the mortgage securitization practice of endorsement in blank.

INSURANCE

CASUALTY

LR: 2453 SPONSOR: Rep. Picchiotti of Fairfield
Title: An Act To Improve the Rights of Insurance Companies with Regard to Property and Casualty Insurance Subrogation
Comment: Current law prohibits casualty insurance policies from providing for subrogation, if the award or settlement does not exceed \$20,000. This bill would remove the prohibition.

INSURANCE

DENTAL

LR: 2419 SPONSOR: Sen. Katz of Kennebec
Title: An Act To Guarantee Basic Preventive Dental Health Services for Children in Maine
Comment: This bill would require dental insurance companies to cover fluoride treatments for children less than 18 years of age consistent with American Dental Association recommendations.

INSURANCE

HEALTH

LR: 2319 SPONSOR: Sen. Courtney of York

Title: An Act To Change Certain Effective Dates Regarding Guaranteed Access and the Purchase of Health Insurance from outside Maine

Comment: This bill would change the effective dates of provisions of law authorizing the purchase of insurance from a regional insurer or health maintenance organization and through the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association to allow these provisions to take effect immediately instead of in January 2014 and July 2012.

LR: 2398 SPONSOR: Rep. Sarty, Jr. of Denmark

Title: An Act To Restore Supplemental Health Insurance Coverage for Disadvantaged Children of State Retirees

Comment: This bill would restore supplemental health insurance coverage for disadvantaged children over 19 years of age of retirees in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

LR: 2448 SPONSOR: Sen. Martin, Jr. of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Health Insurance for Certain State Employees

Comment: This bill would exempt certain persons in appointed positions in State Government who have not yet reached retirement age, but who have the number of years required, from the requirement that a person retire by January 1, 2012 or be responsible for 100% of health insurance premiums until retirement.

LR: 2522 SPONSOR: Sen. Katz of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Clarify Health Insurance Benefits for Disabled Participants in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

Comment: This bill would clarify the laws governing health insurance benefits for disabled participants in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to ensure that these participants are able to access health insurance benefits before they reach normal retirement age.

LR: 2529 SPONSOR: Sen. Rector of Knox

Title: An Act To Allow Employees of the Small Enterprise Growth Fund To Participate in the State's Group Health Plan

Comment: This bill would allow employees of the Small Enterprise Growth Fund to participate in the State's group health plan.

LR: 2535 SPONSOR: Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake

Title: An Act To Repeal the Authority for an Insurer To Vary the Premium Rate Based on Geographic Area

Comment: This bill would repeal the authority for a health insurance provider to vary the premium rate based on geographic area.

INSURANCE

HEALTH

LR: 2596 SPONSOR: Rep. Richardson of Warren

Title: An Act To Correct Inconsistencies and Ambiguities in the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association Act

Comment: This bill would make technical corrections to address inconsistencies and ambiguities in the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association Act.

LR: 2612 SPONSOR: Rep. Fitts of Pittsfield

Title: An Act Related to Specialty Tiers in Prescription Medication Pricing

Comment: This bill would provide that a health plan covering prescription medications may not require cost-sharing, deductibles or coinsurance that exceeds the dollar amount for non-preferred brand drugs or the equivalent.

LR: 2628 SPONSOR: Rep. Chipman of Portland

Title: An Act To Restore Consumer Protections in Health Care

Comment: This bill would repeal Public Law 2011, chapter 90, which modified rating practices for individual and small group health plans and dealt with value-based purchasing of health care services.

LR: 2669 SPONSOR: Rep. Graham of North Yarmouth

Title: An Act To Enhance Affordable Quality Health Care in Maine

Comment: This bill would establish a council to monitor health care payment reform, innovation, accessibility and quality. The bill would also require the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to review and approve proposed insurance premium rate increases and to provide oversight of the reinsurance market.

INSURANCE

LIFE

LR: 2485 SPONSOR: Rep. McKane of Newcastle

Title: An Act To Permit a Pre-need Life Insurance Product and Limited License for Payment of Prearranged Funeral Plans

Comment: This bill would amend the law regarding solicitation of prearranged funerals to define "solicitation" to mean uninvited telephone or home contact. This bill would also allow the payment of commissions for pre-need life insurance and repeal the prohibition against insurers' contracting with a funeral provider.

INSURANCE

MOTOR VEHICLE

LR: 2387 SPONSOR: Rep. Luchini of Ellsworth

Title: An Act To Extend Certain Insurance Protection to Emergency Responders

Comment: Current law prohibits an insurer from increasing the insurance policy premium of a law enforcement officer for a motor vehicle accident that occurs while the officer is acting in the course and scope of employment. This bill would extend this protection to all emergency responders.

INSURANCE PRACTICES

CANCELLATION

LR: 2451

SPONSOR: Rep. O'Connor of Berwick

Title: An Act To Amend the Insurance Law as It Pertains to Notification of Cancellation or Nonrenewal

Comment: This bill would amend the insurance law as it pertains to the notification of the cancellation and nonrenewal of insurance policies.

INSURANCE PRACTICES

CLAIMS PROCESSING

LR: 2569

SPONSOR: Rep. Cushing, III of Hampden

Title: An Act Regarding Insurance Adjusters

Comment: This bill would clarify that clerical activities associated with licensed insurance adjuster activities for electronic portable devices do not require an adjustor's license. It also would amend the laws governing the reporting standards for nonresident owners of claims adjusting businesses.

INSURANCE PRACTICES

REINSURANCE

LR: 2369

SPONSOR: Sen. Courtney of York

Title: An Act To Extend the Scope of the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association

Comment: This bill would extend the provisions of the law governing the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association to apply to small groups of 10 or fewer.

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

FISH

EELS

LR: 2484 SPONSOR: Rep. Tilton of Harrington
Title: An Act To Sustain the Elver Fishery
Comment: This bill would sustain the market for elvers while conserving the elver resource by allowing fishing with reasonable conditions.

FISH

PROTECTION

LR: 2610 SPONSOR: Rep. Wood of Sabattus
Title: An Act To Facilitate the Stocking of Water Bodies by Municipalities
Comment: This bill would authorize a municipality to stock bodies of water within its boundaries with fish acquired from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or approved private hatcheries in accordance with standards and procedures established by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Under this bill, the municipality would be required to pay all of the expenses incurred by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in inspections and monitoring related to such fish stocking.

FISHING

REGULATIONS

LR: 2320 SPONSOR: Rep. Davis, Sr. of Sangerville
Title: An Act To Require a Person Who Catches a Northern Pike To Kill It
Comment: This bill would require a person who catches a northern pike to kill it.

GAME

BEAR

LR: 2641 SPONSOR: Rep. Burns of Whiting
Title: An Act To Protect Blueberry Lands from Damage from Dog Training
Comment: This bill would protect blueberry growers' lands from damage incurred by dog training by prohibiting such training in active blueberry areas.
Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 996

GAME

BIRDS

LR: 2472 SPONSOR: Rep. Plummer of Windham
Title: An Act To Increase the Pheasant Hunting Permit Fee
Comment: This bill would increase the pheasant hunting permit fee to \$29, with \$27 designated to support the pheasant hunting program and \$2 retained by the vendor.

HUNTING

REGULATIONS

LR: 2543 SPONSOR: Rep. Cray of Palmyra

Title: An Act To Prohibit Hunting within 1,200 Feet of a Dwelling

Comment: This bill would prohibit hunting within 1,200 feet, or 400 yards, of a dwelling.

LR: 2609 SPONSOR: Rep. Wood of Sabattus

Title: An Act To Increase the Hours of the Day Authorized for Turkey Hunting

Comment: This bill would increase the portion of the day during which turkey hunting is authorized.

HUNTING

YOUTH LICENSES

LR: 2579 SPONSOR: Rep. Harmon of Palermo

Title: An Act To Encourage Youth Hunting

Comment: This bill would increase by 1% the number of antlerless deer permits available for youth.

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE DEPT

FUNDING

LR: 2521 SPONSOR: Sen. Raye of Washington

Title: An Act To Ensure a Reliable Funding Stream for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Comment: This bill would establish a means of funding the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

RECREATION

PROPERTY ACCESS

LR: 2422 SPONSOR: Rep. Cushing, III of Hampden

Title: An Act To Strengthen the Relationship between Land Users and Landowners

Comment: This bill would make statutory changes that would help continue the tradition of public recreational access to private land. Specifically, it would revamp the Landowners and Sportsmen Relations Advisory Board's functions, establish a strategy for long-term funding of a landowner relations program, implement the recommendations being developed for a land user certification program and update the landowner liability laws as they relate to public use of private land.

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RECREATION

SNOWMOBILES

LR: 2638

SPONSOR: Sen. Martin, Jr. of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Improve Maine's Snowmobiling Experience

Comment: This bill would increase snowmobile registration fees and give people the opportunity to donate to the Snowmobile Trail Fund without having to join a snowmobile club. The bill would also require that the donated funds must be used for trail maintenance.

RECREATION

WATERCRAFT

LR: 2359

SPONSOR: Rep. Malaby of Hancock

Title: An Act To Require the Use of a Personal Flotation Device in a Kayak and Canoe

Comment: This bill would require a person in a kayak or canoe to wear a Type I, II or III personal flotation device.

JUDICIARY

ATTORNEYS

ATTORNEYS FEES

LR: 2639 SPONSOR: Sen. Martin, Jr. of Kennebec
Title: An Act To Improve Interaction between State Agencies and Small Businesses
Comment: This bill would authorize the award of administrative costs or litigation costs to the prevailing party in an administrative action or court action involving the State. This bill would require that the penalties be withdrawn and that the prevailing party be afforded restitution for attorney and court costs. If the State were to prevail, it would be awarded compensation for its defense fees.
Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 1093

CIVIL PROCEDURE

PROCESS

LR: 2403 SPONSOR: Sen. Jackson of Aroostook
Title: An Act To Require Reciprocity in Restraining Orders
Comment: This bill would require that restraining orders apply to both parties concerning contact.

CIVIL PROCEDURE

SMALL CLAIMS

LR: 2503 SPONSOR: Rep. Priest of Brunswick
Title: An Act To Provide Magistrates To Assist the Court in Handling Small Claims and Landlord-tenant Cases
Comment: This bill would permit the use of magistrates in small claims and landlord-tenant cases in order to avoid significant delays in district court. The court would be authorized to increase filing fees to cover the cost.

COURTS

JURISDICTION

LR: 2435 SPONSOR: Rep. Maloney of Augusta
Title: An Act To Establish a Veterans Court
Comment: This bill would establish a pilot program creating within the judicial system a specialized court for military veterans staffed by veterans.

COURTS

JURORS

LR: 2418 SPONSOR: Rep. Tilton of Harrington
Title: An Act To Increase the Mileage Allowance for Jurors
Comment: This bill would raise the mileage allowance for jurors from 15¢ per mile to 25¢.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

CHILD CUSTODY

LR: 2439 SPONSOR: Sen. Schneider of Penobscot
Title: An Act To Remove Redundancy in Child Custody Laws
Comment: This bill would remove the requirement that a custodial parent go back to court if a noncustodial parent does not return a child to the custodial parent.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

CHILD SUPPORT

LR: 2444 SPONSOR: Rep. Nass of Acton
Title: An Act To Clarify the Requirements of Income Withholding Orders
Comment: This bill would amend the laws governing income withholding orders as they relate to payor notices in order to conform to recent changes in federal law.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

MARRIAGE

LR: 2366 SPONSOR: Rep. Russell of Portland
Title: An Act To Recognize Common-law Marriage
Comment: This bill would recognize common-law marriage.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

PARENTAL RIGHTS

LR: 2388 SPONSOR: Rep. Beck of Waterville
Title: Resolve, Establishing a Panel To Study and Make Recommendations Regarding the Rights of Stepparents
Comment: This bill would create a panel to make recommendations regarding the rights of stepparents in the judicial process.

FREEDOM OF ACCESS

PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS

LR: 2637 SPONSOR: Rep. Hinck of Portland
Title: An Act To Affirm the Right To Photograph or Videotape Public Officials in Public Places
Comment: This bill would affirm the right of an individual to photograph, film or videotape public events, including events involving public officials in public places, subject to place and manner restrictions for safety and to restrictions preventing undue interference with public officials' performance of their official duties.

FREEDOM OF ACCESS

RECORD CONFIDENTIALITY

LR: 2651 SPONSOR: Rep. Hayes of Buckfield
Title: An Act To Protect the Privacy of Social Workers
Comment: This bill would prohibit the State from making public the results of licensed clinical social worker examinations.

HUMAN RIGHTS

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

LR: 2367 SPONSOR: Rep. Russell of Portland
Title: An Act To Limit the Definition of "Person" to a Human Being
Comment: This bill would limit the definition of "person" to a human being.

LEGAL SERVICES

INDIGENT

LR: 2425 SPONSOR: Sen. Hastings, III of Oxford
Title: An Act To Facilitate Recovery of Debts Owed to the State for Indigent Legal Services
Comment: This bill would authorize the Judicial Branch to disclose financial information to the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services for the purpose of aiding the commission in collection of amounts owed to the commission for indigent legal services.

NATIVE AMERICANS

LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT

LR: 2355 SPONSOR: Rep. Mitchell of Penobscot Nation
Title: An Act To Change the Procedures for Approval of Certain Gaming Facilities within Indian Territory
Comment: This bill would amend the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act to permit federally recognized tribes in Maine to operate gaming facilities within Indian territory under the procedures of the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

REAL ESTATE

TIMESHARES

LR: 2412 SPONSOR: Rep. Crockett of Bethel
Title: An Act To Simplify the Foreclosure Process on Abandoned Time-share Condominiums
Comment: This bill would treat abandoned time-share condominiums as abandoned property in order to reduce the costs of foreclosure for the remaining time-share holders.

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STATUTES

ERRORS AND INCONSISTENCIES

LR: 2404 SPONSOR: Sen. Hastings, III of Oxford
Title: An Act To Clarify Authorization for a Court Facilities Bond
Comment: This bill would make a technical correction to language authorizing the issuance of a bond for court facilities.

TORTS

IMMUNITY

LR: 2602 SPONSOR: Sen. Hill of York
Title: An Act To Provide Tort Claims Immunity for Non-Maine Regional Transit Organizations That Provide Regular Service in Maine
Comment: This bill would provide the same tort claims immunity to transit organizations operating in Maine but organized under the laws of another state as applies to transit organizations organized in Maine.

TORTS

LIABILITY

LR: 2518 SPONSOR: Rep. Libby of Waterboro
Title: An Act To Limit the Liability of Charitable Organizations and Clubs
Comment: This bill would limit the liability of a charitable organization or club for injury to a consumer from a donated service or product.

LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS PRACTICES

AUTOMOBILE SALES

LR: 2601 SPONSOR: Rep. Fossel of Alna
Title: An Act To Allow Automobile Sales on Sunday
Comment: This bill would allow automobile sales on Sundays.
Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 186

LR: 2661 SPONSOR: Rep. Cushing, III of Hampden
Title: An Act To Amend the Uniform Commercial Code Regarding Motor Vehicle Warranties
Comment: This bill would amend the Uniform Commercial Code to codify the practice by sellers and manufacturers of motor vehicles of excluding or modifying implied warranties.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

GASOLINE STATIONS

LR: 2361 SPONSOR: Rep. O'Connor of Berwick
Title: An Act To Facilitate the Purchase of Reduced Ethanol Fuel by Consumers in the State
Comment: This bill would require that, in addition to any other gasoline they offer, retail dealers and distributors of gasoline in the State offer for sale gasoline blended with only 3% ethanol.

LR: 2446 SPONSOR: Sen. Hastings, III of Oxford
Title: An Act To Protect Gasoline Marketers from Liability for Selling Federally Mandated Gasoline
Comment: This bill would exempt from liability for damage to engines retailers and wholesalers of gasoline that contains more than 10% ethanol, if that percentage is required by the federal government.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

HOME HEATING

LR: 2344 SPONSOR: Sen. Patrick of Oxford
Title: An Act To Protect Consumers Who Enter into Prepaid Oil Contracts
Comment: This bill would require an oil company to reimburse customers who enter into prepaid oil contracts.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

REGULATIONS

LR: 2405 SPONSOR: Rep. Longstaff of Waterville

Title: An Act To Prevent the Theft and Illegal Sale of Copper

Comment: This bill would address the problem of copper theft and illegal sales of copper by instituting changes in the sale and purchase of copper based on other states' actions in addressing the issue.

LR: 2658 SPONSOR: Rep. Prescott of Topsham

Title: An Act To Provide Additional In-store Advertising Space for Maine's Businesses

Comment: This bill would remove the requirement that retailers post certain permits and licenses. It would require retailers to make these permits and licenses available for inspection upon request.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

SALES

LR: 2542 SPONSOR: Rep. Casavant of Biddeford

Title: An Act To Require a Decibel Warning for Certain Portable Devices

Comment: This bill would require the inclusion of a warning label for portable audio players and an indication on the volume control of the point where the sound reaches 85 decibels.

COMPENSATION

WAGES

LR: 2659 SPONSOR: Rep. O'Connor of Berwick

Title: An Act To Conform Maine Law to Federal Law Regarding Payment of Overtime to Truck Drivers and Driver's Helpers

Comment: This bill would conform Maine law to federal law as it pertains to payment of overtime to truck drivers and driver's helpers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

LR: 2648 SPONSOR: Sen. Goodall of Sagadahoc

Title: Resolve, To Create the Small Business Promotion Task Force

Comment: This resolve would create the Small Business Promotion Task Force to help small businesses, create jobs and rejuvenate Maine's economy.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING

LR: 2471 SPONSOR: Sen. Dill of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Facilitate the Growth of Small Business through Economic Gardening

Comment: This bill would eliminate barriers to sustainable agriculture and create a regulatory environment that encourages the local production of food.

LR: 2647 SPONSOR: Sen. Hobbins of York

Title: Resolve, To Establish a Task Force To Facilitate the Development of Unoccupied Mills

Comment: This resolve would establish the Task Force To Facilitate the Development of Unoccupied Mills. The purpose of the task force is to help municipalities with unoccupied mills to develop the sites and to help improve their local economies.

LR: 2649 SPONSOR: Sen. Hobbins of York

Title: Resolve, To Create the Task Force To Bolster and Expand Exports of Maine Products and Services

Comment: This resolve would create the Task Force To Bolster and Expand Maine Exports of Products and Services. The task force would study ways to increase the level of exports of products and services of Maine businesses. The task force would also study ways to simplify the process of exporting.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION

LR: 2423 SPONSOR: Rep. Bennett of Kennebunk

Title: An Act Regarding Successor Tax Rates under the Unemployment Laws

Comment: This bill would provide that the recalculated rate of the unemployment tax for a successor employer is the weighted average of the 2 employers' experience rates instead of a simple average.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

PROCEDURES

LR: 2332 SPONSOR: Rep. Waterhouse of Bridgton

Title: An Act To Provide That Persons Hiring Assistants To Provide Home Care for Relatives Are Not Employers for Purposes of Unemployment Compensation Laws

Comment: This bill would provide that persons hiring home care assistants for relatives in the home are not employers for purposes of unemployment compensation laws.

FINANCE AUTHORITY

PROGRAMS

LR: 2660 SPONSOR: Rep. Picchiotti of Fairfield
Title: An Act To Provide for Prepayment of Insurance Premium Taxes
Comment: This bill would authorize the prepayment of insurance premium taxes and would allow the expenditure of these prepayments for economic development purposes.

INDUSTRIES

CONSTRUCTION

LR: 2340 SPONSOR: Rep. O'Connor of Berwick
Title: An Act To Delay Implementation of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code
Comment: This bill would delay by 2 years implementation of the requirement that municipalities with over 4,000 residents enforce the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

LR: 2378 SPONSOR: Rep. Richardson of Warren
Title: An Act Relating To Determining Population for Purposes of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code
Comment: This bill would provide that the prison population in a municipality would not be included when calculating population for purposes of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

LR: 2385 SPONSOR: Sen. Saviello of Franklin
Title: An Act To Resolve Conflicts in the Implementation of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code
Comment: This bill would amend the law regarding the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code to remove the requirement that a code enforcement officer in a municipality that has not adopted the code be code certified and to limit enforcement of the code to those municipalities that have adopted or are enforcing the code.

LR: 2636 SPONSOR: Rep. Moulton of York
Title: An Act To Clarify the Liability of 3rd-party Building Inspectors
Comment: This bill would clarify the law to ensure that 3rd-party building inspectors acting pursuant to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code or a local building code have the same protection from liability under the Maine Tort Claims Act as other persons acting on behalf of a governmental entity.

LABOR RELATIONS

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

LR: 2352 SPONSOR: Sen. Collins of York

Title: An Act To Increase Communication between Labor Unions and Their Members

Comment: This bill would prohibit automatic payroll deductions for the purpose of paying union dues. It would require union dues to be billed monthly from union headquarters to the home address of the union member and would apply to both private and public employees who are members of any employee organization or labor union.

Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 788

Closely Related CO: LD309

LICENSING

ACCOUNTANTS

LR: 2620 SPONSOR: Rep. Cushing, III of Hampden

Title: An Act To Preserve the Integrity of the Maine Certified Public Accountant Examination

Comment: This bill would preserve the integrity of the Maine Certified Public Accountant examination by preventing nonresidents and those not meeting a minimum accounting education requirement from gaining access to the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination under a Maine application.

LICENSING

COSMETOLOGY AND BARBERING

LR: 2532 SPONSOR: Rep. Goode of Bangor

Title: An Act To Permit Hair Braiding without a Cosmetology License

Comment: This bill would permit a person to provide hair braiding services without holding a cosmetology license.

LICENSING

DENTAL PERSONNEL

LR: 2362 SPONSOR: Rep. Sirocki of Scarborough

Title: An Act To Establish a Board of Dental Hygienists

Comment: Currently, dental hygienists are regulated under the Board of Dental Examiners, which oversees dentists and other dental professions. This bill would establish a separate Board of Dental Hygienists.

LICENSING

ENTRY LEVEL

LR: 2394 SPONSOR: Rep. Davis, Sr. of Sangerville
Title: An Act To Eliminate Fees for Certain Entry-level Licenses
Comment: This bill would eliminate fees for entry-level or helper licenses and background checks for full-time students in approved programs, such as plumbing and nursing, offered through the Maine Community College System.

LICENSING

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

LR: 2583 SPONSOR: Rep. Volk of Scarborough
Title: An Act To Clarify Medical Licensing Requirements Related to Postgraduate Training of Oral Surgeons
Comment: This bill would clarify the ability of properly trained oral surgeons to be dually licensed in both medicine and dentistry.

LICENSING

PHARMACISTS

LR: 2539 SPONSOR: Rep. Nutting of Oakland
Title: An Act To Define the Term "Pharmacy Student Intern"
Comment: This bill would define the term "pharmacy student intern" in order to differentiate a pharmacy student intern from a pharmacy technician.

LR: 2580 SPONSOR: Rep. Strang Burgess of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Allow for the Timely Access to and Enhanced Administration of Injectable Medications, Biologicals, Immunizations and Vaccines
Comment: This bill would amend the law listing the named drugs and immunizations that pharmacists may administer to enable authorized pharmacists to administer any federally approved drug, immunization or vaccine as well as any allergy or other injectable biological. It would also change the minimum age for administration for all such medications to allow administration to a person 12 years of age or older and would reduce the minimum age for administration of influenza vaccines and intranasal influenza vaccines to 5 years. It would also enable an authorized pharmacist to hold an off-site clinic to administer all such medications without requiring the prior consent of the Maine Board of Pharmacy as long as the pharmacist or drug outlet has obtained prior approval of its plan of operation for operating the off-site clinic.

LICENSING

RECREATIONAL THERAPISTS

LR: 2653 SPONSOR: Rep. Picchiotti of Fairfield
Title: An Act To Provide for Licensing of Recreational Therapists
Comment: This bill would require the licensure of recreational therapists and would establish a board to oversee the process of licensure and the conduct of those licensed by the board.

LICENSING

RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONERS

LR: 2510 SPONSOR: Sen. Saviello of Franklin
Title: An Act To Allow the Administration of Nitrous Oxide for Analgesic Purposes by Licensed Respiratory Care Practitioners under the Direction of a Physician
Comment: This bill would allow the administration of nitrous oxide for analgesic purposes by licensed respiratory care practitioners under the direction of a physician.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

BOARD

LR: 2652 SPONSOR: Rep. Prescott of Topsham
Title: Resolve, Directing the Workers' Compensation Board To Revise the Medical Fee Schedule To Use an Appropriate Conversion Factor in the Payment of Anesthesia Services
Comment: This resolve would direct the Workers' Compensation Board to revise the medical fee schedule as it relates to payment for anesthesia services.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

PROCEDURES

LR: 2349 SPONSOR: Rep. MacDonald of Boothbay
Title: An Act To Amend Laws Governing Workers' Compensation for Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Services Personnel
Comment: This bill would amend the laws governing workers' compensation for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical service personnel to ensure coverage under workers' compensation beginning upon the receipt by the person of the call to attend a fire or accident.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2354 Representative Fossel

LR: 2354 SPONSOR: Rep. Fossel of Alna
Title: An Act To Improve Workers' Compensation Coverage for Volunteer Firefighters
Comment: This bill would provide that workers' compensation for volunteer firefighters begins at the time an emergency call is received.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2349 Representative MacDonald

LR: 2402 SPONSOR: Sen. Jackson of Aroostook
Title: An Act To Address Inequities in the Workers' Compensation System
Comment: This bill would address inequities concerning class codes in the workers' compensation system.
Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 866

MARINE RESOURCES

**MARINE RESOURCES DEPT
ADMINISTRATION**

LR: 2604 SPONSOR: Sen. Snowe-Mello of Androscoggin
Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources To Examine the Role
of 3rd-party Laboratories in Conducting Testing for the Department
Comment: This resolve would direct the Department of Marine Resources to examine the
role of 3rd-party laboratories in conducting testing for the department.

**MARINE RESOURCES DEPT
DEVELOPMENT**

LR: 2488 SPONSOR: Sen. Langley of Hancock
Title: An Act To Establish a Program To Certify Maine Shellfish
Comment: This bill would establish a program in the Department of Marine Resources to
certify that shellfish are Maine products.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

REGISTERS OF DEEDS

LR: 2421 SPONSOR: Sen. Thomas of Somerset
Title: An Act Concerning Copying Fees for Users of County Registries of Deeds
Comment: Under current law, the fees specified for making abstracts and copies of records at the register of deeds will be repealed July 31, 2012. This bill would eliminate the repeal and continue the charges specified in current law.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

LR: 2376 SPONSOR: Rep. Kaenrath of South Portland
Title: An Act To Reform the Process for Congressional Redistricting
Comment: This bill would create a nonpartisan process for congressional redistricting modeled on Iowa's process by requiring nonpartisan legislative staff to prepare a plan.

LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

LR: 2467 SPONSOR: Rep. Cotta of China
Title: An Act Relating to the Term of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council
Comment: This bill would change the term of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to a 2-year term beginning January 15, 2014 and provide a method to fill vacancies for the remainder of a term.

LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATORS

LR: 2307 SPONSOR: Rep. Soctomah of Passamaquoddy Tribe
Title: An Act To Require That Federally Recognized Indian Tribes in Maine Be Included in a Single Legislative District
Comment: This bill would require that federally recognized Indian tribes in Maine be included in a single legislative district. This legislative district may include nontribal members.

LEGISLATURE

SESSIONS

LR: 2334 SPONSOR: Rep. Fredette of Newport
Title: An Act To Allow the Adjutant General To Appear before a Joint Session of the Legislature To Address the Legislature
Comment: This bill would allow the Adjutant General to appear before a joint session of the Legislature to address the Legislature.

MUNICIPALITIES

CEMETERIES

LR: 2328 SPONSOR: Rep. Davis, Sr. of Sangerville
Title: An Act Regarding the Maintenance of Veterans' Grave Sites and Memorial Sites in Unorganized Townships
Comment: This bill would require that veterans' grave and memorial sites that are located in unorganized territories be maintained in a manner that is comparable to the maintenance of veterans' grave and memorial sites in organized territories.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2326 President Raye

MUNICIPALITIES

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

LR: 2608 SPONSOR: Sen. Dill of Cumberland
Title: An Act Relating to the Appeal of Certain Municipal Enforcement Orders
Comment: This bill would clarify that decisions of local code enforcement officers and boards of appeals are binding unless otherwise provided in a local charter or ordinance.

MUNICIPALITIES

ROADS

LR: 2515 SPONSOR: Sen. Saviello of Franklin
Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Discontinued Town Ways
Comment: Under existing law, a public easement is retained on discontinued town ways. This bill would authorize municipal officers to propose placing restrictions on the public easement, such as limiting motorized vehicle traffic, as part of the discontinuance order approved by the local legislative body.

MUNICIPALITIES

VILLAGE CORPORATIONS

LR: 2329 SPONSOR: Sen. Rosen of Hancock
Title: An Act To Amend the Charter of the Lucerne-in-Maine Village Corporation
Comment: This bill would amend the charter of the Lucerne-in-Maine Village Corporation to remove the requirement that a nonresident officer of the Board of Overseers reside within 25 miles of the Lucerne-in-Maine fire station and a restriction on the staggering of terms.

STATE GOVERNMENT

CONTRACTED SERVICES

LR: 2599 SPONSOR: Rep. Eves of North Berwick
Title: An Act To Address Research and Teaching in Maine's Institutions of Higher Education
Comment: This bill would include private, nonprofit regionally accredited institutions of higher education with main campuses in Maine in the list of entities entitled to a waiver of the requirement of competitive bidding by the Director of the Bureau of General Services within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

STATE GOVERNMENT

REPORTS

LR: 2512 SPONSOR: Sen. Plowman of Penobscot
Title: An Act To Require Agencies and Their Legal Representatives To Report the Cost of Pursuing Actions in Administrative and Court Proceedings
Comment: This bill would require agencies and their legal representatives to report the cost of pursuing actions in administrative and court proceedings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over the agency on an annual basis.

LR: 2538 SPONSOR: Rep. Prescott of Topsham
Title: An Act To Create Accountability for Department Reporting
Comment: This bill would impose monetary sanctions on state departments and agencies that fail to complete and submit reports to the Legislature as required by law.

STATE GOVERNMENT

STATE COMMEMORATIONS

LR: 2331 SPONSOR: Rep. Turner of Burlington
Title: An Act To Promote POW/MIA Recognition Day
Comment: This bill would promote the 3rd Friday in September as POW/MIA Recognition Day.

LR: 2413 SPONSOR: Rep. Crockett of Bethel
Title: An Act To Designate April as the Month of the Military Child
Comment: This bill would designate April as "Month of the Military Child."

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STATE GOVERNMENT
STATE PERSONNEL

LR: 2437

SPONSOR: Rep. Blodgett of Augusta

Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources To Adopt a Uniform Policy Governing the Consideration of Prior Convictions in the Hiring Process

Comment: This resolve would direct the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources to adopt a uniform policy to be used by all state agencies governing the consideration of prior criminal convictions in the hiring process. This policy must include a provision that a conviction for a Class D or E crime, formerly referred to as a misdemeanor, that occurred more than 20 years ago may not be considered in the hiring process.

TAXATION

ESTATE TAX

PROVISIONS REVISED

LR: 2634 SPONSOR: Rep. Chipman of Portland
Title: An Act To Promote Fairness in Maine's Estate Tax Exemption
Comment: This bill would restore the exemption under the estate tax to the level in effect in 2009.

INCOME TAX

CREDITS

LR: 2392 SPONSOR: Sen. Collins of York
Title: An Act To Improve Maine's Economy by Establishing a Tax Credit for New Homeowners
Comment: This bill would establish a tax credit for the construction of a home by a first-time homeowner. The tax credit would be effective beginning in tax year 2012.

LR: 2537 SPONSOR: Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake
Title: An Act To Provide for Economic Development
Comment: This bill would provide for economic development through the creation of a tax credit.

LR: 2657 SPONSOR: Rep. Hinck of Portland
Title: An Act To Provide for Economic Development with Offshore Wind Power
Comment: This bill would establish a program to provide tax credits for offshore renewable wind energy for qualified wind energy facilities in wind energy zones.

INCOME TAX

ELDERLY

LR: 2578 SPONSOR: Rep. Harmon of Palermo
Title: An Act To Reduce Taxes for Retired People
Comment: This bill would eliminate income tax on self-employed individual retirement plans for people 65 years of age or older.

INCOME TAX

EXEMPTIONS

LR: 2302 SPONSOR: Rep. Bickford of Auburn
Title: An Act To Facilitate the Employment of the Unemployed
Comment: This bill would provide tax incentives to an employer and employee when that employer hires an employee who has been unemployed for a significant period of time.

Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 521

INCOME TAX

EXEMPTIONS

LR: 2339 SPONSOR: Rep. Maloney of Augusta
Title: An Act To Limit Taxes on Pensions
Comment: Under current law, an amount of up to \$6,000 of an individual's pension is not taxed. This bill would change the amount that is not subject to tax from \$6,000 to 25% of the individual's pension.

INCOME TAX

PROVISIONS REVISED

LR: 2360 SPONSOR: Rep. O'Connor of Berwick
Title: An Act To Eliminate the State Income Tax
Comment: This bill would eliminate the state income tax.

MISCELLANEOUS TAXES

EXCISE TAX

LR: 2575 SPONSOR: Rep. Knapp of Gorham
Title: An Act To Create Excise Tax Equity and Consistency for Buses
Comment: This bill would provide the same excise tax treatment for motor coaches and school buses as exists for trucks, truck tractors and special mobile equipment and also provide that the excise tax for those vehicles be based on the purchase price.

MISCELLANEOUS TAXES

REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX

LR: 2650 SPONSOR: Rep. Hayes of Buckfield
Title: An Act To Ensure Tax Equity between Maine Residents and Nonresidents in the Sale of Real Estate
Comment: This bill would provide equal treatment for Maine residents and nonresidents in the taxation of real estate sales.

MISCELLANEOUS TAXES

SERVICE PROVIDER TAX

LR: 2447 SPONSOR: Rep. Harmon of Palermo
Title: An Act To Ensure Equal Tax Treatment for Providers of Residential Care to the Elderly and Disabled
Comment: This bill would exempt from the service provider tax private nonmedical institutions that provide services reimbursed under MaineCare for the elderly and disabled without specializing in a particular diagnosis. The tax is currently not imposed on similar providers that accept only private pay residents and do not participate in the MaineCare Program.

MISCELLANEOUS TAXES

TOBACCO PRODUCTS TAX

LR: 2356 SPONSOR: Rep. Mitchell of Penobscot Nation
Title: An Act To Provide a Tax Exemption for Tobacco Sold to Federally
Recognized Tribes for Religious Ceremonial Purposes
Comment: This bill would permit enrolled members of federally recognized Maine tribes
to buy up to 16 ounces of tobacco each month for religious ceremonial
purposes without paying taxes on that tobacco.

PROPERTY TAX

APPEALS

LR: 2571 SPONSOR: Sen. Gerzofsky of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Require Notification to Opposing Parties Regarding Appeals to the
State Board of Property Tax Review
Comment: This bill would require a party filing an appeal with the State Board of
Property Tax Review to notify opposing parties.

PROPERTY TAX

DEFERRALS

LR: 2322 SPONSOR: Rep. Long of Sherman
Title: An Act To Allow the Deferral of Property Taxes
Comment: This bill would expand the municipal property tax deferral program for senior
citizens to include other property owners in the State.

PROPERTY TAX

MAINE RESIDENTS PROPERTY TAX PROG

LR: 2507 SPONSOR: Sen. Plowman of Penobscot
Title: An Act To Amend the Circuitbreaker Program
Comment: This bill would require renters who apply for benefits under the Circuitbreaker
Program to include in the application either a notarized statement that the rent
has been paid in full or a signed statement to that effect from the landlord.

PROPERTY TAX

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

LR: 2573 SPONSOR: Rep. Shaw of Standish
Title: An Act To Prohibit Municipalities from Imposing Fees on Ice Fishing Shacks
Comment: This bill would prohibit municipalities from imposing fees on ice fishing
shacks.

PROPERTY TAX

TREE GROWTH TAX

LR: 2483 SPONSOR: Sen. Thomas of Somerset
Title: An Act To Ensure the Integrity of the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law
Comment: This bill would enact measures designed to ensure that the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law is implemented and enforced in accordance with the original purposes of the law.
Closely Related CO: LD 1470

PROPERTY TAX PROCEDURES

ABATEMENTS

LR: 2526 SPONSOR: Rep. Keschl of Belgrade
Title: An Act To Amend the Law Governing Abatements of Property Taxes for Infirmary or Poverty
Comment: This bill would provide that benefits issued to a property owner under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program are considered available to contribute to the public charges for the purposes of calculating at the municipal level a property tax abatement made for the reason of infirmity or poverty.

REVENUE SHARING

DISTRIBUTION

LR: 2603 SPONSOR: Sen. Alfond of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Restore Equity in Revenue Sharing
Comment: This bill would establish a separate category of state-municipal revenue sharing to apply to municipalities with a mill rate of 15 mills or more. It would reduce the impact of high property tax burdens on municipalities that serve as regional service centers.

SALES AND USE TAX

EXEMPT ITEMS

LR: 2305 SPONSOR: Rep. McKane of Newcastle
Title: An Act To Amend the Law Regarding the Sale of Wood Pellets
Comment: This bill would amend the sales tax exemption for wood pellets to increase the amount of wood pellets that may be purchased without being subject to tax.

LR: 2374 SPONSOR: Rep. Plummer of Windham
Title: An Act To Exempt Documentation Fees for Motor Vehicles and Personal Watercraft from Sales Tax
Comment: This bill would provide that documentation fees connected with the sale of a motor vehicle or a personal watercraft are not subject to sales tax.

SALES AND USE TAX

EXEMPT ITEMS

LR: 2383 SPONSOR: Sen. Thomas of Somerset

Title: An Act To Exempt from the Sales and Use Tax All Fuel Used in Commercial Forestry

Comment: This bill would exempt from the sales and use tax fuel used in commercial forestry. Current law imposes the use tax on fuel used for commercial purposes on which the user gets a refund of the motor fuel tax.

Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 42

LR: 2487 SPONSOR: Sen. Courtney of York

Title: An Act To Provide a Sales Tax Exemption for Electricity for Thermal Storage Heating Power

Comment: This bill would exempt electricity used to charge residential thermal electric storage space and water heaters from the sales and use tax.

LR: 2519 SPONSOR: Sen. Raye of Washington

Title: An Act To Promote Jobs in the Motor Coach Industry by Providing a Sales Tax Exemption for Certain Buses

Comment: This bill would exempt from sales and use tax buses with a capacity of at least 47 passengers engaged in transporting passengers on an interstate or foreign cruise.

SALES AND USE TAX

ITEMS TAXED

LR: 2395 SPONSOR: Rep. Harvell of Farmington

Title: An Act To Amend the Sales Tax as It Pertains to Trailers

Comment: This bill would amend the sales tax as it pertains to trailers.

SALES AND USE TAX

LOCAL OPTION

LR: 2393 SPONSOR: Rep. Pilon of Saco

Title: An Act To Stabilize Municipal Budgets

Comment: This bill would permit a municipality to adopt a local sales tax if approved by a municipal referendum.

Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 826

SALES AND USE TAX

PROVISIONS REVISED

LR: 2364

SPONSOR: Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham

Title: An Act To Prohibit the Sale of Computer Programs for the Purpose of Evading Sales Tax

Comment: This bill would prohibit the sale of computer software that alters the amount of sales made by a retailer for the purpose of reducing the amount of sales tax owed by that retailer. This bill would also require Maine Revenue Services to increase audits of businesses, such as restaurants and convenience stores, that do a significant amount of cash transactions.

SALES AND USE TAX

REFUNDS

LR: 2396

SPONSOR: Rep. Soctomah of Passamaquoddy Tribe

Title: An Act To Return to the Passamaquoddy Tribe the Tax on Sales Occurring on Land Held in Trust by the Passamaquoddy Tribe

Comment: This bill would require the Treasurer of State to return to the Passamaquoddy Tribe any tax collected on sales on land held in trust by the tribe.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

USES EXPANDED

LR: 2520

SPONSOR: Sen. Raye of Washington

Title: An Act To Make Fisheries and Wildlife Projects Eligible for Tax Increment Financing Funds

Comment: This bill would allow fisheries and wildlife projects to be eligible for tax increment financing funds.

TRANSPORTATION

MOTOR CARRIERS

WEIGHT

LR: 2438 SPONSOR: Sen. Schneider of Penobscot
Title: An Act To Increase Truck Weight Limits
Comment: This bill would increase the truck weight limits to match the federal truck weight limits.

MOTOR VEHICLES

ANTIQUE

LR: 2414 SPONSOR: Rep. Crockett of Bethel
Title: An Act Regarding the Use of Antique Automobiles
Comment: This bill would create a presumption, for the owner of a registered antique vehicle who owns another vehicle that is registered and inspected, that the owner's primary vehicle is the one that is registered and inspected.

MOTOR VEHICLES

FARM VEHICLES

LR: 2454 SPONSOR: Sen. Whittemore of Somerset
Title: An Act To Clarify the Definition of "Tractor" under the Motor Vehicle Laws
Comment: This bill would amend the definition of "tractor" under the motor vehicle laws to clarify that tractors used solely to service residential premises are exempt from registration requirements and may be covered as personal property under most homeowner's policies.

MOTOR VEHICLES

INSPECTION

LR: 2592 SPONSOR: Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake
Title: An Act To Revise Motor Vehicle Inspection Laws with Regard to Tire Sizes
Comment: This bill would amend the motor vehicle inspection laws with regard to tire sizes.

LR: 2606 SPONSOR: Sen. Mason of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Modernize Maine's Vehicle Inspection Program
Comment: This bill would modernize the motor vehicle inspection program by adopting an electronic inspection program.

Closely Related CO: LD 198

MOTOR VEHICLES

LIGHTS

LR: 2420 SPONSOR: Rep. Richardson of Warren

Title: An Act To Improve Auxiliary Lighting on Personal Emergency Response Vehicles

Comment: This bill would authorize the use of improved auxiliary lighting on the personal vehicles of firefighters and emergency responders when responding to emergencies.

Jt Rule 217 Ruling Needed: LD 1148

MOTOR VEHICLES

NUMBER PLATES

LR: 2336 SPONSOR: Sen. Katz of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Allow Disabled Veterans To Receive Two Sets of Special Designating License Plates

Comment: This bill would allow a disabled veteran to receive 2 sets of special designating license plates if the veteran is the registered owner of 2 motor vehicles.

LR: 2536 SPONSOR: Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake

Title: An Act To Create a License Plate To Recognize the 2014 World Acadian Congress

Comment: This bill would establish a license plate commemorating the 2014 World Acadian Congress. Revenues from the new plate would be used to support the 2014 World Acadian Congress.

MOTOR VEHICLES

SEAT BELTS

LR: 2468 SPONSOR: Sen. Sullivan of York

Title: An Act To Remove a Barrier to Response by Emergency Medical Personnel

Comment: This bill would provide an exception from the seat belt requirement to emergency medical personnel who are providing treatment to a patient being transported to a medical facility.

ROADS

BRIDGES

LR: 2316 SPONSOR: Sen. Thomas of Somerset

Title: Resolve, To Name 2 Bridges in the Town of Harmony

Comment: This bill would establish names for 2 bridges in the Town of Harmony.

LR: 2390 SPONSOR: Rep. Timberlake of Turner

Title: An Act To Restrict Spending on a Bridge on the Ricker Hill Road in the Town of Turner

Comment: This bill would prohibit the State from spending more than \$350,000 to build a bridge on the Ricker Hill Road over Martin Stream in the Town of Turner.

ROADS

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

LR: 2306 SPONSOR: Rep. Crockett of Bethel

Title: Resolve, Directing the Maine Turnpike Authority To Place Signs Directing Motorists to Gould Academy at the Interstate Exits Closest to Gould Academy in Bethel

Comment: This resolve would direct the Maine Turnpike Authority to place directional signs on the Maine Turnpike at the northbound and southbound exits of the highway that are located closest to Gould Academy in Bethel and require Gould Academy to assume all costs associated with the directional signs.

LR: 2391 SPONSOR: Sen. Collins of York

Title: Resolve, Directing the Maine Turnpike Authority To Place Signs at Exit 19 on the Maine Turnpike Indicating the Location of Antiques Retailers

Comment: This bill would direct the Maine Turnpike Authority to erect signs at Exit 19 on the Maine Turnpike indicating the location of antiques retailers.

LR: 2598 SPONSOR: Sen. Hill of York

Title: An Act To Allow Signs along Interstate 95 for the Town of Kittery and Its Businesses and Establishments

Comment: This bill would allow signs placed along Interstate 95 to direct travelers to Kittery locations.

ROADS

NAMING

LR: 2410 SPONSOR: Rep. Rosen of Bucksport

Title: Resolve, To Name Route 1-A between Brewer and Ellsworth the Korean War Veterans Highway

Comment: This resolve would name the portion of Route 1-A between Brewer and Ellsworth the Korean War Veterans Highway.

ROADS

PUBLIC WAYS

LR: 2370 SPONSOR: Rep. Chase of Wells

Title: An Act To Protect a Private Memorial Placed in a Public Right-of-way

Comment: This bill would prohibit the removal or destruction of a private memorial placed in a public right of way to memorialize a deceased person as long as the memorial does not hinder traffic. Protection would last for 12 months.

TRANSPORTATION DEPT

PLANNING

LR: 2358 SPONSOR: Sen. Thomas of Somerset

Title: An Act To Provide Funding to the Department of Transportation for a Feasibility Study for an East-west Highway

Comment: This bill would provide funding for an independent, investment-grade feasibility study to determine the need for and location of an east-west highway in Maine.

LR: 2617 SPONSOR: Sen. Patrick of Oxford

Title: Resolve, To Study the Funding Needs of Maine's Transportation Infrastructure

Comment: This resolve would establish a commission to study the funding needs of Maine's transportation infrastructure. The commission would review the current funding streams, identify the State's transportation needs and establish priorities, make recommendations and submit a report to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

POWERS

LR: 2574 SPONSOR: Sen. Collins of York

Title: An Act To Simplify Toll Discounts and Amend Certain Powers and Procedures of the Maine Turnpike Authority

Comment: This bill would make the following changes to the laws governing the Maine Turnpike Authority: 1. It would distinguish between assets that the authority is required to maintain as part of its core mission and those that it is merely permitted to maintain as necessary or convenient to that mission; 2. It would eliminate a 1982 mandate to provide a commuter discount that is now obsolete due to electronic tolling and would permit the authority instead to offer simple, broad-based customer discounts based on volume of use; and 3. It would remove a requirement that the authority use certified mail to send notices of liability, allowing them to be sent by regular mail and allowing a certificate from the authority to substitute for a postal certificate.

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

AGENCY STORES

LR: 2431 SPONSOR: Rep. Lovejoy of Portland

Title: An Act To Support Maine Small Business

Comment: This bill would amend the laws governing state agency liquor licenses as follows:

1. It would change the ratio of population to number of stores so that larger communities have the same number of stores per 1000 residents; and
2. It would require that 50% of the licenses be set aside for small businesses.

LR: 2457 SPONSOR: Rep. Bickford of Auburn

Title: An Act To Deregulate Price Controls Imposed by the State on Liquor Stores

Comment: This bill would allow an owner of a liquor store, after the liquor has been bought at wholesale, to sell it at whatever price the owner wants.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

LICENSING

LR: 2411 SPONSOR: Rep. Harmon of Palermo

Title: An Act To Amend the Liquor Laws as They Pertain to Off-premises Catering at Planned Events or Gatherings

Comment: This bill would require that in order to have a taste-testing festival a person must apply for an off-premises catering license.

LR: 2595 SPONSOR: Sen. Katz of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Allow Certain Spas and Salons To Apply for a Beer or Wine License or Both

Comment: This bill would allow certain spas and salons to apply for a beer or wine license or both.

LR: 2655 SPONSOR: Sen. Plowman of Penobscot

Title: An Act To Correct Errors in Recently Enacted Laws Governing Agency Liquor Stores

Comment: This bill would make technical amendments to the law to correctly reflect the intent of the Legislature when it enacted Public Law 2011, chapter 460. This bill would adjust the license fee and eliminate language in order to conform the law to the legislative documents that were adopted by the Legislature.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

LIQUOR

LR: 2577 SPONSOR: Rep. Harmon of Palermo

Title: An Act To Make Maine Liquor Prices and Taxes Equal to Those in New Hampshire

Comment: This bill would make the prices of and taxes on liquor the same as in New Hampshire.

ELECTIONS

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

LR: 2616 SPONSOR: Rep. Chipman of Portland
Title: An Act To Improve Municipal Campaign Reporting Requirements
Comment: This bill would require campaign finance reports for municipal candidates to be filed 42 days before a general election as is currently required for state and county candidates.

ELECTIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS

LR: 2627 SPONSOR: Rep. Chipman of Portland
Title: An Act Regarding Municipal Campaign Contribution Limits
Comment: This bill would limit campaign contributions to municipal candidates to \$350.

ELECTIONS

PRIMARY

LR: 2314 SPONSOR: Rep. Maloney of Augusta
Title: An Act To Allow Unenrolled Voters To Vote in Primary Elections
Comment: This bill would allow unenrolled voters to vote in a primary election without registering in a political party.

ELECTIONS

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

LR: 2441 SPONSOR: Rep. Russell of Portland
Title: An Act To Restore Election Day Voter Registration
Comment: This bill would reinstate the ability of eligible individuals to register to vote up to and on the day of an election.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2479 Representative Bolduc

LR: 2479 SPONSOR: Rep. Bolduc of Auburn
Title: An Act To Reinstiate Same-day Voter Registration
Comment: This bill would reinstate the ability of eligible individuals to register to vote up to and including on the day of an election.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2441 Representative Russell

GAMBLING

BINGO

LR: 2365 SPONSOR: Rep. Mitchell of Penobscot Nation

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing High-stakes Beano Games

Comment: This bill would eliminate the limitation of 27 weekends per year for the operation of high stakes beano games by licensed federally recognized tribes. This bill would also allow the Penobscot Nation and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians to operate electronic beano.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2303 Representative Soctomah

GAMBLING

GAMES OF CHANCE

LR: 2303 SPONSOR: Rep. Soctomah of Passamaquoddy Tribe

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Pertaining to High-stakes Beano Conducted by the Passamaquoddy Tribe

Comment: This bill would eliminate the provision in the law that limits an organization licensed to operate high-stakes beano games to operation of those games on 27 weekends a year. It also would allow the Passamaquoddy Tribe to operate electronic beano.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2365 Representative Mitchell, W.

GAMBLING

PROCEEDS

LR: 2318 SPONSOR: Rep. Berry of Bowdoinham

Title: An Act To Improve Equine Welfare

Comment: This bill would change the distribution formula for the racinos that have been proposed to provide \$200,000 per year to equine welfare activities in the animal welfare program.

LR: 2662 SPONSOR: Rep. Carey of Lewiston

Title: An Act To Ensure Equal Treatment and Regulation of Casinos

Comment: This bill would ensure the equal treatment and regulation of all casinos.

LANDLORD AND TENANT

ENTRY AND DETAINER

LR: 2384 SPONSOR: Sen. Hastings, III of Oxford

Title: An Act To Clarify the Process of Removal of a Person from a Dormitory or Residential Facility Operated by a Charitable or Philanthropic Organization

Comment: This bill would provide that the forcible entry and detainer process does not apply to the eviction of persons from certain residential facilities operated by a charitable or philanthropic organization.

LANDLORD AND TENANT

LANDLORD DUTIES

LR: 2545 SPONSOR: Rep. Rotundo of Lewiston
Title: An Act Regarding the Treatment of Bedbug Infestations in Rental Property
Comment: This bill would exempt single-family dwellings that are rented from the laws governing the treatment of bedbug infestations in rental property.

VETERANS

HONORING

LR: 2326 SPONSOR: Sen. Raye of Washington
Title: Resolve, To Establish a Stakeholder Group for the Development of a Plan for the Inventory and Proper Care of Veterans' Graves
Comment: This bill would inventory and repair veterans' graves in the unorganized territory.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2328 Representative Davis

LR: 2346 SPONSOR: Rep. Johnson of Greenville
Title: An Act To Enhance a Community's Ability To Update Its Veterans Honor Roll
Comment: This bill would improve a community's ability to obtain information from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services about veterans from that community for the purpose of updating the community's veterans honor roll.

125th Maine Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening

Total number of bills screened: 288