

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

AGRICULTURE DEPT
POWERS

LR: 2344

Sponsor: Senator Simpson of Androscoggin

Title: An Act To Create a Statewide Nuisance Animal Ordinance

Comments: This bill would create a statewide ordinance for municipalities concerning nuisance animals.

ANIMALS
DOGS

LR: 2490

Sponsor: Representative Strang Burgess of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws That Provide an Exemption for Agricultural Guard Dogs from Municipal Ordinances Governing Barking Dogs

Comments: Under current law, municipal ordinances governing barking dogs do not apply to agricultural guard dogs. This bill would limit application of that exemption to agricultural guard dogs engaged in protecting livestock on parcels of land that are 5 acres or larger.

ANIMALS
KENNELS

LR: 2072

Sponsor: Senator Hobbins of York

Title: An Act To Strengthen the Laws against Illegal "Puppy Mill" Operators

Comments: This bill would strengthen the laws against operating an unlicensed kennel.

ANIMALS
SERVICE

LR: 2284

Sponsor: Representative Browne of Vassalboro

Title: An Act To Clarify Service Animal Identification

Comments: This bill would clarify service animal identification.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

FORESTRY
PRACTICES

LR: 2099

Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan

Title: An Act To Regulate the Transportation of Firewood

Comments: This bill would ban the transportation into the State of firewood from outside of the State unless the firewood is clearly marked as "kiln-dried."

LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATION

LR: 2441

Sponsor: Representative Clark of Millinocket

Title: An Act To Ensure Consistency in Rulemaking by the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission

Comments: The bill would require that all rules before the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission be considered major substantive rules.

PESTICIDES
APPLICATION PROCESS

LR: 2067

Sponsor: Representative O'Brien of Lincolnville

Title: An Act To Streamline Maine's Pesticide Notification System

Comments: This bill would make 3 changes to the laws governing notification of pesticide application using aerial spraying. It would specify that notification be given to abutters whose property line is within 1/4 mile of the location of the spraying. It would require that a person who wishes to be added to the registry sign up by April 30th of the year in which the person wishes to receive notification. It would require that if a farmer needs to undertake an unplanned aerial spraying, the farmer must provide notification at least 48 hours prior to the spraying.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2330 Representative Berry

LR: 2330

Sponsor: Representative Berry of Bowdoinham

Title: Resolve, Unifying Maine's Efforts To Notify Citizens of Powered Pesticide Applications

Comments: This resolve would direct the Board of Pesticides Control to establish a comprehensive registry for citizens wishing to receive specific information about nearby powered outdoor pesticide applications.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2067 Representative O'Brien

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SVC DEPT
GENERAL SERVICES BUREAU

LR: 2340

Sponsor: Representative Crockett, P. of Augusta

Title: Resolve, To Streamline State Vehicle Operations

Comments: This resolve requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to study the feasibility of eliminating the central fleet of state-owned vehicles to achieve cost savings. The Bureau of General Services would be directed to report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs with its findings, including potential cost savings, in January 2011. The committee may report out legislation based on the report.

BOND ISSUES
HEALTH

LR: 2327

Sponsor: Senator Marrache of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create a New Electronic Medical Records Infrastructure

Comments: This bill would authorize a General Fund bond issue to purchase the software and hardware necessary for health care providers to exchange patients' health care records electronically.
JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 729

LR: 2357

Sponsor: Representative Connor of Kennebunk

Title: An Act To Create Access to Dental Care throughout the State

Comments: This bill proposes a \$7,000,000 bond for community dental care, to be awarded on a competitive basis. It provides that \$5,000,000 would be awarded for a community-based teaching clinic affiliated or operated by a college of dental medicine and \$2,000,000 to upgrade community-based health care clinics across the State to increase their capacity.

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

BOND ISSUES

TRANSPORTATION

LR: 2076

Sponsor: Representative Theriault of Madawaska

Title: An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Purchase and Upgrade Trackage of the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway, Ltd.

Comments: This bill would allow a general fund bond issue for the purchase and upgrade of trackage of the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway, Ltd. to maintain service to towns in the northern part of the State.

SPENDING

EDUCATION

LR: 2435

Sponsor: Senator Gerzofsky of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Stimulate Education and Job Creation through the Establishment of a Public Center for Higher Education at the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station

Comments: This bill would provide ongoing appropriations in the amount of \$4,280,000 per year to fund the establishment and operation of the Southern Maine Community College Mid-Coast Campus for higher education on the site of the former Brunswick Naval Air Station.

SPENDING

PUBLIC SAFETY

LR: 2154

Sponsor: Representative Martin, J. L. of Eagle Lake

Title: An Act To Transfer Funds from the Maine Emergency Management Agency to Maine Public Broadcasting

Comments: This bill would transfer \$250,000 from the Maine Emergency Management Agency to the Maine Public Broadcasting Network.

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

STATE FINANCES

BUDGET PROCEDURES

LR: 2040

Sponsor: Representative Lovejoy of Portland

Title: An Act To Provide Greater Transparency in State Budgeting

Comments: This bill would require state departments to provide the Legislature and appropriate policy committees information on account and fund balances and any unpaid obligations as of the end of each fiscal year. Departments would be required to provide a detailed accounting for all accounts that represent any balances carried forward from the end of the prior year. This bill would require departments to identify the carry forward balance of and provide information on expenditures from a dedicated revenue account.

LR: 2384

Sponsor: Representative Eves of North Berwick

Title: Resolve, To Establish the Maine Children's Budget

Comments: This resolve would require state departments, beginning with the budget for the 2012-2013 biennium, to present aspects of the budget that relate to prenatal services and services provided to children under 5 years of age in a coordinated fashion and in a format that provides separate line items for these expenditures.

STATE FINANCES

DEDICATED FUNDS

LR: 2041

Sponsor: Representative Lovejoy of Portland

Title: An Act To Place Limits on the Amount of Money That May Be Carried Forward in a Dedicated Revenue Account

Comments: This bill would place limits on the amount of money that may be carried forward in a dedicated revenue account. It would require that balances above these limits be transferred to the General Fund.

LR: 2068

Sponsor: Senator Courtney of York

Title: An Act To Maintain Funding for Death Benefits for Law Enforcement Personnel and Firefighters

Comments: A direct initiative of legislation, "An Act To Provide Tax Relief," that will appear on the November 3, 2009 ballot repeals language that specifies that death benefits for law enforcement personnel and firefighters are payable from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund. If the direct initiative of legislation is passed at referendum this November, this bill would restore that language.

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS PRACTICES
AUTOMOBILE SALES

LR: 2069

Sponsor: Representative Pilon of Saco

Title: An Act To Facilitate an Increase in Sales of Motor Vehicles

Comments: This bill would facilitate an increase in the sales of motor vehicles by removing the prohibition on the sales of motor vehicles on Sundays.

LR: 2391

Sponsor: Senator Bliss of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Protect Maine Consumers

Comments: This bill would require vehicle reporting agencies to disclose information to the vehicle's owner upon request with proper identification about the value of the property.

BUSINESS PRACTICES
FAIR CREDIT REPORTING

LR: 2156

Sponsor: Senator Bartlett of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Protect Maine Citizens' Credit

Comments: This bill would prohibit a person who provides medical treatment or a debt collection agency from furnishing information to a consumer reporting agency regarding an amount owed by a consumer whose income is below a certain level for the receipt of necessary medical treatment by the consumer or by a person to whom the consumer has a legal obligation to provide support. The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Consumer Credit Regulation would be given enforcement authority to investigate complaints.

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS PRACTICES
MARKETING

LR: 2092 Sponsor: Senator Schneider of Penobscot

Title: An Act To Protect Minors from Unscrupulous Marketing Practices

Comments: This bill would amend a recently enacted law concerning marketing and data collection practices concerning minors in order to address constitutional issues.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2305 Senator Schneider

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2331 Representative Cleary

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2348 Representative Johnson

LR: 2305 Sponsor: Senator Schneider of Penobscot

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Predatory Marketing Practices against Minors

Comments: This bill would amend the laws governing predatory marketing practices against minors to limit the application of the laws to individually identifiable health-related information. It also removes provisions that permit a private right of action by a person about whom information is unlawfully collected or who is the object of predatory marketing and that permit the Attorney General to bring a civil action pursuant to federal law.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2092 Senator Schneider

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2331 Representative Cleary

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2348 Representative Johnson

LR: 2331 Sponsor: Representative Cleary of Houlton

Title: An Act To Protect the Privacy of Minors

Comments: This bill would amend those portions of Public Law 2009, chapter 230 that may be unconstitutional.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2092 Senator Schneider

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2305 Senator Schneider

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2348 Representative Johnson

LR: 2348 Sponsor: Representative Johnson of Greenville

Title: An Act To Stop Predatory Marketing Practices against Minors

Comments: This bill would define "minor" as a person under 16 years of age in the new law dealing with marketing and data collection practices.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2092 Senator Schneider

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2305 Senator Schneider

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2331 Representative Cleary

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS PRACTICES
SALES

LR: 2356

Sponsor: Senator Trahan of Lincoln

Title: An Act To Strengthen Consumer Protection against Financial and Identity Theft
Comments: This bill would prohibit merchants that process credit and debit card transactions electronically from printing more than the last 5 digits of the credit or debit card account numbers on copies of receipts retained by the merchant.

BUSINESS PRACTICES
WARRANTIES

LR: 2165

Sponsor: Representative Crockett, P. of Augusta

Title: An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Extended Warranties
Comments: This bill would require sellers of consumer goods who offer extended service contracts to provide written notification, in bold type and plain language, of the existence and details of the State's implied warranty laws.

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING

- LR: 2358 Sponsor: Senator Simpson of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Increase the Financial Stability of Low-income Families
Comments: This bill would establish a working group, based on a model established in California, that is composed of community organizations, financial institutions, state agencies and Legislators to develop strategies to bring people with low and middle incomes into the mainstream banking system and away from check cashing businesses.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2488 Senator Sullivan
- LR: 2421 Sponsor: Senator Gerzofsky of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Enhance the Redevelopment of the Brunswick Naval Air Station
Comments: The bill would provide funds to support the Brunswick Naval Air Station redevelopment.
- LR: 2444 Sponsor: Representative Giles of Belfast
Title: An Act To Encourage Private Enterprise by Prohibiting the University of Maine from Economically Harming Private Enterprise
Comments: This bill would prohibit the University of Maine System from economically harming a private enterprise.
JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 598
- LR: 2479 Sponsor: Senator Rector of Knox
Title: An Act To Enhance the Small Enterprise Growth Fund
Comments: This bill would allow the Small Enterprise Growth Board to establish and manage a companion investment fund comprised of capital contributions from private and other sources to be made available for investing in small Maine companies with terms similar to the Small Enterprise Growth Fund.
Closely Related CO: LD 1
- LR: 2488 Sponsor: Senator Sullivan of York
Title: An Act To Encourage Personal Savings
Comments: This bill would create a working group of community organizations, financial institutions, state agencies and Legislators to develop strategies to get low-income people involved in the mainstream banking system and away from check-cashing and payday lending establishments.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2358 Senator Simpson

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FINANCE AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION

LR: 2324

Sponsor: Senator Schneider of Penobscot

Title: An Act To Provide the Finance Authority of Maine with Flexible Health Care Options

Comments: This bill would include employees of the Finance Authority of Maine as those eligible to participate in the State Health Plan.

LR: 2325

Sponsor: Senator Schneider of Penobscot

Title: Resolve, To Ensure Consistency in the Scheduled Expiration of Terms of the Board Members of the Finance Authority of Maine

Comments: This resolve would amend the terms of membership of 3 members of the board of directors of the Finance Authority of Maine to ensure that the terms of the board members are staggered.

HOUSING
CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

LR: 2422

Sponsor: Senator Diamond of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Establish a Sprinkler System Requirement in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code

Comments: This bill would specify in the law governing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code that a fire sprinkler system must be installed in all new one-family and 2-family dwellings in subdivisions of 5 or more homes without certain other fire protection methods.

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

ENERGY CONSERVATION

LR: 2235

Sponsor: Senator Goodall of Sagadahoc

Title: An Act To Promote Affordable Energy-efficient Housing

Comments: This bill would allow affordable housing projects to be built and receive funding outside of designated growth areas as long as 50.1% of the development is set aside in conservation and energy-efficient buildings are built. The buildings would need to meet a certain threshold rating requirement, such as the United States Department of Energy's and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program or the U. S. Green Building Council's LEED certification.

LR: 2456

Sponsor: Representative Hinck of Portland

Title: An Act To Promote Construction of Zero Net Energy Buildings

Comments: This bill would establish programs to promote the construction of zero net energy homes and buildings.

INDUSTRIES

HOTELS AND MOTELS

LR: 2335

Sponsor: Representative Knapp of Gorham

Title: An Act To Conserve Energy and Water

Comments: This bill would require a motel or hotel to offer a patron the option of not having their towels or sheets washed if they are staying more than one night.

LR: 2336

Sponsor: Representative Knapp of Gorham

Title: An Act To Require That Lights in Hotels and Motels Are Turned on by Using Room Keys

Comments: This bill would require that lights in hotels and motels are turned on by using room keys.

LR: 2337

Sponsor: Representative Knapp of Gorham

Title: An Act To Conserve Water

Comments: This bill would require bars, hotels and motels to have big flushes and small flushes in bathrooms to help conserve water.

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LICENSING
ACCOUNTANTS

LR: 2341

Sponsor: Senator Marrache of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Clarify the Educational Requirements of Candidates for Examination for Licensure as Certified Public Accountants

Comments: This bill would reinstate the original law pertaining to the educational requirements required to sit for the examination for licensure as a certified public accountant, as well as the requirements for licensure.

LICENSING
AUCTIONEERS

LR: 2498

Sponsor: Representative Adams of Portland

Title: An Act To Protect Maine's Integral and Historic Documents

Comments: This bill would require licensed auctioneers and antique dealers to report discovery of certain town, county and state documents with historic value to the State to allow the State to ascertain true ownership.

LR: 2502

Sponsor: Senator Bryant, B. of Oxford

Title: An Act To Improve the Standards of Auctioneers

Comments: This bill would strengthen the standards that govern auctioneers.

LICENSING
DENTAL PERSONNEL

LR: 2172

Sponsor: Representative Blanchard of Old Town

Title: An Act To Allow the Board of Dental Examiners To Grant Permits To Qualified Individuals To Practice as Dental Residents

Comments: This bill would allow the board to issue a temporary permit or license to a qualified individual to practice as a dental resident under the supervision of a licensed dentist within a board-approved dental residency program setting.

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LICENSING
NURSES

LR: 2306

Sponsor: Representative Perry, A. of Calais

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Comments: This bill would delete outdated language relating to delegated medical procedures that are already within the scope of certain advanced practice registered nurses.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING
RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

LR: 2288

Sponsor: Senator Schneider of Penobscot

Title: An Act Regarding the Law Governing Recreational Vehicle Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers

Comments: Under current law, recreational vehicles, which are defined as vehicles that are mounted on or towed by other vehicles, and motorized recreational vehicles are governed by separate laws for purposes of regulation of business practices. This bill would remove motorized recreational vehicles from the laws governing regulation of motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors and dealers and would add them to the laws governing nonmotorized recreational vehicles.

PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REG. DEPT
ADMINISTRATION

LR: 2457

Sponsor: Representative Smith, N. of Monmouth

Title: An Act To Establish an Office of Administrative Law Judges for Licensing Boards

Comments: This bill would establish an independent office of administrative law judges to decide cases related to licensing complaints from licensing boards under the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REG. DEPT
POWERS

LR: 2054

Sponsor: Representative Peterson of Rumford

Title: An Act To Clarify the Enforcement Role of the Mixed Martial Arts Authority of Maine

Comments: This bill would enhance and clarify the licensing and oversight authority of the Mixed Martial Arts Authority of Maine

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
CORRECTIONS BOARD

LR: 2159 Sponsor: Senator Smith, D. of Piscataquis

Title: An Act To Repeal the Laws Requiring the Coordination of State and County Correctional Services

Comments: This bill would repeal the laws requiring the coordination of state and county correctional services.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2164 Senator Trahan

LR: 2164 Sponsor: Senator Trahan of Lincoln

Title: An Act To Repeal the Laws Governing the Coordination of State and County Correctional Services

Comments: This bill would repeal the laws requiring the coordination of state and county correctional services.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2159 Senator Smith, D.

LR: 2195 Sponsor: Representative Crockett, P. of Augusta

Title: An Act To Make Improvements to the Laws Governing the State Board of Corrections

Comments: This bill would permit counties to collect from the property tax levy an amount above the current caps in statute equal to the difference between the amount of state funds certified by the State Board of Corrections as necessary to continue operations in county jails and the amount actually appropriated by the Legislature when the latter amount is less than the former amount.

LR: 2338 Sponsor: Senator Nass, R. of York

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing County Jail Budgeting for York County

Comments: This bill would amend the law governing county jail budgeting for York County to allow York County to use revenues from boarding prisoners to offset other county expenses, to alter the allocation for the county jail's contribution to the payroll for certain services and to require that the debt service for the county jail be paid out of the jail budget rather than the county budget.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

CORRECTIONS DEPT
PROCEDURES

LR: 2289

Sponsor: Representative Schatz of Blue Hill

Title: Resolve, To Reduce the Use and Abuse of Solitary Confinement

Comments: This resolve would require the Department of Corrections to amend its policies to provide that a prisoner may not remain confined in a special management unit for more than 45 days unless it is established at a hearing that the prisoner within the previous 45 days, while incarcerated, committed or attempted to commit: an act of violence that resulted in serious injury to another or death; an act in connection with sexual assault; or an escape or attempted escape from within a security perimeter or custody. This resolve would provide procedural safeguards for such a hearing. It also would prohibit the placement of a prisoner with a serious mental illness in a special management unit and limit the use of restraints in such a unit.

CRIMES
MOTOR VEHICLE

LR: 2470

Sponsor: Representative Strang Burgess of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Change Operating after Suspension to a Civil Violation

Comments: This bill would change the violation of operating a motor vehicle after the suspension of a driver's license from a criminal violation to a civil violation.

CRIMES
NEGOTIATING WORTHLESS INSTRUMENT

LR: 2200

Sponsor: Representative Shaw of Standish

Title: An Act To Increase the Penalties for Writing Bad Checks

Comments: This bill would amend the criminal laws governing bad checks by increasing the classification of crimes involving bad checks by one class and, in cases where a transfer of merchandise occurred, allowing these crimes to be classified as a theft 30 days after the date stamped on the check by the bank indicating insufficient funds. It would amend the civil laws governing bad checks by extending the statute of limitations to 18 months and allowing a person to recover triple damages plus court costs and attorney's fees.

JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 1107

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

CRIMES

SEX OFFENSES

LR: 2105

Sponsor: Senator Gerzofsky of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Require Persons Who Commit Sex Offenses against Dependent or Incapacitated Adults To Register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 1999

Comments: This bill would expand the definition of "sex offense" for purposes of the duty to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 1999 to include those persons who commit sex offenses against dependent or incapacitated adults.

LR: 2142

Sponsor: Senator Courtney of York

Title: An Act To Increase the Maximum Distance from a School and a Day Care Center That May Be Set by Municipal Ordinance beyond Which a Sex Offender May Reside

Comments: This bill would increase the maximum distance that may be set by municipal ordinance beyond which a sex offender may reside from 750 to 2,500 feet.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2189 Representative Flaherty

LR: 2189

Sponsor: Representative Flaherty of Scarborough

Title: An Act To Limit the Distance from a Day Care Facility within Which a Registered Sex Offender May Reside

Comments: Current law restricts the distance from a school within which a registered sex offender may reside. This bill expands the law to limit the distance from a day care facility within which a registered sex offender may reside.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2142 Senator Courtney

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE SAFETY

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

LR: 2186

Sponsor: Representative Sykes of Harrison

Title: An Act To Require That All Rules Adopted by the Bureau of Labor Standards Concerning Fire and Rescue Issues Benefit from Legislative Review

Comments: This bill would specify that all rules adopted by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards concerning fire and rescue issues are major substantive rules.

LR: 2211

Sponsor: Senator Jackson of Aroostook

Title: An Act Regarding Accidental Death Benefits for Beneficiaries of Deceased Firefighters

Comments: This bill would provide an accidental death benefit to the beneficiary of a firefighter who dies from cardiovascular or pulmonary disease as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, section 328. This bill would apply only to municipal firefighters who are members of the Participating Local District Retirement Program administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. This bill would provide an accidental death benefit and not a disability benefit to the beneficiary of the firefighter who died in the line of duty.

FIRE SAFETY

FIRE MARSHAL

LR: 2196

Sponsor: Representative Pilon of Saco

Title: An Act To Restore the Minimum Distance between Generators and Residential Structures to One Foot

Comments: Rules adopted by the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, which incorporated by reference National Fire Protection Association standard number 37, increased the minimum distance allowed between a stationary generator and a residential structure from one foot to 5 feet. This bill restores the minimum distance allowed to one foot.

FIRE SAFETY

SMOKE DETECTORS

LR: 2417

Sponsor: Senator Diamond of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Amend the Law Pertaining to Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Comments: This bill would clarify when and where smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors must be used.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

JUVENILE OFFENDERS
JUVENILE CODE

LR: 2117

Sponsor: Representative Haskell of Portland

- Title: An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Task Force
- Comments: This bill would implement the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Task Force, which include the establishment of a Coordinated Services District System, the implementation by the Department of Corrections of 2 demonstration projects, the development of a statewide system for "in home and out of home placements," and the development of a plan identifying an ongoing mechanism to provide flexible funding for youth served by multiple state agencies.

LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER CERTIFICATION

LR: 2129

Sponsor: Representative Crockett, P. of Augusta

- Title: An Act To Expand the Scope of Motor Vehicle Inspection for Certain Law Enforcement Officers
- Comments: This bill would include sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in the law enforcement officers who may demand and inspect a driver's record of duty status and medical examiner's certificate.

OPERATING UNDER INFLUENCE
BLOOD-ALCOHOL LEVEL

LR: 2312

Sponsor: Senator Hobbins of York

- Title: An Act To Restore the Laws Governing Operating under the Influence
- Comments: Last session, the Legislature enacted Public Law 2009, chapter 447, "An Act Clarifying the Manner in Which a Person's Alcohol Level Is Determined under Maine Law." This bill would eliminate the changes made by that law and restore the law that existed prior to its enactment.

OPERATING UNDER INFLUENCE
EVIDENCE

LR: 2373

Sponsor: Representative Tilton of Harrington

- Title: An Act To Discourage Drunk Driving
- Comments: The bill would require a more intensive and standardized curriculum and test for determining if a person is drunk.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OPERATING UNDER INFLUENCE
PENALTIES

LR: 2055

Sponsor: Senator Bartlett of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Allow Greater Use of the Ignition Interlock Device Program

Comments: This bill proposes to extend the authority of the Secretary of State regarding license suspensions and installation of ignition interlock devices.

PAROLE
SYSTEM REINSTATED

LR: 2043

Sponsor: Representative Tuttle of Sanford

Title: An Act To Reinstiate a System of Parole and To Implement a Program Designed To Reintegrate Former Prisoners into the Community

Comments: This bill would reinstate a system of parole, direct the Department of Corrections to examine the issue of aging prisoners and implement a program designed to reintegrate former prisoners into the community.

PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMUNICATIONS

LR: 2197

Sponsor: Representative Crockett, P. of Augusta

Title: An Act Concerning Statewide Communications Interoperability

Comments: This bill would require that the statewide radio network under construction be available to other units of government without the need for other units of government to purchase new radios or that a portion of the proceeds of the bond issue paying for the statewide radio network be allocated to local units of government for the purchase of radio equipment necessary for them to communicate on the new network.

PUBLIC SAFETY
EMERGENCIES

LR: 2285

Sponsor: Representative McLeod of Lee

Title: An Act To Create a Duty To Report Serious Injuries

Comments: This bill would require persons observing a serious injury to report to emergency officials and create a cause of action against a person who fails to report as required.
JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 1258

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

SENTENCES

ALTERNATIVES

LR: 2383

Sponsor: Representative Crockett, P. of Augusta

Title: An Act To Provide Full Accountability for Convicted Class D Sex Offenders

Comments: This bill would change the law to allow a judge to sentence any person convicted of a Class D crime under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, chapter 11 or chapter 12 to up to 2 years probation.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

ADULT EDUCATION
PROGRAMS

LR: 2343

Sponsor: Representative McFadden of Dennysville

Title: An Act To Establish a School of Practical Skills in Washington County

Comments: This bill would establish a school of practical skills in Washington County.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
DEGREE AUTHORITY

LR: 2095

Sponsor: Representative Welsh of Rockport

Title: An Act To Authorize Maine Media College To Confer the Degree of Master of Fine Arts

Comments: Private and Special Law 2009, chapter 9 recognized the change in ownership of Rockport College, which was renamed Maine Media College. That law also provided authorization for Maine Media College to confer, until June 30, 2010, the degree of Master of Fine Arts, while the college sought national accreditation for the program and authority from the State Board of Education. This bill would extend the authority of the college to confer such degrees after June 30, 2010.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

LR: 2209

Sponsor: Representative Morrison of South Portland

Title: An Act To Establish an Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program

Comments: This bill would establish an early high school graduation achievement scholarship program for students graduating early.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
TUITION WAIVERS

LR: 2047

Sponsor: Representative Cornell du Houx of Brunswick

Title: An Act To Clarify the State's Initiative Involving the Federal Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008

Comments: This bill would clarify an ambiguity in law that prevents Maine's public colleges and universities from receiving the full amount of reimbursement for veterans under the federal Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

CONSOLIDATION
ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

LR: 2194 Sponsor: Representative McFadden of Dennysville

Title: An Act To Remove the Requirement That the Annual Budget of a Regional School Unit Must Be Approved at a Budget Validation Referendum

Comments: This bill would remove the requirement that a referendum must be held in the regional school unit to allow the voters to validate or reject the total budget adopted at the regional school unit budget meeting.

Closely Related CO: LD 570

LR: 2271 Sponsor: Representative Saviello of Wilton

Title: An Act To Form a Western Maine Regional School Unit

Comments: This bill would authorize the Commissioner of Education to allow the formation of a regional school unit to include Maine School Administrative District No. 58, Copeland Plantation, Highland Plantation and those unorganized territories with students that currently attend Maine School Administrative District No. 58.

Closely Related CO: LD 570

LR: 2428 Sponsor: Senator Perry, J. of Penobscot

Title: An Act To Exempt the Town of Hermon from the School Administrative Unit Consolidation Law

Comments: This bill would exempt the Town of Hermon from the school administrative unit consolidation law.

Closely Related CO: LD 570

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

CONSOLIDATION
COST-SHARING

LR: 2073

Sponsor: Representative Connor of Kennebunk

Title: An Act to Require the State To Pay the Costs of School Administration Consolidation

Comments: This bill would require the State to pay by July 1, 2012 the cost of consolidation of any town or community that complied by June 2, 2009 with the laws governing the reorganization of school administrative units.

LR: 2323

Sponsor: Senator Bowman of York

Title: An Act To Allow the Town of Wells and the Town of Ogunquit To Amend the Terms of Their Cost-sharing Agreement for Their Community School District and To Provide Each Town the Ability To Withdraw from the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District

Comments: This bill would allow the Town of Wells and the Town of Ogunquit to amend the terms of their cost-sharing agreement for their community school district and to provide each town the ability to withdraw from the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District.
JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 475

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2106 Representative Miller

CONSOLIDATION
SCHOOL WITHDRAWAL FROM RSU

LR: 2106

Sponsor: Representative Miller of Somerville

Title: An Act To Allow a School To Withdraw from a Regional School Unit

Comments: This bill would allow a school to withdraw from a regional school unit and become a part of another school administrative unit.
JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 475

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2323 Senator Bowman

CULTURAL AGENCIES
ARTS COMMISSION

LR: 2463

Sponsor: Representative Percy of Phippsburg

Title: An Act To Implement Recommendations Contained in the Audit of the Maine State Library, Maine Arts Commission, Maine State Museum Commission and Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Comments: This bill would implement the recommendations contained in the audit of the Maine State Library, Maine Arts Commission, Maine State Museum Commission and Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

CULTURAL AGENCIES
NEW

LR: 2133

Sponsor: Senator Raye of Washington

Title: An Act To Establish the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame

Comments: This bill would establish the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame.

EDUCATION DEPT
POWERS

LR: 2062

Sponsor: Senator Mills, P. of Somerset

Title: An Act To Maximize Maine's Eligibility To Receive Grants from the Federal Race to the Top Fund

Comments: This bill would enact changes to the laws governing education that are necessary to maximize the State's eligibility for receiving competitive grants under the federal Race to the Top Fund, including, but not limited to, creating the conditions for education innovation and reform; implementing plans in education reform areas described in the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; authorizing charter schools; and achieving significant improvement in student outcomes.

LR: 2185

Sponsor: Representative Flaherty of Scarborough

Title: Resolve, To Direct the Department of Education To Convene a Task Force To Review Educational Opportunities for English Language Learners in the State

Comments: This resolve would direct the Department of Education to convene a task force to review educational opportunities for English language learners in the State.

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA
ADJUSTMENTS

LR: 2387

Sponsor: Representative Webster of Freeport

Title: An Act To Create Fair Education Funding for Regional School Units

Comments: This bill would distribute funds originally proposed to be sent to schools that successfully consolidated.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA
ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

LR: 2241

Sponsor: Representative Wagner of Lyman

Title: Resolve, To Adjust the State Educational Funding Assistance Formula

Comments: This resolve would direct the Department of Education to use the most recent 2006 labor market areas data from the United States Department of Labor to compute funding for essential programs and services instead of the 2003 data now in use.

Closely Related CO: LD 551

LR: 2311

Sponsor: Representative Rotundo of Lewiston

Title: An Act To Allow Minor Capital School Improvement Projects To Be Permitted Costs under Essential Programs and Services

Comments: This bill would allow the cost of minor capital school improvement projects, such as the replacement of windows, a boiler or a roof, to be a permitted cost under essential programs and services.

Closely Related CO: LD 551

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA
PAYMENT OF SUBSIDY

LR: 2201 Sponsor: Representative O'Brien of Lincolnville

Title: An Act To Exempt from Penalties School Administrative Units That Would Lose Subsidy as a Result of Reorganization

Comments: This bill would exempt from paying penalties all school administrative units in a reorganizing group of school administrative units when the reorganization would result in the loss of subsidy for one or more of the school administrative units.

Closely Related CO: LD 570

LR: 2202 Sponsor: Representative O'Brien of Lincolnville

Title: An Act To Require the Department of Education To Calculate Subsidy on the Basis of Membership in a Regional School Unit or an Alternative Organizational Structure and as if the School Administrative Unit Had Not Reorganized as of 2009

Comments: This bill would require the Department of Education to calculate the subsidy a school administrative unit would receive as part of a regional school unit or an alternative organizational structure and as if the school administrative unit had not reorganized as of 2009. The department would be required to pay the larger subsidy amount to the regional school unit or alternative organizational structure of which that school administrative unit is a member.

Closely Related CO: LD 160

LR: 2353 Sponsor: Representative Rotundo of Lewiston

Title: An Act To Waive Certain Penalties Imposed against School Administrative Units if the State Has Not Fulfilled Its Goal of Paying 55% of Costs

Comments: This bill would waive the state subsidy penalty imposed against a school administrative unit that has not raised the minimum amount for education costs if the State has not fulfilled its goal of paying 55% of essential programs and services costs.

Closely Related CO: LD 551

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

SCHOOL POLICIES
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

LR: 2251

Sponsor: Senator Alfond of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Increase Maine's High School Graduation Rate

Comments: This bill would require the State's graduation rate to be 90% by the year 2016. The bill would require the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to establish a stakeholders group to make recommendations and propose legislation related to: establishing guidelines for school suspensions and expulsions; the impact and implementation of zero-tolerance practices; current truancy laws to determine best practices for schools, families and youth; and raising the mandatory age of school attendance from 17 to 18 years of age. The stakeholders would report on their recommendations with proposed legislation to the 125th Legislature by January 2011.

SCHOOL POLICIES
SCHOOL YEAR

LR: 2351

Sponsor: Representative Sutherland of Chapman

Title: Resolve, To Develop a Model Academic Year Calendar

Comments: This resolve would establish a study group for kindergarten-to-grade-12 school officials, primarily superintendents and career and technical education directors, called together by the Commissioner of Education, to prepare a draft academic year calendar. The calendar would be available for statewide review by December 1, 2010. It would allow the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs to submit legislation for the 125th Legislature.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
SERVICES

LR: 2151

Sponsor: Senator Bowman of York

Title: An Act To Permit Representation by Persons Other Than Attorneys in Certain Hearings, Actions and Proceedings before the Department of Education

Comments: This bill would specifically authorize a person who is not an attorney to represent or assist a party in any hearing, action or proceeding before the Department of Education.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATION

LR: 2443

Sponsor: Senator Marrache of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Protect University of Maine Students from Unnecessary Tuition Increases

Comments: This bill would require that the University of Maine System divest and monetize certain telecommunications service property and information service property.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
CHARTER CHANGES

LR: 2420

Sponsor: Senator Alfond of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Assist the University of Maine System To Achieve Its Core Mission

Comments: This bill would implement changes to the charter of the University of Maine System in order to help the university put into practice the recommendations of the so-called "Flanagan Commission" and to make other changes consistent with refocusing the University of Maine System on its core mission of education and research.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
POWERS

LR: 2269

Sponsor: Representative Saviello of Wilton

Title: Resolve, To Give Linwood Wright His Bachelor's Degree in Forestry from the University of Maine

Comments: This bill would allow an 84-year-old veteran in poor health to receive a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Maine. Mr. Wright left the University of Maine in 1948 in his junior year to fly 129 missions in the Berlin Airlift and remained in military service until his retirement.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CHILD)

LR: 2368 Sponsor: Senator Sullivan of York

Title: An Act To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Represent the Child in All Proceedings on Protection from Abuse Orders Involving a Child

Comments: This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to represent the child in all proceedings on protection from abuse orders involving a child.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
SOCIAL SERVICES

LR: 2270 Sponsor: Representative Saviello of Wilton

Title: An Act To Extend the Maternal and Infant Death Review Panel

Comments: The maternal and infant death review panel established under the Department of Health and Human Services is currently scheduled to end January 1, 2011. This bill would extend the date of the panel's repeal to January 1, 2016 to give the panel time to complete its work.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2329 Senator Marrache

LR: 2329 Sponsor: Senator Marrache of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Ensure the Continuation of the Maternal and Infant Death Review Panel

Comments: This bill would repeal the provision of law ending the maternal and infant death review panel on January 1, 2011.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2270 Representative Saviello

DISABLED PERSONS
CHILDREN

LR: 2276 Sponsor: Senator Alfond of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Improve the Availability, Efficiency and Cost of Services for Infants, Young Children and Their Families

Comments: This bill would restructure the services available to infants and young children with developmental disabilities, including autism, and delays. The restructured services would include supports to the families of these young people. It aims to improve informed choices for families and improve the coordination of services among numerous agencies and state departments. The new structure would be streamlined to improve identification of need, ease of accessing services, improve outcomes for young children and their families and improve efficiency in the use of state funds.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DISEASES REPORTING

LR: 2198

Sponsor: Representative Goode of Bangor

Title: Resolve, To Define High-risk Populations for the Purposes of Hospital Surveillance for Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus and To Implement Public Law 2009, chapter 346

Comments: This resolve would direct the Maine Quality Forum to adopt rules defining a high-risk population and to adopt rules requiring the reporting of positive methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus screening.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2493 Senator Mills, P.

LR: 2301

Sponsor: Representative Piotti of Unity

Title: An Act To Prevent the Spread of Eastern Equine Encephalitis

Comments: This bill would establish a state-municipal partnership to improve suppression, prevention and reporting of Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

ELDERLY PROTECTIVE SERVICES

LR: 2059

Sponsor: Representative Rotundo of Lewiston

Title: An Act To Establish a Silver Alert Program

Comments: This bill would establish a so-called "silver alert" program to provide notice to law enforcement agencies, the media and the public regarding missing adults with disabilities.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES NURSING HOMES

LR: 2436

Sponsor: Representative Perry, A. of Calais

Title: An Act To Ensure Fairness in Penalties for Administrative Errors in the Long-term Care Assessment Process

Comments: This bill would require that for nursing homes and private nonmedical institutions, to the extent the Department of Health and Human Services establishes penalties or denies reimbursement when a facility is late or misses a deadline for obtaining an assessment of a resident's needs for service, the penalty must be limited to 20% of total reimbursement unless it is proven that the resident, if timely assessed, would not have been eligible for continuing services.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH CARE SERVICES CHILDREN

LR: 2212

Sponsor: Representative Boland of Sanford

Title: An Act To Create the Children's Wireless Protection Act

Comments: This bill would require warning labels on packaging for cellular telephones outlining the potential risks of exposure to children and pregnant women.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES DELIVERY

LR: 2483

Sponsor: Representative Boland of Sanford

Title: An Act To Ensure Patients Can Receive Estimates for the Cost of Treatments

Comments: This bill would require a doctor or hospital at the request of a patient to provide an estimate of the costs for treating that patient and the portion of those costs the patient will have to pay out-of-pocket.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES PHARMACIES

LR: 2107

Sponsor: Representative Cotta of China

Title: An Act To Allow Issuing Pharmacies To Accept Unused Prescription Medications

Comments: This bill would allow a pharmacy to accept returned unused prescription medications that were provided at that pharmacy.

LR: 2249

Sponsor: Senator Bowman of York

Title: An Act To Require a Pharmacist To Provide Prior Notification or Obtain Consent from the Prescribing Physicians before Changing from One Formulation or Manufacturer to Another of an Antiepileptic Drug

Comments: This bill would require a pharmacist to provide prior notification and obtain consent from the prescribing physician if an antiepileptic drug is switched from one formulation or manufacturer to another if the drug is used to treat epilepsy.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH CARE SERVICES PLANNING

LR: 2038

Sponsor: Senator Marrache of Kennebec

Title: Resolve, To Allow for the Proper Disposal of Medical Supplies

Comments: This resolve would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a program to allow consumers to safely dispose of medical supplies, including but not limited to syringes and diabetic test supplies.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES PREVENTION PROGRAMS

LR: 2136

Sponsor: Representative Thomas of Ripley

Title: An Act To Prohibit Mandatory Vaccinations

Comments: This bill would prohibit mandatory vaccinations, except for vaccinations for school-age children attending school.

LR: 2437

Sponsor: Representative Perry, A. of Calais

Title: An Act Enabling Expedited Partner Therapy

Comments: This bill would allow a health care professional who diagnoses a patient with certain sexually transmitted diseases to provide expedited medical therapy to that patient's sexual partner for the treatment of the sexually transmitted disease without a physical examination if in the judgment of the health care professional the partner is unlikely or unable to be seen for comprehensive health care.

LR: 2493

Sponsor: Senator Mills, P. of Somerset

Title: An Act To Require That Hospitals Adopt Recognized Checklists and Procedures Designed To Reduce Health Care Associated Infections to Minimal Levels

Comments: This bill would require rulemaking to immediately require Maine hospitals to adopt checklists and procedures produced by Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine for reduction of health care associated infections.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2198 Representative Goode

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MEDICAID MAINECARE

LR: 2168 Sponsor: Representative Cebra of Naples

Title: An Act To Require an Independent Audit of the MaineCare System

Comments: This bill would require an independent audit of the MaineCare System.

LR: 2207 Sponsor: Representative Strang Burgess of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Require MaineCare To Provide Coverage for Genetic Testing for Cancer

Comments: This bill would require MaineCare to provide coverage for genetic testing for cancer for individuals that have a known or suspected hereditary cancer susceptibility.

LR: 2242 Sponsor: Representative Finch of Fairfield

Title: An Act To Make Certain MaineCare Rules Adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services Major Substantive Rules

Comments: This bill would require that any rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services that apply to MaineCare or Medicaid and affect funds received by school administrative units be major substantive rules and not routine technical rules.

LR: 2367 Sponsor: Representative Lewin of Eliot

Title: An Act To Reimburse Pharmacies under the MaineCare Program Based on Wholesale Acquisition Costs

Comments: This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse pharmacies under the MaineCare program based on wholesale acquisition costs. In the first year of reimbursement, the department would reimburse wholesale acquisition costs plus 6%; thereafter the amount would be determined by rulemaking by the department. The bill would also define wholesale acquisition costs in Title 22.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

LR: 2496 Sponsor: Senator Mills, P. of Somerset

Title: An Act To Require the Immediate Closure or Consolidation of Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center

Comments: This bill would require the immediate closure or consolidation of the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SMOKING
PUBLIC FACILITIES

LR: 2093 Sponsor: Representative Driscoll of Westbrook

Title: An Act To Prohibit Smoking at Health Care Facilities

Comments: This bill would prohibit smoking at all health care facilities, including their grounds.

SMOKING
RESTAURANTS

LR: 2162 Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan

Title: An Act To Exempt Certain Establishments from Maine's Outdoor Smoking Law

Comments: This bill would exempt bars, cocktail lounges and night clubs from the definition of an "eating establishment" under Maine law relating to smoking in outdoor eating areas.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE
TREATMENT

LR: 2307 Sponsor: Representative Beaudette of Biddeford

Title: An Act To Enact the Maine Substance Abuse Impairment Act

Comments: This bill would provide standards for voluntary and involuntary admission of a person for treatment of substance abuse at a facility operated by a service provider.

VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATES

LR: 2480 Sponsor: Senator Raye of Washington

Title: An Act To Repeal the Fee Increase for Copies of Vital Records

Comments: This bill would repeal the 400% fee increase for copies of death and birth certificates and other documents kept by the Office of Vital Records within the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of Health Data and Program Management.

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

FISH
PROTECTION

LR: 2278

Sponsor: Representative Duchesne of Hudson

Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Adopt Rules Clarifying Fish Stocking Decisions

Comments: This resolve would direct the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt major substantive rules clarifying fish stocking decisions in public waters. The rules must include a definition for "reasonable public access." This definition must include an assessment of the availability of publicly owned access points, the availability and suitability of privately owned, publicly accessible points, the resources contributed and responsibilities undertaken by local residents and associations, the threat of invasive species and the reasonableness and effectiveness of citizen-initiated programs to prevent the spread of invasive species, including the availability of boat-washing systems at launch ramps, on-site volunteer monitoring efforts and supervised gate systems.

FISH
SMELTS

LR: 2396

Sponsor: Senator Bryant, B. of Oxford

Title: Resolve, Requiring the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Provide Greater Access to Smelting for Youth License Holders

Comments: This bill would require the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to identify lakes currently closed to smelting that could be opened to smelting for a person holding a youth license issued by the department and to report those water bodies to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

HUNTING
FEES

LR: 2291

Sponsor: Representative Schatz of Blue Hill

Title: An Act To Increase Payments to Agents Who Provide Tags for Wild Game

Comments: This bill would encourage more agents to provide tags for wild game by increasing the fee to tag an animal by \$2 and increasing the payments to tagging agents from \$1 per animal to \$3 per animal.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2385 Representative Beaulieu

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2414 Representative Clark

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

HUNTING

LOCAL OPTIONS

LR: 2081

Sponsor: Representative Mazurek of Rockland

Title: An Act To Allow Deer Hunting with Shotguns Only in Owls Head During Firearms Season

Comments: This bill would allow the hunting of deer with shotguns only in the Town of Owls Head and on Sheeps Island in Owls Head during the firearms season on deer.

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

HUNTING
REGULATIONS

LR: 2149 Sponsor: Representative Piotti of Unity

Title: An Act To Amend the Current Moose Permit System and Preference Point System in Maine

Comments: This bill would amend the law governing the public drawings for moose hunting permits. This bill would allow for the purchase of an unlimited number of chances in the so-called moose lottery after the purchase of a 6-chance application. This bill would implement 2 special permit drawings before the public chance drawings. The first would award 500 permits and would be for those who have accumulated the maximum amount of bonus points because they have consistently applied for and never received a moose hunting permit. The 2nd would award 1/3 of the remaining available permits and would be for residents who have accumulated 7 or more points.

LR: 2355 Sponsor: Representative Pratt of Eddington

Title: An Act To Streamline the Permitting Process for Muzzle-loading Permit Renewal

Comments: This bill would allow a person holding a muzzle-loading permit to renew the permit without complications if the permit holder has not committed a crime since the permit was last issued.

LR: 2385 Sponsor: Representative Beaulieu of Auburn

Title: An Act To Compensate Tagging Agents

Comments: This bill would allow tagging station agents who register animals to receive 40% of the tagging fee.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2291 Representative Schatz

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2414 Representative Clark

LR: 2394 Sponsor: Senator Bryant, B. of Oxford

Title: An Act Regarding the Electronic Tagging of Big Game Animals

Comments: This bill would allow harvested big game animals to be electronically tagged.

LR: 2414 Sponsor: Representative Clark of Millinocket

Title: An Act Related to Distribution of Tagging Registration Fees

Comments: This bill would change the distribution of tagging registration fees to provide \$2 to the tagging station and \$3 to the State.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2291 Representative Schatz

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2385 Representative Beaulieu

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

HUNTING
SUNDAYS

LR: 2395

Sponsor: Senator Bryant, B. of Oxford

Title: An Act To Encourage Youth Participation in Maine's Hunting Heritage

Comments: This bill would allow youth license holders to hunt on Sunday on public lands.
JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 942

HUNTING
YOUTH LICENSES

LR: 2083

Sponsor: Representative Clark of Millinocket

Title: Resolve, To Encourage Hunting by Reinstating Youth Hunting Day

Comments: This resolve would reinstitute youth hunting day, which designated the Saturday before the regular deer hunting season as a special hunting day for the youth of the State.

RECREATION
ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

LR: 2080

Sponsor: Representative Johnson of Greenville

Title: An Act Concerning All-terrain Vehicle Use on Town Roads

Comments: This bill would authorize municipalities to permit all-terrain vehicles on town roads either by residents only or by the general public based on an assessment of the safety factors and on economic and other community concerns.

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

RECREATION
WATERCRAFT

LR: 2103 Sponsor: Senator Gerzofsky of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Prevent Municipalities from Establishing Boat Moorings around State-owned Public Boat Launches

Comments: This bill would prevent municipalities from establishing boat moorings around state-owned public boat launches.

LR: 2166 Sponsor: Senator Hastings of Oxford

Title: An Act To Prohibit Floating Barges on a Portion of the Saco River

Comments: This bill would prohibit floating barges on a portion of the Saco River.

LR: 2175 Sponsor: Representative Watson of Bath

Title: An Act To Require Seasonal Use of Personal Flotation Devices

Comments: This bill would require a person to wear a personal flotation device while operating or a passenger on a vessel of less than 21 feet between November 1st and May 1st.
JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 164

LR: 2190 Sponsor: Representative Johnson of Greenville

Title: An Act To Prohibit the Use of Jet Skis on Wilson Pond

Comments: This bill would prohibit the use of jet skis on Wilson Pond.

SEARCH AND RESCUE
ANIMALS

LR: 2447 Sponsor: Senator Gerzofsky of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Ensure That Search and Rescue Dogs Are Afforded the Same Protections and Accommodations as Service Animals

Comments: This bill would ensure that all search and rescue dogs have access to public facilities and housing accommodations as service animals do.

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

WARDENS

POWERS AND DUTIES

LR: 2354

Sponsor: Representative Sarty of Denmark

Title: An Act To Amend the Standards by Which Game Wardens May Stop All-terrain Vehicles when Operating on Privately Owned Lands

Comments: This bill provides that a game warden is not required to have reasonable and articulable suspicion to believe a violation of law has taken place or is taking place when an all-terrain vehicle is operating on privately owned lands.

INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

FINANCIAL PRACTICES ACCOUNT SALES

LR: 2489

Sponsor: Senator Sullivan of York

Title: An Act To Allow a Maine-chartered Financial Institution To Conduct a Savings Promotion Raffle

Comments: This bill would amend the laws governing raffles to allow any Maine-chartered financial institution, a bank or credit union, to conduct a "savings promotion raffle." The sole consideration required for a chance of winning the designated prizes in the raffle would be the deposit of at least a specified amount of money into a savings account or other savings program offered by the Maine-chartered financial institution.

FINANCIAL PRACTICES LOANS

LR: 2386

Sponsor: Representative Beaulieu of Auburn

Title: An Act Regarding Surety Bond Exemption

Comments: This bill would exempt loan brokers that conduct business solely as facilitators of refund anticipation loans or refund anticipation checks from the \$20,000 surety bond requirement if they meet certain requirements.

FINANCIAL PRACTICES MORTGAGES

LR: 2048

Sponsor: Representative Treat of Hallowell

Title: An Act To Clarify the Application of Certain Statutory Requirements to Foreclosures

Comments: This bill would clarify that the changes in the notice period for cure of defaults of mortgages applies to all mortgage lenders. The bill would also make changes to Public Law 2009, chapter 402 recommended by the Judicial Department.

INSURANCE CAPTIVE INSURERS

LR: 2277

Sponsor: Senator Alfond of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Create Jobs and Stimulate Economic Development by Making Captive Insurers Eligible for Pine Tree Development Zone Benefits for 10 Years

Comments: This bill would make captive insurance companies located in the State eligible for Pine Tree Development Zone benefits for a 10-year period and provide for a 100% state income tax credit during that 10-year period.

INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

INSURANCE HEALTH

- LR: 2094 Sponsor: Representative Mazurek of Rockland
- Title: An Act To Expand the Opportunity for Persons To Acquire Health Care Coverage under the State's "Mini-COBRA" Program
- Comments: This bill would allow persons who have been permanently laid off to acquire health care coverage under the State's so-called "mini-COBRA" program.
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- LR: 2125 Sponsor: Representative Legg of Kennebunk
- Title: An Act concerning the Use of Long-term Antibiotics for the Treatment of Lyme Disease
- Comments: This bill would require coverage of long-term antibiotic therapy for patients with Lyme disease under individual and group health insurance. This bill would also provide protection from licensing disciplinary action for physicians prescribing, administering or dispensing long-term antibiotics to patients with Lyme disease.
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- LR: 2150 Sponsor: Representative Knight of Livermore Falls
- Title: An Act Regarding Health Insurance Coverage for Infertility Treatment
- Comments: This bill would require private health insurers that issue policies in the State to provide coverage for infertility treatments for otherwise healthy married individuals, subject to the following: 1. An insurer could not require a subscriber copayment that exceeds 50%; 2. An insurer would not be required to provide coverage to a subscriber whose infertility is definitively caused by one or more sexually transmitted diseases; 3. In vitro fertilization would be covered only if the number of embryos implanted does not exceed the number set forth in standards adopted by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine.
-
- LR: 2161 Sponsor: Senator Smith, D. of Piscataquis
- Title: An Act To Allow the Purchase of Health Insurance from New Hampshire Insurers
- Comments: This bill would establish a 3-year pilot project for the purchase of health insurance from New Hampshire insurers by Maine residents. After 30 months an advisory commission would convene to review the outcome of the project and make recommendations to the Legislature.
- JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 290

INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

INSURANCE HEALTH

LR: 2237 Sponsor: Senator Bartlett of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Protect Individuals with Health Insurance from Catastrophic Risk

Comments: This bill would prohibit health plans covering residents of the State from including provisions that terminate payment of further claims after a defined aggregate amount of health care claims have been paid on behalf of an individual, family or group.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2481 Representative Berry

LR: 2295 Sponsor: Representative Ayotte of Caswell

Title: An Act To Require Health Insurance Carriers To Allow Policyholders To Keep Their Children on Their Policies until Age 25

Comments: This bill would require health insurance carriers to allow policyholders to keep their children on their policies until age 25.

LR: 2326 Sponsor: Representative Pilon of Saco

Title: An Act To Create a Cost-efficient Distribution System for Health Care

Comments: This bill would require the Superintendent of Insurance to establish an advisory panel made up of equal numbers of representatives of consumers, payors and providers to advise the superintendent on replacing Dirigo Health Insurance with a voucher system that allows eligible individuals to purchase insurance plans from any carrier offering a qualified plan. The voucher system must be designed to offer more affordable products, spread subsidies over more households, emphasize preventive care and disease management, improve population health, reduce costs in Maine's health care market and maximize federal initiatives.

LR: 2430 Sponsor: Senator Schneider of Penobscot

Title: An Act To Improve Health Insurance Security

Comments: This bill would allow a person that worked for the State for 5 years and leaves state employment to purchase health insurance through the state plan. The person would have to pay 100% of the cost.

LR: 2481 Sponsor: Representative Berry of Bowdoinham

Title: An Act To Protect Victims of Catastrophic Illness or Accident

Comments: This bill would prohibit health plans covering Maine residents from including provisions that terminate payment of further claims after a defined aggregate amount of health care claims have been paid on behalf of an individual, family or group.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2237 Senator Bartlett

INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

INSURANCE
HEALTH

LR: 2492

Sponsor: Senator Mills, P. of Somerset

Title: An Act To Adopt a Drug Benefit Equity Law

Comments: This bill would prohibit insurance providers from requiring insureds to obtain drugs from a mail-order pharmacy or otherwise penalize insureds for not using mail-order pharmacies.

INSURANCE BUREAU
ADMINISTRATION

LR: 2342

Sponsor: Representative Fossel of Alna

Title: An Act To Establish an Insurance Fraud Division

Comments: This bill would establish the Insurance Fraud Division within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance. The bill requires insurers with knowledge or suspicion of fraudulent insurance acts to report those activities to the Bureau of Insurance. The bill provides for the confidentiality of records relating to insurance fraud investigations in a manner similar to the provision of confidentiality under current state law for investigative and intelligence information in the possession of other law enforcement entities. This bill does permit the Insurance Fraud Division to share investigatory information with certain national and international agencies. The bill also extends the immunity provision in current law to certain communications between insurers with respect to fraudulent insurance acts.

JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 1285

INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

INSURANCE BUREAU PROCEDURES

LR: 2199

Sponsor: Representative Treat of Hallowell

Title: An Act To Maintain Compliance of Maine's Insurance Laws with National Standards

Comments: This bill would make changes to conform Maine's insurance laws to new national standards related to accreditation of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. The bill would require all health insurers to submit a qualified actuarial opinion on claims reserves and establish a separate license category for crop insurance adjusters. The bill also would make other clarifying changes related to audits and holding companies.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2247 Senator Bowman

LR: 2247

Sponsor: Senator Bowman of York

Title: An Act To Require Compliance of Maine's Insurance Laws with National Standards

Comments: This bill would require the Superintendent of Insurance to maintain compliance with national standards as they pertain to distribution of dividends.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2199 Representative Treat

INSURANCE PRACTICES COST CONTAINMENT

LR: 2158

Sponsor: Representative Davis of Sangerville

Title: An Act To Bring Uniformity in Insurance Underwriting

Comments: This bill would bring uniformity in insurance underwriting by having insurance companies give discounts in premiums to consumers that are debt free as they do to consumers with good credit scores.

INSURANCE PRACTICES DISCLOSURE

LR: 2120

Sponsor: Representative Beaudoin of Biddeford

Title: An Act To Require Full Disclosure by Insurance Carriers Using Credit Ratings

Comments: This bill would require insurance carriers that use credit ratings in their premium basis determination to disclose the effect of those credit ratings on the final determination of each policy applicant's premium.

INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

INSURANCE PRACTICES
PURCHASE

LR: 2167

Sponsor: Representative Thibodeau of Winterport

Title: An Act To Increase Consumer Choice Regarding the Purchase of Extended Warranties

Comments: This bill would amend the insurance laws to allow second-party insurance companies to offer extended warranties in the State.

JUDICIARY

ATTORNEY GENERAL DEPT POWERS

LR: 2191

Sponsor: Representative Schatz of Blue Hill

Title: An Act To Allow a Deputy District Attorney or an Assistant District Attorney Designated by the District Attorney To Request Utility Records

Comments: Current law allows the Attorney General, a deputy attorney general or a district attorney to request utility records. This bill would also allow a deputy district attorney or an assistant district attorney designated by the district attorney to also request utility records.

ATTORNEYS PRACTICE OF LAW

LR: 2272

Sponsor: Representative Priest of Brunswick

Title: An Act Concerning the Practice of Law by Out-of-state Attorneys

Comments: This bill removes a conflict between Maine's laws governing the unauthorized practice of law and the Supreme Judicial Court's newly adopted ethics rule governing the multijurisdictional practice of lawyers.

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS CORPORATIONS

LR: 2290

Sponsor: Representative Schatz of Blue Hill

Title: An Act To Restore the Notification Process for the Annual Registration of a Corporation

Comments: This bill would reverse recent changes to the laws governing the notification process for the annual registration of a corporation that eliminated paper notification in favor of electronic notification.

CIVIL PROCEDURE SMALL CLAIMS

LR: 2187

Sponsor: Representative Crockett, P. of Augusta

Title: An Act To Expedite the Small Claims Process

Comments: This bill would require the court in a small claims action to set a date for a hearing on a case no later than 60 days after the statement of claim and return of service have been filed with the court for that case. The hearing itself may be held after the 60-day period, but the court must schedule the hearing within the 60-day period.

JUDICIARY

DOMESTIC RELATIONS
PARENTAL RIGHTS

LR: 2126

Sponsor: Representative Wheeler of Kittery

Title: An Act To Remove the Age Limit Governing When a Court Must Consider the Wishes of a Child in a Proceeding for the Termination of Parental Rights

Comments: This bill would remove the age limit governing when a court must consider the wishes of a child in a proceeding for the termination of parental rights. Current law requires a court to consider the wishes of a child 12 years of age or older in such a proceeding.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2152 Senator Bowman

LR: 2152

Sponsor: Senator Bowman of York

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Parental Rights and Responsibilities

Comments: This bill would make the following changes to the laws governing the establishment and the modification of family rights and responsibilities. It would amend a legislative finding to specifically recognize verbal and emotional abuse, as well as physical abuse, as domestic abuse that produces an unhealthy and dangerous family environment. It would also allow the court, in ruling on termination of parental rights, to consider the wishes of a child younger than 12 if that child has been found capable of advocating on the child's behalf.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2126 Representative Wheeler

DOMESTIC RELATIONS
VISITATION RIGHTS

LR: 2097

Sponsor: Representative Perry, A. of Calais

Title: An Act To Ensure Grandparents' Rights to Children

Comments: This bill would specify that if a child has been left in the sole financial care and sole physical custody of a caregiver relative for at least 18 months and the court finds it to be in the best interest of the child to remain in that custody, the court shall order the child to remain in that custody.

JUDICIARY

FREEDOM OF ACCESS
RECORD CONFIDENTIALITY

LR: 2124

Sponsor: Senator Bowman of York

Title: An Act To Protect Confidential Consumer Records in Self-service Storage Facilities

Comments: This bill would protect the confidentiality of personal information kept in self-service storage facilities if the tenant defaults on rental payments by requiring that the tenant notify the facility operator when the tenant intends to store such information; prohibiting the sale at auction of such information if the facility operator knows of its existence; and requiring a purchaser of the contents of a unit to return any personal information.

LR: 2328

Sponsor: Representative Treat of Hallowell

Title: Resolve, To Protect Information Maintained by Registries

Comments: This resolve would direct the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary to review a recent Superior Court decision related to public access to information maintained by registries of deeds and report recommended legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature by February 15, 2009.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2138 Representative Crockett, P.

FREEDOM OF ACCESS
RIGHT TO KNOW LAWS

LR: 2130

Sponsor: Representative Dostie of Sabattus

Title: An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing Freedom of Access to Information

Comments: This bill would clarify the laws governing freedom of access to information to specifically prohibit members of a school board, commission, agency or legislative body from using a series of communications of any kind to discuss, deliberate or take action on any item of business.

HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

LR: 2049

Sponsor: Representative Blodgett of Augusta

Title: An Act To Ensure Expedient Resolution of Cases before the Maine Human Rights Commission

Comments: This bill would require that cases filed with the Maine Human Rights Commission be disposed of by the commission within a one-year time frame.

JUDICIARY

HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSING

LR: 2139

Sponsor: Representative Stevens of Bangor

- Title: An Act To Amend the Housing Exceptions in the Maine Human Rights Act
- Comments: This bill would amend the Maine Human Rights Act to make the owner-occupied dwellings exceptions inapplicable to the prohibitions of the Act against discriminatory advertising.

LEGAL SERVICES INDIGENT

LR: 2393

Sponsor: Representative Magnan of Stockton Springs

- Title: Resolve, Relating to Indigent Legal Services
- Comments: This resolve would require the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to appoint a committee to examine methods to increase funding for indigent legal services and report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters during the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

NATIVE AMERICANS PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE

LR: 2203

Sponsor: Representative Soctomah of Passamaquoddy Tribe

- Title: An Act To Develop a Policy of Communication on Issues Affecting Tribal Communities of the Passamaquoddy Tribe
- Comments: This bill would develop a policy of communication on issues affecting tribal communities based on federal policy.

PROBATE GUARDIANS

LR: 2170

Sponsor: Senator Rosen, R. of Hancock

- Title: An Act To Amend Laws Relating to Persons Serving as Permanency Guardians
- Comments: This bill would amend the law relating to persons serving as permanency guardians to clarify that the new thresholds that were enacted by Public Law 2007, chapter 284 apply to everyone.

LABOR

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
LEAVE POLICIES

LR: 2134

Sponsor: President Mitchell, E. of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Aid in the Prevention of the Spread of H1 N1 Influenza by Ensuring the Provision of Earned Paid Sick Time

Comments: This bill would require a large business employer to give 52 accrued paid sick hours per year to an employee and a small business employer to give 26 accrued paid sick hours per year to an employee. Earned paid sick time may be used by an employee during an absence from employment for illness of an employee or illness of an employee's family member, for accessing necessary preventative health care or if the employee or the employee's family member is a victim of stalking, domestic violence or sexual abuse.

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES
HIRING

LR: 2087

Sponsor: Senator Jackson of Aroostook

Title: An Act To Protect Maine Workers

Comments: This bill would prevent a company from doing business in Maine for 5 years if that company has committed a major violation of the federal alien labor certification program.

LR: 2486

Sponsor: Representative Beck of Waterville

Title: Resolve, To Study Privacy Rights with Respect to the Job Application and Employment Process

Comments: The resolve would establish a commission to study what a prospective employer can ask a prospective employee.

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES
TERMINATION

LR: 2460

Sponsor: Representative Boland of Sanford

Title: An Act To Ensure the Equitable Treatment of Maine's Workforce

Comments: This bill would prohibit an employer that fires an employee and later rehires that person at a lower wage from using the reason the person was originally fired in future disciplinary actions.

LABOR

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
BENEFITS

LR: 2110 Sponsor: Speaker Pingree of North Haven

Title: An Act To Amend the Unemployment Law Regarding Vacation Pay

Comments: Under current law, an individual is disqualified from receiving unemployment compensation benefits for any week in which the individual receives, is entitled to receive or has received remuneration in the form of vacation pay. This bill would remove that restriction.

LR: 2127 Sponsor: Representative Beaulieu of Auburn

Title: An Act To Clarify the Definition of "Employer" for Unemployment Compensation Purposes

Comments: This bill would clarify the definition of "employer" for unemployment compensation purposes to address the situation of 2 part-time employers who both lay off the same employee within a few days or simultaneously. Both employers would be considered the claimant's last employer for purposes of the laws governing unemployment compensation.

STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BENEFITS

LR: 2179 Sponsor: President Mitchell, E. of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Provide Continued Protection of Benefits for Retirees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

Comments: This bill would further protect retirees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System from the impact on retirement benefits of decreases in the Consumer Price Index. This bill would require that if the Consumer Price Index decreases for one or more years, adjustments in the subsequent year or years must result in cost neutrality.

LR: 2369 Sponsor: Senator Hobbins of York

Title: An Act Regarding Maine Public Employees Retirement System Life Insurance Policies

Comments: This bill would amend the laws governing the payment of life insurance proceeds by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System in the case in which a person who dies has not named a beneficiary for a life insurance policy but has made a will.

LABOR

STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CREDITS

LR: 2374

Sponsor: Representative Tilton of Harrington

Title: An Act To Clarify Retirement Benefits

Comments: This bill would clarify the service time for Bayley Grant as it pertains to retirement benefits.

WORKERS COMPENSATION
BOARD

LR: 2254

Sponsor: Representative Martin, J. L. of Eagle Lake

Title: An Act To Authorize the Issuance of "Stop Work" Orders if a Construction Contractor or Subcontractor Has Knowingly Misrepresented the Classification of Employees

Comments: This bill would authorize the Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Board to issue "stop work" orders if a construction contractor or subcontractor has knowingly misrepresented one or more employees as independent contractors. This bill would also prohibit that contractor or subcontractor from performing work on a public building for a period of 3 years.

LR: 2350

Sponsor: Representative Butterfield of Bangor

Title: An Act Relating to the Membership of the Workers' Compensation Board

Comments: This bill would clarify the current restrictions on Workers' Compensation Board membership related to lobbying or being a service provider to the workers' compensation system.

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
BEER

LR: 2061

Sponsor: Representative Willette of Presque Isle

Title: An Act To Allow Competitions at Fairs for Homemade Wine and Beer

Comments: This bill would amend the state liquor laws to allow fairs to hold competitions for homemade wine and beer.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
LICENSING

LR: 2304

Sponsor: Senator Bliss of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Clarify Licensing for Freestanding Event Halls

Comments: This bill would specifically authorize a freestanding event hall owned by a qualified caterer to purchase a liquor license in the same manner as a Class A restaurant.

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
LIQUOR SALES

LR: 2039

Sponsor: Senator Perry, J. of Penobscot

Title: An Act Regarding the Sale of Malt Liquor from a Mobile Service Bar on a Golf Course
Comments: Current law does not address a municipal golf course that contracts for service on the golf course with an outside vendor who holds the liquor license. This bill would allow for an employee of the contracted licensee to serve malt liquor on the golf course while providing shared responsibility between the contracted licensees and the municipal golf course for violations.

LR: 2273

Sponsor: Representative Carey of Lewiston

Title: An Act To Clarify Maine's 3-tiered System for the Distribution and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages
Comments: This bill would make technical changes to the laws that govern the distribution, wholesale and retail of alcoholic beverages.

LR: 2416

Sponsor: Representative Fitts of Pittsfield

Title: An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing Instant Redeemable Coupons Included with a Spirits Product
Comments: This bill would clarify that instant redeemable coupons included with a spirits product may be attached to the product by an agent of the manufacturer or the manufacturer's sales representative.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
TAVERNS

LR: 2491

Sponsor: Senator Mills, P. of Somerset

Title: An Act To Provide Uniform Rules for Smoking in or Near Establishments That Serve Alcohol
Comments: This bill would allow taverns and private clubs to permit patrons to take alcoholic beverages to outside smoking areas if service is not provided in those areas.

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
WINE

LR: 2065 Sponsor: Representative Webster of Freeport

Title: An Act To Delay the Effective Date of the Requirement that Alcoholic Beverage Tastings Take Place in a Place Not Observed by Children

Comments: This bill would delay the effective date of the requirement that taste testing of beer, wine and malt liquor be conducted in a manner that precludes the possibility of observation by children to March 1, 2010.

LR: 2066 Sponsor: Representative Webster of Freeport

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Pertaining to the Taste Testing of Alcoholic Beverages

Comments: This bill would amend the laws pertaining to the testing of alcoholic beverages by limiting taste testings to places where children would most likely not be present.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2192 Representative Fitts

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2205 Senator Plowman

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2236 Representative Welsh

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2244 Senator Goodall

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2308 Representative Tuttle

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2462 Representative Russell

LR: 2192 Sponsor: Representative Fitts of Pittsfield

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Taste-testing of Alcoholic Beverages

Comments: This bill would repeal current language requiring retail licensees for the sale of alcohol beverages to be consumed off the premises to conduct taste-testing activities in a manner that precludes the possibility of observation by children and replace that language with a requirement to post signs alerting parents to the times and dates of tasting events taking place in the stores, thereby allowing parents to assume the responsibility of making a decision regarding whether or not their children may be exposed to observing an alcohol beverage taste-testing activity. The bill also would correct a drafting error in the original legislation by amending the requirement that retailers stock a minimum number of malt beverage products in order to qualify to conduct taste-testing activity by replacing the term "brands" with "labels," thereby making the language consistent with the provisions for wine.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2066 Representative Webster

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2205 Senator Plowman

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2236 Representative Welsh

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2244 Senator Goodall

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2308 Representative Tuttle

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2462 Representative Russell

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
WINE

LR: 2205

Sponsor: Senator Plowman of Penobscot

Title: An Act Regarding Wine Tasting Demonstrations

Comments: This bill would repeal the law pertaining to the tasting of alcoholic beverages that requires tasting to be conducted in a manner that precludes the possibility of observation by children.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2066 Representative Webster

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2192 Representative Fitts

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2236 Representative Welsh

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2244 Senator Goodall

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2308 Representative Tuttle

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2462 Representative Russell

LR: 2236

Sponsor: Representative Welsh of Rockport

Title: An Act To Amend the Alcoholic Beverage Tasting Laws

Comments: This bill would change the alcoholic beverage tasting laws by removing language relating to requirements that wine, spirits and malt liquor taste-testing activities be conducted in a manner that will prevent observation by children. This bill would also eliminate the prohibition on sales representatives' pouring or distributing the products being tasted.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2066 Representative Webster

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2192 Representative Fitts

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2205 Senator Plowman

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2244 Senator Goodall

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2308 Representative Tuttle

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2462 Representative Russell

LR: 2244

Sponsor: Senator Goodall of Sagadahoc

Title: An Act To Amend the Taste-testing Laws for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

Comments: This bill would change the requirement that, to conduct tastings of alcoholic beverages, the event must be held in a manner that precludes the possibility of observation by children to that of posting signs alerting parents or guardians of such events.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2066 Representative Webster

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2192 Representative Fitts

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2205 Senator Plowman

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2236 Representative Welsh

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2308 Representative Tuttle

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2462 Representative Russell

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
WINE

LR: 2308 Sponsor: Representative Tuttle of Sanford

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Alcohol Taste-testing Activities

Comments: This bill would amend the laws governing alcohol taste-testing activities.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2066 Representative Webster

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2192 Representative Fitts

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2205 Senator Plowman

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2236 Representative Welsh

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2244 Senator Goodall

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2462 Representative Russell

LR: 2462 Sponsor: Representative Russell of Portland

Title: An Act To Exempt Certain Businesses from the Alcohol Taste-testing Laws

Comments: This bill would exempt any Maine-based businesses that employ fewer than 50 people from the recently enacted alcohol taste-testing requirements.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2066 Representative Webster

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2192 Representative Fitts

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2205 Senator Plowman

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2236 Representative Welsh

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2244 Senator Goodall

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2308 Representative Tuttle

LR: 2477 Sponsor: Representative Berry of Bowdoinham

Title: An Act To Streamline Wine Registration Requirements

Comments: The bill would establish in statute a provision currently governed by rule that sets the fee and procedure for registration of wine labels by a certificate of approval holder.

DEFENSE AND VETERANS SERVICES DEPT
ADMINISTRATION

LR: 2052 Sponsor: Representative Blodgett of Augusta

Title: Resolve, To Require an Independent Audit of the Maine Military Authority

Comments: This resolve would require an independent audit of the Maine Military Authority.

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

DEFENSE AND VETERANS SERVICES DEPT
NATIONAL GUARD

LR: 2243

Sponsor: Senator Goodall of Sagadahoc

Title: Resolve, To Transfer the Ownership of the Bath Armory to the City of Bath

Comments: This bill would transfer the ownership of the Bath Armory to the City of Bath for the Bath Youth Meetinghouse and Skatepark for free or for one dollar.

ELECTIONS
CAMPAIGN FINANCE

LR: 2413

Sponsor: Representative Dill of Cape Elizabeth

Title: An Act To Limit the Provision of Funding under the Maine Clean Election Act to Candidates That Do Not Have Political Action Committees

Comments: This bill would provide that candidates who have political action committees are ineligible to receive funding under the Maine Clean Election Act.
JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD's 140 and 1247

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

ELECTIONS

CITIZEN INITIATIVES

LR: 2297

Sponsor: Senator Craven of Androscoggin

Title: An Act To Improve the Signature Collection Process for Citizen's Initiatives and People's Veto Petitions

Comments: This bill would require those companies that hire and pay signature gatherers for both citizen's initiatives and people's vetoes, and the workers that collect the signatures, to register with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices before they can go out and gather the signatures. They must also pay a fee to cover the cost of processing the registrations.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2310 Senator Nutting, J.

LR: 2310

Sponsor: Senator Nutting, J. of Androscoggin

Title: An Act To Strengthen the Ballot Initiative Process

Comments: This bill would add a \$1,000 fine if a person is proven to have violated the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 904. The bill would also make it illegal for circulators who have been convicted of fraud or forgery to circulate petitions. The bill would require petition circulating companies to register with the State.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2297 Senator Craven

LR: 2485

Sponsor: Representative Cain of Orono

Title: RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require That Direct Initiatives Be Subject to Legislative Rules Regarding Process

Comments: This constitutional resolution would propose that the Constitution of Maine be amended to require that citizen initiatives be subject to the general legislative rules applied to other legislation, including fiscal notes.

ELECTIONS

PETITIONS

LR: 2084

Sponsor: Representative Berry of Bowdoinham

Title: An Act To Prevent Predatory Signature Gathering and To Strengthen the Citizens Initiative and Veto Process

Comments: This bill would allow a person to have the person's own signature removed from a citizens initiative or people's veto petition, if the request is made in writing to the Secretary of State, indicating that the person was given incorrect information.

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

ELECTIONS REFERENDA

LR: 2131

Sponsor: Senator Trahan of Lincoln

Title: An Act To Reform Maine's Referendum Process

Comments: This bill would amend the laws governing petitions for the direct initiative of legislation and people's veto petitions. This bill would:

1. Require the Secretary of State's office, rather than municipal clerks, to verify voter signatures;
2. Establish a 4-member nonpartisan citizen panel to review the titles of citizen-initiated petitions for fairness and clarity;
3. Require, when the Secretary of State is requested to provide an updated number of signatures gathered, that all interested parties be provided that data, along with the name of the requesting party;
4. Require that the first item on a people's veto petition be a summary of the bill that is provided to the Legislature by the nonpartisan legislative offices;
5. Eliminate the requirement that the ballot must include information regarding the cost associated with a people's veto or direct initiative of legislation; and
6. Require that Legislators and political parties who promote the passage or defeat of a people's veto or direct initiative of legislation register with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices and report any amounts spent for that effort.

GAMBLING GAMES OF CHANCE

LR: 2429

Sponsor: Senator Perry, J. of Penobscot

Title: An Act To Implement the Use of Promotional Credits

Comments: This bill would implement the use of promotional credits.

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
ETHICS COMMISSION

LR: 2210

Sponsor: Representative Trinward of Waterville

Title: An Act Regarding the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
Comments: This bill would establish in statute the pay range for the executive director of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

LANDLORD AND TENANT
HABITABILITY

LR: 2147

Sponsor: Representative Martin, J.R. of Orono

Title: An Act To Exempt Certain Mobile Homes from the Radon Testing Requirement
Comments: This bill would exempt rented mobile homes that do not have an enclosed foundation from mandatory radon testing.

LANDLORD AND TENANT
RENT

LR: 2302

Sponsor: Representative Adams of Portland

Title: An Act Regarding Ratio Utility Billing
Comments: This bill would prohibit the owners or managers of multiunit rental properties from billing current tenants based on the prorated costs associated with maintaining utilities in empty units in the building. The bill would instead require that tenants be charged for utilities based on the tenants' actual use.

LR: 2464

Sponsor: Senator Bowman of York

Title: An Act To Enhance Relations between Delinquent Tenants and Property Owners
Comments: This bill would clarify the laws with regard to landlord rights when dealing with delinquent tenants.

VETERANS
HONORING

LR: 2461

Sponsor: Representative Martin, J.R. of Orono

Title: Resolve, To Create the State Veterans' Memorial Preservation Advisory Commission
Comments: This resolve would create a commission that would review proposed changes to state memorials for veterans prior to changes to those memorials being implemented.

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS
SERVICES

- LR: 2060 Sponsor: Representative Beck of Waterville
- Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Educational Benefits for Veterans and Their Families
- Comments: This bill would extend from 6 to 8 the number of academic years the child of a veteran may take to complete, tuition-free, 8 semesters or a baccalaureate degree, whichever occurs first.
-
- LR: 2104 Sponsor: Representative Harlow of Portland
- Title: An Act To Waive the Tuition Charges of Any Postsecondary Educational Institution in the State for a Child of a Soldier Who Died or Is Disabled while on Active Duty
- Comments: This bill would waive the tuition charges of any postsecondary educational institution in the State for a child of a soldier who died or is disabled while on active duty.
-
- LR: 2296 Sponsor: Representative Haskell of Portland
- Title: An Act Pertaining to Educational Benefits for Veterans and Their Dependents
- Comments: This bill would amend the definition of "child" as it pertains to when educational benefits are granted to include that, if a child is unable to enroll in a degree program prior to turning 22 years of age due to the veteran's total permanent disability claim pending with the Veterans Administration, then the child may apply to begin the benefit within 2 years from the date of the veteran's award notification letter.

MARINE RESOURCES

LOBSTERS LICENSING

LR: 2113 Sponsor: Representative Pendleton of Scarborough

Title: An Act To Allow Immediate Family Members To Assist in Lobstering
Comments: This bill would exempt immediate family members from the restrictions currently in place limiting assistants for an owner-operator of a lobster fishing boat. It would also exempt from those restrictions assistants for a licensee with a disability under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

LR: 2438 Sponsor: Representative McKane of Newcastle

Title: An Act To Amend the Lobster Licensing Laws
Comments: This bill would amend the lobster licensing laws to create a single annual opportunity, in response to an emergency situation, to grant a lobster license to an applicant who is not next in line on the waiting list.

LOBSTERS MANAGEMENT ZONES

LR: 2128 Sponsor: Senator Trahan of Lincoln

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area To Establish a Process for a Person Who Holds a Lobster Fishing License To Petition the Legislature or a Regional Lobster Council To Change Those Laws
Comments: This bill would amend the laws governing the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area to establish a process for a person who holds a lobster fishing license to petition the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters or a regional lobster council to initiate the process necessary to change those laws.

LR: 2361 Sponsor: Representative Kruger of Thomaston

Title: An Act To Create a Subzone for Lobstering around the Island of Matinicus
Comments: This bill would establish a subzone for lobstering around the island of Matinicus that would allow only current license holders to engage in lobstering around Matinicus.

MARINE RESOURCES

LOBSTERS
TRAPS

LR: 2365

Sponsor: Senator Damon of Hancock

Title: An Act To Eliminate the 3 Trap Limit off Hancock County

Comments: This bill would eliminate one area of the coast where people who fish for lobsters are presently limited to 3 traps per trawl.

RECREATIONAL FISHING
PROHIBIT FUNDS FOR FEDERAL REGISTRY

LR: 2034

Sponsor: Senator Trahan of Lincoln

Title: An Act To Prohibit an Agency from Accepting Funds To Implement a Federal Registry for Saltwater Recreational Fishing

Comments: This bill would prohibit an agency from accepting funds to implement a federal registry for saltwater recreational fishing.

Closely Related CO: LD's 1331 and 1432

NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY
EMISSIONS

LR: 2425

Sponsor: Senator Smith, D. of Piscataquis

Title: Resolve, To Establish a Study Commission To Review and Analyze the State's Role in Climate Change Policy

Comments: This resolve would establish a study commission to review the State's role in climate change policy. All existing and potential policies, data and forecasts and the status of federal actions would be reviewed in order to establish a climate change policy for the State.

AIR QUALITY
POLLUTANT STANDARDS

LR: 2240

Sponsor: Senator Goodall of Sagadahoc

Title: An Act To Improve Maine's Air Quality and Reduce Regional Haze at Acadia National Park and Other Federally Designated Class I Areas

Comments: The federal Clean Air Act and regional haze rule require states with sources that are reasonably anticipated to cause or contribute to impairment of visibility in federally designated Class I areas to implement reasonable measures to reduce visibility impairment within those areas. To address these impacts and satisfy federal requirements, this bill would, in concert with the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states, incrementally reduce the allowable sulfur content of liquid fossil fuels beginning in 2014 extending into 2018.

NATURAL RESOURCES

COASTAL AREAS LAND USE

LR: 2063 Sponsor: Representative Legg of Kennebunk

Title: An Act To Update and Modernize Maine's Floodplain Mapping for Coastal Communities

Comments: This bill would provide funding to attract federal grant funding to update and modernize the State's floodplain maps. The bill would direct \$250,000 per year for 3 years in state funds to support topographical floodplain mapping.

LR: 2112 Sponsor: Representative Eberle of South Portland

Title: An Act To Amend the Coastal and Lake Watershed Districts Law To Clarify Municipal Home Rule and Interlocal Cooperation Authority

Comments: This bill would clarify that the watershed district law is one way of establishing a district and that alternatively one or more municipalities may create a watershed management district under municipal home rule authority or under interlocal cooperation authority.

DAMS MAINTENANCE

LR: 2091 Sponsor: Representative Jones of Mount Vernon

Title: Resolve, To Direct the Department of Environmental Protection To Establish By Rule Guidelines for Dam Repair and Maintenance

Comments: This resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to establish guidelines by rule for dam repair and maintenance and for cost sharing among towns for dams on bodies of water affecting more than one town.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPT FINES

LR: 2294 Sponsor: Representative Ayotte of Caswell

Title: Resolve, To Waive the Fine That the Department of Environmental Protection Imposed on Arthur Drolet in Connection with the Removal of Underground Petroleum Storage Tanks

Comments: This bill would waive the fine that the Department of Environmental Protection imposed on Arthur Drolet in connection with the removal of underground petroleum storage tanks.

NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPT PROCEDURES

LR: 2501

Sponsor: Representative Adams of Portland

Title: Resolve, Regarding Batteries and Power Sources in Alternative Vehicles

Comments: This resolve would require the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules that extend the current incentives to recycle lead-acid motor vehicle batteries to include new kinds of batteries in alternative fuel vehicles such as hydrogen, hybrid lithium-based, solar paneled and other nontraditional battery arrays. The department would report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters in the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

FUELS BIOFUELS

LR: 2349

Sponsor: Representative Butterfield of Bangor

Title: An Act To Require the Use of Biofuel in No. 2 Home Heating Oil

Comments: This bill would require the use of biofuel in No. 2 home heating oil beginning July 1, 2011. The percentage required would increase over time as the production of biofuels increases in the State.

FUELS GASOLINE

LR: 2352

Sponsor: Senator McCormick of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Make the Reid Vapor Pressure Standard for Gasoline Consistent within the State

Comments: This bill would require that the entire State adopt the 7.8 pounds per square inch Reid vapor pressure standard for gasoline for the May 1st through September 15th period and not only the 7 counties now using this standard.

FUELS RESERVES

LR: 2426

Sponsor: Senator Smith, D. of Piscataquis

Title: Resolve, To Establish a Study Commission To Recommend a State Policy on Offshore Petroleum Exploration

Comments: This resolve would establish a study commission to recommend a state policy on offshore petroleum exploration.

NATURAL RESOURCES

GROUND WATER
CONSERVATION

LR: 2163

Sponsor: Representative Hinck of Portland

Title: An Act To Control the Taking of Large Quantities of Water

Comments: This bill would require a person to obtain a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection before removing a large quantity of water from its source and immediate ecosystem. The bill would provide an exemption from the permit requirement for certain activities and require a permit holder to monitor quantities of water taken and report to the department.

JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 1267

GROUND WATER
EXPORTATION

LR: 2281

Sponsor: Representative Pratt of Eddington

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Groundwater

Comments: This bill would amend the laws governing groundwater by recognizing it, like surface water, as a public trust and by applying the "reasonable use" rule regarding its use.

JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD's 837 and 1267

GROUND WATER
WELLS

LR: 2282

Sponsor: Representative Pratt of Eddington

Title: An Act To Prohibit Significant Groundwater Well Development on Public Lands

Comments: This bill would prohibit significant groundwater well development on public lands, including all commercial water extraction, but not affect current practices.

LAND USE
COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

LR: 2180

Sponsor: Representative Cray of Palmyra

Title: An Act To Provide to Certain Municipalities a Waiver of the Requirement To Adopt a Comprehensive Plan and Allow Those Municipalities To Enforce Their Ordinances

Comments: This bill would provide to a municipality that as of June 1, 2009 has rejected a proposed comprehensive plan a waiver of the requirement to adopt a comprehensive plan. The bill also would allow such a municipality to enforce its ordinances pursuant to its home rule authority.

NATURAL RESOURCES

LAND USE SET-BACKS

LR: 2206 Sponsor: Representative McKane of Newcastle

Title: An Act To Amend Resource Protection Setbacks in Critical Wildlife Habitats

Comments: This bill would reduce the protection setback in critical wildlife habitats from 250 feet to 100 feet.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2292 Representative Schatz

LR: 2292 Sponsor: Representative Schatz of Blue Hill

Title: An Act To Reduce the Required Setback in a Resource Protection Zone from 250 Feet to 100 Feet

Comments: This bill would reduce the required setback in a resource protection zone from 250 feet to 100 feet.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2206 Representative McKane

PROTECTED NATURAL RESOURCES GREAT PONDS

LR: 2111 Sponsor: Representative Eberle of South Portland

Title: An Act To Prevent the Spread of Invasive Plants and Protect Maine's Lakes

Comments: This bill would ban bass tournaments on lakes that are known to be infested with invasive plants. The bill would also ban the extraction of water by water trucks from lakes that are known to be infested with invasive plants for use in backyard ponds or pools or for irrigation.

PROTECTED NATURAL RESOURCES SAND DUNES

LR: 2445 Sponsor: Senator Nass, R. of York

Title: An Act To Exempt Minor Activities from the Natural Resources Protection Act

Comments: This bill would exempt minor modifications to existing residential structures in coastal sand dune systems when the modification does not extend beyond the footprint covered by the existing building, there is an existing seawall seaward of the residential structure and the modification does not increase the building's total height to greater than 35 feet above the lowest natural elevation measured 5 feet from the corners of the existing building foundation or the elevation used by the municipality when determining compliance with local ordinances.

NATURAL RESOURCES

TOXIC SUBSTANCES REDUCTION AND PREVENTION

LR: 2182

Sponsor: Speaker Pingree of North Haven

Title: An Act To Clarify Maine's Phaseout of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers

Comments: This bill would ban products used for food packaging or food storage, including but not limited to pallets, that contain the "deca" mixture of polybrominated diphenyl ethers.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2246 Representative Duchesne

LR: 2246

Sponsor: Representative Duchesne of Hudson

Title: An Act To Reduce Human Exposure to "Deca" Brominated Flame Retardants

Comments: This bill would phase out the use of polybrominated diphenyl ethers in pallets, similar to current law, which phases out the use of that substance in mattresses, furniture and electronics.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2182 Speaker Pingree

WASTE FACILITIES LANDFILLS

LR: 2116

Sponsor: Representative Johnson of Greenville

Title: An Act To Expand Eligibility of Certain Municipal Landfills To Participate in the State's Remediation and Closure Program

Comments: This bill would allow a small number of additional open municipal landfills that were allowed by the Department of Environmental Protection to remain open after January 1, 2000 to become eligible for the State's remediation and closure program.

NATURAL RESOURCES

WASTES RECYCLING

LR: 2389

Sponsor: Representative Innes of Yarmouth

Title: An Act To Provide Leadership, Tax Fairness and Responsible Recycling for Consumer Products

Comments: This bill would establish a product stewardship program for consumer products that addresses the life cycle impacts of a product and oversees the collection, transportation and reuse, recycling or disposal of unwanted products.

LR: 2432

Sponsor: Representative Soctomah of Passamaquoddy Tribe

Title: An Act Related to Qualified Waste-to-energy Power

Comments: This bill would provide for development of appropriate adaptations to the State's energy policy to accommodate federal qualified waste-to-energy developments.

WATER QUALITY OVERBOARD DISCHARGES

LR: 2339

Sponsor: Representative Flaherty of Scarborough

Title: An Act To Protect the Environment and Natural Resources of the State by Regulating the Discharge of Certain Substances into the Environment

Comments: This bill is based on a Michigan law that provides that, unless authorized by permit, order or rule, a discharge into the State's waters from an oceangoing vessel of any ballast water is prima facie evidence of a violation of the law and subject to penalties. This bill prohibits a person from directly or indirectly discharging into the State's waters a substance that is or may become injurious to any of the following: the public health, safety or welfare; domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational uses made of such waters; the value of riparian lands; livestock, wild animals, birds, fish, aquatic life or plants; or the value of fish and game.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY BUDGETS
PROCEDURES

LR: 2171

Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan

Title: An Act To Amend County Budget Procedures

Comments: This bill would amend the laws governing county budget procedures to allow budget committees to increase, decrease or alter the proposed budget if the changes are based on input provided by the public during the public hearing process. This bill would also allow the county commissioners to increase, decrease or alter the proposed budget by a majority vote rather than a unanimous vote.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2169 Representative Curtis

COUNTY BUDGETS
SOMERSET

LR: 2169

Sponsor: Representative Curtis of Madison

Title: An Act To Amend the Somerset County Budget Procedure

Comments: This bill would amend the procedure for adopting the Somerset County budget by allowing the budget to be increased, decreased or altered if new information were obtained during a public process. The budget must be approved by a majority vote of the budget committee at a meeting called for that purpose. The bill would also require that, if the county does not approve a new budget, it operate on an interim budget not to exceed the previous year's budget.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2171 Representative McCabe

COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICERS

LR: 2143

Sponsor: Senator Smith, D. of Piscataquis

Title: An Act To Require That Elected County Treasurers Be Qualified in Business Administration and Finance Matters

Comments: This bill would require that elected county treasurers be qualified in matters of business administration and finance.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT
REGIONALISM

LR: 2345

Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan

Title: An Act To Increase Efficiency in County Government

Comments: This bill would authorize regionalization and consolidation of the operations of county government to increase efficiency and achieve cost savings in 3 areas: public safety, corrections and courts.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT
REGISTERS OF DEEDS

LR: 2138 Sponsor: Representative Crockett, P. of Augusta

Title: An Act Concerning Fees for Documents at the County Registry of Deeds

Comments: This bill would define a reasonable fee for copies obtained from the county registries of deeds pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 33, section 751 as any fee that does not exceed \$2 per page.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2328 Representative Treat

COUNTY GOVERNMENT
TAXES

LR: 2079 Sponsor: Representative Johnson of Greenville

Title: An Act To Require Counties To Provide Reasons for Decisions Issued on Hearings

Comments: This bill would require that, when issuing a decision on a request for a tax abatement, a county officer must provide the reasons for the decision.

LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATORS

LR: 2036 Sponsor: Representative Dostie of Sabattus

Title: An Act To Allow Legislators To Be Paid on a Monthly Basis

Comments: This bill would allow a Legislator to be paid on a monthly basis.

MUNICIPALITIES
LAND USE

LR: 2392 Sponsor: Representative Beaudette of Biddeford

Title: An Act To Clarify the Informed Growth Act

Comments: This bill would amend the Informed Growth Act. It clarifies that a change of use permit is not considered a land use permit under the Act and that the Act applies only to new construction. In addition, the bill seeks to clarify how the municipal reviewing authority is to evaluate and consider the enumerated criteria in the comprehensive economic impact study.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MUNICIPALITIES
MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

LR: 2372 Sponsor: Senator Bryant, B. of Oxford

Title: An Act To Require Municipal Officials To Perform Ministerial Actions
Comments: This bill would permit residents to sue municipal officials for failure to perform ministerial or nondiscretionary actions that they are required to perform by statute, ordinance or municipal warrant.

LR: 2397 Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan

Title: An Act Relating to Municipal Elected Officials
Comments: This bill would amend the law dealing with the neglect of official duty to clarify that the law includes all municipal elected officials. The bill would also provide that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices may hear complaints relating to all municipal elected officials.

MUNICIPALITIES
ROADS

LR: 2075 Sponsor: Representative Magnan of Stockton Springs

Title: An Act To Authorize Municipal Officers To Resolve Road Naming Disputes
Comments: This bill would authorize municipal officers to make the final decision when there is a dispute in the naming of a town road, private way or private road for E-9-1-1 purposes.

MUNICIPALITIES
TOWNS

LR: 2174 Sponsor: Representative Crockett, J. of Bethel

Title: An Act Regarding Lands Held in Trust for the Benefit of the Citizens of Bethel
Comments: This bill would facilitate the use of lands held in trust for the benefit of the citizens of Bethel. These lands were given to a municipal organization in Bethel pursuant to a deed of trust.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NOTARIES PUBLIC
OUT OF STATE NOTARIES

LR: 2455 Sponsor: Representative Briggs of Mexico

Title: An Act To Allow Notaries and Justices of the Peace from Other States To Perform One-time Wedding Ceremonies in Maine

Comments: This bill would allow a notary or a justice of the peace from another state to apply for authority to perform a single, specified wedding ceremony in Maine.

STATE GOVERNMENT
LAND CONVEYANCES

LR: 2382 Sponsor: Representative McFadden of Dennysville

Title: An Act Regarding the Acquisition of the Backscatter Radar Site in Washington County

Comments: This bill would require the State to address the Federal Government's request that the State acquire the Air Force's decommissioned Backscatter Radar site in Township 19 in Washington County for the benefit of the residents of that county.

STATE GOVERNMENT
PLANNING

LR: 2160 Sponsor: Senator Smith, D. of Piscataquis

Title: An Act To Conduct a Maine Management and Cost Survey

Comments: This bill would require a study and analysis of the offices, departments, boards, commissions and other agencies of the State and of the functions of State Government to ascertain the manner in which services of the State may be offered in the most efficient, expeditious and economical manner.

LR: 2280 Sponsor: Senator Rector of Knox

Title: An Act To Require State Agency Fee Increases To Be Approved by the Legislature

Comments: This bill would amend the law to eliminate authority for state agencies to set fees. Under this bill, the Legislature would establish the acceptable fee range for every state agency, and, in order to exceed that range, the agency would have to receive legislative approval.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

STATE GOVERNMENT
PURCHASES

LR: 2283

Sponsor: Representative Pratt of Eddington

Title: An Act To Restrict the Purchase by State Agencies of Bottled Water

Comments: This bill would prohibit all state agencies from purchasing bottled water without prior written authorization of the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services.

STATE GOVERNMENT
STATE COMMEMORATIONS

LR: 2046

Sponsor: Representative Briggs of Mexico

Title: An Act Designating March 29 Vietnam Veterans Day

Comments: This bill would establish March 29 as the state holiday of Vietnam Veterans Day commemorating the date in 1973 when the last United States troops were withdrawn from the war zone.

STATE GOVERNMENT
STATE PERSONNEL

LR: 2193

Sponsor: President Mitchell, E. of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Restore Longevity Pay

Comments: This bill would restore longevity pay for state workers.

TAXATION

INCOME TAX CREDITS

LR: 2135

Sponsor: President Mitchell, E. of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Improve the Seed Capital Investment Tax Credit Program

Comments: This bill would address the current capital gap for early stage businesses seeking equity investment to grow and to create jobs in Maine by increasing the existing seed capital investment tax credit from 40% of an eligible investment to 60% to attract and encourage investors. In addition to increasing the tax credit from 40% to 60% uniformly across the State, the bill would eliminate the up-front credit for investors in certain venture capital funds, provide that the increased credit not have a revenue impact until calendar year 2011 and increase the total of authorized credits from the current \$30 million to \$50 million starting in 2012. It also would make the tax credit refundable in order to provide an incentive for out-of-state investors to invest in Maine businesses.

LR: 2239

Sponsor: Representative MacDonald of Boothbay

Title: An Act To Amend the Law Implementing Tax Reform To Improve Household Credits and Encourage Investments and Charitable Giving and Reduce the Tax Burden for Catastrophic Medical Expenditures

Comments: This bill would adjust the maximum base alternate household credit for taxpayers to recognize substantial federal itemized deductions due to mortgage investments benefiting the State's economy, charitable giving or high medical expenditures.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2088 Representative Langley

INCOME TAX INDEXING

LR: 2309

Sponsor: Senator Nass, R. of York

Title: An Act To Reinstate Income Tax Indexing

Comments: This bill would repeal the provision of Public Law 2009, chapter 382 that suspends income tax indexing and reinstates income tax indexing.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2088 Representative Langley

MISCELLANEOUS TAXES EXCISE TAX

LR: 2286

Sponsor: Representative Cushing of Hampden

Title: An Act To Encourage Extended Stays in Maine Waters

Comments: This bill would extend to 90 days the time during which boat owners may moor in Maine ports and marinas without incurring additional taxation.

TAXATION

PROPERTY TAX PROVISIONS REVISED

LR: 2459

Sponsor: Representative Crockett, P. of Augusta

Title: An Act To Increase the Affordability of Renewable Energy for Homeowners and Small Businesses

Comments: This bill would permit municipal governments to offer long-term financing of solar and wind electric generation systems through a property tax lien financing program.

PROPERTY TAX TREE GROWTH TAX

LR: 2086

Sponsor: Representative Martin, J. L. of Eagle Lake

Title: An Act To Improve Employment Opportunities for Maine Workers in the Forest Industry

Comments: This bill would define bonded laborers, would curtail tree growth tax benefits for owners of land who allow bonded laborers to harvest on that land and further would impose on any such owner liability for full payment of the commercial forestry excise tax on any such land in excess of 500 acres.

LR: 2178

Sponsor: Representative Watson of Bath

Title: An Act To Avoid Unnecessary Removal of Land from the Tree Growth Tax Law Program

Comments: This bill would give landowners who fail to meet the filing deadline for recertification for participation in the tree growth tax program one year to comply while keeping the land enrolled. The bill would establish the tax payment for a one-year grace period according to fair market value and the landowner would pay the higher tax rate and a penalty for this grace period if the land is removed from the program.

PROPERTY TAX PROCEDURES MUNICIPALITIES

LR: 2181

Sponsor: Representative Cray of Palmyra

Title: An Act To Provide Notice to a Municipality when a Mobile Home Is Moved

Comments: This bill would require a municipality from which a mobile home is removed to notify the municipality to which the trailer home is to be moved.

TAXATION

REVENUE SERVICES BUREAU
POWERS

LR: 2253

Sponsor: Representative Crockett, P. of Augusta

Title: Resolve, To Promote Efficiency and To Streamline Access to the Maine Residents Property Tax Program for Seniors, People with Disabilities and Working Families with Low Incomes

Comments: This resolve directs Maine Revenue Services and the Department of Health and Human Services, office of integrated access and support to examine ways to increase administrative efficiencies and reduce the burden on applicants applying for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program by accessing information already available through the Department of Health and Human Services Automated Client Eligibility System. It also requires both departments to report their findings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters by January 1, 2011.

TAXATION

REVENUE SERVICES BUREAU
PROCEDURES

LR: 2085 Sponsor: Representative Flemings of Bar Harbor

Title: An Act To Increase Financial Assets of Maine Citizens by Allowing Split Tax Refunds

Comments: This bill would allow a recipient of a Maine income tax refund to request that the refund be sent to more than one account, as is done in other states.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2487 Senator Sullivan

LR: 2088 Sponsor: Representative Langley of Ellsworth

Title: An Act To Repeal Recent Changes to the Laws Governing Taxation

Comments: This bill would repeal the tax relief and tax reform changes enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2141 Senator Courtney
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2238 Representative Watson
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2239 Representative MacDonald
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2299 Representative Piotti
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2309 Senator Nass, R.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2371 Senator Bartlett
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2431 Senator Perry, J.
Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2497 Representative Hill

LR: 2299 Sponsor: Representative Piotti of Unity

Title: An Act To Adjust the Implementation of Possible Tax Changes

Comments: This bill would adjust the implementation schedule for the changes to the Maine tax code through the laws implementing tax reform, if the people's veto signature effort is approved by the Secretary of State and the question is placed on the June ballot. Currently, if the law is upheld at the ballot, the tax changes will begin mid-year, which would be difficult to implement. The bill will adjust the start dates and will be necessary only if the question is placed on the June ballot.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2088 Representative Langley

LR: 2300 Sponsor: Representative Piotti of Unity

Title: An Act To Modify the Maine Tax Code To Support Renewable Energy

Comments: This bill would adjust the method by which Maine communities assess taxes on new renewable energy projects in order to better benefit the region in which those projects are located.

TAXATION

REVENUE SERVICES BUREAU
PROCEDURES

LR: 2431

Sponsor: Senator Perry, J. of Penobscot

Title: An Act To Implement Comprehensive Tax Reform

Comments: The bill would implement Maine's new sales tax early, create an elderly property tax deferral and conform Maine law with federal law regarding accelerated depreciation or business equipment.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2088 Representative Langley

LR: 2471

Sponsor: Representative Cain of Orono

Title: An Act To Increase Transparency and Accountability and Assess the Impact of Tax Incentive Programs

Comments: This bill would provide a mechanism for Maine Revenue Services to improve data collection in the State's tax incentive programs to assess their impact over time to inform policy decisions.

LR: 2487

Sponsor: Senator Sullivan of York

Title: An Act To Allow the Direct Deposit of an Income Tax Refund into a Maximum of 3 Checking or Savings Accounts

Comments: This bill would allow a taxpayer to direct the deposit of an income tax refund into a maximum of 3 checking or savings accounts at a financial institution.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2085 Representative Flemings

TAXATION

SALES AND USE TAX
EXEMPT ITEMS

LR: 2042 Sponsor: Senator Trahan of Lincoln

Title: An Act To Make Retroactive the Sales Tax Exemption for Meals Served to Residents of Retirement Facilities

Comments: This bill would make retroactive a sales tax exemption for meals served to residents of retirement facilities that was enacted in the tax reform law, Public Law 2009, chapter 382.

Closely Related CO: LD 1335

LR: 2141 Sponsor: Senator Courtney of York

Title: An Act To Repeal the Sales Tax on Automobile Repairs

Comments: This bill would repeal the sales tax on repairs to automobiles.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2088 Representative Langley

LR: 2287 Sponsor: Representative Cushing of Hampden

Title: An Act To Encourage Saving and Investing by Maine Citizens

Comments: This bill would exempt coins and bullion purchased for investment purposes from the sales tax.

LR: 2475 Sponsor: Senator Mills, P. of Somerset

Title: An Act To Exempt from the Sales and Use Tax Products Used in Dairy Farming

Comments: This bill would exempt all supplies and repair parts used in the process of milking cows from the sales and use tax.

LR: 2495 Sponsor: Senator Mills, P. of Somerset

Title: An Act To Exempt from Sales Tax Rafting Trips on the Kennebec River, Penobscot River and Dead River

Comments: This bill would exempt from sales tax rafting trips on the Kennebec River, Penobscot River and Dead River.

TAXATION

SALES AND USE TAX
EXEMPT PURCHASERS

LR: 2157

Sponsor: Representative Watson of Bath

Title: An Act to Make a Minor Technical Change in the Tax Laws Governing the Sales Tax Exemption for Snowmobile Trail Grooming Equipment

Comments: This bill would remove the requirement that a snowmobile club be classified as a nonprofit organization in order to be eligible for the sales tax exemption for snowmobile trail grooming equipment.

LR: 2250

Sponsor: Senator Sherman of Aroostook

Title: An Act To Amend the Law Governing Sales Tax Exemptions for Certain Nonprofit Youth Organizations

Comments: This bill would expand application of the sales tax exemption for nonprofit youth organizations whose primary purpose is to provide athletic instruction to also include nonprofit youth organizations that provide artistic instruction in nonresidential settings.

SALES AND USE TAX
EXEMPT SELLERS

LR: 2238

Sponsor: Representative Watson of Bath

Title: An Act To Improve the Law Implementing Tax Reform

Comments: This bill would refine the sales tax exemption for business-to-business taxable services among affiliated companies to avoid ambiguity and misinterpretation.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2088 Representative Langley

TAXATION

SALES AND USE TAX ITEMS TAXED

LR: 2176

Sponsor: Representative Watson of Bath

Title: An Act To Provide Tax Relief

Comments: This bill would impose a sales tax on public and private golf courses, bowling alleys and ski lift tickets. This bill would also grant an exemption to ski areas for the purchase of water and power necessary for snowmaking.

LR: 2371

Sponsor: Senator Bartlett of Cumberland

Title: An Act Regarding the Tax on Candy

Comments: If the people's veto petition filed with respect to the tax reform law is determined to be invalid by the Secretary of State, this bill would reverse the changes made to the taxation of candy by that law.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2088 Representative Langley

SALES AND USE TAX LOCAL OPTION

LR: 2472

Sponsor: Representative Lovejoy of Portland

Title: An Act To Create an Optional Local Sales Tax To Support Education

Comments: This bill would allow a county to set an optional county sales tax up to 1% for kindergarten to grade 12 education funding.

JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 1381

Closely Related CO: LD 1253

SALES AND USE TAX MEALS AND LODGING

LR: 2497

Sponsor: Representative Hill of York

Title: An Act To Exempt from the Increased Lodging Tax Group Lodging Contracts That Were Entered into before June 13, 2009

Comments: This bill would exempt from the increased lodging tax group lodging contracts that were entered into before June 13, 2009.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2088 Representative Langley

TRANSPORTATION

AERONAUTICS
AIR SERVICE

LR: 2362

Sponsor: Senator Marrache of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Establish a Commission To Promote General Aviation in the State

Comments: This bill would establish in the laws an ongoing commission to aid the Department of Transportation in developing and maintaining aviation and airports in the State.

BICYCLES
REGISTRATION

LR: 2108

Sponsor: Representative Cotta of China

Title: An Act To Register Bicycles and To Establish a Safety Course for Bicyclists

Comments: This bill would require that bicycles be registered and that a bicyclist must take a bicycle safety course.

BICYCLES
REQUIREMENTS

LR: 2274

Sponsor: Representative Carey of Lewiston

Title: An Act To Provide for the Safety of Young Maine Athletes

Comments: This bill would amend the rules governing the rules of the road to extend to the operation of roller skis those same requirements governing the operation of bicycles.

BUSES
TRAINING

LR: 2140

Sponsor: Representative Thomas of Ripley

Title: An Act To Authorize School Bus Driver Trainees To Use Flashing Lights during Training

Comments: This bill would authorize school bus driver trainees to use flashing lights during their training.

TRANSPORTATION

GENERAL HIGHWAY FUND TRANSFERS

LR: 2132

Sponsor: Senator Gooley of Franklin

Title: An Act To Transfer Funding for Certain Expenditures That Are Not Related to Transportation from the Highway Fund to the General Fund

Comments: This bill would transfer funding for certain expenditures that are not related to transportation, such as expenditures related to the Office of the Secretary of State and the Department of Public Safety, from the Highway Fund to the General Fund.

LR: 2424

Sponsor: Representative Browne of Vassalboro

Title: An Act To Designate Funds from the Highway Fund to the Highway and Bridge Light Capital Program

Comments: This bill would designate a certain portion of the Highway Fund money to the Highway and Bridge Light Capital program to be used for maintenance service treatment.

MOTOR CARRIERS SAFETY

LR: 2188

Sponsor: Representative Crockett, P. of Augusta

Title: An Act To Allow the State To Receive Full Funding under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program

Comments: This bill would amend the laws governing motor carriers to achieve compatibility with federal Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program regulations in order to allow the State to receive full funding under the program. The State currently receives 50% funding under the program.

MOTOR VEHICLES INSPECTION

LR: 2313

Sponsor: Senator Bowman of York

Title: An Act To Expand Enhanced Automobile Emissions Inspections throughout the State

Comments: This bill would require that the enhanced automobile emissions inspections in place in Cumberland County be applied statewide.

TRANSPORTATION

MOTOR VEHICLES NUMBER PLATES

LR: 2070 Sponsor: Senator Plowman of Penobscot

Title: An Act To Decrease the Number of Plates Required To Be Displayed on a Motor Vehicle from 2 to One

Comments: This bill would decrease the number of registration plates required to be displayed on a motor vehicle from 2 to one. A registration plate would be required on the back of a motor vehicle.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2415 Representative McCabe

LR: 2415 Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan

Title: An Act To Amend Maine's Law Relating to Motor Vehicle License Plates

Comments: This bill would require motor vehicles in the State to have only one license plate on the rear of the vehicle

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2070 Senator Plowman

LR: 2418 Sponsor: Representative Pilon of Saco

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the "We Support Our Troops" Registration Plates

Comments: This bill would clarify where in the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management proceeds from the sale of "We Support Our Troops" registration plates are to be deposited and specifies the authority of the We Support Our Troops Advisory Board with respect to the determination of the use of these proceeds.

LR: 2439 Sponsor: Senator Raye of Washington

Title: An Act To Preserve the "We Support Our Troops" Registration Plate

Comments: This bill would reduce the number of "We Support Our Troops" registration plates that must be outstanding to keep the registration plate from being retired.

MOTORCYCLES OPERATION

LR: 2053 Sponsor: Senator Sullivan of York

Title: An Act To Reduce Noise Caused by Motorcycles and Improve Public Health

Comments: This bill would prohibit a person from operating a motorcycle manufactured after December 31, 1982 unless it is equipped with an exhaust system or muffler that bears a federal Environmental Protection Agency stamp or label.

JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 920

TRANSPORTATION

MOTORCYCLES PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR

LR: 2057

Sponsor: Representative Beaudoin of Biddeford

Title: An Act Concerning Motorcyclist Safety

Comments: This bill would require that a motorcyclist who has had a motorcycle operator license for fewer than 10 years wear a protective helmet.

JR 217 Ruling Needed: LD 453

NAVIGATION FERRIES

LR: 2051

Sponsor: Representative Blodgett of Augusta

Title: An Act To Ensure Access to Ferries for Persons with Physical Limitations

Comments: This bill would require that all ferries in the State have wheelchairs available for persons with physical limitations.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC PRIVATE FUNDING

LR: 2033

Sponsor: Representative MacDonald of Boothbay

Title: An Act To Stimulate the Maine Economy and Promote the Development of Maine's Priority Transportation Infrastructure Needs

Comments: This bill would allow the Department of Transportation to receive or solicit proposals and enter into agreements with private entities or consortia for the building, operation, ownership, leasing or financing of certain transportation projects as set forth in Public Law 2007, chapter 470.

RAILROADS SAFETY

LR: 2035

Sponsor: Representative Fitts of Pittsfield

Title: An Act To Impose Service Requirements on Railroads That Receive Funds from the Department of Transportation

Comments: This bill would require that any railroad receiving funds from the State demonstrate and meet certain service requirements or pay a penalty for failure to meet those service requirements.

TRANSPORTATION

ROADS

BRIDGES

LR: 2096 Sponsor: Representative Eves of North Berwick

Title: Resolve, To Name a Bridge in North Berwick the North Berwick Veterans Memorial Bridge

Comments: This resolve would name a bridge in North Berwick the North Berwick Veterans Memorial Bridge for veterans events in the town to take place in May of 2010.

LR: 2245 Sponsor: Representative Pinkham of Lexington Township

Title: Resolve, To Name the New Bridge over Gilman Stream in New Portland the Joshua Bernard Memorial Bridge

Comments: This resolve would name the new bridge over Gilman Stream in New Portland the Joshua Bernard Memorial Bridge.

ROADS

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

LR: 2123 Sponsor: Representative Thomas of Ripley

Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Install a Flashing Stop Light at the Intersection of Route 201 and Route 43 in Madison

Comments: This resolve would direct the Department of Transportation to install a flashing stop light at the intersection of Route 201 and Route 43 in Madison.

LR: 2360 Sponsor: Representative Tardy of Newport

Title: An Act Regarding the Placement of a Sign at Saddleback Mountain

Comments: This bill would allow Saddleback Mountain, located in the Town of Rangeley, to erect a 5-foot-by-6-foot directional sign on the access road to the resort, at the corner of Route 4 and Dallas Hill Road. Prior to the sign's placement, Saddleback Mountain must receive approval from the Town of Rangeley.

TRANSPORTATION

ROADS
MAINTENANCE

LR: 2279 Sponsor: Senator Courtney of York

Title: An Act To Dedicate Surplus Transportation Funds to Highway Maintenance and Paving

Comments: This bill would require that any additional revenues over the amount budgeted in the Highway Fund budget be dedicated solely to maintenance and paving.

LR: 2388 Sponsor: Representative Fletcher of Winslow

Title: An Act To Support the Paving and Maintenance of Maine's Highways

Comments: This bill would require that 15% of the annual fuel tax revenues be dedicated to the maintenance and paving of highways.

LR: 2442 Sponsor: Representative Piotti of Unity

Title: An Act To Improve Safety and Reduce Maintenance Costs on Maine Highways

Comments: This bill would direct the Department of Transportation to develop rules requiring through-truck traffic to use federally maintained roads rather than state-maintained roads.

ROADS
NAMING

LR: 2077 Sponsor: Senator Gooley of Franklin

Title: Resolve, To Name Route 27 from Kingfield to Stratton the Caleb Dalton Stevens Memorial Highway

Comments: This resolve would name Route 27 from Kingfield to Stratton the Caleb Dalton Stevens Memorial Highway.

TRANSPORTATION

ROADS

PRIVATE WAYS

LR: 2137

Sponsor: Representative Thomas of Ripley

Title: An Act To Allow Members of a Road Association To Appeal an Assessment Made by the Association to the Local Appeals Board

Comments: This bill would allow a member or an affected nonmember to appeal any assessment made by a private road association to the local appeals board.

LR: 2177

Sponsor: Representative Bryant, M. of Windham

Title: An Act To Establish a Process of Determining Camp Road Ownership

Comments: This bill would assist camp road associations in determining ownership of camp roads in order to repair and upgrade the roads so that the roads could become town-owned public roads.

ROADS

REST AREAS

LR: 2115

Sponsor: Representative Johnson of Greenville

Title: Resolve, Authorizing the Transfer of State Land to the Natural Resource Education Center of Greenville

Comments: This resolve would transfer the Department of Transportation rest stop on Route 15 in Greenville to the Natural Resource Education Center of Greenville.

LR: 2121

Sponsor: Representative Thomas of Ripley

Title: An Act To Encourage Tourism by Ensuring the Safety, Accessibility and Availability of Highway Rest Stops and Scenic Overlooks

Comments: This bill would require that the rest stops on Interstate 95 located in Pittsfield and Sidney be reopened. This bill would also prohibit loitering at rest stops and require winter plowing of the scenic overlook on Interstate 95 that overlooks Mount Katahdin.

TRANSPORTATION

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS CELL PHONE USE

LR: 2056 Sponsor: Representative Beaudoin of Biddeford

Title: An Act To Prohibit Text Messaging while Driving

Comments: This bill would expand the distracted driver law to specifically prohibit text messaging while operating a motor vehicle.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2058 Representative Rotundo

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2098 Representative Van Wie

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2100 Representative Eves

LR: 2058 Sponsor: Representative Rotundo of Lewiston

Title: An Act To Prohibit Texting While Driving

Comments: This bill would prohibit texting while driving.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2056 Representative Beaudoin

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2098 Representative Van Wie

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2100 Representative Eves

LR: 2098 Sponsor: Representative Van Wie of New Gloucester

Title: An Act To Define Texting or Keyboarding while Operating a Motor Vehicle as a Reckless Act

Comments: This bill would define texting or keyboarding while operating a motor vehicle as a reckless act and would impose penalties similar to those provided under the laws governing operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2056 Representative Beaudoin

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2058 Representative Rotundo

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2100 Representative Eves

LR: 2100 Sponsor: Representative Eves of North Berwick

Title: An Act To Prohibit Texting while Operating a Motor Vehicle

Comments: This bill would prohibit texting while operating a motor vehicle.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2056 Representative Beaudoin

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2058 Representative Rotundo

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2098 Representative Van Wie

TRANSPORTATION

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ENFORCEMENT

LR: 2064 Sponsor: Representative Pilon of Saco

Title: An Act To Remove Restrictions on the Use of Traffic Surveillance Cameras by the State and Municipalities

Comments: This bill would repeal the prohibition on the use by the State or a municipality of a traffic surveillance camera to prove or enforce a violation of the laws governing motor vehicles.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2364 Senator Damon

LR: 2248 Sponsor: Senator Bowman of York

Title: An Act To Allow Fines for Violations on Town Roads To Be Kept by Towns

Comments: This bill would allow towns to keep fines or forfeitures imposed for a violation of the motor vehicle laws.

LR: 2364 Sponsor: Senator Damon of Hancock

Title: An Act To Regulate the Use of Traffic Surveillance Cameras

Comments: This bill would prohibit the use of traffic surveillance cameras and add automated license plate recognition systems to the list of regulated surveillance technology.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2064 Representative Pilon

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS PARKING

LR: 2155 Sponsor: Representative Martin, J. L. of Eagle Lake

Title: An Act To Require the Bureau of Motor Vehicles To Accept Certification of Disability from the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services

Comments: This bill would require the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to accept certification of a person's disability from the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services for the purpose of obtaining a disability registration plate.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS SPEED

LR: 2208 Sponsor: Senator Trahan of Lincoln

Title: An Act To Establish Emergency Zones

Comments: This bill would designate an area where emergency personnel are assisting an injured person as an emergency zone and would add that area to the list of mandatory reduced speed zones, such as construction zones.

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION DEPT
ADMINISTRATION

LR: 2144

Sponsor: Senator Smith, D. of Piscataquis

Title: Resolve, Requiring the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability
To Look at the Structure and Management of the Department of Transportation

Comments: This resolve would require the Office of Program Evaluation and Government
Accountability to look at the structure and management of the Department of
Transportation and make recommendations for reducing the size and the cost of the
department.

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION DEPT
PLANNING

LR: 2234 Sponsor: Senator Sherman of Aroostook

Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Review the Fiscal Impact on the State of the Closure of the Railroad Track between Madawaska and Millinocket

Comments: This resolve would direct the Department of Transportation to review the fiscal impact on the State of the proposed closure of the railroad track between Madawaska and Millinocket and report its findings to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

LR: 2333 Sponsor: Representative Thomas of Ripley

Title: An Act To Improve Maine's Roads

Comments: This bill would generate \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 to be matched by federal funds to rebuild some of the worst roads in the State and establish parameters for use of the funds.

LR: 2334 Sponsor: Representative Strang Burgess of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Reduce Road Noise within Posted Areas

Comments: This bill would provide a standard for excessive noise of vehicles on posted roads at greater than 85 decibels within 50 feet.

LR: 2366 Sponsor: Representative Beaudette of Biddeford

Title: An Act To Clarify the Authority of the Department of Transportation Regarding Economic Development Projects That Involve Multiple Property Owners with Common Roadway Access

Comments: This bill would require the Department of Transportation to streamline and clarify requirements concerning traffic management infrastructure projects that involve several property owners with common roadway access.

TRANSPORTATION DISTRICTS
PLANNING

LR: 2145 Sponsor: Senator Smith, D. of Piscataquis

Title: An Act To Establish a Rural Highway Authority

Comments: This bill would establish a rural highway authority and create a 5-person advisory board to look at rural transportation needs and make recommendations for the use of money to repair roads.

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RENEWABLE RESOURCES

LR: 2370 Sponsor: Senator Bartlett of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Amend the Electric Utility Industry Laws as They Relate to Renewable Resources

Comments: This bill would amend various definitions in the electric utility industry laws as they relate to renewable resources.

LR: 2499 Sponsor: Representative Adams of Portland

Title: An Act To Strengthen the Community-based Renewable Energy Pilot Program

Comments: This bill would revise recently enacted legislation on feed-in tariffs and community-based energy generation facilities to correct some issues that have arisen.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOLAR ENERGY

LR: 2346 Sponsor: Representative Nelson of Falmouth

Title: Resolve, To Review Certification Requirements for Installation of Solar Energy Systems

Comments: This resolve would require the Public Utilities Commission to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy as to whether the requirements under the solar and wind energy rebate program are appropriate for ensuring proper installation of solar energy systems.

LR: 2440 Sponsor: Representative Russell of Portland

Title: An Act To Ensure Existing Solar Collectors Are Not Shaded from the Sun

Comments: This bill would prohibit a person from growing trees or shrubs or erecting a structure that would block an existing solar collector from the sun.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY WIND ENERGY

LR: 2183 Sponsor: Speaker Pingree of North Haven

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Noise Limitations on Wind Turbines

Comments: This bill would amend the laws governing noise limitations on wind turbines to account for variables such as ambient noise provided by the wind itself.

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

ELECTRIC UTILITIES PLANNING

LR: 2419 Sponsor: Representative Russell of Portland

Title: An Act To Establish a Smart Electric Grid in the State

Comments: This bill would establish a smart electric grid to modernize the State's electricity transmission and distribution system to maintain a reliable, secure and cost-effective infrastructure that can meet future demand growth.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2434 Representative Russell

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2458 Representative Hinck

LR: 2434 Sponsor: Representative Russell of Portland

Title: An Act To Establish a New Electric Utility To Create a Smart Electric Grid in the State

Comments: This bill would establish a new electric utility to create a smart electric grid in the State.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2419 Representative Russell

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2458 Representative Hinck

LR: 2458 Sponsor: Representative Hinck of Portland

Title: An Act To Create a Smart Grid in the State

Comments: This bill would establish a state policy on smart grid infrastructure. It would establish a state policy to transition Maine's energy infrastructure to a smart grid by 2012. The bill would provide a ranked set of resource preferences for reducing energy consumption and lowering costs to consumers. The bill would require state agencies to advocate for this policy and require the Public Utilities Commission to ensure applicable standards are met.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2419 Representative Russell

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2434 Representative Russell

ELECTRIC UTILITIES RATES

LR: 2423 Sponsor: Senator Smith, D. of Piscataquis

Title: Resolve, To Direct the Public Utilities Commission To Report the Electric Rate Impact of Climate Change Regulations

Comments: This resolve would direct the Public Utilities Commission to report quarterly the electric rate impact of climate change regulations, such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

ELECTRIC UTILITIES TRANSMISSION LINES

LR: 2433

Sponsor: Representative Russell of Portland

Title: An Act To Regulate Ultra-high-voltage Transmission Lines

Comments: This bill would define "ultra-high-voltage transmission line" in the site location of development laws. The bill would also require that all ultra-high-voltage transmission lines must be buried in a manner that is consistent with federal, state and local electric codes and building standards.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY MAINE TRUST

LR: 2363

Sponsor: Representative Wagner of Lyman

Title: An Act To Adjust Eligibility for Grants through the Efficiency Maine Trust

Comments: This bill would propose to amend the Efficiency Maine Trust Act as it applies to electric thermal storage heating to allow electric thermal storage heating to compete for funding from the trust on an equal basis with other measures proposed for greenhouse gas reduction.

ENERGY ELECTRICITY GENERATION

LR: 2474

Sponsor: Senator Mills, P. of Somerset

Title: An Act To Require That New Sources of Electrical Generation in the State Must Provide a Tangible Benefit to Maine Ratepayers in the Form of Discounts to Future Electrical Rates

Comments: This bill would require new sources of electrical generation to provide a tangible benefit in the form of discounts.

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

ENERGY PLANNING

- LR: 2090 Sponsor: Representative Innes of Yarmouth
- Title: An Act To Lower Municipal Energy Costs by the Formation of Municipal Energy Committees
- Comments: This bill would facilitate the formation of municipal energy committees to develop local "smart energy" and sustainability plans.
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- LR: 2446 Sponsor: Representative Martin, J. L. of Eagle Lake
- Title: An Act To Ensure That Maine's Energy Corridor Policy Does Not Harm Maine's Renewable Power
- Comments: This bill would extend the reporting deadline of the Commission to Study Energy Infrastructure to May 1, 2010 and authorize the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters to submit a bill to the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature. It would require the commission to include findings regarding renewable energy, economic effects and impact on consumers as well as give preference to energy project development in the State.
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- LR: 2473 Sponsor: Senator Mills, P. of Somerset
- Title: An Act To Establish a Commission To Approve Energy Corridor Designations in Accordance with Criteria Beneficial to the People of Maine
- Comments: This bill would establish a corridor commission with 2 members of the Public Utilities Commission, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the Director of the State Planning Office to approve future projects based on 3 priorities.
-
- LR: 2478 Sponsor: Representative Berry of Bowdoinham
- Title: An Act To Enhance Maine's Clean Energy Opportunities
- Comments: This bill would include in the Efficiency Maine Trust's triennial plan the investigation of the national and regional carbon market and consider the appropriate participation of the State. The bill would also require the Public Utilities Commission to purchase all cost-effective energy-efficient supply made available through the Efficiency Maine Trust as part of standard-offer purchases.

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

PUBLIC ADVOCATE
ADMINISTRATION

LR: 2500

Sponsor: Representative Adams of Portland

Title: An Act To Enhance the Independence of the Office of the Public Advocate

Comments: This bill would increase the term of office for the Public Advocate position from 4 years to 6 years beginning in 2013.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
POWERS

LR: 2303

Sponsor: Representative Adams of Portland

Title: Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Adopt Rules To Improve the Safety of Multiunit Rental Dwellings

Comments: This resolve would direct the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules to authorize utilities to notify the owners of multiunit rental dwellings when the utility for a particular rental unit is going to be shut off for nonpayment. This bill would ensure that certain tenant information remains confidential and would provide information to tenants about utility payment assistance programs.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
PROCEDURES

LR: 2082

Sponsor: Representative Pilon of Saco

Title: An Act To Require That a Utility Company Notify the Owner of Property prior to Disconnecting Services

Comments: This bill would require that a utility company notify the owner of property prior to disconnecting services.

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
BROADBAND SERVICES

LR: 2045

Sponsor: Representative Peterson of Rumford

Title: An Act To Maintain Internet Access for Maine Citizens and Businesses

Comments: This bill would continue to authorize Internet services pricing to be based exclusively on market competition as long as pricing for these services is based on a unitary scheme, such as a monthly fee for specified bandwidth. If, however, an internet service provider chooses to alter the pricing structure to a metered fee based on utilization within that bandwidth, that pricing would be subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Commission and would require the filing of a rate case with full disclosure of the attendant costs, margins and reasons for the pricing changes, and would allow the Public Advocate to intervene on behalf of Maine consumers.

LR: 2173

Sponsor: Representative Flaherty of Scarborough

Title: An Act To Establish a Broadband Policy for Maine

Comments: This bill would make affordable internet service available to all residents and businesses in the State by maximizing sustainable private investment in broadband infrastructure.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CELLULAR PHONES

LR: 2148

Sponsor: Representative Martin, J.R. of Orono

Title: An Act To Allow a Person To Change Cell Phone Service Providers after the First Term of a Contract

Comments: This bill would allow a consumer to choose another service provider and keep the technology that was purchased from a previous service provider after the first term of a contract, if the first service provider does not meet the consumer's needs.

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

LR: 2078 Sponsor: Representative Johnson of Greenville

Title: An Act To Require Price Quotes for Telephone Service To Be in Writing prior to Service

Comments: This bill would require that price quotes provided to consumers for telephone service be in writing and that a quote be honored in the billing for the service.

LR: 2101 Sponsor: Representative Eves of North Berwick

Title: An Act To Permit Telephone Companies To Provide Directories by Customer Request Only

Comments: This bill would permit telephone companies to provide directories by customer request only.

LR: 2465 Sponsor: Representative Fletcher of Winslow

Title: An Act To Protect Rural Maine Telephone Ratepayers

Comments: This bill would require that the Public Utilities Commission evaluate the economic harm to telecommunications and information service providers caused by competition with or the limited procurement practices of the University of Maine System. The State shall compensate such harmed telecommunications and information service providers.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2466 Representative Fitts

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
UNIVERSAL SERVICE

LR: 2466 Sponsor: Representative Fitts of Pittsfield

Title: An Act To Protect Universal Service

Comments: This bill would prohibit an instrumentality or agency of the State from providing telecommunications service or information service to any person other than itself or its tenants and from procuring such services in a manner that constrains or limits the alternative proposals that may be submitted to meet the instrumentality's or agency's needs. This bill also would recognize a private right of action in Superior Court for injunctive relief against and damages ensuing from such unlawful competition. This bill also would remove the unfair competitive advantage allowed to the University of Maine in locating equipment on existing utility facilities.

Closely Related Leg Req: LR 2465 Representative Fletcher

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

UTILITY DISTRICTS CHARTER CHANGES

- LR: 2153 Sponsor: Representative Martin, J. L. of Eagle Lake
Title: An Act To Raise the Indebtedness Limit of the Eagle Lake Water and Sewer District
Comments: This bill would raise the indebtedness limit of the Eagle Lake Water and Sewer District from \$2,500,000 to \$3,500,000.
- LR: 2184 Sponsor: Representative Thomas of Ripley
Title: An Act To Amend the Charter of the Dexter Utility District
Comments: This bill would amend the charter of the Dexter Utility District to allow the district to disconnect a customer's water service if that customer fails to pay for sewer service.
- LR: 2255 Sponsor: Representative Hayes of Buckfield
Title: An Act To Amend the Charter of the Buckfield Village Corporation
Comments: This bill would revise and update the charter of the Buckfield Village Corporation.
- LR: 2293 Sponsor: Representative Tardy of Newport
Title: An Act To Amend the Charter of the Corinna Water District
Comments: This bill would amend the charter of the Corinna Water District to permit trustees to be elected in the same manner as other town officials.
- LR: 2390 Sponsor: Representative Edgecomb of Caribou
Title: An Act To Amend the Charter of the Caribou Water District
Comments: This bill would amend the charter of the Caribou Water District to make changes necessary for the operation of the Caribou Water District.

UTILITY DISTRICTS FEES

- LR: 2252 Sponsor: Representative Fitts of Pittsfield
Title: An Act To Streamline Collections for Consumer-owned Consolidated Water and Wastewater Utilities
Comments: This bill would allow consumer-owned consolidated utilities to disconnect water service for nonpayment of sewer charges.

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

UTILITY DISTRICTS
NEW

LR: 2204

Sponsor: Senator Weston of Waldo

Title: An Act To Create the Lincolnville Sewer District

Comments: This bill would create the Lincolnville Sewer District.

UTILITY DISTRICTS
POWERS

LR: 2109

Sponsor: Representative Chase of Wells

Title: An Act To Authorize Sanitary Districts To Waive an Automatic Sewer Lien
Foreclosure

Comments: This bill would provide the option for sanitary districts to waive the automatic foreclosure of a sewer lien in the same way as municipalities may currently waive automatic foreclosure of a tax lien.

124th Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening

Total number of bills screened: 373

Report: SCRNSUB22