Maine AI Task Force
Draft recommendations for public comment
Last Updated: September 29, 2025

The Governor's Artificial Intelligence Task Force is preparing to deliver recommendations that will position Maine to harness the benefits of AI while minimizing risks for people and businesses. Its final report is due in October 2025.

The draft recommendations below are preliminary and subject to change.

Section 1: Prepare Maine's economy and workforce for the opportunities and risks likely to result from advances in AI

Topic A: Economy Draft Recommendations

1) *Expand entrepreneurial assistance for AI-enabled startups and other small businesses in Maine*

The State should explore ways to continue to lower the barriers to entry for entrepreneurs looking to build AI-powered startups in Maine and enable other small businesses to leverage AI tools to grow their businesses and support their employees, as well as design appropriate AI governance and modernized privacy policies. One model to consider expanding upon is MTI's Maine Entrepreneurial Resource Corp (MERC), which recently launched an initiative specifically designed to equip entrepreneurs with AI skills relevant to their business.

2) *Spur national leadership in AI innovation by producing training data sets for Maine's high-potential industries and pressing challenges*

In a recent survey of venture capital investors, more than half of respondents cited a startup's access to good data as the factor most likely to make them stand out in a crowded field. AI models are trained on large datasets, which are costly to produce, clean, and maintain. Much of the recent innovation associated with AI has been produced off publicly available data. The State should consider ways to foster a more open data ecosystem in Maine aligned with state economic development priorities and areas where Maine has natural competitive innovation advantages. AI-ready datasets (cleaned, anonymized, and maintained) can draw in innovators looking for raw data on which to train their AI tools.

3) *Help private sector firms, community nonprofits, and other organizations enhance cybersecurity*

As AI accelerates the volume and sophistication of cyberattacks, it will be imperative that Maine's small businesses, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and other non-public entities continue to modernize their protections against threat actors. Existing programs in Maine offer help on cybersecurity, such as subsidized access to business consultants through Maine Technology Institute's Maine Entrepreneurial Resource Corps and technical expertise from University of Maine Augusta's Cybersecurity Center and Maine Cyber Range program. The State should take steps to continue to grow supports like these.

4) Improve access to advanced computing resources

Training AI models requires significant investment in computing power. To lower the barrier for early-stage companies to start here, Maine should explore strategies to improve access to advanced computing resources for firms that may not otherwise have relationships or financial resources to leverage top-tier AI tools. This could involve public-private partnerships, targeted incentives, or shared-use models that reduce costs for smaller actors. By investing in the underlying infrastructure upon which AI depends, Maine can help ensure that the benefits of innovation are broadly distributed across sectors and geographies.

5) Provide regulatory predictability to support safe adoption of AI tools by Maine businesses

Regulatory predictability will be critical to helping Maine's firms adopt AI tools with confidence necessarily to globally compete. Clear, consistent guidelines around safety and consumer protections will need to be tailored to the realities of Maine's small business landscape. Incremental rulemaking, long implementation timelines, and robust stakeholder engagement can also provide firms with predictability while allowing businesses to adapt and grow alongside emerging AI capabilities.

6) Continue to strengthen Maine's broadband and energy infrastructure to prepare for AI's impacts

AI's economic potential will only be realized if the underlying infrastructure is in place to support it. The State should assess broadband, compute, and energy infrastructure needs in light of growing AI use — particularly among small businesses and rural communities — and align infrastructure investments with economic and climate goals.

The State should consider ways to forecast AI-related demand in energy and broadband planning efforts, including capacity gaps, interconnection needs, and data center siting considerations; evaluate legacy industrial or public-sector sites that could support modular data infrastructure; and explore shared-use models for high-performance compute infrastructure that reduce costs for small businesses, startups, and public agencies.

Topic B: Workforce Draft Recommendations

1) ***Actively evaluate AI's real-time impacts on Maine's workers and labor markets with enhanced real-time labor market intelligence***

Develop leading and longer-term data metrics that enable the State to actively monitor potential AI-related job disruptions, wage impacts, and other labor market effects. Insights should be shared back with workers and employers continuously, including, for example, information about future high-wage, in-demand occupations. Senior policy leaders should regularly discuss these data to allow rapid policy responses as the labor market changes and workers' needs evolve. The State Workforce Board can help Maine's training institutions continue to stay abreast of how AI is changing the skills sought by Maine employers and solicit input from workers about AI's impact on their careers.

2) ***Expand training opportunities that prepare Maine workers skills needed for an AI-enabled workplace***

To keep Maine's workforce competitive, the State should integrate AI into existing training programs and encourage employers to invest in AI skills for their employees. Developing credential and educational standards can help ensure trainees gain the competencies needed for a technology-driven economy. New career exploration and apprenticeship programs can be developed that focus on emerging occupations related to AI. Higher education and training providers should partner with employers to develop and deliver AI-focused training, and the State should work with these organizations to ensure streamlined access to funding resources like the Dirigo Business Incentive and other programs.

3) ***Ready Maine's workforce investment strategy and re-employment policies for the AI era***

Artificial intelligence is reshaping industries, workflows, and employment patterns across Maine. While the pace and scope of these changes may not yet be visible, their cumulative effects – job opportunities and disruptions that cut across sectors, communities, and skill levels – could be profound and may require updating or changing portions of existing state workforce strategy. For example, some State re-employment initiatives are specifically designed for geographically concentrated workforce impacts, whereas AI may have job implications across specific occupations regardless of geography.

The State should also explore ways to proactively build the state's capacity to help workers retrain, transition, and thrive as AI transforms the economy. The State should consider ways to update proven workforce retraining and career transition services; cultivate innovative partnerships with employers and educators to develop new training curricula and foster digital literacy; and ensure that our rapid response and re-employment practices are equipped to react to distributed,

occupation-specific disruptions. The speed at which these changes might occur also suggests the need for the State to identify new resources, including federal funds.

4) Leverage AI tools to expand reach, speed, and impacts of state workforce programs

AI tools offer promise to expand the reach of state workforce programs and make them more helpful for Mainers that use them. For example, Indiana has used AI's data analytic capabilities to offer unemployment filers with tailored recommendations and customized data based on personalized employment histories. New Jersey is using AI to more seamlessly translate documents into workers' native languages and adjust them based on educational background. Workforce programs with intensive navigation services – like ASAP, which is proven to increase college completion for at risk students – may may benefit from innovations to expand their reach through AI supports that complement human coaches. AI policy "answer bots" and automated documentation tools could help Maine's career counselors and eligibility workers spend less time hunting for answers and completing compliance-oriented paperwork, and more time with clients.

5) Engage workers to ensure AI improves careers and expands opportunities for all

AI has the potential to create new jobs and advancement opportunities, improve pay, and reduce unsafe or repetitive tasks, but these outcomes will not happen automatically. As work and career opportunities evolve, worker perspectives must shape how AI is introduced and used. The State should elevate worker voices in policy discussions on training, job quality, and technology adoption, while employers can engage employees directly in decisions about AI in the workplace. AI may also allow business to bring more people into the workforce, especially those that are currently being left out of job opportunities.

Ongoing attention is also needed to how AI affects working conditions, including surveillance of workers, worker autonomy, and the role of professional judgment in mission-critical tasks. In rural communities, where access to training and infrastructure is more limited, prioritizing worker voice is especially important to make sure AI strengthens economic opportunity.

6) Equip Maine students and trainees to learn on state-of-the-art industry tools and infrastructure that prepare them for the future workplace

Maine has made substantial investments in upgrading facilities and equipment available to students and trainees in K12 classrooms, at Career and Technical Education programs, and across Maine's public higher education institutions. Maine should continue to pursue creative solutions that help keep this infrastructure modern as AI changes the tools and equipment used in the workforce.

Topic C: Education Draft Recommendations

1) ***Recognize and support pioneering Maine educators who are leading in AI innovation and create pathways for their insights to guide peers***

Adoption of AI in education has largely been driven by a small number of early pioneering teachers, administrators, and other educators experimenting with ways to improve their pedagogy and administrative tasks. The State can continue highlighting AI's potential to improve learning by supporting and accelerating peer education through priority access to emerging tools, platforms to collaboratively address challenges and learn from each other, and structured opportunities to share insights with State leaders and peer educators. The State could build on models like Maine's annual Learning Technology Initiative Conference to regularly capture their experiences and highlight their successes as a way to create a practical knowledge base and inspire other educators to explore AI in their own classrooms.

2) ***Reach every educator in Maine with professional development supports focused on AI***

Many Maine educators and administrators are eager to learn about AI but districts lack the capacity, time, or technical expertise to do so. Maine should build on resources like the Maine Department of Education's best-in-class AI guidance and toolkit and peer learning programs offered by groups such as the Maine Math and Science Alliance. Efforts like these can help convert pockets of AI innovation into resources from which all Maine educators can benefit. The State can also help districts and school administrators interested in piloting AI tools, highlighting promising use cases aligned with real-world needs, and exploring potential funding mechanisms to support innovation.

3) ***Prepare new teachers to use and teach about AI***

Integrating AI concepts and tools into Maine's teacher preparation programs will help new educators enter the workforce ready to engage with AI technologies responsibly and effectively. Exposure during pre-service education can build familiarity with AI's classroom applications, ethical considerations, and potential risks before teachers face them in practice. Focused coordination on AI topics between the Maine Department of Education, colleges of education, and accrediting bodies could help establish consistent expectations so that all graduates, regardless of program, are prepared to guide students in an AI-enabled learning environment.

4) ***Embed AI literacy into the curricula for all graduating students and adult learners***

Just as Maine's educational institutions play a central role today in helping students to safely and critically navigate the Internet, schools in Maine should ensure their students graduate with the foundational AI literacy necessary to navigate life and workplaces of the future. Students and adult learners should be exposed to how AI tools work, introduced to topics of AI safety and ethics, and

shown how to evaluate AI outputs. Opportunities for students and life-long learners to learn both with and irrespective of AI will be crucial to their long-term adaptability and success.

5) ***Trial AI-backed tools and technologies with the greatest potential to jumpstart learning outcomes, particularly for students with learning challenges and in less-resourced districts***

As research grows about how and where new AI-backed tools can benefit student learning, Maine should pilot deployment of the most promising tools as part of broader efforts to strengthen learning outcomes. There may be particular benefits for closing inequities experienced by rural districts, students with learning challenges, and schools with high shares of non-native English speakers. Other states may offer models. For example, Iowa and Louisiana have both recently rolled out AI-based reading skills tools in public elementary schools at low or no cost to their districts.

Topic D: Healthcare Draft Recommendations

1) ***Establish Maine as a national innovation hub for the discovery and demonstration of how AI will improve rural health outcomes***

Rural health communities nationwide are experiencing widening care gaps as costs push traditional providers out of business. New AI applications in areas like virtual behavioral healthcare delivery, wearables, and hospital business operations could offer major opportunities to close those gaps – yet little of that tech is being designed with rural health populations in mind.

Maine should aggressively pursue the opportunity to become a national hub for attracting AI health innovation focused on rural communities. This initiative could include investments to establish innovation demonstration sites at Maine rural hospitals with supports for technology, policy revisions, project management, and technical assistance; spurring development of AI tools that support older, rural patients or those trained on rural patient population data; trialing clinical deployment of emerging AI tools in rural health settings; and developing a regulatory and reimbursement environment tailored to R&D and commercialization activities.

2) ***Identify and validate AI training resources for healthcare professionals***

AI adoption in healthcare settings has been robust (over 70% of respondents in a 2024 survey reported pursuing GenAI tools) and offers enormous potential benefits to hospitals and patients. Healthcare's high stakes, heightened privacy restrictions, and emphasis on trust in clinical settings make it important that health professionals deeply understand AI and are equipped to discuss its implications with their patients,

The State should collaborate with external partners to identify and validate best-in-class training options. Health organizations, workers, and academic institutions could partner to develop new training modules tailored to different healthcare roles, grounded in human-centered care and real-world case studies. Providing adequate AI exposure and training to health professionals ahead of their use in real-world clinical settings is critical to ensuring that AI is used responsibly, safely, and ethically.

3) Prepare Maine's health regulatory landscape to enable Mainers to safely benefit from emerging AI health technologies while mitigating potential risks

The State should proactively prepare Maine's healthcare regulatory landscape to capture potential opportunities for emerging AI tools to improve patient outcomes and quality of care, close inequitable access gaps, and address other structural healthcare challenges. This includes enabling safe and equitable deployment of technologies that can improve patient outcomes, enhance quality, and reduce inequities.

The State should create clear pathways for approving innovative, evidence-based AI tools that can supplement behavioral health services and help individuals navigate to the most appropriate level of care. This work should include extensive engagement with patient groups, clinicians, licensing boards, payers, and other critical stakeholders. It should address readiness topics including safety, licensing, oversight, reimbursement models, malpractice responsibility, and insurance network adequacy rules. State regulatory processes may need to speed up to keep up with the pace of technology innovation.

4) Upgrade technology infrastructure and build out partnerships that help AI technology reach patients in all of Maine's communities

Today most providers and health organizations access AI-backed health innovations as they are offered through or together with their existing electronic medical record system or enterprise resource management system. (For example, the passive charting tools now widely used at MaineHealth are integrated tightly within EPIC, the system's electronic medical records platform.) When health centers remain stuck on previous-generation or limited-feature platforms – as is the case for many of Maine's independent hospitals, clinics, and Federally-qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) – it means that it can take many years for these providers and their patients benefit from tools available to others today. Technology upgrades and technical assistance can help these providers access modern tools and develop operational practices for how to benefit from them most. Duke University's Health AI Partnership offers an example of a hub-and-spoke model in which larger health systems serve as technical partners and testing grounds, helping smaller rural centers pilot AI tools and share knowledge.

Section 2: Protect Maine residents from potentially harmful uses of AI technologies, such as safeguarding consumer data privacy, mitigating bias in datasets, and mandating disclosure around AI utilization

Topic E: Draft recommendations around AI-related harms

1) ***Pursue near-term legislative and executive action in domains where harmful AI applications are apparent, regulatory responses are well-defined, and there are gaps in existing protections, ensuring Maine remains equipped to respond as these risks become more complex and widespread, including:***

   - *Election security:* Preventing fraud or misinformation campaigns amplified by AI. Maine election laws currently make no mention of disclosure requirements around artificial or manipulated content; many other states have passed laws regulating deepfakes in elections that may offer models.

   - *Consumer protection:* Safeguarding that AI-generated output does not mislead, manipulate, or cause harm to users, particularly in commercial, financial, and healthcare contexts. Maine's 132nd legislature has initiated some work here with LD 1727, An Act to Ensure Transparency in Consumer Transactions Involving Artificial Intelligence, which requires disclosure of use of AI chatbots to customers where they might otherwise reasonably believe they are interacting with a human.

   - *Deepfake mitigation:* Expanding and enshrining protections against impersonations, cloned voices, and fake personas deployed for malicious gain beyond sexually explicit images. Deepfakes potentially fall within traditional defamation frameworks if they falsely depict someone doing or saying something harmful presented as fact, but testing in the courts has been limited. For example, Tennessee's Elvis Act explicitly prohibits unauthorized digital simulations of an individual's voice or likeness in a commercial or deceptive manner.

   - *State cybersecurity:* Ensuring that Maine state information systems have the resources and access to expertise necessary to keep public information safe in current and emerging threat environment. Recent and ongoing investments by MaineIT offer a foundation on which to continue building.

2) ***Conduct dedicated study in domains where harmful uses or impacts of AI are still emerging, where the appropriate regulatory response path is ambiguous, or the breadth of AI's impact will be significant, such as:***

   - *Healthcare:* Addressing licensing, standards, and oversight for AI-assisted health services and tools. For example, healthcare licensing statutes (32 M.R.S. §3171 et seq.) assume a

human provider, leaving unclear how certain autonomous AI health tools could be safely approved and deployed.

- *Agentic AI and autonomous systems:* Clarifying state regulatory and legislative policy that enables new and more powerful forms of autonomous systems while addressing accountability for oversight, liability for harms, and how individuals may designate AI software to act as fiduciaries on their behalf.

- *Data autonomy and privacy:* Defining consumer rights over personal data and self-image, such as access, deletion, sharing and expectations for institutions to disclose how collected data are used. Because AI tools are trained on data, a data privacy framework can provide a valuable foundation for subsequent AI-specific law.

- *Bias and discrimination:* Ensuring consistent protections and expectations to protect against discriminatory AI outputs. Maine's Human Rights Act (5 M.R.S. §4551-4634) already prohibits discrimination based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, and other factors in employment, housing, credit, education, and public accommodations.

3) Ground AI policy in principles of regulatory balance, accountability, transparency, modernized standards, and ethical use by government

As the legislature and executive shape state policy on AI, several common principles can anchor deliberations across a range of specific domains. These include:

- *Balancing regulatory precautions with beneficial opportunities.* Policymakers should carefully consider how to protect Mainers from potential harms without preventing them from accessing opportunities with potentially substantial benefits. Underserved communities may be especially vulnerable to policy actions that create barriers to innovation, jobs, or essential services – particularly in healthcare, employment, and housing.

- *Making responsibility and accountability for outcomes of AI use transparent to the public.* Users should be able to expect that those developing or deploying AI tools have taken reasonable steps to mitigate and disclose potential risks and should benefit from reasonable transparency into how AI tools function. At the same time, individuals and organizations using AI tools should be accountable for the outcomes of their own use of AI technology. In many cases, the role of policy may be to ensure that user agreements are explicit and transparent about these rights and responsibilities.

- *Modernizing thresholds for regulated activity.* Certain existing State regulations are based on spending (i.e., disclosure of campaign donations is only required once a certain dollar

threshold is met). In light of the much greater audience reach that AI-based algorithmic targeting could afford, some of these regulations may need revision – it may no longer be effective to exclusively use spending or cost as a threshold for determining what activities may be subject to regulation.

- *Ensuring government is ethical, transparent, and secure in its use of AI. State* policies and practices should enshrine a commitment to using AI in ways that are ethical, transparent, and secure. Maine should lead by example through its practices in evaluating and procuring AI tools, including with a lens towards choosing energy-efficient software; its transparency about how these tools are used; its practices for data collection, management, protection, and user control; its security standards; and its efforts to build employee AI literacy. Collecting data to train and operationalize AI tools should be thoughtfully weighed against the tradeoffs of collecting, storing, and using new data, as collecting data can create user burdens and increase risks of disclosure or unauthorized use. The State should also leverage local private sector expertise to ensure state cybersecurity protections continue to reflect the evolving threat environment.

4) Consider a broad "statement of intent" from legislature to affirm to courts how and where existing Maine statutes to apply to circumstances involving AI

The legislature should provide guidance to the courts for applying existing laws to emerging AI-related applications. One option may be through a "statement of intent" that clarifies legislative expectations for how these laws should apply to new technologies.

5) Launch a public AI literacy campaign to help Mainers navigate these emerging technologies in their daily lives

A multiplatform, multimodal campaign should aim to enable Mainers to spot AI when interacting with it, understand AI's potential risks and benefits, and take steps to safely navigate AI in their daily lives. The campaign should build students' capabilities for leveraging AI as well as understanding its limitations and help Maine workers identify opportunities and benefits from building AI competency. It should close access gaps by offering safe ways for Mainers to interact with AI. The campaign should build on the State's existing digital equity strategy and the Maine Department of Education's AI Toolkit for Educators. It should leverage a wide range of trusted community organizations – including libraries, financial institutions, faith organizations, public health clinics, and legal services organizations.

6) Actively monitor AI's emerging use cases and associated risks to Maine residents

State agencies should monitor and regularly report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the public about how novel AI applications in the economy and society are impacting their stakeholders and

emerging in the domains they regulate. The State should closely track the federal regulatory landscape – including both legislation and court decisions – and work with Maine's Congressional delegation on AI issues that affect residents. The State should also consider multistate coordination efforts to learn from other states and collaborate on federal advocacy where appropriate. A central executive branch entity should be charged with coordinating these efforts across the administration and should be given the resources to do so.

Section 3: Explore the most promising uses for State agencies, quasi-State agencies, and other public entities such as municipalities to deploy AI technologies to address capacity gaps and improve service delivery to the populations they serve

Topic F: Public Sector Draft Recommendations

1) Position AI as a policy priority across State agencies

AI and other related technologies will impact the mission and operations of every State agency in Maine. Each cabinet agency should develop a plan for how they will monitor and respond to impacts AI might have on their constituencies, as well as how their agency could utilize new digital technologies to improve service delivery.

The State should also consider establishing an interagency leadership council responsible for monitoring AI trends, promoting shared learning and talent development, and supporting coordination on AI governance policies and practices. This group could also be a first point-of-contact on AI topics for the public, higher education institutions, the private sector, and organizations responsible for Maine's energy resources and broadband infrastructure.

2) Invest in state capacity for AI adoption and governance

To ensure Maine state government can responsibly and effectively adopt AI, the State should invest in developing AI capacity in its existing workforce, bringing in technical expertise, and coordinating AI policy. All state employees should receive training on how to safely and responsibly use AI tools in their work, with opportunities to extend training to municipalities in partnership with organizations such as the Maine Municipal Association.

At the same time, Maine should strengthen its technical and policy capacity across agencies, ensuring MaineIT and State agency teams have the talent, partnerships, and expertise to evaluate, design, and deploy AI tools, monitor risks, and maintain strong cybersecurity protections. Finally, the executive branch should build out centralized policy coordination to map AI's non-technical implications; track trends across state and local governments; and support the Governor in aligning Maine's AI strategy with broader economic, regulatory, and social priorities.

3) ***Enhance public transparency into how AI tools are deployed in State government operations and where they are improving outcomes for Maine people***

To build public trust and ensure accountability, Maine should publish what AI tools are being used across government, for what purposes, and with what safeguards. A public dashboard or registry could track these tools' status, intended outcomes, and any evaluations. Regular reporting can help elevate stories of where new AI investments are making a difference for Maine people. This transparency effort also creates a foundation for public dialogue and ethical oversight.

4) ***Support municipalities in assessing opportunities, developing technology plans, and identifying implementation funding for AI tools that improve local service delivery***

Municipalities often lack the capacity to explore how AI might help them meet their goals. The State should explore paths to enable technical assistance, planning grants, and implementation resources that help towns and regions responsibly explore AI use. The model could include needs assessments via trusted third parties like consultants or regional partners, grants for municipalities to pilot or scale AI solutions, and incentives for interlocal projects that demonstrate regional cooperation. Other public entities such as locally owned utilities may benefit from similar support, particularly around cybersecurity.

5) ***Collaborate with Maine's higher education institutions to launch a Maine AI Public Innovation Hub***

Maine's public and private universities could serve as partners in helping local governments identify, design, deliver, and evaluate AI and other digital innovation projects. This centralized clearinghouse could match students and faculty with real-world needs in state and local government, offering support on technology design, procurement, deployment, and ROI evaluation. Modeled on programs like UMA's Maine Cyber Range and New Jersey's AI Hub, this Hub could also strengthen the public sector talent pipeline by exposing students to public service careers.

6) ***Enable innovative procurement strategies to solicit AI solutions for critical challenges***

Maine agency success in deploying AI tools will hinge in large part on the effectiveness of the State's procurement and contracting practices. Today, technology projects can take more than a year to progress from conceptualization to having a signed contract in place, a timeline that leaves government vulnerable to falling behind rapidly evolving technology. Procurement solicitations are often detailed and prescriptive, which can make it harder to consider innovative or lower-cost options from new AI solutions, and the required compliance processes may contribute to delays.

New procurement tools developed in other places may offer models for Maine AI projects. For example, California has used a Request for Innovative Ideas tool, which was established via

executive order, to identify and pilot AI solutions for complex problems facing the State. Maine should update and monitor technology procurement and delivery policy, practices, and resources to enable the State to more effectively onboard technology that can improve outcomes for residents.