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Pre-Meeting Preparation for Maine AI Task Force for July 16, 2025
Topic: Preparing for AI's potential risks

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In this memo, you'll find a preview of the July 16 meeting agenda on preparing for AI's potential risks; links to background readings on that topic; and highlights of recent AI news and research from around the country, as well as upcoming AI-related events in Maine.[1]

Meeting overview for July 16, 2025

At its last meeting on June 25, the Task Force discussed opportunities for AI to improve government service delivery in Maine, at both the state and municipal level. Staff from the City of Corona, California first presented a demonstration of their AI tool to spur housing production through faster permitting. GOPIF director Sarah Curran facilitated a panel on how Maine municipalities are grappling with AI, featuring Brian McDonald, Director of IT and Administration, Maine Municipal Association; Jay Brenchick, Director of Economic Development, City of Auburn; and Sandra Fournier, Town Manager, Towns of Mapleton, Castle Hill, and Chapman. The Task Force then heard from Nick Marquis, Acting CIO, State of Maine about preparation in Maine state government for AI and from Commissioner Rob Asaro-Angel of NJ's Department of Labor about deployment of AI tools in his agency.

Slides and a recording of that meeting are available via the AI Task Force meeting calendar page on GOPIF's website.

The upcoming meeting on July 16 will focus on exploring how Maine might prepare for some of AI's potential risks. An agenda follows. You can find the full Task Force Roadmap and the list of subgroup discussion questions at the end of this memo.

Agenda – July 16, 2025

1. Welcome (2:00p ET)

2. How states are approaching regulating AI (2:05p)
   - Kenneth Hardy, Program Director, Public Safety And Legal Counsels, National Governor's Association
   - Brian Hubbell, Senior Policy Advisory, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

3. AI's impact on Maine's energy resources (2:30p)
   - Sarah Smith, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
   - Dan Burgess, Director, Governor's Energy Office

4. Strengthening AI awareness and literacy (2:50p)
   a. Geoff Lane, Bipartisan Policy Center
   b. Cara Rothman, State Librarian, Utah State Library
   c. Jackie Farwell, former Maine DHHS communications director and current GOPIF deputy director

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[1] Portions of this memo were drafted with assistance from GenAI technology.

5. Break (3:15p)

6. Discussion (3:20p)

7. Staff updates (3:55p)

8. Wrap-up (4:00p)

Background for upcoming meeting

How states are regulating AI

The National Governor's Association estimates that over 550 AI-related bills were introduced across more than 45 states in 2025, an increase from 400 in 2024 and 67 in 2023.[2] They have published a short summary of themes emerging among state AI regulation activities. NGA's analysis notes that these bills address the design, development, or use of AI tools and frequently touch on issues such as data privacy, transparency, reliability and effectiveness, and fairness and equity

As part of their AI policy toolkit, the National Conference of State Legislatures maintains databases of state AI-related legislation for each of the last three years, which can be accessed below.
- Artificial Intelligence 2025 Legislation
- Artificial Intelligence 2024 Legislation
- Artificial Intelligence 2023 Legislation

The Maine AI Task Force has assigned a subgroup to review potentially harmful uses of AI. The subgroup has identified 10 areas of risk and is now examining what protections and remedies are currently available under the law. It has currently sorted these risks into four categories:
- *Misinformation, Manipulation, and Cyberfraud*: Deception & Exploitation, Political Manipulation, Financial Fraud & Scams, Cybersecurity Threats
- *IP and Creative Work:* Copyright & Intellectual Property Violations
- *Privacy and Discrimination:* Lack of Accountability & Transparency; Consumer Data Misuse; Algorithmic Bias & Discrimination; Exclusion from Opportunities
- *Health and Safety:* AI, Health, & Wellbeing

AI's impact on energy resources

The Task Force will be hearing about AI's potential impact on energy resources nationally and in Maine. Two resources may be helpful background for that discussion:
- Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, 2024 United States Data Center Energy Usage Report: In late 2024, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory produced an update to its regular reporting on energy usage from data centers in the U.S. The report highlighted AI's contributions to growing demand. We will be hearing from one of the report's authors.
- The Governor's Energy Office has prepared a memo to Maine's AI Task Force discussing Artificial Intelligence, Data Centers, and Energy Demand in Maine. It will be circulated with the Task Force under separate cover.

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[2] National Governor's Association, Legal and Regulatory Considerations Related to Artificial Intelligence (Updated), April 29, 2025

Strengthening AI Literacy

The Bipartisan Policy Center has published a pair of articles examining the importance of AI literacy and offering recommendations to advance this goal. In these posts, BPC explores offers an approach for how local communities can contribute to AI literacy for students, for workers, and for the public at large. They also point to several examples of existing AI literacy campaigns. These articles are available at:

- Navigating the Future: The Growing Need for AI Literacy (May 2024)
- Improving AI Literacy: A Bipartisan Approach (October 2024)

Pew Research has regularly polled Americans on their awareness and views of AI, results of which can be accessed on their website. Among their most recent findings:

- Nearly all Americans (93%) report having heard or read at least a little about AI as of summer 2024. Among them, 40% report having heard or read "a lot" about AI (source).
- About one in three (34%) of Americans report having used ChatGPT as of early 2025. Among adults 65 and older, however, only 10% report having used the application (source).
- Americans are skeptical about AI's impact, with only 17% believing AI will have a positive impact on the U.S. over the next two decades. More than half of adults (51%) are more concerned than excited about AI (source).

AI in the News

Upcoming events
- 7/16/25: MIT AI & Education Summit 2025 (MIT)
- 8/13/25: Summer Tech Institute for educators (Mt. Blue High School, Farmington)

General interest
- OpenAI and Microsoft Bankroll New A.I. Training for Teachers (NYTimes, 7/8/25)
- 911 looks to AI to filter out non-emergency calls (Route Fifty, 7/8/25)
- AI-powered robot perfectly performs surgery after being trained by videos (CTV Canada, 7/9/25)
- A.I. Is Making Sure You Pay for That Ding on Your Rental Car (NYTimes, 7/9/25)
- Oakland, ME voters approve purchase of police body cameras, AI software (Press Herald 7/10/25)

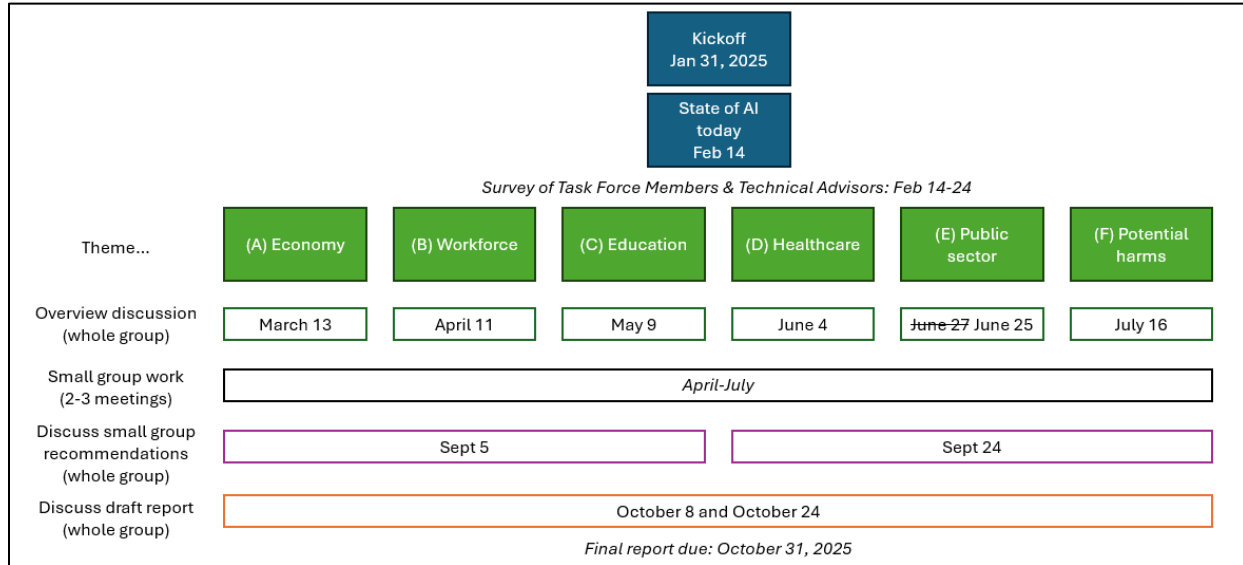*On risks related to AI*
- AI-fueled scams are on the rise, new report finds -- but awareness is growing (WGME Maine, 6/24/25)
- People are losing loved ones to AI-fueled spiritual fantasies (Rolling Stone, 5/4/25)
- Anthropic wins key US ruling on AI training in authors' copyright lawsuit (Reuters, 6/24/25)

Research
- Trends – Artificial Intelligence (BOND Venture Capital, 5/25): This publication compiles hundreds of charts and data about trends related to AI.

			Kickoff **Jan 31, 2025**			
			State of AI today **Feb 14**			

Survey of Task Force Members & Technical Advisors: Feb 14-24

Theme...	(A) Economy	(B) Workforce	(C) Education	(D) Healthcare	(E) Public sector	(F) Potential harms
Overview discussion (whole group)	March 13	April 11	May 9	June 4	~~June 27~~ June 25	July 16

Small group work (2-3 meetings)	*April-July*

Discuss small group recommendations (whole group)	Sept 5	Sept 24

Discuss draft report (whole group)	October 8 and October 24

Final report due: October 31, 2025

Questions for all subgroups:
- *Innovation:* In this area, how can Maine mobilize AI innovation where its needed most?
- *Risks:* In this area, what are the most relevant potential harms from AI? How could Maine monitor impacts and risks in the future?

A: Economy
1. Where are there opportunities for Maine to become a global innovation center?
2. What steps could Maine take to facilitate AI-enabled innovation and business creation?
3. What supports might Maine's small businesses require to benefit from AI technologies?

B: Workforce
1. How can Maine's job training programs help Maine people be highly-qualified for roles created or changed by AI?
2. Are there areas where Maine's workforce systems or policy may need to evolve to respond to AI-driven job opportunities or disruptions?
3. How can workers be included in efforts to monitor and respond to AI's workforce impacts?

C: Education
1. How could schools and higher education institutions use AI to improve learning and learning outcomes?
2. How could we prepare Maine students for using AI in the workforce? What new skills should be taught?
3. What supports will educators, students, and institutions need to successfully navigate AI topics?

D: Healthcare
1. Where does AI offer promise for addressing Maine's health care challenges in Maine? Are there barriers to adoption that state policy could address?
2. Are there particular protections needed to ensure safe and appropriate usage of AI technologies in healthcare?
3. What might it take for Maine to emerge as a national innovation leader on how AI can improve rural health outcomes?

E: Public Sector
1. What are areas where Maine government could prioritize a first set of projects using AI technologies?
2. What preparations should the State consider to ensure successful implementation of new AI tools?
3. How should State agencies, municipalities, and other public entities collaborate on AI topics? What additional resources might be necessary?

F: Legal review on potential harms

Nine areas of risk emerged where TF members identified potential harmful uses of AI that may warrant exploration:

Deception & Exploitation, Political Manipulation, Copyright & Intellectual Property Violations, Lack of Accountability & Transparency, Financial Fraud & Scams, Consumer Data Misuse, Cybersecurity Threats, Algorithmic Bias & Discrimination, Exclusion from Opportunities

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