Pre-Meeting Preparation for Maine AI Task Force for Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Topic: Discussion of draft recommendations & other final report materials

In this memo, you will find a preview of the October 8 meeting agenda, an overview of the final Task Force report, a complete set of draft recommendations from all six subgroups, and a new section on implementation.

1. Meeting overview for October 8, 2025

At its last meeting on September 26, 2025, the Task Force reviewed and responded to edits made to draft recommendations for four of the six topics explored in subgroups, which had been presented for their feedback during the prior meeting. The Task Force also discussed the remaining two topics: AI's impacts on Maine's economy and recommendations around protecting Mainers from AI-related harms. The meeting concluded with a conversation around how to begin implementing the Task Force's recommendations.

During the October 8 meeting, the Task Force will review edits made to the recommendations they heard during their last meeting, talk through potential themes to include in an introductory letter from the Task Force co-chairs, and discuss a complete draft of the final report.

2. Agenda

1. Welcome (5 min)
2. Review public comments (10 mins)
3. Edits made to incorporate Task Force feedback from 9/26 meeting (20 mins)
4. Themes for the co-chair letter (30 min)
5. Break (5 min)
6. Review introduction sections (45 min)
7. Closing & next steps (5 min)

3. Preliminary recommendations emerging from the Maine AI Task Force

Maine's AI Task Force has developed 33 preliminary recommendations, which are included as the first appendix beginning on page 4. These recommendations, including the proposed edits in

redline below are also reflected in the complete draft of the final report, which will be shared separately with this memo.

The draft recommendations are organized around the three charges in the Governor's Executive Order:

1) For the first charge – AI's implications for Maine's economy and workforce – the draft addresses both opportunities and risks, including support for responsible adoption by businesses, preparation of workers and training systems for potential disruption, use of AI to improve health outcomes and expand access, and guidance for schools and educators in navigating new tools.
2) For the second charge – protecting Mainers from harms created or exacerbate by AI – the draft recommendations highlight risks such as fraud, misinformation, cybersecurity, bias, and data misuse, and outlines approaches for monitoring and targeted policy responses.
3) For the third charge – public sector uses of AI – the draft describes options for piloting AI in state and local government to improve services while maintaining standards around privacy, equity, and accountability.

4. Public comments on draft recommendations

On Tuesday, September 30, a draft set of recommendations were posted on GOPIF's website for public comment. GOPIF received over 30 responses over the seven-day comment period, which closed at 5pm on Tuesday, October 7.

Task Force members will receive the full set of comments ahead of the October 8 meeting.

5. Co-chair letter

During the Task Force's October 8 meeting, there will be some time set aside for a discussion of themes and insights that the co-chairs can consider including in a letter to open the final Task Force report. These letters are designed to set the scene for the report, and to lay out important findings and cross-cutting themes to help the reader understand what the report will contain.

For an example of a prior iteration, see the introduction to the final report from the Infrastructure Resilience and Rebuilding Commission (page 4).

APPENDICES FOLLOW

Appendix – Complete Preliminary Recommendations of the Maine AI Task Force (w/edits)

This list reflects the latest version of draft recommendations from the Task Force, including edits that have been made to incorporate feedback from the 9/26 meeting (edits in redlined text below).

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

Topic A: Economy Recommendations

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

The State should explore ways to enable Maine businesses to leverage AI tools to grow, support employees, and establish appropriate governance and data privacy policies, while also continu~~e~~ing to lower the barriers to entry for entrepreneurs looking to build new AI-powered startups in Maine. For Maine's small businesses in particular, AI can dramatically strengthen market intelligence, allow access to previously unaffordable technical capabilities, and smooth operations. ~~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 the Maine Technology Institute~~MTI~~'s Maine Entrepreneurial Resource Corp ~~(MERC)~~, which recently launched an initiative specifically designed to equip entrepreneurs with AI skills relevant to their business. New AI-powered tools could also be developed to help businesses more easily discover and access existing financial and technical resources like tax incentives, grants, or loans.

~~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.~~

2) *Identify and pursue new economic opportunities where AI can broaden prosperity and create good jobs*

AI offers Maine promising paths for economic growth and job creation. The State should aggressively explore and cultivate economic innovation unlocked by AI, especially in areas where the State has competitive advantages and long-standing strengths. For example, new opportunities may include AI tools that improve rural health outcomes; solutions for monitoring the health of forests, coasts, and oceans; new advances in smart manufacturing and precision agricultures; and biotechnology breakthroughs that use AI to advance animal and human health diagnostics.

As access to data underpins much AI-driven innovation, the State should also foster the production of open-source, AI-ready training data in areas of its economic priorities 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-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, computinge, 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; and develop a playbook for responding to data center development project opportunities.

Topic B: Workforce 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~~ place-based 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 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.

<u>Topic D: Healthcare Recommendations</u>

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. 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.

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, patients, 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

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 plain language 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 and ongoing monitoring 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.

- *Intellectual property and creative industries:* Examining how AI affects artists, writers, musicians, and software developers in Maine, their creative output, and unauthorized uses of likeness or style.

- *Protections for children:* Examining how to protect children from emerging AI technologies that heighten vulnerabilities they already face online, such as exposure to sexualized content, exploitation of private information, addictive attributes of social media, inappropriate relationships, and isolation.

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 ways ~~a broad "statement of intent" from legislature~~ to affirm to courts how and where existing Maine statutes to apply to circumstances involving AI***

The L~~l~~egislature, State agencies, and the State Attorney General's Office should consider ways to provide targeted guidance to the courts for applying existing laws to emerging AI-related applications as AI is accelerating the volume, speed, and sophistication of unlawful activities. One option may be through a "statement of statutory 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. To ensure broad reach, materials should be accessible in multiple languages; available in rural areas; and tailored to meet the needs of older adults and youth in particular. The campaign should be continuously updated to reflect the rapidly changing AI landscape, ensuring that Maine residents receive timely, relevant, and practical guidance.

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

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~~ across all three branches of government, including educating 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. AI also offers opportunities for the legislative and judicial branches to improve operations and increase transparency.

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~~ State 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~~ align~~ing~~ 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***

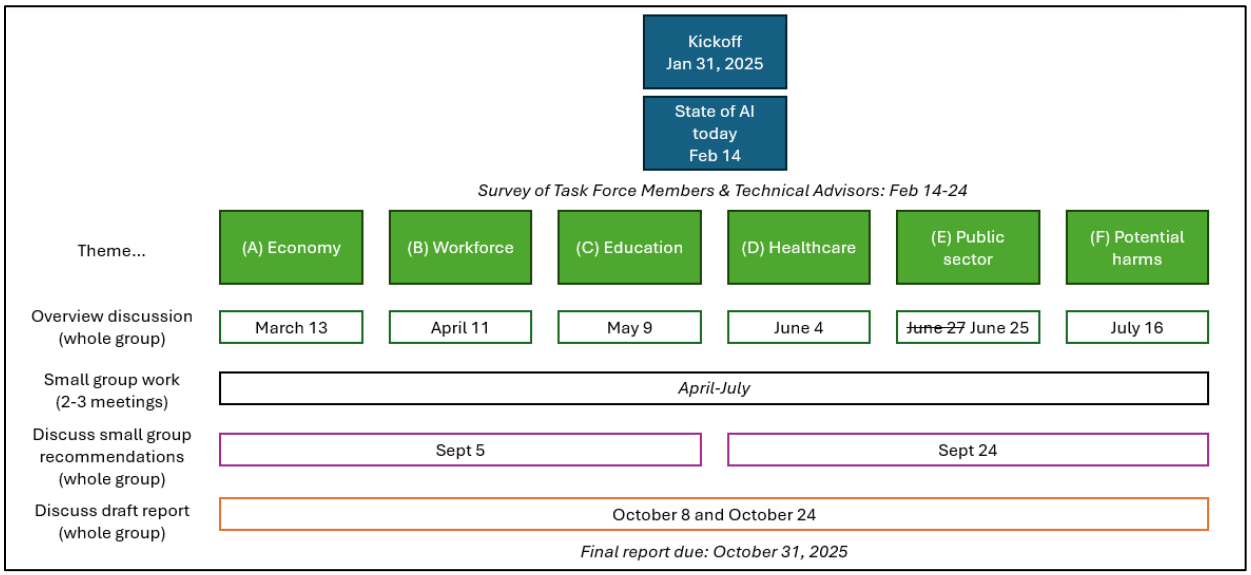
Maine's public and private universities could serve as partners in helping ~~local~~ Maine government entities identify, design, deliver, and evaluate AI and other digital innovation projects. This centralized clearinghouse could match students and faculty with real-world needs in state and local government, 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.

Appendix – Task Force Roadmap and questions for subgroups



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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