Pre-Meeting Preparation for Maine AI Task Force for Friday, September 5, 2025

Topic: Discussion of draft recommendations

In this memo, you will find a preview of the September 5 meeting agenda; an overview of our final four Task Force meetings; a complete set of draft recommendations from all six subgroups; and a summary of input received from the recent public survey.

1. Meeting overview for September 5, 2025

At its last meeting on July 16, 2025, the Task Force explored how Maine might prepare for some of AI's potential risks. The Task Force heard presentations about how states are approaching regulating AI, including an overview of AI-related bills introduced in Maine's most recent legislative session. The Task Force then heard about AI's impact on energy systems, both nationally and here in Maine. Finally, Sarah Curran from GOPIF moderated a panel discussion on how to increase AI awareness and literacy, which included testimony from the Bipartisan Policy Center, the Utah State Librarian, and the former Maine DHHS communications director and current GOPIF deputy director. A recording of that meeting is available via GOPIF's YouTube channel.

The upcoming meeting on September 5 will kick off the next phase of the Task Force's work. Over the Spring and Summer, the Task Force held six meetings to learn about and discuss each of the specific topics they identified in a survey back in February (economic opportunity, workforce, education, healthcare, AI in government, and harms from AI). This work was supplemented by a parallel workstream, in which six subgroups met to dive deeper into each topic.

This next phase of work will focus on deliberation and finalizing the set of recommendations for the report to the Governor and the legislature, due by October 31. In the September 5 meeting, the Task Force will hear the plan for the remainder of their work, followed by short overviews of recommendations from four of our six groups: workforce impacts, education, healthcare, and AI in government.

For each of these topics, we will have approx. 15-20 minutes for reactions, discussion, and questions. The focus of this meeting will not be to get all the words exactly right. We will use this time to run through the entire list of recommendations and assess them for completeness and alignment with the Governor's charge and give the Task Force an opportunity to ask clarifying questions. Staff will capture edits and work with the co-chairs and subgroup leads to incorporate them into the draft recommendations, which will be shared with the group ahead of a future meeting.

Guiding questions for discussion:

1) Do these draft recommendations align with the Governor's Executive Order charges and the overarching goals of the Task Force?

2) Do these recommendations cover the key opportunities, risks, and issues the Task Force has identified, or are there important gaps still missing?

3) Are these recommendations framed at the right level—appropriate for a Task Force report intended to guide state policy, without being overly detailed or prescriptive?

2. Agenda

1. Welcome (5 min)

2. Table-setting (10 min)
    - Overview of the Sep/Oct meetings
    - Today's goals

3. Preliminary recommendation discussion: Workforce subgroup (25 min)

4. Preliminary recommendation discussion: Education subgroup (25 min)

5. Break (5 min)

6. Preliminary recommendation discussion: Healthcare subgroup (25 min)

7. Preliminary recommendation discussion: Public Sector subgroup (25 min)

8. Adjourn

3. Roadmap for remaining Task Force meetings (Sep-Oct)

Over four meetings in September and October, the Task Force will consider a set of draft recommendations, approve final language, and prepare to submit its final report by the October 31st deadline.

Below is a preview of what those meetings will cover:

Friday, September 5, 2025, 12p – 2p

- 2 hours, Zoom
- *Topic*: Consider synthesized findings and recommendations for subgroups B-E

Friday, September 26, 2025, 10a – 2p

- 4 hours, hybrid (in-person preferred)
- Location: Maine DHHS

- *Topic*: Consider synthesized findings and recs for subgroup A & F and organize recs into package of immediate actions + medium/longer term activities

Wednesday, October 8, 2p – 4p

- 2 hours, hybrid (in-person preferred)
- Location: TBD
- *Topic:* Consider draft complete report – focus on aligning on tone, urgency, collateral elements

Friday, October 24, 12p – 2p

- 2 hours, Zoom

4. Preliminary recommendations emerging from the Maine AI Task Force

Maine's AI Task Force has developed 34 preliminary recommendations, which are included as the first appendix beginning on page 4.

The draft recommendations are organized around the three charges in the Governor's Executive Order. 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. 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 [*Note: we will discuss these recommendations at our 9/26 meeting*]. 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.

The purpose of the upcoming discussion is to review these draft recommendations in detail, ask questions, and flag if there is anything missing or unclear.

5. Summary of public input survey

Between April and June 2025, the Task Force solicited input from the public via a survey hosted on the GOPIF website. The Task Force received 65 responses from members of the public. Full responses will be sent as a PDF accompanying this memo.

Participation was spread across the state, though most respondents were from Cumberland, York, and Penobscot counties. Nearly three-quarters reported being very familiar with AI, while most others indicated at least some familiarity. Just under half of respondents said they use AI daily; only

6 reported never using it. Reported contexts of use were fairly evenly split between personal and work settings, with smaller numbers citing school and volunteer or community roles.

When asked where AI could have the greatest positive impact in Maine, respondents highlighted a range of areas. The most common responses included education, business, government services, and environment and energy. Other areas such as healthcare, transportation and infrastructure, and job opportunities were also frequently cited, though a minority expressed uncertainty or felt there was no area where AI would be beneficial.

The survey also asked respondents if they have concerns about AI's risks for Maine people. Many respondents cited concerns about job disruption and displacement, bias in AI systems, uncertainty about AI's impact on Maine's environment and energy grid, and educational implications. Others raised concerns around security of AI systems, issues around copyright and intellectual property, and the opportunity costs of being slow to adopt AI technologies.

APPENDICES FOLLOW

Appendix – Complete Preliminary Recommendations of the Maine AI Task Force

Governor Mills signed an executive order in December 2024 establishing Maine's AI Task Force. She charged it with investigating the implications of recent and anticipated advances in the field of AI for the State of Maine and to make recommendations across three domains:

- Preparing Maine's economy and workforce for the opportunities and risks likely to result from advances in AI.
- Protecting 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.
- Exploring 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.

The Task Force subsequently organized its work into six topic areas – four within the domain of workforce and economy (economy, workforce, education, healthcare), plus one for government use of AI and one on strategies to protect Mainers from AI-related harms. Supported by GOPIF staff, subgroups produced recommendations in each of these six areas.

The individual recommendations below have not yet been prioritized or sequenced. In the final report, we anticipate each recommendation will include sequencing as a short-, medium-, or long-term action.

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Topic A. Prepare Maine's economy and workforce for the opportunities and risks likely to result from advances in AI: *Economy 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.[1] 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.

---

[1] Source TK

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. Prepare Maine's economy and workforce for the opportunities and risks likely to result from advances in AI: *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[2] 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 – workforce 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, among the suite of state re-employment initiatives are some that are specifically designed for employer- and geographically-concentrated events like mill closures. These major layoffs trigger on-the-ground retraining and career assistance when large numbers of employers are laid off from an individual facility.[3] In contrast, AI has the potential to create a similar magnitude of job disruption *across specific occupations irrespective of geography* rather than all workers at an individual location, circumventing these existing rapid response initiatives.

To manage these new challenges, Maine should explore ways to not only quickly react to job losses after they occur, but to proactively build the state's capacity to help workers retrain, transition, and thrive as AI transforms the economy. The state should 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.

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.

---

[2] Maine's Dirigo Business Incentives offer up to $2,000 per worker annually in tax credits to help employers cover the cost of providing approved trainings in eligible sectors. For more, visit https://www.maine.gov/decd/business-development/financial-incentives-resources/incentives/dirigo.

[3] https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/26/title26sec625-b.html

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 Workforce Board can help 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. Ongoing attention is also needed to how AI affects working conditions, including surveillance, 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. Prepare Maine's economy and workforce for the opportunities and risks likely to result from advances in AI: *Education Recommendations*

1) Empower AI-pioneering educators to continue innovating and enable others to learn from their work

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 learning from these leaders by empowering and accelerating work 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. 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 continue building out the Maine Department of Education's best-in-class AI guidance and toolkit to convert isolated pockets of AI

innovation into resources that all educators can benefit from. 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 graduates of school in Maine

Just as schools 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 should be exposed to how AI tools work, introduced to topics of AI safety and ethics, and shown how to evaluate AI outputs. Teaching students to learn both with AI and irrespective of it 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.[4]

6) Continue to monitor the federal policy landscape and track innovation across Maine

[4] https://www.wwno.org/education/2024-10-08/meet-amira-the-ai-tutor-helping-louisiana-students-improve-their-reading-skills and https://www.govtech.com/education/k-12/iowa-rolls-out-ai-reading-tutor-for-all-elementary-schools

As the use of AI in education expands, the policy environment is evolving rapidly at both the State and federal levels. New regulations, legislative proposals, and guidance on issues like data privacy, transparency, safety, and instructional use could significantly shape how schools adopt and manage AI tools. Educators, administrators, and families need clear, timely, and practical information to help them navigate this shifting landscape and make informed choices.

In addition to monitoring policy changes, the State can play a vital role in gathering information about how AI is showing up in Maine's classrooms and assessing its impact on students, educators, and school operations. This may involve collecting more use case information from districts, surfacing promising practices, and identifying areas of concern or unmet need. Communicating both policy developments and on-the-ground insights can help create a more informed and coordinated approach to AI in education.

Topic D. Prepare Maine's economy and workforce for the opportunities and risks likely to result from advances in AI: *Healthcare 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 literacy and training resources for healthcare professionals***

The State should collaborate with external partners to identify and validate best-in-class training options, make these trainings available to hospital systems and rural health centers, and regularly update their content as the technology continues to mature. Health organizations and academic institutions can 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***

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 – particularly in behavioral health, where more than 10,000 Mainers remain on waitlists for counseling. To respond to this crisis, Maine 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.

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.

<u>Topic E. Recommendations to protect Maine residents from potentially harmful uses and impacts of AI technologies</u>

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.[5]

- *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

[5] https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?LD=1727&snum=132

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.

<u>Topic F. Recommendations on the most promising uses and preparations for State agencies, quasi-State agencies, and other public entities such as municipalities</u>

1) ***Build a cohesive Statewide approach to AI governance***

AI and other related technologies will impact the mission and operations of every State agency in Maine. Each cabinet agency should develop a perspective on how their agency may utilize new digital technologies to improve service delivery, as well as implications AI may have on their policy area of interest. 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 comprehensive 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 capacity across agencies, ensuring MaineIT and 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.

5) Collaborate with Maine's higher education institutions to launch a Maine AI 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[6], 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.[7]

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.[8] 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.

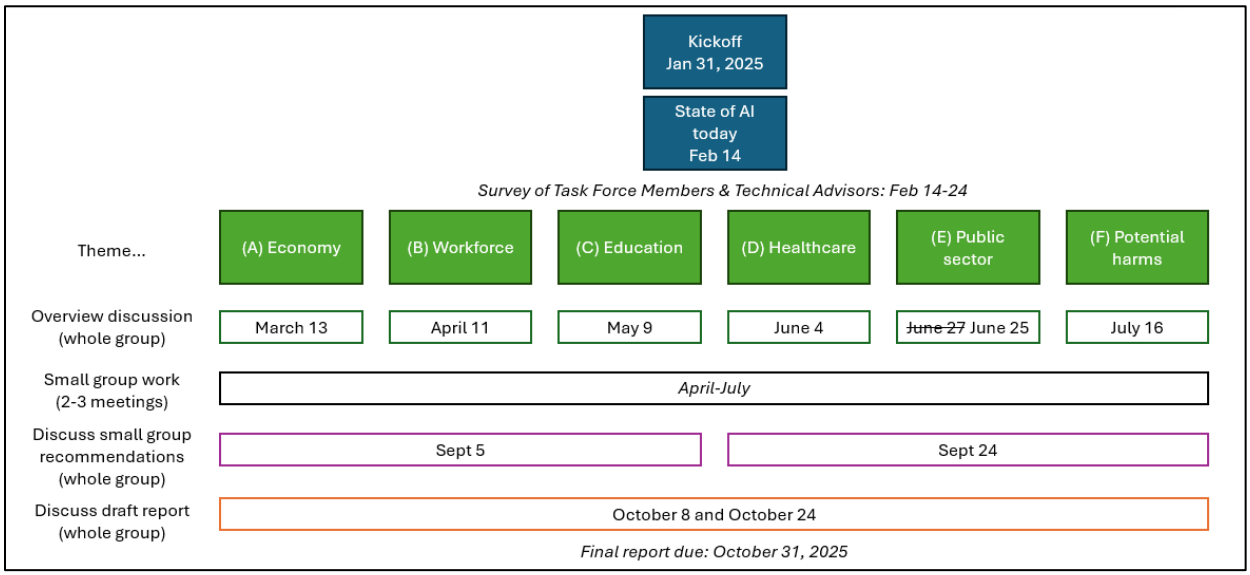
---

[6] https://njaihub.org/

[7] https://partnersforpublicgood.org/procurement-excellence-network/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/03/Transforming-IT-Procurement-Part-1-Framing-the-Problem.pdf

[8] https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/1.8.19-EO-N-04-19.pdf and https://www.genai.ca.gov/ca-action/projects/

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

##