

04/04/2025 - LPC LD List
132nd Legislature – First Regular & Special Session

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

LD 1450 *An Act Regarding the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Tipping of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill moves the existing Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program from the statutes governing agriculture to those governing taxation. The current program seeks to protect and support local farms, preserve farmland and reduce the fiscal burden on municipalities resulting from new development in rural areas by authorizing legislative bodies to enter into easement agreements with qualifying landowners and return up to 100% of the annual property taxes assessed on the qualifying property. More substantively, the bill reduces the minimum term of the easement from 20 to 10 years.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

LD 1452 *An Act to Allow the Emergency Medical Services' Board to Assess Civil Penalties for the Noncompliance of Emergency Medical Services Persons with the Requirement to Administer Naloxone Hydrochloride in Compliance with Trainings and Procedures Developed by the Board* (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci of Penobscot Cty.)

This bill amends the law requiring emergency medical services providers to administer and dispense opioid overdose-reversing medication by providing that failure to comply with requirements, as well as adhering to protocols and training mandates is a civil violation for which a fine may be assessed in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per incident.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

LD 1428 *An Act to Increase Access to Child Care for Maine Families* (Sponsored by Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford)

This bill requires municipalities to allow childcare or family childcare facilities to operate in an area that is zoned for residential purposes and further allows facility owners to operate without an outdoor recreational space, provided the facility is within one-quarter of a mile of an outdoor public recreational space. The bill also directs the Maine State Housing Authority to amend its rules governing low-income housing tax credits to allow the community rooms that are required as part of the projects built using the credits to be used as childcare facilities or family childcare providers.

LD 1429 *An Act to Provide Full Reimbursement for Emergency Ambulance Services Provided to MaineCare Members* (Sponsored by Rep. Fredette of Newport)

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse providers of emergency ambulance services at the full rate provided to MaineCare members, which includes municipal, quasi-municipal and private ambulance services, as well as fire department emergency medical services. The bill also requires the department to adopt rules to implement the reimbursement requirement and beginning on December 1, 2025, to submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human

services containing data on the number and amount of reimbursement distributed and recommendations for improving reimbursement policies.

[LD 1459](#) *An Act to Make General Assistance Officers Mandated Reporters* (Sponsored by Rep. Henderson of Rumford)

This bill makes municipal general assistance officers mandated reporters of the suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of incapacitated or dependent adults and of the suspected abuse or neglect of children or a suspicious child death.

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

[LD 1401](#) *An Act to Repeal the Provisions of Law Requiring Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policies to Cover the Cost of Towing and Storing Certain Vehicles* (Sponsored by Rep. Morris of Turner)

This bill repeals laws requiring motor vehicle liability coverage in an amount up to \$500 per accident for towing and storage charges incurred as a result of an accident involving an insured vehicle that is towed at the request of a law enforcement officer.

HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[LD 1375](#) *Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Address Regulatory Barriers to Housing Construction* (Sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty.)

This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to convene a working group, represented by organizations with building and engineering expertise, to examine and recommend solutions for regulatory barriers to housing construction. By December 31, 2025, the department is further directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2026.

[LD 1385](#) *An Act to Consider Municipalities Meeting Regional Housing Goals in Awarding Transportation Grants* (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to consider a municipality's past actions and future plans toward meeting regional housing production goals when considering the award of discretionary grants.

[LD 1396](#) *An Act to Amend Maine's Municipal Subdivision Standards to Increase the Number of Dwelling Units on or Divisions of a Tract of Land Before the Tract is Considered a Subdivision* (Sponsored by Rep. Roberts of South Berwick)

This bill amends the definition of "subdivision" within the land use laws to exclude from the definition the creation of up to four lots or dwelling units on a parcel of land. The bill provides that the addition or creation of an attached or unattached accessory dwelling unit does not constitute a lot. The bill also amends the exception to the subdivision law for a division of a new or existing structure into three or more dwelling units by allowing the creation of any number of dwelling units, whether by creation of a condominium or through redevelopment of the interior of the structure.

JUDICIARY

LD 1344 *An Act to Improve the Response Time to Tenant Mold Complaints* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

Within 90 days of notice, this bill requires local health officers to investigate complaints of non-surface mold in tenant-occupied units. The bill also provides that if the investigation finds an unhealthy level of non-surface mold, remediation efforts must be initiated by the landlord within five business days of the investigation and requires a local health officer to determine if all surface mold has been remediated. Finally, the bill provides that a tenant may file a complaint under the implied warranty and covenant of habitability laws if the landlord fails to remediate the mold issue within 60 days of the report.

LD 1347 *An Act to Increase the Cap on Liability for Governmental Entities Under the Maine Tort Claims Act* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This bill increases the limitation on the award of damages against a governmental entity or its employees, or both, under the Maine Tort Claims Act from \$400,000 to \$1.25 million per occurrence.

LD 1348 *An Act to Increase the Limit on Damages Under the Maine Tort Claims Act for Negligence Involving School Field Trips* (Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York Cty.)

This bill increases the limit for damages under the Maine Tort Claims Act from \$400,000 to \$5 million for a negligent act or omission by a governmental entity in the planning, transportation, administration, supervision or execution of a school field trip. The bill also defines a “field trip” as an elementary or secondary school excursion to a location away from the school for educational or recreational purposes, but does not include a sporting, extracurricular, club or other event or activity in which there is an inherent risk of physical injury.

LD 1399 *An Act to Allow Action Against a Person Violating the Confidentiality of an Executive Session of a Public Body or Agency* (Sponsored by Rep. Carlow of Buxton)

This bill provides that if a member of a body regulated under the state’s executive session laws discloses a matter discussed while in the session, the body is authorized to: (1) initiate and form an ethics committee to conduct an investigation of an alleged violation; (2) conduct a hearing in executive session; and (3) if based on a preponderance of evidence and a recorded supermajority vote finds that the member violated confidentiality requirements, bar the member from participating in future executive sessions and from having access to confidential information. The board or agency’s decision may be appealed within 30 days. The bill also provides that the prohibition from participating in executive sessions may be for a definite or indefinite period.

LD 1410 *An Act to Provide Due Process in Confiscation and Destruction of Personal Items of Unhoused Persons* (Sponsored by Rep. Rana of Bangor)

This bill prohibits the state, counties, municipalities, school districts and law enforcement agencies from confiscating or destroying the personal property of an unhoused person unless: (1) the property is found on public property; (2) the owner is provided seven days’ notice before the property is removed; and (3) the owner is offered the opportunity to attend a hearing regarding

the removal of the property. If the person does not attend the hearing, then the property must be stored at a secure location for at least 90 days and notice of the location provided to the owner.

LD 1416 *An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Immediately Take Custody of Persons Sentenced to Mental Health Facilities That May Not Include County or Regional Jails* (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill requires that when a court commits a defendant to the Commissioner of Health and Human Services for placement in an appropriate mental health institution, that placement must be immediate and may not be in a county or regional jail.

LD 1484 *An Act Related to Public Access of Records of Certain Disciplinary Actions of Public Employees* (Sponsored by Rep. Bishop of Bucksport)

Under current law, if disciplinary action is taken against a state, county or municipal employee, the final written decision associated with the disciplinary action is not confidential. Under the bill, only disciplinary actions that are of a nature that impose or result in a financial disadvantage, including, but not limited to, termination, demotion or suspension without pay, may become public.

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LD 1388 *An Act to Replace the Participation Threshold in Votes to Adopt or Alter a Municipal Charter with a Lower Approval Threshold* (Sponsored by Rep. Bridgeo of Augusta)

This bill provides that for a new municipal charter, revision, modification or amendment to become effective, the number of votes cast in favor of the question must equal or exceed 15% of the total votes cast in the municipality at the last gubernatorial election. Currently, the threshold requires that the total number of votes cast equals or exceeds 30% of the total votes cast in the municipality at the last gubernatorial election.

LD 1417 *An Act to Strengthen the Authority of Local Officials to Enforce Provisions Regarding Dangerous and Nuisance Properties that Constitute a Threat to Public Health and Safety* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill expands the authority of local municipal health and code enforcement officials to enforce laws pertaining to properties that are dangerous, nuisance or abandoned and that constitute a threat to public health or safety.

LD 1462 *An Act to Promote Artisans and the Creative Economy* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This bill prevents municipalities from adopting or enforcing ordinances or regulations that prohibits the vending of expressive matter, except that the municipality may regulate the time, place and manner of the vending of expressive matter provided the restrictions are: (1) directly related to health, safety or welfare concerns; (2) necessary to ensure the public's use and enjoyment of natural resources and recreational opportunities; (3) necessary to prevent undue concentration of commercial activity that unreasonably interferes with the scenic and natural character of a park owned or operated by the municipality; (4) necessary to maintain sanitary conditions; or (5) necessary to ensure compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The bill also provides that municipalities that have an ordinance or regulation in

place that substantially complies with the proposed requirement do not have to adopt a new ordinance or regulation. For the purposes of the bill, “expressive matter” is defined as materials or objects created by a vendor with expressive content, including written material, such as newspapers, books or writings, and visual art, such as paintings, prints, photography or sculpture.

TAXATION

[LD 1355](#) *Resolve, to Require the Office of Tax Policy to Study Taxation of Renewable Energy Infrastructure* (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus of Readfield)

This resolve directs the Maine Revenue Services to examine and evaluate the current system of taxation of renewable energy infrastructure, including the history of municipal taxation in Maine and in other states, and possible adoption of a uniform capacity tax for renewable energy infrastructure. The office is required to consult with the Governor's Energy Office, representatives from the renewable energy industry, and municipal and county officials, and to solicit public comments on the study. By December 3, MRS is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, which is authorized to submit legislation in 2026.

[LD 1368](#) *An Act to Provide a Property Tax Exemption for Allowing Shellfish Harvester Access to the Intertidal Zone* (Sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook)

This bill provides a \$500 reduction in property taxes to an owner of property adjacent to the intertidal zone who allows access for harvesting shellfish. To qualify, the owner must complete and file an application and proof of entitlement on or before April 1 with the municipal assessor who is further authorized to require the applicant to provide a copy of a plan describing the allowed spatial and temporal use of, including any limitations on, the access to the intertidal zone. The bill also provides that an application and proof of entitlement is confidential and not available for public inspection but must be provided to the State Tax Assessor upon request.

[LD 1464](#) *An Act to Provide for an Alternative Municipal Property Tax Assessment Rate* (Sponsored by Rep. Malon of Biddeford)

Beginning with the April 1, 2026 property tax year, this bill provides for an alternate method of assessment of real property by authorizing an assessor to impose a different rate of taxation on land and any improvements to that land and further provides that the rates must be imposed equally throughout the assessed area.

[LD 1481](#) *An Act to Amend the Law Governing Stabilization of Property Taxes on Homesteads of Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older* (Sponsored by Rep. Parry of Arundel)

This bill reinstates the property tax stabilization program for senior citizens as of April 1, 2025, and further amends provisions of the law by: (1) requiring a qualifying homeowner to have been a permanent Maine resident for at least 20 years and have a household federal adjusted income of no more than \$75,000; (2) retaining the requirement in current law that a request for stabilization be done annually, but requiring only that it be a written statement that the household is still eligible under the program for stabilization; and (3) removing the ability of an individual who moves from one municipality to another to retain the same stabilized property taxes assessed on the former property.

TRANSPORTATION

[LD 1340](#) *An Act to Establish the Municipal Stream Crossing Fund* (Sponsored by President Daughtry of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill establishes the Municipal Stream Crossing Fund to issue grants to eligible project sponsors to upgrade or replace culverts on municipal roads. Eligible sponsors include local governments, municipal conservation commissions, soil and water conservation districts and private nonprofit organizations. In awarding the grants, the Maine Department of Transportation must consider: (1) impact on native brook trout and sea-run fish restoration; (2) extent to which the project meets Department of Environmental Protection design standards; (3) degree of the project's urgency; (4) expected impact on reducing frequency or severity of flooding; and (5) extent to which the project is an efficient and cost-effective investment. The bill also provides that rules adopted to implement the program are routine technical.

VETERANS & LEGAL AFFAIRS

[LD 1365](#) *An Act to Allow Consumption of Adult Use Cannabis in Locally Approved Hospitality Lounges* (Sponsored by Rep. Boyer of Poland)

This bill authorizes the operation of cannabis hospitality lounges that are open to persons who are at least 21 years of age for the consumption of adult use cannabis and products, as well as edible products that do not contain cannabis. The bill also authorizes a municipality to adopt ordinances governing licensing or other approval requirements applicable to cannabis hospitality lounges.

[LD 1455](#) *An Act to Prevent Illegal Cannabis Growing Operations in the State* (Sponsored by Sen. Cyrway of Kennebec Cty.)

This bill amends the definition of "disqualifying drug offense" in the medical and adult use cannabis laws to provide that a conviction occurring after October 1, 2025, related to the cultivation or distribution of cannabis that is not authorized in Maine statutes is a disqualifying drug offense. The bill also prohibits the Department of Administrative and Financial Services from registering or issuing a registration certificate for cannabis to a facility, as well as the Office of Cannabis Policy from issuing a license to an applicant proposing to operate licensed premises, if the physical location of the facility or person is under investigation by state or federal law enforcement officers for the illegal cultivation or distribution of cannabis or was used by a person convicted of illegal cultivation or distribution of cannabis for those purposes.