

130TH LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION – JANUARY 5, 2022 - APRIL 20, 2022**-On 5/9 the Legislature Adjourned Sine Die.****USEFUL LINKS**

- Maine Legislature Homepage: <http://legislature.maine.gov/>
- Maine Legislature YouTube Channels for Legislative Committees: <https://www.youtube.com/mainestatelegislature>
- Sign up to Testify and/or submit testimony here: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

2022 NEW BILLS

Color code: **Orange font = Budget bill**; **Black font = Homelessness related bill**; **Green font = Housing/Rental Assistance related**; **Blue font = Service related**; **Purple font = General Assistance related**; **highlighted in yellow = passed the House and/or Senate**; **highlighted in green = signed by the Governor and will become Public Law**; **highlighted in red = the bill is now dead.**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1995	Governor Mills	An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023	UPDATE: This is now Public Law	<p>The Supplemental Budget Bill and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to raise rates to be sufficient to pay direct support professionals at 125 percent of minimum wage; • Funding for the Homeless Youth Program • Establishes the Emergency Housing Relief Fund and provides \$22 million in one-time General Fund dollars to the Emergency Housing Relief Fund at MaineHousing to address homelessness; • Establishes the Housing Opportunities Program to encourage and support the development of additional housing units in the State, including housing units that are affordable for low-income and moderate-income individuals and housing units targeted to community workforce housing needs. The department shall administer the program and provide technical and financial assistance to support communities implementing zoning and land use-related policies necessary to support increased housing development. The program must support regional approaches and municipal model ordinance development and encourage policies that support increased housing density, where feasible, to protect working lands and natural lands (more information on this Program is listed under LD 2003); • The Department of Health and Human Services shall use money appropriated under Part A to pay for costs related to the implementation of behavioral health rate reforms and to expand the opioid health home model to serve all MaineCare members with substance use disorder. The department shall implement this section in a manner consistent with the results of rate studies performed by the department. The Department of Health and Human Services shall prioritize eligibility expansion under rule Chapter 101: MaineCare

				Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 93, Opioid Health Home Services, and the implementation of rate adjustments recommended in rate studies for the following: Section 65 behavioral Health services, ACT, and TCM.
LD 1871	Rep. Talbot Ross	Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Extend Its Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues	UPDATE: Signed by the Governor on 4/4 and will become Public Law.	This resolve extends by 2 years the 2-year Maine Human Rights Commission pilot program to receive, review and investigate incidents and complaints of harassment due to a person's housing status and other reports of interference with a person's access to public accommodations and extends the deadlines for its reports. The resolve is retroactive to June 16, 2020, the effective date of Resolve 2019, chapter 113.
LD 1968	Rep. Talbot Ross	Bill title changed to: An Act To Ensure Appropriate Placement of Defendants with Mental Illness and Intellectual Disabilities (Previously An Act To Expand Access to Mental Health and Crisis Care for Individuals in Jails and Individuals Experiencing Homelessness)	UPDATE: Became law without the Governor's signature.	As enacted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When a court commits the defendant to the custody of the Commissioner of Health and Human Services for placement in an appropriate institution for the care and treatment of persons with mental illness or in an appropriate residential program that provides care and treatment for persons who have intellectual disabilities or autism as set forth in subsection 4, the transfer of the defendant must take place within 30 days from the time the order is transmitted to the State Forensic Service, unless an extraordinary circumstance causes a necessary delay. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall notify the court of the extraordinary circumstance causing a delay.
LD 1822	Rep. Morales	An Act To Improve Access to Behavioral Health Services by Limiting Cost Sharing by Insurers	UPDATE: Signed by the Governor on 4/20 and will become Public Law.	This bill prohibits insurance carriers offering a health plan that provides or covers any benefits with respect to behavioral health services from applying a copayment, deductible, coinsurance or other cost-sharing requirement to those behavioral health services.
LD 1848	Rep. Madigan	An Act To Increase the Availability of Assertive Community Treatment Services	UPDATE: Signed by the Governor on 3/31 and will become Public Law.	This bill amends the behavioral and developmental services law regarding mental health hospitalization to add the definition of "prescriber," which is defined to mean a licensed health care provider with authority to prescribe, including a licensed physician, certified nurse practitioner or licensed physician assistant who has training or experience in psychopharmacology.
LD 1860	Sen. Moore	An Act To Address Maine's Suicide and Opioid Crises through the Construction of Affordable Recovery Facilities in Underserved Areas of the State	UPDATE: This bill is now dead.	Still a concept draft. This bill proposes to direct new federal money to construct affordable recovery facilities in underserved areas in order to better address the State's suicide and opioid crises.
LD 1910	Rep. Tepler	An Act To Improve Children's Mental Health by Requiring Insurance Coverage for Certain Mental Health Treatment	UPDATE: Signed by the Governor on 4/14 (emergency)	This bill requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for mental health treatment services that use evidence-based practices that are recommended by a provider for a child 18 years of age or younger.

			measure) and will become Public Law	
LD 1915	Rep. Berry	An Act To Improve Intensive Behavioral Health and Public Safety Case Management Services	UPDATE: This bill is now dead.	This bill provides funding for the recruitment and retention of all Intensive Case Manager positions in the State via a \$5 per wage-hour stipend payment and a \$1 per wage hour stipend payment for employees in those positions holding or obtaining a relevant master's degree. These increases are commensurate with the increases given to the child welfare services program in Public Law 2017, chapter 471.
LD 1961	Sen. Hickman	An Act to Help Alleviate Maine's Housing Shortage and Change the Membership of the Maine State Housing Authority	UPDATE: This bill is now Public Law	This bill was amended by the Sponsor: This amendment replaces the bill and removes the emergency. This amendment includes, among the state goals for all state and municipal agencies affecting natural resource management, land use and development, promoting housing choice and economic diversity in housing that is affordable to low-income and moderate-income households and addressing disparities in access to education, occupational and other opportunities. It also changes the membership of the Maine State Housing Authority and clarifies that appointments to the Maine State Housing Authority and the appointment of the director of the authority are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters.
LD 2003	Speaker Fecteau	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions	UPDATE: Signed by the Governor on 4/27 and will become Public Law.	Senate Amendment A removes from Committee Amendment "A" those provisions that establish the Housing Opportunity Fund and Housing Opportunity Program, including the requirement that the Department of Economic and Community Development report to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters and housing matters, and the appropriations and allocations section related to the Housing Opportunity Program. These provisions are removed because they were enacted in L.D. 1995, the so-called supplemental General Fund budget, which was signed into law as Public Law 2021, chapter 635. This bill as amended makes changes to zoning and land use laws based upon the recommendations in the report of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. The bill, as amended by the Sponsor: 1. Establishes the Housing Opportunity Program within the Department of Economic and Community Development to encourage and support the development of additional housing units in Maine, including housing units that are affordable to low and moderate income people and housing units targeted to community workforce housing needs. This program includes Service Provider Grants, Community Housing Incentive

				<p>Program grants, and direct technical assistance (REMOVED FROM BILL, INCLUDED IN SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET);</p> <p>2. Provides that a municipality shall allow structures with up to 4 dwelling units per lot if that lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit. A municipality shall permit structures on a lot with an existing dwelling unit to add up to 2 additional dwelling units on that lot if one additional dwelling unit is within the existing dwelling or one additional dwelling unit is an accessory dwelling unit as described in section 4364-D;</p> <p>3. Provides that the Department of Economic and Community Development, in cooperation with the Maine State Housing Authority, shall establish a statewide and regional housing goal;</p> <p>4. Defines "affordable housing development," requires municipalities to allow affordable housing developments to be built at certain densities and sets certain criteria to ensure that an affordable housing development remains affordable for at least 30 years;</p> <p>5. Requires, for any zone in which housing is permitted, that a municipality permit structures with up to 4 dwelling units (per lot if that lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit, for lots with an existing dwelling unit up to an additional 2 dwelling units on that lot if one additional dwelling unit is within the existing dwelling unit or one additional dwelling unit for an accessory unit) and creates general requirements for municipal ordinances governing residential zones;</p> <p>6. Specifies that municipalities shall, to fulfill the statewide or regional housing goal established by the Department of Economic and Community Development, ensure that all zoning ordinances affirmatively further fair housing in accordance with federal law and the Maine Human Rights Act;</p> <p>7. Beginning July 1, 2023, requires municipalities to allow the construction of accessory dwelling units and sets out specific requirements for the permitting and construction of accessory dwelling units; and</p> <p>8. Specifies that a municipality may regulate a short-term rental to meet the statewide or regional goal established by the Department of Economic and Community Development.</p>
--	--	--	--	---

CARRIED OVER BILLS FROM 2021

Color code: Black font = Homelessness related bill; Green font = Housing/Rental Assistance related; Blue font = Service related; Purple font = General Assistance related; Pink font = Food related. highlighted in yellow = passed the House and/or Senate; highlighted in green = signed by the Governor and will become Public Law; highlighted in red = the bill is now dead.

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
--------	---------	-------	--------------------	-------

LD 211	Rep. Cloutier	An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness	UPDATE: This bill is now dead.	As amended: Provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$3,000,000 per year to MaineHousing's Shelter Operating Subsidy program to support operations and capacity at all emergency homeless shelters across the State. Funding allocation would be based upon the Homeless Solutions Rule shelter funding formula.
LD 654	Rep. Arford	An Act To Create a 24-hour Shelter Capital Project Funding Program	UPDATE: This bill is now dead.	Establishes the 24-hour Shelter Capital Project program within MaineHousing to support new construction or expansion of emergency 24-hour shelters for persons experiencing homelessness. New construction and expansion projects funded by the program must address an increase in the need for shelter capacity in the region since the construction, or expansion, of an existing shelter or shelters in the region or since the start of the outbreak of COVID-19 or both. Includes a one-time supplemental General Fund appropriation of \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 to MaineHousing to fund the program.
LD 1300	Rep. Supica	An Act to Require County Governments to Coordinate with Municipalities to Create Plans to Address Homelessness	UPDATE: This bill is now dead.	Requires the county commissioners of each county, in consultation and coordination with the Statewide Homeless Council, regional homeless councils and the municipalities in the county, to develop and implement a plan with protocols to address homelessness within the county.
LD 773	Rep. Brennan	An Act To Assist Public School Students and Families Who Are Homeless	UPDATE: This bill is now dead.	Requires that MaineHousing give priority for temporary housing assistance to homeless students and their families who are identified and referred by a local educational agency liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness.
LD 473	Rep. Morales	An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program	UPDATE: This bill is now dead.	As amended: Establishes the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program within the Maine State Housing Authority. The program provides rental assistance to qualified tenants and provides housing navigation services and includes a guarantee program to encourage landlords to work with rental assistance programs. Creates the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund to carry out the program. Includes an ongoing non-lapsing General Fund appropriation of \$9,000,000 per year.
LD 1673	Rep. Talbot Ross	An Act To Create a Comprehensive Permit Process for the Construction of Affordable Housing	UPDATE: Became law without the Governor's signature.	<p>This bill, as Amended by Committee Amendment A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes the bill title to: An Act To Establish Fair Housing Goals in Certain Communities in Maine. • Sets a guideline for service center communities to employ in developing a growth management program that at least 10% of the housing stock is affordable housing. • Requires the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation to update the service center community classifications in 2023 and every 5 years thereafter; post the service center community listing on its publicly accessible website; submit a report, by February 15, 2023, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having

				<p>jurisdiction over housing matters detailing where population growth is occurring and projected to occur; and submit the periodic evaluation report required to be provided by statute to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the department, the Maine State Housing Authority and the Department of Economic and Community Development to share data useful in assessing and determining growth management policies and standards.
LD 913	Rep. Hasenfus	An Act To Make Certain Civil Court Records Accessible by the Public Only at the Courthouse (Previously: An Act To Enact the Maine Data Collection Protection Act)	UPDATE: Signed by the Governor on 4/20 and will become Public Law.	<p>This bill, as signed into chaptered law, is enacted as follows: For civil cases brought pursuant to Title 14, section 6001 or 7481, the following court records are accessible by the public only at a courthouse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution by agreement of the parties. Court records that are part of a court case in which the parties agree that the records should be accessible by the public only at the courthouse; 2. Dismissed or resolved in favor of the defendant. Court records that are part of a court case that is dismissed or resolved in favor of a defendant; and 3. Older than 3 years. Court records that are part of a court case more than 3 years after a judgment has been entered.
LD 415	Rep. Stearns	Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Increase MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Targeted Case Management Services To Reflect Inflation	UPDATE: This bill is now dead. Some form of rate increase included in Supplemental Budget which is now Public Law.	Requires DHHS to amend its rules governing MaineCare reimbursement for targeted case management services to provide an increase reflecting cost increases from 2010 to 2020.
LD 432	Rep Madigan	Resolve, To Improve Behavioral Health Care for Children	UPDATE: This bill is now dead. Some form of rate increase included in Supplemental Budget which is now Public Law.	Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 65 to reimburse for additional collateral contacts for children's home and community-based treatment. Those additional collateral contacts are between the child's mental health professional and parents, medical providers, psychiatric providers, residential providers, case managers and school personnel as long as the goal of the collateral contact is included in the goals of the individual treatment plan. Fiscal note: \$133K General Fund, \$240K Federal Match
LD 496	Rep Gramlich	An Act To Increase Timely Access to Mental Health Services by Increasing MaineCare Reimbursement Rates (title was amended, originally: An Act To Clear Waiting Lists for	UPDATE: This bill is now dead. Some form of rate increase included in Supplemental Budget	This bill, as amended, provides funding to increase rates in rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, Children's Home and Community Based Treatment and Section 97, Appendix D, Principles of Reimbursement for Child Care Facilities by 25% no later than July 1, 2021. The bill as amended also

		and Ensure Timely Access to Mental Health Services for Maine Children)	which is now Public Law	includes a 25% reimbursement increase for outpatient therapy for individuals and families and outpatient group therapy under the MaineCare program. Fiscal Note: 9.2M General Fund, \$21M Federal Match
LD 582	Rep. Madigan	An Act To Support the Fidelity and Sustainability of Assertive Community Treatment	UPDATE: This bill is now dead. Some form of rate increase included in Supplemental Budget which is now Public Law	Modifies the definition of ACT to better align the definition with an evidence-based treatment model. Adds definitions of "psychiatric provider" and "medical assistant" and changes the description of the composition of the multidisciplinary teams that provide assertive community treatment. Requires DHHS to increase the MaineCare reimbursement rates for ACT by 25% immediately to allow providers to continue to offer the service. Requires the department to amend its rules governing ACT to provide an initial authorization period of 6 months for clients meeting eligibility requirements for ACT and require reauthorization no more often than 6 months thereafter.
LD 512	Rep. Dodge	An Act to Provide Intensive Case Managers to Counties That Do Not Have County Jails or Regional Jails	UPDATE: This bill is now dead.	As amended: Provides funding for 4 additional ICM positions in DHHS. Directs the department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the geographic distribution and activities of the ICMs.
LD 910	Rep. Brennan	An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement	UPDATE: Became law without the Governor's signature.	This bill, as amended, transfers \$30,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$56,000,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 from the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund. The amendment provides for a one-time transfer of \$10,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, General Assistance, Other Special Revenue Funds account. The amendment requires the department to distribute the funds proportionally to each municipality and federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State based on the general assistance costs incurred by that municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State during fiscal year 2020-21. It provides that a municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State may use funds to offset potential reductions in federal funding in fiscal year 2022-23, potential reductions in funding related to the end of the public health emergency and other unanticipated costs incurred by the municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department is required to distribute the funds as a lump-sum distribution to each municipality and federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State. The amendment also directs the department to review long-term improvements to the general assistance program.
LD 174	Rep. Pluecker	An Act To Implement Maine's Roadmap to End Hunger by 2030 (Previously: An Act To	UPDATE: Signed by the Governor on 5/2	Committee Amendment A replaces the bill and requires the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to act as the lead agency to implement

		Implement the Recommendations of the Ending Hunger by 2030 Advisory Group)	and will become Public Law.	<p>a strategic plan to end hunger in the State. The amendment requires the office to establish an advisory committee to guide the implementation of the strategic plan to end hunger in the State and to submit a report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture matters; health and human services matters; labor and housing matters; transportation matters; and economic and community development matters no later than January 1st of each year until 2030 regarding activities and progress made toward ending hunger in the State by 2030. The amendment requires the office to implement the strategies to build infrastructure and increase capacity to end hunger in the State as outlined in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry January 2022 report, "Everyone at the Table: Maine's Roadmap to End Hunger by 2030."</p> <p>House Amendment A to Committee Amendment A, requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to act as the lead among departments and agencies of State Government to implement a strategic plan to end hunger in the State. Committee Amendment "A" requires the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to act as the lead agency.</p>
--	--	--	-----------------------------	---