

131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR SESSION: DECEMBER 7, 2022 – JUNE 21, 2023

USEFUL LINKS

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Common Acronyms: AFA = Appropriations and Financial Affairs. HHS = Health and Human Services. OTP = Ought to Pass. OTP-AM = Ought to Pass as Amended. ONTP = Ought Not to Pass.

BILLS

Color code: Orange font = Budget bill; Black font = Homelessness related bill; Blue font = Service related; Green font = Housing/Rental Assistance related; Purple font = General Assistance & Safety Net related bills; Pink font = Food security related bills; 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.

BUDGET BILLS				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 258	Governor’s Bill	An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025	Public Hearing pertaining to Housing/Homelessness related items in the Budget on Thursday, 2/9 at 1pm – AFA and Housing Committees And for MH/SUD service-related items in the budget on Thursday 2/23 at 1pm – AFA and HHS Committees	The Biennial Budget includes (among various other initiatives): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30 million to expand affordable rental housing options for workers and their families through equal funding to the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program and the Low-Income Housing Credit Program (PART TT). • Language which caps temporary housing assistance provided through a hotel or motel at the federal per diem rates and limits temporary housing assistance to a maximum of 30 days for individuals who are not connected to appropriate services. (PART VV). • An historic \$237 million in state (\$94 million) and federal funds to support mental health and substance use disorder services, including \$166 million to increase payment rates to providers as a result of MaineCare’s nationally recognized new rate reform process. This initiative includes \$7 million to prioritize direct response to the opioid crisis and funding to support prevention, treatment and recovery services for substance use disorders and catalyzes improvements to behavioral health care for children. Get more information on the DHHS website.
LD 206	Governor’s Bill	An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper	Public Hearing- AFA Committee held 1/24-1/26. Work Sessions on 2/1 at 1pm, and 2/3 at 1pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifies that Winter Energy Relief Payment authorized in Public Law 2023, chapter 1 will not be included as income or a resource when determining an application for the municipal general assistance program. (PART E)

		Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes the State Controller to carry forward to fiscal year 2023-24 and fiscal year 2024-25 any unexpended balance of the \$2,756,126 appropriated in in the Housing Opportunity Program, General Fund account, All Other line category in fiscal year 2022-23 to be expended for the same purposes. (PART L)
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HOMELESSNESS BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 3	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross (Emergency)	An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program	Signed by the Governor	<p>This bill provides relief to certain Maine households to assist them with high costs for home heating and other purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-Term Housing Support: \$21 million to bolster the Emergency Housing Relief Fund created by Governor Mills and the Legislature earlier this year that supports emergency housing and emergency shelters to prevent people from experiencing homelessness this winter. • Winter Energy Relief Payment of \$450 to an estimated 880,000 eligible Maine people, amounting to \$900 in relief for the average Maine family. Based on already-filed 2021 tax returns, eligible Maine people will have a Federal adjusted gross income (FAGI) of less than: \$100,000 if filing single or if married and filing separately; \$150,000 if filing as head of household; or \$200,000 for couples filing jointly. • Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Supplement: \$40 million to supplement the Home Energy Assistance Program to help HEAP recipients receive a financial benefit equal to last year's. • Emergency Fuel: \$10 million to Maine Community Action Partnerships to help them deliver emergency fuel assistance to prevent people and families from running out of heating fuel and experiencing a heating crisis.
LR 1357	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Decriminalize Homelessness		
LR 1519	Rep. Jeffrey Adams	An Act to Direct Maine Emergency Management Agency Funds Directly to Municipalities for Distribution to Local Homeless Shelters		
LR 987	Sen. Trey Stewart	An Act to Require County and Town Funding for Homeless Shelters on a Per Capita Basis		
LR 723	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless		

LR 588	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	An Act to Assist Communities in Dealing with Homelessness by Providing State Funding		
LR 2360	Sen. Joseph Rafferty	An Act to Prevent Student Homelessness		
LR 576	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Prevent Homelessness		
LR 1675	Rep. Poppy Arford	An Act to Support Emergency Housing Facility Construction and Renovation Statewide		
LR 2343	Rep. Poppy Arford	An Act to Provide Support to Schools with Students Experiencing Housing Instability		
LR 842	Rep. Tiffany Roberts	An Act Concerning Students Who Experience Educational Disruption Due to Temporary or Permanent Changes in Where They Live		

SERVICE BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LR 1333	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	An Act to Assess, Develop, Implement and Fund the Reuse of Existing Facilities at Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center to Provide Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder and Homelessness Services		
LR 1792	Rep. Drew Gattine	An Act to Establish Permanent Funding for the Homeless Opioid Users Service Engagement Project		
LR 1507	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons		
LR 459	Rep. Kristi Mathieson	An Act Regarding Housing Stability Workers		
LR 1023	Sen. Jill Duson	An Act to Establish State-funded Service Contracts to Support Asylum Seekers		
LR 1024	Sen. Jill Duson	An Act to Establish State Support for Asylum Seekers		
LR 1905	Rep. Colleen Madigan	An Act to Ensure Sufficient Rates for Behavioral Health Services		
LR 2213	Rep. Lori Gramlich	An Act to Ensure Reimbursement Rates Are Adequate to Provide Services for Mental Health and Behavioral Health Care		
LR 2070	Rep. Holly Stover	An Act to Establish a Comprehensive Integrated Co-occurring Behavioral Health Home Within the MaineCare Program		

LR 1203	Rep. Lori Gramlich	An Act to Ensure the Quality and Efficiency of Community Mental Health Services		
LR 1197	Rep. Melanie Sachs	An Act to Establish Peer Respite Centers for Adults with Mental Health Challenges in Maine		
LR 2047	Sen. Trey Stewart	An Act to Improve Mental Health in Maine		
LR 589	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Commissioner of Corrections to Develop Alternative Responses to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Emergency Calls		
LR 1199	Rep. Suzanne Salisbury	An Act to Reduce Workforce Barriers for Mental Health Professionals in Maine		
LR 508	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Recruit, Train and Retain Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Workers in All Regions of the State		

HOUSING/RENTAL ASSISTANCE BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 2	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to amend the laws to address Maine's housing crisis.
LD 250	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Improve Housing by Increasing Housing Options		
LR 358	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Housing		Housing Bond
LR 759	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	Resolve, Directing the Finance Authority of Maine to Establish a Pilot Program to Encourage the Development of Affordable Accessory Dwelling Units		
LR 1001	Rep. Marc Malon	An Act to Promote Affordable Housing by Clarifying Statewide Land Use Laws		
LR 2062	Rep. Charles Skold	An Act to Improve Affordability and Opportunity for Maine Renters and Landlords RE: State Housing Authorities		
LR 716	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Facilitate Property Redevelopment and Encourage Affordable Housing by Allowing the Conveyance of Unfinished Commercial Condominium Units		

LR 949	Rep. Jack Ducharme	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Foreclosure Proceedings to Enhance Housing Affordability and Access		
LR 49	Senate President Troy Jackson	An Act to Enact a Property Owner Bill of Rights		
LR 86	Rep. Chris Kessler	An Act to Reduce Barriers to Housing by Prohibiting Tenant Application Fees		
LR 2199	Rep. Chris Kessler	An Act to Reduce Rental Housing Costs by Eliminating Additional Fees		
LR 1070	Rep. Amy Roeder	An Act to Increase Transparency for Landlords and Tenants		
LR 1642	Rep. Ambureen Rana	An Act to Decrease Discrimination in Housing Applications		
LR 738	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Preserve Historic Buildings and Promote Affordable Housing		
LR 1528	Rep. James Boyle	An Act to Improve Housing Affordability by Amending the Definition of "Subdivision" under the Site Location of Development Laws		
LR 362	Rep. Melanie Sachs	An Act to Regarding the Monitoring of Municipal Abandoned Property		
LR 2154	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Construct Affordable Housing		
LR 1138	Rep. Joe Perry	An Act to Require Municipalities to Obtain Housing Units for Homeless Residents		
LD 226	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis	Referred to AFA Committee/Housing Committee	This bill provides one-time funds to MaineHousing in the amount of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and in fiscal year 2024-25 (only these FYs) to increase affordable housing stock in the State.
LD 337	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would amend the regulation of manufactured housing to increase the amount of affordable housing.
LR 1486	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Encourage Housing Creation and Reduce the Risk for Housing Creators by Establishing a Process to Vest Rights		
LD 314	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill would establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in 6 Maine. The commission would be a quasi-independent agency funded through the 7 Department of Economic and Community Development. Members of the commission 8 would include housing advocates and organizations, policy makers, housing developers, 9 housing experts, landlords and tenants. The commission would identify the hurdles to 10 developing more housing units and recommend solutions to each branch of government.

LD 387	Rep. Mark Blier	An Act to Promote Affordable Housing by Providing a Tax Exemption for Housing Choice Vouchers		This bill provides an income tax deduction for income received by a landlord as tenant9 based housing assistance payments in the form of Section 8 housing choice vouchers administered by the Maine State Housing Authority.
LR 1066	Rep. Amy Roeder	An Act to Streamline Apartment Application Screenings		
LR 584	Rep. Dick Campbell	An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Zoning and Land Use Restrictions to Limit Certain Requirements to Municipalities with a Population of More than 10,000		
LR 1399	Rep. James Boyle	An Act to Increase Maine's Housing Supply, Combat Climate Change and Preserve Rural Open Spaces by Prohibiting Communities from Large Lot Zoning Practices in Areas Where Public Sewer and Water Infrastructure Are Available		
LR 553	Rep. Walter Riseman	An Act to Make Adjustments to Affordable Housing Requirements		
LR 473	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Require the Maine State Housing Authority to Report to the Legislature on the Home Fund		
LR 920	Rep. Amy Kuhn	An Act to Clarify Density Bonus Eligibility for Affordable Housing Developments		
LR 1978	Sen. Ben Chipman	An Act to Support Residential Housing Development		
LR 2017	Sen. Mike Tipping	An Act to Ensure Legal Representation for Residents Facing Eviction		
LR 2084	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Strengthen the Rights of Tenants and Protect the Rights of Landlords		
LR 956	Rep. Colleen Madigan	An Act to Assist Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Areas of High Median Rent by Seeking a Waiver from the Federal Government		
LR 1836	Rep. Drew Gattine	An Act to End Chronic Homelessness by Creating the Housing First Fund		
LR 1782	Rep. Traci Gere	An Act to Establish a Thriving Corridors Program by Encouraging Affordable Housing and Mixed-use Development		
LR 1054	Rep. Grayson Lookner	An Act to Establish the Maine Community Housing Development Authority		

LR 1589	Rep. Daniel Shagoury	An Act to Continue the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program		
LR 79	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Establish the Department of Housing Security		
LR 169	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Establish the Stable Housing and Reintegration Program		
LR 574	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Enact the Fair Chance Housing Act		
LR 1527	Rep. David Woodsome	An Act Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units and Municipal Zoning Ordinances		
LR 1708	Rep. Sophia Warren	An Act to Create a Housing Department		
LR 48	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Ensure Equal Access to Housing		
LR 1790	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Create the Stable Home Fund		
LR 1645	Rep. Danny Costain	An Act Regarding Rental Housing Applications		
LR 19	Rep. Laura Supica	An Act to Create Statewide Rent Stabilization		
LR 833	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Enact the Housing Opportunity for Maine Act		
LR 2383	Rep. Traci Gere	An Act to Implement Several Recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals		
LR 512	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Implement Certain Recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals		
LR 2114	Senate President Troy Jackson	An Act to Revise the Laws Governing the Development of Rural Land for Housing		
LR 2034	Sen. Ben Chipman	An Act to Increase Affordable Housing by Eliminating Minimum Land Size Requirements for Multi-unit Housing and Minimum Unit Size Requirements for All Housing		
LR 2086	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Prioritize Affordable Housing Development on State-owned Real Estate		
LR 663	Rep. Sophia Warren	An Act to Extend the Emergency Rental Assistance Program		

LR 1637	Rep. Grayson Lookner	An Act Concerning the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund and Expenditures by the Maine State Housing Authority		
LR 1995	Sen. Cameron Reny	An Act to Expand Workforce Housing in Rural Maine by Funding the Maine State Housing Authority's Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program		

GENERAL ASSISTANCE & SAFETY NET BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 80	Rep. Meyer	An Act to Improve Family Economic Security Under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program	Public Hearing- HHS Committee, 2/16 1:00PM, Cross Building Room 209	This bill amends the provisions of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or "TANF," program that relate to income disregards for the purposes of calculating a recipient's benefits.
LD 81	Rep. Meyer	An Act to Address Recovery Residence Participation in the Municipal General Assistance Program	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill requires a municipality to issue a general assistance housing assistance payment to the operator of a certified recovery residence upon request by an eligible person rather than to a landlord, including a property owner.
LR 674	Rep. Michele Meyer	An Act to Amend the General Assistance Program Laws		
LR 656	Rep. Kristi Mathieson	An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance		
LR 1348	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	An Act to Increase the General Assistance Maximums for Housing		
LR 1349	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	An Act Providing Additional Support to Municipal General Assistance Programs		
LR 64	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to Establish a 90 Percent Reimbursement Rate for the General Assistance Program		
LR 531	Sen. Marianne Moore	An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program		
LR 1345	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	An Act Increasing the State Reimbursement for General Assistance to 90 Percent and Providing a 5 Percent State Reimbursement for Municipal Administrative Costs		
LD 182	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Create a 9-month Time Limit on General Assistance Benefits for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill limits to a maximum of 275 days every 5 years the general assistance benefits a person who does not have any dependents and who is capable of working may receive.
LD 183	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Incorporate Time Limits on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill provides that a person who has exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit on Temporary Assistance for Needy

		Program into Municipal General Assistance Programs		Families program benefits is ineligible to receive municipal general assistance program benefits, except that a person who has been ineligible to receive benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for 5 or more years may be considered eligible and a person who is in the process of seeking an extension of benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program may be considered eligible.
LR 1700	Rep. Randall Greenwood	An Act to Protect Maine Taxpayers and the Maine Treasury from Unauthorized Use by Noncitizens		
LD 268	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Establish a 45-day Municipal Residency Requirement for General Assistance Programs	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill establishes a 45-day residency requirement for applicants for municipal general assistance.
LD 364	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Prohibit the Use of General Assistance as a Replacement for Available Resources	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill makes an applicant for general assistance who voluntarily abandons or refuses to use an available resource without just cause ineligible to receive general assistance to replace the abandoned resource for a period of 120 days from the date the applicant abandons the resource. The bill defines "available resource" as a resource that is immediately available or can be secured without delay. The bill also makes an applicant who forfeits receipt of or causes a reduction in benefits from an available resource due to fraud, misrepresentation or intentional violation or refusal to comply with rules without just cause ineligible to receive general assistance to replace the forfeited or reduced benefits for the duration of the sanction imposed on the applicant for violation of a rule or 120 days, whichever is greater. The bill identifies circumstances relating to use of an available resource under which just cause must be found.
LR 627	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency Requirement for General Assistance Programs		
LR 624	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Establish Welfare Work Requirements for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents		
LR 646	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Establish the Commission on Education for Asylum Seekers and Refugees		
FOOD SECURITY BILLS				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes

LR 701	Rep. Maureen Terry	An Act to Support Food Access in Maine		
LR 2178	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Increase Food Security and Economic Resiliency in Local Communities and to Promote Policies Consistent with Growth Management Plans		
LR 715	Rep. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Provide Funding for the State Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives		
LR 649	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Address Food Insecurity and Support Local Agriculture		
LR 2106	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food		