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): • $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). • $237 million in state ($94 million) and federal funds to support mental health and SUD 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.
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 Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023	Signed into law by the Governor on 2/21	• 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)

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**	This bill provides relief to certain Maine households to assist them with high costs for home heating and other purposes. • **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
LD 302	Rep. Colleen Madigan	An Act to Ensure Sufficient Rates for Behavioral Health Services	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the rates in rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, for medication management, home and community-based treatment, multi-systemic therapy and functional family therapy and Section 17, Allowances for Community Support Services, for assertive community treatment.
LD 328	Sen. Trey Stewart	An Act to Improve Mental Health in Maine	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would improve mental health in the State
LD 448	Rep. Charles Skold	An Act to Improve Access to Behavioral Health Services for Maine Families and Children on MaineCare and to Increase the Number of Behavioral Health Professionals in the State	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures to improve access to behavioral health services for families and children on MaineCare and to increase the number of behavioral health professionals in the State.
LD 540	Rep. Melanie Sachs	An Act to Establish Peer Respite Centers for Adults with Mental Health Challenges in Maine	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill requires the department to establish through contracts 2 peer respite centers in the State for persons 18 years of age or older. The centers must provide 24-hour intentional peer support to persons in need of mental health services on a voluntary, short-term basis.
LD 599	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill provides ongoing funding for support services for a transitional housing program in Portland.
LD 859	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	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes 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.
LD 908	Rep. Holly Stover	Resolve, to Establish a Comprehensive Integrated Co-occurring Behavioral Health Home Model Within the MaineCare Program	Referred to HHS Committee	This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a new health home model that includes services for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health diagnoses in one model and a new payment model.

LD 1050	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Request a Federal Waiver for Presumptive Work Eligibility for Asylum Seekers	**Public Hearing 3/21 at 1pm in front of the Labor and Housing Committee**	This resolve directs the Commissioner of Labor to request a waiver from the United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to allow an asylum seeker in the State, if the asylum seeker has applied for asylum and has not been denied, eligibility to work in the State for the 6-month period immediately after the asylum seeker has applied for asylum while awaiting a final determination on the asylum seeker's application and for the time period while an asylum seeker's work permit has expired and is pending renewal by the Federal Government.
LR 1792	Rep. Drew Gattine	An Act to Establish Permanent Funding for the Homeless Opioid Users Service Engagement Project		
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 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 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.
LR 358	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Housing		Housing Bond
LD 654	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	Resolve, Directing the Finance Authority of Maine to Establish a Pilot Program to Encourage the Development of Affordable Accessory Dwelling Units	Referred to the Housing Committee	This resolve directs the Finance Authority of Maine to establish a 2-year pilot program to encourage the development of accessory dwelling units in the State. The program must buy down interest rates to levels below market rates for up to 100 community bank loans for accessory dwelling units until the program ends. The authority must submit annual reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters regarding the usage of the program, the first such report to be made no later than November 6, 2024.
LR 1001	Rep. Marc Malon	An Act to Promote Affordable Housing by Clarifying Statewide Land Use Laws		
LD 45	Sen. Anne Carney	An Act to Prevent Retaliatory Evictions	Public Hearing held 2/9 in front of the Judiciary Committee	This bill provides that in an action of forcible entry and detainer there is a rebuttable presumption that the action was commenced in retaliation against the tenant if, within 6 months prior to the commencement of the action, the tenant has asserted the tenant's rights pursuant to the laws requiring notice to the tenant of a rent increase, the laws prohibiting a rent increase for a dwelling unit that is in violation of the warranty of habitability or a municipal ordinance limiting rent increase. It also provides that to rebut the presumption of retaliation, a plaintiff in a forcible entry and detainer action must show by a preponderance of the evidence that a reason set forth in law or a violation of a lease provision is a substantial reason for bringing the action.
LD 109	Rep. H landry	An Act to Improve Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residences	Work Session held 2/8 with the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee - Tabled	Current law provides that a certified substance use disorder recovery residence is treated as a family residence for the purposes of life safety code requirements, regardless of its size, layout or number of residents. This bill repeals that provision to require such recovery residences to meet the life safety code requirements for similarly situated buildings and housing establishments.
LD 144	Rep. Melanie Sachs	An Act to Regarding the Monitoring of Municipal Abandoned Property	Taxation Committee Divided Report: OTP-AM	Under current law, a municipality that certifies abandoned property is required to submit the address and parcel data to the Maine State Housing Authority for use in determining opportunities for redevelopment, programs supporting first-time home buyers and similar programs and data analysis. This bill instead requires the municipality to submit such data to the

				Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority for use in determining opportunities for redevelopment.
LD 214	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	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill makes the following provisions applicable only to a municipality with a population over 10,000: 1. The requirement that a municipality allow up to 4 dwelling units per lot if that lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit and the lot is located in a designated growth area within a municipality or if the lot is served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system in a municipality without a comprehensive plan; 2. Certain zoning conditions that apply to dwelling units; 3. The requirement that a municipality allow an accessory dwelling unit on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in any area in which housing is permitted; and 4. Other requirements relating to accessory dwelling units.
LD 226	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis	Referred to 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 250	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Improve Housing by Increasing Housing Options	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would require the development and implementation of a program to increase housing options.
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 Maine. The commission would be a quasi-independent agency funded through the Department of Economic and Community Development. Members of the commission would include housing advocates and organizations, policy makers, housing developers, housing experts, landlords and tenants. The commission would identify the hurdles to 1developing more housing units and recommend solutions to each branch of government.
LD 330	Sen. Mike Tipping	An Act to Ensure Legal Representation for Residents Facing Eviction	Public Hearing in front of the Judiciary Committee held on 2/16	This bill would require the development and implementation of a program to ensure legal representation for residents facing eviction. Development of the program would employ best practices and apply recent research.
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.
LD 371	Sen. Jeffrey Timberlake	An Act to Address Certain Local Zoning Ordinances	Referred to State and Local Government Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to address certain local zoning ordinances.

LD 387	Rep. Mark Blier	An Act to Promote Affordable Housing by Providing a Tax Exemption for Housing Choice Vouchers	Referred to Housing Committee	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.
LD 462	Rep. Colleen Madigan	An Act to Assist Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Areas of High Median Rent by Seeking a Waiver from the Federal Government	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill provides that, for an area where the actual fair market rent for existing housing is greater than the fair market rent calculated by HUD, the Maine State Housing Authority is required to seek a temporary waiver of the requirements of the so-called Section 8 housing program administered by HUD or any other federal housing assistance program to permit additional funds to cover the cost of the actual fair market rent for a person who is homeless. The temporary waiver must be terminated when the fair market rent calculated by HUD is equal to or greater than the actual fair market rent for existing housing in the area.
LD 554	Rep. Daniel Shagoury	An Act to Continue the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill provides one-time funds in the amount of $10 million in FY 2023-2024 to continue the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program through the Maine State Housing Authority
LD 557	Rep. Ambureen Rana	An Act to Decrease Discrimination in Housing Applications	**Public Hearing 3/9 at 2pm in front of the Judiciary Committee**	This bill prohibits a landlord or landlord's agent from asking about previous evictions in an application for the rental or lease of a residence or discriminating against an applicant in the rental or lease of a residence on the basis of an applicant's history of eviction.
LD 558	Rep. Danny Costain	An Act Regarding Rental Housing Applications	Referred to the Judiciary Committee	This bill requires a landlord or landlord's agent, prior to obtaining any information about a prospective tenant, to notify the prospective tenant in writing what types of information will be accessed to conduct the tenant screening, including, but not limited to, background checks and credit checks, and what criteria may result in denial of the rental application. The bill also prohibits a landlord or landlord's agent from charging a prospective tenant any payment, fee or charge for the processing, review or acceptance of a rental application more than one time in a 12-month period.
LD 638	Rep. Marc Malon	Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority to Study Strategies for Improving Abandoned Properties and Developing Housing Infrastructure	Referred to the Housing Committee	This resolve directs the Maine State Housing Authority to study strategies for improving abandoned properties and recommend strategies for municipal governments and regional organizations to create incentives for land improvements, including the use of state infrastructure banks or other means to guarantee loans, and a structure for repayment of those loans, for housing infrastructure projects serving a larger area built by private developers or others. The resolve requires the Maine State Housing Authority to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic

				Advancement and Business by December 1, 2024 regarding the study.
LD 690	Rep. Amy Roeder	An Act to Streamline Rental Application Screenings by Allowing Potential Tenants to Use Screening Services	Referred to the Judiciary Committee	This bill allows a prospective tenant to use a screening service report in applying for the rental of a residence. An owner of residential rental property or a residential rental property manager may choose to not allow a prospective tenant to use a screening service report in an application for the rental of a residence, but the owner or manager is then limited to charging an application fee no greater than $25.
LD 691	Rep. Chris Kessler	An Act to Reduce Barriers to Housing by Prohibiting Tenant Application Fees	Referred to the Judiciary Committee	This bill prohibits a landlord from requiring a person to pay a fee in order to submit an application to enter into an agreement to rent a residential dwelling unit.
LD 705	Rep. Grayson Lookner	An Act Concerning the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund and Expenditures by the Maine State Housing Authority	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill would examine the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund and other sources of revenue for the Maine State Housing Authority, review how those resources are being allocated by the authority and determine whether more guidelines about those allocations are necessary.
LD 721	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Preserve Historic Buildings and Promote Affordable Housing	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would enact provisions of law to preserve historic buildings and promote affordable housing.
LD 724	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	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill provides one-time funds in the amount of $10M each years in fiscal year 2023-24 and fiscal year 2024-25 only to the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program within the Maine State Housing Authority for the development of smaller affordable rental housing projects.
LD 772	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Establish a Process to Vest Rights for Land Use Permit Applicants	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill gives an applicant for a land use permit the right to have a municipality or the Maine Land Use Planning Commission review the application solely on the basis of any orders, regulations, ordinances, rules, expiration dates, fees or other requirements in effect at the time the original application for the land use permit is filed for review.
LD 774	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Require the Maine State Housing Authority to Report to the Legislature on the Home Fund	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs with a full accounting of how revenues transferred to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to be used to support the creation of new housing units through new construction or adaptive reuse were spent, looking back 10 years
LD 801	Rep. Joe Perry	An Act to Require Municipalities to Obtain Housing Units for Homeless Residents	Referred to the Housing Committee	
LD 853	Rep. Benjamin Collings	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to Housing	Referred to the Housing Committee	This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to declare that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to housing.

				Constitutional referendum - the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question: "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to declare that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to housing?"
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 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 1528	Rep. James Boyle	An Act to Improve Housing Affordability by Amending the Definition of "Subdivision" under the Site Location of Development Laws		
LR 2154	**Sen. Craig Hickman**	**An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Construct Affordable Housing**		
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 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 2084	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Strengthen the Rights of Tenants and Protect the Rights of Landlords		
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 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 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		

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 held 2/16, work session on 3/16	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.
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 Program into Municipal General Assistance Programs	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill provides that a person who has exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit on Temporary Assistance for Needy 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.
LD 268	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Establish a 45-day Municipal Residency Requirement for General Assistance Programs	Referred to HHS 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.
LD 454	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency Requirement for General Assistance Programs	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill establishes a 180-day state residency requirement for applicants for municipal general assistance.
LD 668	Rep. Randall Greenwood	An Act to Protect Maine Taxpayers by Requiring a Person to Be a United States Citizen to Receive General Assistance Benefits and to Ensure Municipal Compliance with Federal Immigration Laws		This bill requires a person to be a citizen of the United States in order to receive general assistance benefits. This bill provides that a municipality is ineligible to receive general purpose aid for local schools, municipal general assistance and state-municipal revenue sharing if that municipality prohibits or restricts, formally or informally, the exchange of information with federal immigration authorities or any other federal, state or local government entity regarding the immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual or the maintenance of such information.
LD 778	Sen. Harold Stewart	An Act Regarding Work Requirements for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents Under the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill, beginning January 1, 2024, prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from requesting certain waivers and exemptions under the federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP. It prohibits the department from applying for a waiver under 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o)(4), which allows for waivers in specific geographical areas that have unemployment over 10% or with insufficient jobs available. It also prohibits the department from providing exemptions to work requirements for up to 12% of individuals receiving SNAP benefits pursuant to 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o)(6)(E).
LD 784	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Establish Welfare Work Requirements for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill requires able-bodied adults without dependents enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the MaineCare program or a municipal general assistance program for longer than 3 months to participate in certain work requirements, including: 1. Working an average of 20 or more hours per week; 2. Participating in an employment or training program or a job search for an average of 20 hours or more per week; or 3. Participating in a placement with public or private sector employers, including as a volunteer.
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		
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
LD 568	Rep. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Provide Funding for the State Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives	Public Hearing held 2/27, Work Session on 3/8, Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee	This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of $600,000 to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The bill also removes the $50,000 limit on matching contributions from the fund criteria.
LR 649	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Address Food Insecurity and Support Local Agriculture		
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 2106	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food		