

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
<u>LD 258</u>	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). • \$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 new rate reform process. This includes \$7 million to prioritize direct response to the opioid crisis and funding to support prevention, treatment and recovery services for substance use disorders. • UPDATE: A Memo from the Housing Committee is requesting additional funding in the Budget for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Rep. Blier would like to see as much funding as possible for housing and is requesting the committee pursue various programs to fund. Potentially tax credits and manufactured units as a focus for programs. - Sen. Pouliot would like to add language calling for additional staffing and funding for housing needs. - Rep. Grayson highlighted a need for long-term sustained funding and policy to address the housing crisis. He would like to see a diverse set of tools for low-to-middle incomes. - Rep. Campbell would like to see funds dedicated to repurposing and reusing existing buildings. - Rep. Gattine indicated his support for an increase in funding to \$80 million (\$40 million each year for two years).

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. <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.
LD 1133	Rep. Jeffrey Adams	An Act Regarding Emergency Management Funding for Municipal Shelters	Referred to the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would enact provisions regarding emergency management funding for municipal shelters.
LD 1422	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless by Establishing a Housing Voucher Program and Providing Site-based Housing Services	Public Hearing on 4/14 at 9:02AM in front of the Housing Committee	This bill establishes a housing voucher program for homeless students under the authority of the Maine State Housing Authority and appropriates one-time funding of \$2 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. The bill directs the Maine State Housing Authority to identify 3 sites in Maine to be used for a site-based housing program and appropriates one-time funding of \$3.5 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the Department of Health and Human Services to support the program.
★ LR 1357	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Decriminalize Homelessness		
LR 987	Sen. Trey Stewart	An Act to Require County and Town Funding for Homeless Shelters on a Per Capita Basis		
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
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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	Public Hearing 4/5 at 1pm 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	Public Hearing 4/14 at 10am 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	Public Hearing 4/5 at 1pm 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 1044	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	An Act 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	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to direct 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.
LD 1050	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Request a Federal Waiver for Presumptive Work Eligibility for Asylum Seekers	Public Hearing 3/21, and Work Session 3/22 in front of the Labor and Housing Committee. Voted OTP-AM	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	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	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 1203	Rep. Lori Gramlich	An Act to Ensure the Quality and Efficiency of Community Mental Health Services		
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	Public Hearing 4/4, Work Session 4/5 at 9AM in front of the Housing Committee (Cross Building Rm 216)	This bill establishes the Housing First Program within the Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate the delivery of stabilization and support services to residents of properties established or developed to provide permanent housing to persons who have been chronically homeless and to fund technical assistance, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, for the development of housing consistent with the program. The program is funded from the real estate transfer tax by depositing half of the funds that would otherwise be deposited into the General Fund into the Housing First Fund created by the bill.
LD 1074	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-Income Households	Referred to AFA Committee	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$100,000,000, will be used to build new affordable housing for low-income households through the construction of new structures and adaptive reuse of existing structures.



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	Public Hearing 4/11 at 1:30pm in front of 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, Work Session on 3/30, second work session on 4/5 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, 2 nd Work Session on 4/5.	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 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	Public Hearing 4/11 at 1:30pm in front of the 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	Public Hearing 4/14 at 9:01am in front of the 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 developing 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 held 2/16, Work Session 3/30, second work session 4/5 in front of the Judiciary Committee	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 tenant 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	Public Hearing 4/14 at 9am in front of 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 3/23, Work Session 3/30, second work session 4/5 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 690	Rep. Amy Roeder	An Act to Streamline Rental Application Screenings by Allowing Potential Tenants to Use Screening Services	Public Hearing 3/23, Work Session 3/30, second work session 4/5 in front of 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	Public Hearing 3/23, Work Session 3/30, second work session 4/5 in front of 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	Public Hearing 4/14 at 9am in front of 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 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	This bill requires the municipal officers or the officers' designee of a municipality to obtain or arrange for and maintain at least one housing unit within the municipality for every 1,000 residents of the municipality in order to provide living spaces for persons experiencing homelessness.
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?"
LD 1116	Rep. Laura Supica	An Act to Provide Rural Sober Living Housing for Mothers	Referred to Labor and Housing Committee	This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to contract for the construction of at least 15 housing units, to be located in certified recovery residences and in counties with a county seat of no more than 35,000 residents. The certified recovery residences are required to serve mothers recovering from substance use disorder and promote reunification with minor children and are required to be staffed with peer-to-peer staff. The bill establishes the Rural Recovery Residence Fund to receive funds to support the certified recovery residences. The bill requires that the Maine State Housing Authority distribute funds through a competitive bid process to grantees, who will provide a minimum of 1:1 matching funds.
LD 1154	Rep. David Woodsome	An Act Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units and Municipal Zoning Ordinances	Public Hearing 4/11 at 1:30pm in front of the Housing Committee	This bill would make changes to municipal zoning requirements. With respect to accessory dwelling units, municipal zoning ordinances may provide for allowing at least one accessory dwelling unit on a lot where a single-family dwelling unit is the principal structure. If more than one accessory dwelling unit has been constructed on a lot as a result of the allowance under this section or section 4364-A, the lot is not eligible for any additional increases in density except as allowed by the municipality.
LD 1265	Rep. Walter Riseman	An Act to Make Adjustments to Affordable Housing Requirements	Referred to the Housing Committee	Concept draft. This bill proposes to make adjustments to affordable housing requirements.



LD 1293	Rep. Drew Gattine	An Act to End Chronic Homelessness by Creating the Housing First Fund	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill establishes the Housing First Program within the Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate the delivery of stabilization and support services to residents of properties established or developed to provide permanent housing to persons who have been chronically homeless and to fund technical assistance, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, for the development of housing consistent with the program. The program is funded from the real estate transfer tax by depositing half of the funds that would otherwise be deposited into the General Fund into the Housing First Fund created by the bill.
LD 1294	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	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would implement certain recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals.
LD 1298	Rep. Charles Skold	An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing	Referred to Taxation Committee	This bill allows a municipality to impose a local option sales tax of 1% on short-term lodging that is subject to the state sales and use tax if approved by referendum of the voters in that municipality. The revenue from the local option sales tax must be distributed to the municipality imposing the local option sales tax. The distributed revenue must be used in municipal programs that support affordable housing development in that municipality, including rental assistance for lower income households or moderate-income households. Revenue received by a municipality may not be used to reduce or eliminate funding otherwise due the municipality under other provisions of law. The local option sales tax may not take effect before July 1, 2024.
LD 1310	Rep. Sophia Warren	An Act to Establish a State Emergency Rental Assistance Program	Public Hearing 4/14 at 9am in front of the Housing Committee	This bill establishes the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to supplement or create emergency rental assistance in order to mitigate the end of the federally funded emergency rental assistance programs established by Section 501 of Division N of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260 and Section 3201(a) of the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2.
LD 1358	Rep. Amy Kuhn	An Act to Clarify Density Bonus Eligibility for Affordable Housing Developments	Public Hearing 4/11 at 1:30pm in front of the Housing Committee	This bill changes the definition of "affordable housing development" in the laws governing affordable housing density to provide that an affordable housing development is a development in which a household whose income does not exceed certain levels can afford a majority of the units in the development without spending more than 30% of the household's monthly income on housing costs.

LD 1377	Rep. Nina Milliken	An Act to Provide Rental Assistance for Recovery Housing	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill creates the recovery residence rental assistance program and fund to provide rental assistance for up to 3 months in a certified recovery residence for an individual accepted to reside in or who resides in a certified recovery residence and who has an income at or below the federal poverty level. The program is required to provide at least 50% of2 the assistance to individuals who are members of marginalized groups, including but not limited to Black, indigenous or other persons of color, persons with differences in mental or physical abilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.
LD 1490	Rep. Chris Kessler	An Act to Reduce Rental Housing Costs by Eliminating Additional Fees at or Prior to the Commencement of Tenancy	Likely referral to Judiciary Committee	This bill provides that at or prior to the commencement of a tenancy, a landlord, the landlord's agent or a real estate broker may not require a tenant or prospective tenant to pay an amount in excess of the rent for the first full month of occupancy, a security deposit and the purchase and installation cost for a key and lock.
LD 1493	Rep. Raegan LaRochelle	An Act to Increase Affordable Housing by Expanding Tax Increment Financing	Likely referral to Taxation Committee	This bill authorizes the creation of Pine Tree Housing Zones to allow retained value resulting from a tax increment financing district in a municipality to be used anywhere in the municipality for the purposes of the purchase, rehabilitation or establishment of affordable and workforce housing in the municipality. The bill provides for a sales tax exemption for the associated purchasing of goods and services and electricity for a qualified project in a Pine Tree Housing Zone.
LR 2062	Rep. Charles Skold	An Act to Improve Affordability and Opportunity for Maine Renters and Landlords RE: State Housing Authorities		
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 1070	Rep. Amy Roeder	An Act to Increase Transparency for Landlords and Tenants		
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 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 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 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 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		

GENERAL ASSISTANCE & SAFETY NET BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
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LD 80	Rep. Meyer	An Act to Improve Family Economic Security Under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program	Passed to be Engrossed in the House on 3/28; Senate Read once and Accepted in concurrence on 3/30. Second Reading Forthcoming.	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	Public Hearing 4/7 at 10am 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	Public Hearing 4/7 at 10am 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
LD 1194	Sen. Harold Stewart	An Act to Implement Work Requirements Under the MaineCare Program	Public Hearing 4/7 at 10am HHS Committee	This bill establishes work requirements for certain individuals as a condition of participating in the MaineCare program. An individual is not eligible to participate in the MaineCare program unless that individual is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly;

				<p>B. Participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program 20 hours or more per week, as determined by the department;</p> <p>C. Volunteering 20 hours or more per week, as determined by the department;</p> <p>D. Meeting any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours or more per week, as determined by the department; or</p> <p>E. Participating in and complying with the requirements of a workfare program as implemented by the department. Exemptions from work requirement. The work requirement under subsection 27 does not apply to a MaineCare member if the member:</p> <p>A. Has not attained 19 years of age;</p> <p>B. Is 65 years of age or older;</p> <p>C. Is medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment;</p> <p>D. Is pregnant;</p> <p>E. Is a parent or caregiver responsible for the care of a dependent child under one year of age;</p> <p>F. Is a parent or caregiver personally providing care for a dependent child with a serious medical condition or disability, as determined by the department;</p> <p>G. Is receiving unemployment compensation and complying with work requirements that are part of the unemployment compensation system under Title 26, chapter 13; or</p> <p>H. Is participating in substance use disorder treatment, including alcohol use disorder treatment.</p>
LD 1426	Rep. Kristi Mathieson	An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance	Referred to HHS Committee	<p>This bill:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requires an overseer, no later than the 120th day following appointment or election, to complete training on the requirements of the municipal general assistance program; 2. Replaces, for determining the maximum level of assistance, the fair market value determination with setting the assistance at the equivalent amount of rental assistance provided for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 except that the benefit level may not be less than the difference between the applicant's income and 110% of the area's fair market rent; 3. Provides that if general assistance is being used to pay rent for an applicant whose rent is subject to a lease an overseer may redetermine the applicant's eligibility annually;

				<p>4. Increases from 70% to 90% the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by a municipality and each Indian tribe;</p> <p>5. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse each municipality for 5% of the direct costs of paying benefits incurred through its general assistance program;</p> <p>6. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and provide overseers with access to a statewide database for tracking applicants for the general assistance program and expenses relating to the program; and</p> <p>7. Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide assistance to municipalities with regard to processing applications for the general assistance program and directs the department to establish a hotline that is available 24 hours per day in order to provide consistent, accurate advice to overseers. It also requires the department to respond to requests for assistance within 24 hours</p>
LR 674	Rep. Michele Meyer	An Act to Amend the General Assistance Program Laws		
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	Senate READ and ACCEPTED the Committee Report &	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,

			Adopted Committee Amendment A. Second Reading forthcoming.	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		