

## 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.

**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.**

## HOMELESSNESS BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LR 1357	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Decriminalize Homelessness		
<a href="#">LD 1133</a>	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.
<a href="#">LD 1422</a>	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	<b>Public Hearing on 4/14 at 9:02AM in front of the Housing Committee</b>	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.

## SERVICE BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 302</a>	Rep. Colleen Madigan	An Act to Ensure Sufficient Rates for Behavioral Health Services	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill would direct DHHS to increase the rates for 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.
<a href="#">LD 1050</a>	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Request a Federal Waiver for Presumptive Work Eligibility for Asylum Seekers	<b>Senate and House Passed to be Engrossed as Amended. The bill now faces votes for enactment.</b>	This resolve directs the Commissioner of Labor to request a waiver from the US Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services to allow an asylum seeker who has applied for asylum and has not been denied, eligibility to work in the State for the 6-month period immediately after applying for asylum while awaiting a final determination and for the time period while an asylum seeker's work permit has expired and is pending renewal.
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		
	<b>HOUSING/RENTAL ASSISTANCE BILLS</b>				
	<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status &amp; Committee</b>	<b>Notes</b>
★	<a href="#">LD 2</a>	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis	<b>Public Hearing 4/4, Work Session held 4/7 in front of the Housing Committee</b>	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.
★	<a href="#">LD 1074</a>	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	\$100,000,000 bond issue to build new affordable housing for low-income households.
	<b>LR 2154</b>	<b>Sen. Craig Hickman</b>	<b>An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Construct Affordable Housing</b>		
★	<a href="#">LD 654</a>	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	Resolve, Directing the Finance Authority of Maine to Establish a Pilot Program to Encourage the Development of Affordable Accessory Dwelling Units	<b>Public Hearing held 4/11</b>	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.
★	LR 1001	Rep. Marc Malon	An Act to Promote Affordable Housing by Clarifying Statewide Land Use Laws		
★	<a href="#">LD 226</a>	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis	<b>Public Hearing 4/14 at 9:01am in front of the Housing Committee</b>	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.
	<a href="#">LD 724</a>	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	<b>Public Hearing on 4/14 at 9am, Work Session on 4/18 at 1PM in front of the Housing Committee</b>	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.
★	<a href="#">LD 1293</a>	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.
	<a href="#">LD 1540</a>	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Create the Stable Home Fund Program	<b>Public Hearing on 4/21 at 9AM in front of the Housing Committee</b>	This bill, which includes an emergency preamble and emergency clause, creates the Stable Home Fund and the Stable Home Fund Program within MaineHousing. The purpose of the program is to provide persons earning up to 60% of the median income for an area as defined by HUD with \$300 per month in rental assistance paid directly to the landlord for up to 24 months or until those persons secure housing

				by means of a housing voucher program administered by HUD under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, or secure a subsidized housing unit. The bill directs MaineHousing to administer the program except that MaineHousing may delegate the administration of the program and provide appropriate funding from the fund to a municipal housing authority with respect to eligible persons located within the municipal housing authority's jurisdiction.
<a href="#">LD 1593</a>	Sen. Ben Chipman	An Act to Increase Affordable Housing Development	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill removes minimum lot size requirements for any multiple unit housing. The bill removes dwelling unit density requirements for single-family or multifamily housing development. The bill removes minimum size requirements for accessory dwelling units outside of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. The bill also prohibits a municipality from adopting or enforcing any zoning restriction that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prohibits residential housing in any zoning district;</li> <li>2. Prohibits any existing allowed structure to be used as or converted for use to residential housing; or</li> <li>3. Imposes a unit size requirement for residential housing.</li> </ol>
<b>GENERAL ASSISTANCE &amp; SAFETY NET BILLS</b>				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 182</a>	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.
<a href="#">LD 183</a>	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, with some exceptions.
<a href="#">LD 668</a>	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.
<a href="#">LD 1426</a>	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	This bill: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> </ol>

				<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>
<a href="#">LD 1675</a>	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the General Assistance Program Regarding Eligibility, Housing Assistance and State Reimbursement and to Establish a Working Group	Likely Referred to HHS Committee	This bill amends the law governing the General Assistance (GA) program to provide that a municipality must calculate housing assistance equivalent to the amount of rental assistance provided for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937. The bill extends the period of eligibility from one month to 6 months. Beginning July 1, 2023, when a municipality incurs net general assistance costs in excess of 0.008% of that municipality's most recent state valuation relative to the state fiscal year for which reimbursement is being issued, DHHS must reimburse the municipality for 90% of the amount in excess of these expenditures. The bill also directs the department to establish a working group to study and make recommendations related to a uniform intake process and the conversion of the GA program into a housing assistance program.
LR 674	Rep. Michele Meyer	An Act to Amend the General Assistance Program Laws		
<b>FOOD SECURITY BILLS</b>				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 568</a>	Rep. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Provide Funding for the State Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives	<b>Passed to be Enacted in the House and Senate. Placed on the Special Appropriations Table</b>	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.
<a href="#">LD 1612</a>	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Address Food Insecurity and Support Local Agriculture	<b>Public Hearing on 4/19 at 9AM in front of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee</b>	This bill provides one-time funding for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to contract with the Preble Street Food Security Hub to help address food insecurity throughout the State. The department is required to report on the distribution of the funds by Preble Street.