

131ST LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION BILL TRACKING

The Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature begins January 3, 2024. Statutory adjournment is April 17, 2024.

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**; **Red text = the bill is now dead.**

BUDGET BILLS				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 2214	Governor’s Bill	An Act Making Unified Supplemental 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, 2024 and June 30, 2025 (aka Supplemental Budget)	<p>Public Hearing 2/23/24 - Part GG and Part HH - AFA Committee</p> <p>Public Hearing 2/26/24 - Part OO</p> <p>Work Session 3/7/24</p>	<p>The Governor released her Supplemental Budget. Part A; Part B; General Fund Bill Language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PART FF: establishes the Office of New Americans within the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and also establishes an advisory council to the Office of New Americans • PART GG: Transfers \$10,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority for new housing units through the Affordable Homeownership program • PART HH: \$16 million for the Emergency Housing Relief Fund (one-time funding): Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to supplement or establish programs addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness or facing other immediate housing needs, and support other uses that address housing emergencies in the State, such as through privately-operated low barrier shelter, winter warming shelters, legal services, and other wraparound settlement supports intended to help individuals integrate into Maine’s workforce and communities to ensure that winter warming shelters, lower barrier shelters, longer term shelters and transitional housing programs can remain open, operating, and supporting the emergency housing needs of Maine people. -Part A specifies this is one-time funding.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Part 00: This Part requires the transfer of \$5,000,000 on or before June 30, 2025 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, General Assistance – Reimbursement to Cities and Towns program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for funding General Assistance payments to cities and towns.
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HOMELESSNESS BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
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	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – CARRIED OVER	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.
LD 2136 ★	Rep A Mastraccio	An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals	Public Hearing, Tuesday 1/23/24; Work Session 1/30/24 and 2/20/24 – Housing Committee – OTP-AM unanimous of all present	This bill, as amended by the Committee, provides ongoing funds for homeless shelters – allocating \$10 million beginning next fiscal year, and \$2.5 million for low-barrier shelters. The Committee amendment makes the bill an emergency and adds a Legislative Study.
LD 2146	Rep. G Lookner	An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters	House Passed to be Engrossed by Committee Amendment A on 2/22; the Senate accepted the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report - sent back to the House.	This bill prohibits municipalities with populations exceeding 30,000 people from adopting moratoria on the establishment of emergency shelters that provide temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness.

SERVICE BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 540	Rep. Melanie Sachs	An Act to Establish Peer Respite Centers for Adults with Mental Health Challenges in Maine	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	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	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill provides ongoing funding for support services for a transitional housing program in Portland.
LD 1975	Rep. Lydia Crafts	An Act to Implement a Statewide Public Health Response to Substance Use and Amend the Laws Governing Scheduled Drugs	Public hearing held 1/17/24;	This bill establishes the Substance Use, Health and Safety Fund in the Department of Health and Human Services. Money deposited in the fund must be used by the department to oversee, approve and provide grants and funding to agencies, organizations and service providers, including the federally recognized Indian tribes in this State and service providers that are affiliated with federally recognized Indian tribes in this State, to increase voluntary access to community care for persons who need services related to substance use, as set forth in the bill. By June 30, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Legislature must appropriate to the fund an amount sufficient to fully fund the services as set forth in the bill. The bill repeals the laws that make possession of a schedule W, X, Y or Z drug and use of drug paraphernalia a crime. It also repeals the laws governing the civil violation of use of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia.
LD 2082	Sen. R Bennett	An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service and Housing Providers	Public Hearing 1/24/24; Work Session 2/6/24 and 3/6/24 – HHS Committee	This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to pay administrative expenses and interest charged on lines of credit or loans accessed by behavioral health services providers and housing assistance providers when a delay in department contract award, finalization or payments requires the provider to access the line of credit or loan.
LD 2237	Speaker R Talbot Ross	An Act to Strengthen Public Safety, Health and Well-being by Expanding Services and Coordinating Violence Prevention Resources	Public Hearing 3/4/24 – HHS Committee	<p>This bill includes parts A-F. Click here for the full bill text. Relevant parts are below.</p> <p>This bill enacts provisions to improve mental health crisis response services and to reduce violence, including gun violence.</p> <p>Part A provides funding to strengthen and expand mental health crisis intervention mobile response services in order to provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide for the incorporation of specific types of mental health and crisis intervention experts into the existing crisis services response system. It also provides funding for ancillary services for mobile response services, including necessary travel and telephone conferences with clients. Part A also requires the Department of Health and Human Services, by January 30, 2025, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, to ensure the coordination of services under the State's E-9-1-1 system and the State's 9-8-8 mobile crisis services system. By January 30, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services must submit a status report related to the</p>

				<p>coordination of services, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, and the joint standing committee may submit a bill relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.</p> <p>Part B directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish crisis receiving centers across the State to support individuals dealing with behavioral health, mental health or substance use issues. At a minimum, a crisis receiving center must be established in Androscoggin, Aroostook, Oxford, Penobscot, Washington and York counties. Crisis receiving centers must provide culturally sensitive trauma-informed care. Part B also provides funding to establish 6 crisis receiving centers.</p> <p>Part D provides funding to reduce waiting lists for and expand access to medication management services, including telehealth services and employee recruitment and retention incentives, provided by the Office of Behavioral Health that are similar to the services provided under Department of Health and Human Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, to meet the timely access requirements under the consent decree referenced in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 1217.</p>
2243	Sen. T Stewart	Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend MaineCare Rules Governing Certain Types of Behavioral and Mental Health Services and to Form a Stakeholder Group to Study Methods for Improving Those Services	Public Hearing on 3/7/24 at 2:30pm - HHS Committee	<p>This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend the MaineCare rules governing reimbursement for outpatient behavioral health services provided in public schools under the MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapters II and III, Section 65 and for services provided in residential treatment facilities for persons with mental illness and in specialized or scattered residential treatment facilities as described in the MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 97, Appendices E and F, respectively. The department must initiate the rule-making process immediately after the resolve goes into effect, and the rules must remain in effect until the department completes a full rate determination. Finally, the resolve requires the department to form a stakeholder group to study how to develop more sustainable models of outpatient and residential mental and behavioral health treatment services and how to increase access to those services within the State. By January 1, 2025, the stakeholder group must submit a report to the department, and by January 15, 2025, the department must submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters a summary of the report based on the stakeholder group's findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out legislation.</p>
HOUSING/RENTAL ASSISTANCE BILLS				

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1074 ★	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-Income Households	Public Hearing on 4/25 - AFA Committee – Carried over	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 226 ★	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Address Maine’s Affordable Housing Crisis	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill provides one-time funds to MaineHousing in the amount of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and in fiscal year 2024-25 (only these FYs) to increase affordable housing stock in the State.
LD 337	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing	Public Hearing, Tuesday 1/23/24; Work Session 1/30/24 – Housing Committee voted OTP-AM	Sponsor Amendment replaces the entire concept draft bill: This amendment aims to increase affordable housing by allowing manufactured housing (modular and “newer mobile homes” as defined) to be located on lots where single family homes are allowed. This includes only 1) “newer mobile homes” built after 1976 that are constructed in compliance with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development standards, and 2) modular homes that the manufacturer certifies are constructed in compliance with Title 10, chapter 951, and rules adopted under that chapter.
LD 853	Rep. Benjamin Collings	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to Housing	Public Hearing, Tuesday 1/23/24; Work Session 1/30/24 & 2/6/24 – Housing Committee – Divided Report	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 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	House Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment A on 2/28/24; Senate Read once on 2/29/24 and assigned to next Legislative Day.	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	Public Hearing 2/13; Work Session 2/13/24	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

			and 2/27/24 – Taxation Committee - Divided Report	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 1490	Rep. Chris Kessler	An Act to Reduce Rental Housing Costs by Eliminating Additional Fees at or Prior to the Commencement of Tenancy	Work Session held 1/16/24 – Judiciary Committee – Divided Report	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	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	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.
LD 1505	Rep. Kristen Cloutier	An Act to Amend the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act	Signed by the Governor - will become Public Law	This bill amends the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act to include group equity cooperatives. It also provides that a housing assistance program must be made reasonably available to residents of housing cooperatives.
LD 1540	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Create the Stable Home Fund Program	Emergency bill requiring 2/3's majority vote – failed 2/3's majority vote in the House but Passed in the Senate to be Placed on the Special Appropriations Table on 6/21. Sent back to the House for concurrence where it failed 2/3's needed for final passage – Carried over	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.
LD 1672	Rep. Traci Gere	An Act to Establish an Affordable Housing Permitting Process	Public Hearing held 1/5/24; Work Session 1/26/24 and 2/6/24 –	This bill establishes the Affordable Housing Development Review Board under the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning

			Housing Committee – Voted ONTP	in order to issue permits for the development of affordable housing and workforce housing.
LD 1673	Rep. Traci Gere	An Act to Encourage Affordable Housing and Mixed-use Development by Establishing a Thriving Corridors Program	Public Hearing on 5/12; Work Session 1/12/24; Work Session 1/26/24 – Housing Committee – Unanimous OTP-AM	As Amended, this bill would establish a resolve to create a working group to design a cross-agency plan. The Working Group would consist of the Commissioners of: DOT, EPA, DECD, ACF, Housing, GOPIF.
LD 1710	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program	Public Hearing on 5/12; Work Session 5/26; Work Session 5/30; Work Session 2/13/24 – Housing Committee – OTP-AM	Sponsor Amendment amends the bill as follows: This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment requires the Maine State Housing Authority to establish and administer the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program. The program must include a rental assistance component to assist individuals with the cost of rent and a rental guarantee component to encourage landlords to work with the program and other rental assistance programs in the State. The amendment also creates the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund under the Maine State Housing Authority to carry out the program. The bill appropriates \$16,000,000 of ongoing funds annually. The amendment makes it an unfair trade practice for a landlord to refuse to participate in a federal, state or local tenant-based rental assistance program.
LD 1721	Sen. Jill Duson	An Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations in the State	Passed to be Enacted in the House on 2/27/24 and the Senate on 2/28. This bill now goes to the Governor for signature.	This bill creates the Transitional Housing Community Construction Program Fund under MaineHousing to create transitional housing communities, which are clusters of transitional housing dwelling units for homeless individuals and families to provide stability and to allow the individuals and families to transition to permanent housing. The bill directs that transitional housing communities be created throughout the State designed to cover all 16 counties. The bill directs DHHS, through independent housing services under its administration of assisted housing programs, to coordinate, arrange or provide services including job training and health care services for residents of transitional housing communities. The bill also provides one-time funding MaineHousing to create transitional housing communities and funding to the department to provide independent housing services to residents of transitional housing.
LD 1867	Rep. Grayson Lookner	An Act to Establish the Community Housing and Rural Development Authority	Passed to be Enacted in the House on 2/27/24; on 2/28 Senate Placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted.	This bill establishes the Community Housing and Rural Development Authority within the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to develop, own, lease and maintain mixed-income, permanently affordable public residential housing in this State.

LD 2106 	Sen. M Rotundo	An Act to Accelerate the Production of Housing and Strengthen the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit	Public Hearing 1/24/24; Work Session 2/13 – Taxation Committee – Divided Report	This bill increases the maximum tax credit allowed for certified historic property rehabilitation projects. It also allows nonprofit organizations that claim the historic preservation tax credit or the affordable housing tax credit to file their refund claims on a calendar year basis. The changes in the bill apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.
LD 2158	Rep. C Golek	An Act to Improve the Housing Voucher System	Public Hearing 1/30/24; Work Session 2/2/24 and 2/20/24 – Housing Committee - OTP-AM	<p>This bill does the following regarding housing vouchers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It requires MaineHousing to collect data regarding and to submit applications to HUD for waivers that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Allow MaineHousing to enter into contracts at a higher rate than the fair market rental rate as established by HUD. The waiver may not result in fewer housing vouchers being issued than before the waiver was obtained; B. Allow MaineHousing or a municipal housing authority to establish reasonable time limits for the use of housing vouchers issued by the MaineHousing or the municipal housing authority; and C. Allow MaineHousing or a municipal housing authority to issue housing vouchers that may be used upon issuance anywhere within the State. 2. Contingent upon approval of a waiver, it codifies under the powers and duties of MaineHousing the power authorized by each waiver. 3. It requires MaineHousing to submit: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Suggested legislation that requires all housing authorities or public corporations created or authorized pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 201 to conform their housing voucher programs to the housing voucher program administered by MaineHousing; and B. A report detailing its efforts to obtain the 3 waivers from HUD. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters is authorized to report out to the 132nd Legislature in 2025 legislation related to the report and suggested legislation submitted by MaineHousing.
LD 2169	Sen. M Daughtry	An Act to Create Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine	Public Hearing 2/6/24; Work Session 2/13/24, 2/27/24, and 3/5/24 – Housing Committee	This bill establishes the Workforce Housing Development Loan Fund in the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide loans to support the development of affordable workforce housing. The department must solicit applications for loans from the fund through a competitive application process. Loans may be awarded to community banks at an interest rate of 0% to provide funding to housing developers to develop housing for employees who earn 60% to 120% of the area median income as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
LD 2209	Committee Bill	An Act to Increase the Cap on Bonds Issued by the Maine State Housing Authority to Reflect Current Housing Production Needs in the State	Public Hearing and Work Session on 2/20/24 – Housing Committee - OTP-AM	This committee bill is presented by the Joint Select Committee on Housing pursuant to Joint Order 2023, H.P. 3, section 3. The bill increases the cap on mortgage purchase bonds authorized to be issued by the Maine State Housing Authority to align with current housing production needs in the State.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE & SAFETY NET BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1664	Sen. Marianne Moore	An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe.
LD 1732	Rep. Michele Meyer	An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program	1/30/24 Work Session – HHS Committee – Voted OTP-AM	This bill changes the municipal general assistance program in the following ways: 1. It requires overseers and designated or appointed municipal officials administering the program to complete training within 120 days of election or appointment; 2. It requires municipalities to accept applications for general assistance during regular business hours; 3. It amends provisions governing the municipality of responsibility to increase the provision of assistance from 30 days to 6 months when a municipality assists an applicant in relocating to another community and from 6 months to 12 months when an applicant is residing in a group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home or hospital or in a hotel, motel or other temporary housing; 4. It increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe. It also provides that, if a municipality elects to determine need without consideration of funds from a municipally controlled trust, the State is required to reimburse the municipality for 66 2/3% of the amount in excess of expenditures; 5. It provides state reimbursement for additional program costs, including emergency general assistance, temporary housing, interpreter services and administrative expenses; and 6. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide the services necessary to support municipalities, including education and training for certain state employees the delivery of trauma-informed and culturally and linguistically appropriate services, written decisions and a database.

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	Passed to be Enacted in the House and Senate. Placed on the Special Appropriations Table – Carried over	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.

LD 1584	Rep. Holly Stover	An Act to Provide Funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to Temporarily Restore Benefits Being Reduced by the Federal Government	Passed to be Enacted in the House and Senate. Placed on the Special Appropriations Table – Carried over	Under the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Federal Government provided emergency benefit allotments under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. These emergency benefit allotments are scheduled to expire March 1, 2023. This bill extends for 6 months, but on a decreasing basis, the amount of benefits available under SNAP by providing General Fund funds to provide the following level of benefits: 1. In March 2023, 100% of the federal emergency benefit allotment; 2. In April 2023, 75% of the federal emergency benefit allotment; 3. In May 2023, 50% of the federal emergency benefit allotment; and 4. From June through August 2023, 25% of the federal emergency benefit allotment. Beginning in September 2023, an additional amount is not provided.
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BILLS THE ARE NOW DEAD

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 2138	Rep C Madigan	An Act to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters	This bill is now DEAD (instead incorporated in LD 2136 above)	This resolve, as amended by the Sponsor, provides ongoing funds for low-barrier homeless shelters – allocating \$2.5 million beginning next fiscal year.
LD 328	Sen. Trey Stewart	An Act to Improve Mental Health in Maine	This bill is now DEAD	This bill brings MaineCare regulations into alignment with Dartmouth Assertive Community Treatment Scale fidelity items, ensuring high-quality, evidence based Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) services for Maine residents with psychotic disorders and high needs.
LD 1633	Sen. Pinny Beebe-Center	An Act to Establish a Community-based Reentry Program in All Department of Corrections Facilities	This bill is now DEAD	This bill creates a community-based reentry program administered by a community based organization at each correctional facility operated by the Department of Corrections. The program is a peer-supported program that provides individualized reentry plans to incarcerated individuals starting from 2 years prior to an individual's release, involving multiple meetings to determine the individual's education, job training, substance use disorder treatment, housing and other needs subsequent to release and follow-up meetings after release to support the individual's reentry into the community and to reduce or prevent recidivism. This bill also creates the Peer Reentry Review Board, which oversees, advises, studies data and makes recommendations to the community-based reentry program and reports to the Commissioner of Corrections and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters.
LD 314	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine	This Bill is now DEAD	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 371	Sen. Jeffrey Timberlake	An Act to Address Certain Local Zoning Ordinances	This bill is now DEAD	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	This Bill is now DEAD	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 721	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Preserve Historic Buildings and Promote Affordable Housing	This Bill is now DEAD	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 1864	Rep. James Boyle	An Act to Increase Maine's Housing Supply by Prohibiting Certain Zoning Requirements in Areas Where Public Sewer and Water Infrastructure Are Available and in Designated Growth Areas	This Bill is now DEAD	This bill provides restrictions on municipal ordinance requirements related to minimum lot size in areas where water and sewer infrastructure are available and in areas where water and sewer infrastructure are not available but that are within designated growth areas. For a housing development served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system and that is located in an area in which dwelling units are allowed, a municipality must allow a dwelling unit on a lot with a minimum size of 5,000 square feet. For a housing development located in a designated growth area that is not served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system, that complies with minimum lot size requirements in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 423-A and that is located in an area in which dwelling units are allowed, a municipality must allow a dwelling unit on a lot with a minimum size of 20,000 square feet. The bill also provides limits to ordinance provisions relating to lot coverage, road frontage and setback requirements.
LD 1904	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Enact the Fair Chance Housing Act	This Bill is now DEAD	This bill establishes the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act, the purpose of which is to ensure that a person is not denied housing based solely on the existence of a history of criminal convictions. This bill prohibits a housing provider from considering an applicant's criminal history until after the housing provider determines that the applicant meets all other qualifications for tenancy. A person who is aggrieved by a violation of the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act by a housing provider may file a grievance with the Maine Human Rights Commission and, if it is a violation by a private housing provider, may bring a civil action in court.

LD 1426	Rep. Kristi Mathieson	An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance	This bill is now DEAD	This bill: <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; 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; 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; 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 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
LD 1675	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	This bill is now DEAD	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.

LD 1940	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Promote Consistent Policies within Growth Management Programs in Order to Increase Food Security and Economic Resiliency in Local Communities	This Bill is now DEAD	<p>This bill amends the laws governing planning and land use regulation to encourage:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Municipalities to ensure that the language and requirements in charters, policies, codes, regulations, bylaws and fees align with each other and meet the overall intent of the comprehensive plan approved by the legislative body; 2. Municipalities to develop policies that assess community needs and environmental, food security and economic resiliency effects of municipal regulations, lessen the effect of excessive parking requirements for buildings in downtowns and on main streets and provide for alternative approaches for compliance relating to the reuse of upper floors of buildings in downtowns and on main streets; and 3. In the development of affordable housing, municipalities and multimunicipal regions to establish policies that assess food security and economic resiliency effects of municipal regulations.
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