

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Remote Meeting

**Thursday, March 16, 2023
8:30 AM**

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions – HVJ facilitating

- a. Adam Harr, Executive Assistant is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Remote Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Time: Mar 16, 2023 08:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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- b. Approval of minutes (5 minutes)
- 2. **Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics**
 - a. February, 2023 (15 Minutes)
- 3. **Updates and dialogue on the current and developing state of the emergency shelter system (30 minutes)**
- 4. **Region I update – Jenny Stasio (10 minutes)**
- 5. **Cumberland County Service Hub update – United Way (5 minutes)**
- 6. **Federal, State, and Local Legislation update (Cullen Ryan, others) – (15 minutes)**
 - a. Bill Tracking
- 7. **Other items, updates, and announcements – (10 minutes)**

Next Meeting

April 20, 2023

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Location: Remote Meeting

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Remote Meeting

Thursday, February 16, 2023

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland	Norm Maze	Shalom House
Anne-Marie Brown	UWSM	Brian Townsend	Amistad
Vickey Merrill	CHOM	Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors
Mike Guthrie	City of Portland	Ben Martineau	HVJ
Cullen Ryan	CHOM	Lauren Chan	City of Portland
Devon Stockmayer	Preble Street	Mike Merrill	VOA
Taylor Cray	Preble Street	Regina Philips	Portland City Council (District 3)
Jim Devine	HVJ	Terrence Miller	Preble Street
Scott Morrison	Resident	Sarah Michniewicz	BNA
George Rheault	Resident		

Meeting Summary

The meeting started with approval of the 2024 City ESG budget. FEMA reimbursement will go away in mid-April which will prompt the State's ramping down using the hotels. The Homeless Services Center is set to open in the last two weeks of March, depending on when the certificate of occupancy is issued but will already be at capacity when it opens. We continue to see an

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

influx of single asylum seekers via California. The first day of the warming center served 65 during peak hours and 120 on the Saturday. Sean Yardley is the new chair of the Statewide Homeless council. With the start of the session, bill tracking is still being defined as they consolidate, with LR1357 an act to decriminalize homelessness one to follow.

Introductions

- Aaron moved to approve the minutes; Taylor seconded and the minutes were approved unopposed.
- Can we put the recorded meetings online?

ESG Budget

- ESAC sees this budget every year to approve the ESG allocation the City of Portland receives from HUD. The allocation hasn't been released and is assumed to be the same as last year: \$163,813. FY24's allocation ask is the same as FY23.
 - HMIS
 - Service work at FS
 - Homeless Prevention at OSS
 - RRH at OSS
- Aaron MOVED Recommend to approve the FY24 ESG budget as presented with the knowledge the budget would be adjusted proportionally based on the final allocation. Brian SECONDED. No DISCUSSION and the MOTION PASSED unanimously with none opposed.
- The City Council will take up HUD funding with recommendation

January, 2023 Statistics

- Available online: <https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/b59b3e26-ce26-41de-8d4f-1b725efe08a3?cache=1800>

Update on Area Hotels and housing and shelter situation

- South Portland voted to extend Comfort Inn and Days Inn hotels through April at the request of the hotel owner.
 - Effort to consolidate into one hotel as the hotel owner wants to begin renovations at the Comfort Inn.
 - Anyone over the Days Inn would go to Howard Johnson as they were not under the same restriction.
- Unofficially, all hotels would go back to their regular use at the end of June.
- FEMA reimbursement will go away in mid-April which will prompt the State's ramping down using the hotels.

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- The Homeless Services Center is set to open in the last two weeks of March, depending on when the certificate of occupancy is issued.
- Do we anticipate the influx of individuals from CA to remain and is there a plan?
 - There is not a plan and we continue to ask the State for support and to create a State Resettlement division.
 - The services asylum seekers and circumstantially homeless are vastly different.
 - This is shown on the shuttle rides such as going to MIRC and ILAP
- Is there going to be an effort to direct people in the hotels to the HSC?
 - The Days Inn is an extension of OSS and 60 of the 72 in the Days Inn will go to the HSC with the people staying at OSS proper.
- If someone is CTOD from OSS does that carry over to the HSC?
 - It likely it would.
 - The HSC will be full on night one.
 - There is a chance people won't go to the HSC since it is off the peninsula.
 - Will there not be amnesty?
 - Are capturing the number of people being turned away from OSS?
 - The purpose of ESAC is monitoring our shelter needs and we should track this number and discuss what we can do about it.
- How will people know if there is room at the shelter before heading out to Riverside?
 - There is an app that lets people know how many beds are available.
- It is impressive that the City and service providers have come together to make a comprehensive service center and that a project of this size is on track.
- There was a commitment for a shuttle service and bus service. What's going on with the HSC should be on the agenda.
 - The shuttle is part of the management plan will run directly from the HSC. The bus stop is across the street on Forest Ave. and the HOME Team will fill gas on an emergency basis and OSS will issue taxi vouchers as needed. We will have wrap around services on-site lowering the need for transportation to appointments.

Winter planning discussion - Group conversation (15 minutes)

- RFP for Winter Warming Center will need to be reported here.
- 1st day served 65 during peak hours and 120 on the Saturday.
 - Found three people sleeping outside.
- Thank you to the people that made sure people were safe during the cold snap.

Region I update – Jenny Stasio, others (10 minutes)

- Updates from HVJ
- State and federal updates
- ERA status and extension for another month or two

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Winter warming center Seeds of Hope and York County Shelter extended day space to the evenings.
- Portland Warming Center efforts.
- Statewide Homeless council: Sean Yardley is the new chair.
- 2 new MaineHousing RFPS winter warming center and an expansion of shelter capacity one time.
- Spike in fatal overdoses

Cumberland County Service Hub update - United Way (5 minutes)

- Remain in the hiring process.
- 3/9 Hubs have been piloting Coordinated Entry. Not rolling out the CE in Cumberland County until the Hub COorindat4d is up and running. Emil Mead from Hub 5 will support us.
 - Offering training
- Will expand CE access points when the Hub Coordinator comes on.

Federal, State, and Local Legislation update (Cullen Ryan, others) - (20 minutes)

- Federal
 - The debt ceiling will be a fight but likely will be resolved before default.
 - House wants to cap funding at 22 levels.
 - President Biden wants to end veteran's homelessness and a renter's bill of rights.
 - Continuous coverage requirement ending could jeopardize healthcare access.
 - Mental Health and SUD for people experiencing homelessness.
 - Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act.
 - Rule Change on VAWA helps some protections. Changes definition of domestic violence to include technological and financial abuse.
 - HOTMA streamlines section 8 and will see a final rule published.
 - Affirmatively furthering fair housing.
- State
 - \$30 million to expand affordable rental housing in Governor's budget.
 - Bill to supplement appropriations from the general fund to get proper government funds.
 - \$21 million for emergency housing relief: the warming centers and long term solution due February 24th.
 - LR1357 an act to decriminalize homelessness.
 - Can't arrest our way out of homelessness.
 - Working with the Speaker's office to draft some language on alternatives to incarceration for being arrested for daily living activities that would not be illegal if done in a private space.
 - HVJ doing outreach to the police academy to change policing from the start.
 - Student homelessness

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- MaineCare Rates
- Peer respite centers
- Peer support services
- Jill Duson has an act to support asylum seekers.
- Speaker has 9 housing bills.
 - LD2 has everything the Maine Homeless Policy recommended and put it into one bill.
- \$100 million general bond for housing.
- GA bills.
- 9 month time limit on TANF and 45 day residency and welfare work requirements will need education that poverty doesn't work on a time frame.
- Some GA bills will be helpful.
- Food insecurity bills.
- Things will come up quickly; advocacy will be needed.
- Bill tracking will be sent out on Friday afternoons.
 - Contact Vickey to be added to the list.

Other items, updates, and announcements – (10 minutes)

- Rollout of the HSC to be an active up front agenda item.
 - Danger is people thinking this will fix the problem when it is already at capacity.
- Next meeting is March 16, 2023.

Meeting adjourned approximately at 9:48 AM.

LD 2 – An Act To Address Maine’s Housing Crisis

Summary: This bill focuses resources to ensure people have access to housing or safety net services so that homelessness is avoided entirely or rare, brief, and one time when it occurs. Policies and resources are focused on lowering barriers and adequately funding homeless shelters, creating alternatives for people unsheltered due to lack of access to shelters, increasing the supply of housing including low-income and supportive housing, ensuring an adequate safety net by improving and simplifying General Assistance laws and policies, enhancing diversion efforts, creating flexible housing stability workers, and supporting other efforts that simplify efforts to end homelessness in Maine.

Priorities:

- ✓ **Fund emergency shelters. Develop longer-term sustainable resources for emergency shelters, promote the transition to low-barrier shelters and non-congregate shelters, and fund shelter operations and further best practices.**
- ✓ **End outdoor homelessness. Advocate for resources to establish 30-40 motel or non-congregate accommodations across the state for Long Term Stayers who remain unsheltered due to a lack of access to shelter or housing.**
- ✓ **Ensure an adequate supply of housing. Increase the supply of low-income and supportive housing.**
- ✓ **Ensure there is an adequate safety net. Improve and simplify General Assistance (GA) laws/policies to remove barriers and simplify access/use specifically for housing, and focus on diversion, preventing people from becoming homeless.**
- ✓ **Create Flexible Housing Stability Workers. Use these positions to engage challenging populations, ensure continuity of care, and stabilize people in permanent supportive housing.**
- ✓ **Support the Decriminalization of Homelessness. Housing is less expensive and much more effective than jail. Properly serve people with serious and persistent mental illness and substance use disorders and solve for housing in Maine’s approach.**

1. Goal I - Shelters/coordination from homelessness through to housing/sharing of best practices:

- ➔ Develop longer-term, sustainable resources for shelters, including low-barrier and non-congregate shelters. Fund shelter operations and further best practices. Implement best practices; scaffold up funding to fully deliver these best practices.
 - Invest in adapting shelter settings to lower barriers and accommodate needs.
 - Ensure there are warming/cooling centers and other sufficient locations for people to go in all worrisome weather and look to ensure an adequate supply of accessible sanitation facilities for people who are outside.
 - Boost outreach and housing first response to unsheltered homelessness and encampments. Be proactive, preventive, and solution oriented.
- ➔ Set aside resources to establish 30-40 motel or non-congregate accommodations in areas across the state for people languishing outside - Long Term Stayers who remain unsheltered due to a lack of access to shelter or housing. Hoteling people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, when done correctly, has been a successful intervention with long term benefits because of being person centered and trauma informed. Continue this practice for this specific population and include wrap around resources services adequate to meet the needs while placed in hotels and help them secure permanent supportive housing. Focus in particular on the needs of older and medically compromised individuals.

2. Goal II Housing and Rental Subsidies:

- ➔ Increase the supply of low-income and supportive housing.
 - Make sure we achieve the gains from LD 2003 which allows for the development of duplexes, accessory dwelling units, and in some cases, 3- or 4-unit buildings.
 - Support LR 358, the affordable housing bond.
- ➔ Ensure there is an adequate safety net. Examine barriers including restrictions that result in people being barred from General Assistance (GA) as a safety net for 120 days.
 - Simplify the GA law so it is easy to read and interpret, and particularly – follow, with special emphasis on emergency assistance portions of the law.
 - Eliminate the dual penalty that can result in people losing GA and Food Stamps for a technicality.

- Ensure state enforcement of GA policies. Ensure clear and supportive appeal process.
- Look at a longer presumptive eligibility period – 60 or 90 days – particularly for housing assistance.
- Ensure all people are served locally.
 - Ensure training can be provided so GA is widely understood and any of the support providers are able to intervene and help.
- Ensure emergency assistance can be used for eviction prevention to pay rent or arrears.
- Examine the needs of people just over income qualifications (homeowners who can't stay due to building shortcomings or substandard living situations, and older populations). Make sure people in challenging situations have a "helper" (community resource navigator) with navigating resources and meeting needs.
- Collect data about GA distribution changes due to the disappearance of the Emergency Rental Assistance program.
- Ensure people who cannot access home care receive navigation services to successfully access resources and maintain their housing (remove trash, address hygiene issues, etc.) so that they won't be evicted for these issues. (This is duplicated under support services as it fits in both)
- Create a wraparound diversion resource to accompany the safety net to divert people from entering homelessness. This might involve helping people navigate complexities or paying a bill to allow someone to maintain their housing or paying for a new tire so a car can pass inspection and perpetuate successful employment.

3. Goal III Support Services for SPMI, SUD, TBI:

- ➔ Create Flexible Outreach Workers known as "Housing Stability Workers" both for permanent supportive housing (to fill in gaps in MaineCare funded services) and to expand homeless youth and adult resources in Maine (to enhance HUD investments from the YHDP). Have this be a general appropriations bill covering all populations. Look to other state models to replicate in Maine.
 - Create Housing Stability Workers to fill gaps in the continuum. Ensure they have flexibility for continuity of care.
 - Ensure people who cannot access home care receive navigation services to successfully maintain their housing (remove trash, address hygiene issues, etc.) so that they won't be evicted for these issues. (This is duplicated under GA above as it fits in both).
 - Ensure Housing Stability Workers are community-based.
 - Ensure Housing Stability Workers are collectively able to cover the state.
 - Ensure at least some Housing Stability Workers are placed or fairly distributed to agencies to pay for flexible support services. This will provide homeless service agencies flexible funds to hire people who can meet client's housing and stability needs. Make sure hiring protocols do not require a mental health license – set this effort up to hire people who are good at going out and engaging the population and providing outreach support. Create an RFP to supplement MaineCare to cover funding shortcomings for service provision, ensuring the viability of MaineCare funded services.
 - Ensure that Housing Stability Workers are not time limited in their interventions – they need to be flexible to offer up to permanent support, while working to have MaineCare funded services successfully step in whenever possible. To be successful, their role must not be unnecessarily or arbitrarily abbreviated and must instead be flexible on a case-by-case basis, to meet the success needs of each person served.
 - Ensure referrals out to behavioral health services are a core goal, but there can be any amount of overlap necessary to ensure success.
 - Include the ability to focus on the needs of older and medically compromised individuals, families with children, transition-aged unaccompanied youth, and people transitioning from criminal justice system.
 - Include diversion resources to mitigate crises and keep households stable. Set aside housing stability funds to be applied surgically and sparingly to keep people stable.
-

Separate legislative effort (LR 1357):

4. Goal IV Addressing issues underlying of homelessness:

- ➔ Decriminalize homelessness. Focus specifically on the decriminalization aspects which may be more feasible and may save money. Consider aspects of Cori Bush's Federal Homeless Bill of Rights. Align with Rep. Victoria Morales' previous legislation. [17A in the Maine Criminal Courts – reference AG template for municipalities].
 - Look at this as an umbrella approach – an overarching principle of the other legislation.
 - It may be possible to include the right to counsel here (this is to slowly build understanding and buy in for future legislation).
 - Consider the right to shelter or housing.
 - Be proactive with resolving evictions.
 - Fund public defender office in the state. (This may be so huge that it could pose an issue for the success of this bill)
 - Increase funding for civil legal services.
 - Ensure this is examined through a racial equity and restorative justice lens.
 - Create a defense to certain charges based on the fact that the person is unhoused.
 - Explore whether Veteran or homeless courts can be a tool to prevent homelessness.
- ➔ Find pathways to strict data requirements such that there is real time data about evictions for landlords, but longer-term issues can be expunged.
 - Create data protection for tenants similar to data protections for borrowers.
 - Support homeless prevention by assisting people with issues that may cause homelessness, such as inability to remove trash or address hygiene issues. Support people with cognitive decline or dementia that may lead to homelessness.

Federal Legislation Update

BUDGET & FUNDING-RELATED ITEMS - Updates

Debt ceiling & Proposed Federal Budget Cuts – No New Update – UPDATE: Pre NLIHC, U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on the Budget Chair Jodey Arrington (R-TX) released a [list](#) of potential federal spending cuts, totaling almost \$1.3 trillion. The list was released the day after President Biden delivered his State of the Union address, in which the President repeatedly pledged to fight against any Republican attempt to make dramatic spending cuts a condition for raising the debt ceiling. *PREVIOUS: On 1/19, per NLIHC U.S. Department of the Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen announced that the federal government had reached its statutory debt limit and that Treasury would begin implementing "extraordinary measures" to avoid a default. Negotiations about the raising of the debt limit that play out in Congress over the next year are likely to involve questions about federal funding for domestic programs, including housing and homelessness services.*

➡ **President Biden's FY 24 Budget – New** – President Biden is expected to unveil a topline summary of his FY 24 budget request on Thursday, 3/9, with more details to follow during the week of 3/13.

➡ **Senate Appropriations Committee Begins work on FY 24 budget process – New** – The Senate Committee on Appropriations, led by Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Susan Collins (R-ME), held its first full committee meeting on 3/2 to begin planning a path towards a fiscal year (FY) 2024 budget agreement. Appropriations season will officially kick off after President Joe Biden releases a topline summary of his FY24 budget request on 3/9.

Anticipated Budget Resolution & FY 24 Budget – No New Update – Per CBPP, House Republicans are expected to release an annual budget resolution that calls for large health care cuts, and Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) marketplace coverage are likely to be prime targets. House Republican leaders are calling for cutting the deficit and making the Trump tax cuts permanent, while saying they will shield certain areas of the budget (Medicare, Social Security, and military spending) from cuts. To do all these things at once, it is highly likely they will propose cuts in health programs that provide coverage to millions of people. And per NLIHC, there are reports suggesting that House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) has committed to slashing federal spending by capping FY 24 appropriations at FY 22 levels. Speaker McCarthy and many of his Republican colleagues in the House have vowed that the roughly \$130 billion in anticipated cuts will focus entirely on non-defense spending. In response to this Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), ranking member of the House Committee on Appropriations, sent letters to several federal agencies on 1/19 requesting information about the impacts of budget cuts on crucial federal programs, including affordable housing and homelessness services programs managed by HUD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

➡ **Dear Colleague Letter Re. FY 24 funding for children and youth experiencing homelessness – New** – A bipartisan "Dear Colleague" letter is circulating in the House that calls for \$800 million for the McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program and \$300 million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) program in the FY2024 budget. The letter is authored by Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-IL), Congressman Don Bacon (R-NE), and Congressman Jimmy Panetta (D-CA).

Biden calls for ending Veteran Homelessness in State of the Union Address – No New Update – President Biden delivered the State of the Union address before a joint session of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate on February 7. President Biden called for increased investments in quality and affordable housing and additional resources to end veteran homelessness.

Biden Administration Releases Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights – No New Update – On 1/25, the Administration announced new actions to protect renters and promote rental affordability, as well as a [Blueprint](#) for a Renters Bill of Rights. Among the new actions the White House announced are:

- The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) will launch a public process to examine proposed renter protections and anti-rent gouging measures for new federally-backed mortgages.
- The administration will hold quarterly meetings with renters and advocates to continue the conversation on renter protections, and will launch a Resident-Centered Housing Challenge, a call to action to housing providers and other stakeholders to commit to renter protections.
- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) will collect information to identify unfair practices that prevent tenants from accessing or staying in housing, informing each agency's enforcement actions. This is the first time the FTC has acted on renter protections.
- The CFPB will issue guidance and coordinate with the FTC on enforcement to ensure accurate credit reporting.
- HUD will publish a notice of proposed rulemaking to implement the 30-day-notice requirement enacted by Congress through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

President Biden's National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health – No new update – On 9/27 the Biden Administration announced its [plan to end hunger](#) in the US by 2030. Under the Plan, SNAP eligibility would be expanded, children would get better access to free meals, and summer benefits would be extended to more school-aged children. These changes would require congressional approval.

BILLS - Updates

End to Medicaid "Continuous Coverage" Requirement – No New Update – Per NLIHC, Medicaid's "continuous coverage" requirement, which prevents states from disenrolling anyone from Medicaid even if their income or household size has changed, will

end on March 31. This change could threaten healthcare access for people with low incomes and people experiencing homelessness.

HR 773 Homelessness and Behavioral Health Care Coordination Act – No New Update – On 2/2 Rep. Madeleine Dean reintroduced HR 773, the Homelessness and Behavioral Health Care Coordination Act, co-sponsored by Rep. Sylvia Garcia. This bill would help people experiencing homelessness and behavioral health issues, including substance use disorder, access critical supportive services by authorizing a grant program within HUD to help state and local governments, tribal entities, public housing agencies, and Continuums of Care better coordinate services for behavioral health, including substance use disorder and homelessness.

Asylum Seekers Work Authorization Act of 2023 – No New Update – On 2/3 Senators Collins and Sinema reintroduced the Asylum Seekers Work Authorization Act of 2023, which would make asylum seekers eligible to receive work authorizations starting 30 days after filing an asylum application. Senator King is an original co-sponsor.

HR 9587 Tenants' Right to organize Act – No new update – On 12/19 Rep. Andy Levin introduced the Tenant's Right to Organize Act. Per NLIHC, the bill would "protect the organizing rights of tenants with Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) and tenants living in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) properties. Currently, only public housing tenants have a legally recognized right to organize. In extending the right to organize to HCV and LIHTC tenants, the bill recognizes that all tenants have the right to decent, safe, stable, and sanitary housing."

RULES/Other Federal Items of Note

➡ **Congressional Caucus on Homelessness – New** – Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA), Cori Bush (D-MO), and Sylvia Garcia (D-TX) [announced](#) the reestablishment of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness on 2/28. The caucus will provide a dedicated forum for members of Congress to work toward the common goal of ending homelessness in the U.S.

HUD Releases Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022: Overview of Applicability to HUD Programs – No New Update – On 2/4 HUD published a [notice in the Federal Register](#) providing interim guidance to HUD's covered housing providers on implementing VAWA 2022. The notice includes a 60-day notice-and-comment period so that the public can comment. The deadline for comments is March 6, 2023. [VAWA's housing protections for survivors include but are not limited to:](#)

- Prohibition Against Denial of Admission and Eviction: Survivors cannot be denied or evicted from CoC- or ESG-assisted rental assistance projects solely due to their status as survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This includes reasons related to the violence that they have experienced, such as bad rental or credit history and criminal history.
- Lease Addendum: Units receiving CoC or ESG rental assistance must have leases or rental agreements that incorporate VAWA protections including prohibition of denial or eviction, lease bifurcation, and emergency transfers.
- Change to Category 4 McKinney-Vento Homeless Definition: VAWA 2022 changes the Category 4 definition of homelessness to the following: Any individual or family who
 - (i) is experiencing trauma or lack of safety related to, or fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized;
 - (ii) Has no other safe residence; and
 - (iii) Lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing.
- Changes to VAWA's Definition of "Domestic Violence": VAWA 2022 expands the definition of "domestic violence" to include "technological abuse" and "economic abuse" as forms of domestic violence

➡ **Final HOTMA Rule – Update** – From CBPP: The [final rule](#) implementing all but one of the remaining provisions of the "Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016" (HOTMA) was published in the *Federal Register* on February 14. The publication follows the posting by HUD of a preview version on January 31 (see *Memo*, [2/6](#)). While other HOTMA provisions had previously been implemented (see *Memo*, [10/13/20](#)), Sections 102, 103, and 104 still required formal public review and comment prior to implementation. A [proposed rule](#) to implement these provisions was published on September 17, 2019 (see *Memo*, [9/23/19](#)). Most of the provisions will not take effect until January 1, 2024.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule – No New Update – A proposed Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule providing "a more effective means to affirmatively further the purposes and policies of the 'Fair Housing Act'" was cleared by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on December 27, 2022. HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) has submitted the proposed rule for publication in the [Federal Register](#), initiating a 60-day public comment period. [Comments are due April 10, 2023, and can be submitted online.](#)

State Update: The First regular Session of the 131st Legislature convened on Wednesday, 12/7/22, and per statute will adjourn on 6/21/23. Cloture occurred at 4pm on 12/30. **Please see the Bill Tracking document for specific bills.**

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

- Maine Legislature Homepage: <http://legislature.maine.gov/>
- Maine Legislature YouTube Channels for Legislative Committees: <https://www.youtube.com/mainestatelegislature>
- Sign up to Testify and/or submit testimony here: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

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

BILLS

Color code: Orange font = Budget bill; Black font = Homelessness related bill; Blue font = Service related; Green font = Housing/Rental Assistance related; Purple font = General Assistance & Safety Net related bills; Pink font = Food security related bills; highlighted in yellow = passed the House and/or Senate; highlighted in green = signed by the Governor and will become Public Law; highlighted in red = the bill is now dead.

BUDGET BILLS				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 258	Governor's Bill	An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025	Public Hearing pertaining to Housing/Homelessness related items in the Budget on Thursday, 2/9 at 1pm – AFA and Housing Committees And for MH/SUD service-related items in the budget on Thursday 2/23 at 1pm – AFA and HHS Committees	The Biennial Budget includes (among various other initiatives): • \$30 million to expand affordable rental housing options for workers and their families through equal funding to the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program and the Low-Income Housing Credit Program (PART TT). • \$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: -- 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).

LD 206	Governor's Bill	An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023	Signed into law by the Governor on 2/21	Authorizes the State Controller to carry forward to fiscal year 2023-24 and fiscal year 2024-25 any unexpended balance of the \$2,756,126 appropriated in in the Housing Opportunity Program, General Fund account, All Other line category in fiscal year 2022-23 to be expended for the same purposes. (PART L)
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HOMELESSNESS BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 3	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross (Emergency)	An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program	Signed by the Governor	This bill provides relief to certain Maine households to assist them with high costs for home heating and other purposes. Short-Term Housing Support: \$21 million to bolster the Emergency Housing Relief Fund created by Governor Mills and the Legislature earlier this year that supports emergency housing and emergency shelters to prevent people from experiencing homelessness this winter.
LR 1357	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Decriminalize Homelessness		
LR 1519	Rep. Jeffrey Adams	An Act to Direct Maine Emergency Management Agency Funds Directly to Municipalities for Distribution to Local Homeless Shelters		
LR 987	Sen. Trey Stewart	An Act to Require County and Town Funding for Homeless Shelters on a Per Capita Basis		
LR 723	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless		
LR 588	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	An Act to Assist Communities in Dealing with Homelessness by Providing State Funding		
LR 2360	Sen. Joseph Rafferty	An Act to Prevent Student Homelessness		
LR 576	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Prevent Homelessness		
LR 1675	Rep. Poppy Arford	An Act to Support Emergency Housing Facility Construction and Renovation Statewide		
LR 2343	Rep. Poppy Arford	An Act to Provide Support to Schools with Students Experiencing Housing Instability		
LR 842	Rep. Tiffany Roberts	An Act Concerning Students Who Experience Educational Disruption Due to Temporary or Permanent Changes in Where They Live		

SERVICE BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 302	Rep. Colleen Madigan	An Act to Ensure Sufficient Rates for Behavioral Health Services	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the rates in rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, for medication management, home and community-based treatment, multi-systemic therapy and functional family therapy and Section 17, Allowances for Community Support Services, for assertive community treatment.
LD 328	Sen. Trey Stewart	An Act to Improve Mental Health in Maine	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would improve mental health in the State
LD 448	Rep. Charles Skold	An Act to Improve Access to Behavioral Health Services for Maine Families and Children on MaineCare and to Increase the Number of Behavioral Health Professionals in the State	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures to improve access to behavioral health services for families and children on MaineCare and to increase the number of behavioral health professionals in the State.
LD 540	Rep. Melanie Sachs	An Act to Establish Peer Respite Centers for Adults with Mental Health Challenges in Maine	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill requires the department to establish through contracts 2 peer respite centers in the State for persons 18 years of age or older. The centers must provide 24-hour intentional peer support to persons in need of mental health services on a voluntary, short-term basis.
LD 599	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill provides ongoing funding for support services for a transitional housing program in Portland.
LD 859	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	An Act to Assess, Develop, Implement and Fund the Reuse of Existing Facilities at Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center to Provide Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder and Homelessness Services	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to assess, develop, implement and fund the reuse of existing facilities at Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center to provide mental health, substance use disorder and homelessness services.
LD 908	Rep. Holly Stover	Resolve, to Establish a Comprehensive Integrated Co-occurring Behavioral Health Home Model Within the MaineCare Program	Referred to HHS Committee	This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a new health home model that includes services for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health diagnoses in one model and a new payment model.
LD 1050	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Request a Federal Waiver for Presumptive Work Eligibility for Asylum Seekers	Public Hearing 3/21 at 1pm in front of the Labor and Housing Committee	This resolve directs the Commissioner of Labor to request a waiver from the United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to allow an asylum seeker in the State, if the asylum seeker has applied for asylum and has not been denied, eligibility to work in the State for the 6-month period immediately after the asylum seeker has applied for asylum while awaiting a final determination on the asylum seeker's application and for the



				time period while an asylum seeker's work permit has expired and is pending renewal by the Federal Government.
LR 1792	Rep. Drew Gattine	An Act to Establish Permanent Funding for the Homeless Opioid Users Service Engagement Project		
LR 459	Rep. Kristi Mathieson	An Act Regarding Housing Stability Workers		
LR 1023	Sen. Jill Duson	An Act to Establish State-funded Service Contracts to Support Asylum Seekers		
LR 1024	Sen. Jill Duson	An Act to Establish State Support for Asylum Seekers		
LR 2213	Rep. Lori Gramlich	An Act to Ensure Reimbursement Rates Are Adequate to Provide Services for Mental Health and Behavioral Health Care		
LR 2070	Rep. Holly Stover	An Act to Establish a Comprehensive Integrated Co-occurring Behavioral Health Home Within the MaineCare Program		
LR 1203	Rep. Lori Gramlich	An Act to Ensure the Quality and Efficiency of Community Mental Health Services		
LR 589	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Commissioner of Corrections to Develop Alternative Responses to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Emergency Calls		
LR 1199	Rep. Suzanne Salisbury	An Act to Reduce Workforce Barriers for Mental Health Professionals in Maine		
LR 508	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Recruit, Train and Retain Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Workers in All Regions of the State		

HOUSING/RENTAL ASSISTANCE BILLS



Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 2	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to amend the laws to address Maine's housing crisis.
LD 1074	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-Income Households		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	Referred to the Housing Committee	This resolve directs the Finance Authority of Maine to establish a 2-year pilot program to encourage the development of



		Encourage the Development of Affordable Accessory Dwelling Units		accessory dwelling units in the State. The program must buy down interest rates to levels below market rates for up to 100 community bank loans for accessory dwelling units until the program ends. The authority must submit annual reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters regarding the usage of the program, the first such report to be made no later than November 6, 2024.
LR 1001	Rep. Marc Malon	An Act to Promote Affordable Housing by Clarifying Statewide Land Use Laws		
LD 45	Sen. Anne Carney	An Act to Prevent Retaliatory Evictions	Public Hearing held 2/9 in front of the Judiciary Committee	This bill provides that in an action of forcible entry and detainer there is a rebuttable presumption that the action was commenced in retaliation against the tenant if, within 6 months prior to the commencement of the action, the tenant has asserted the tenant's rights pursuant to the laws requiring notice to the tenant of a rent increase, the laws prohibiting a rent increase for a dwelling unit that is in violation of the warranty of habitability or a municipal ordinance limiting rent increase. It also provides that to rebut the presumption of retaliation, a plaintiff in a forcible entry and detainer action must show by a preponderance of the evidence that a reason set forth in law or a violation of a lease provision is a substantial reason for bringing the action.
LD 109	Rep. H landry	An Act to Improve Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residences	Work Session held 2/8 with the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee - Tabled	Current law provides that a certified substance use disorder recovery residence is treated as a family residence for the purposes of life safety code requirements, regardless of its size, layout or number of residents. This bill repeals that provision to require such recovery residences to meet the life safety code requirements for similarly situated buildings and housing establishments.
LD 144	Rep. Melanie Sachs	An Act to Regarding the Monitoring of Municipal Abandoned Property	Taxation Committee Divided Report: OTP-AM	Under current law, a municipality that certifies abandoned property is required to submit the address and parcel data to the Maine State Housing Authority for use in determining opportunities for redevelopment, programs supporting first-time home buyers and similar programs and data analysis. This bill instead requires the municipality to submit such data to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority for use in determining opportunities for redevelopment.
LD 214	Rep. Dick Campbell	An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Zoning and Land Use Restrictions to Limit Certain Requirements to Municipalities with a Population of More than 10,000	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill makes the following provisions applicable only to a municipality with a population over 10,000: 1. The requirement that a municipality allow up to 4 dwelling units per lot if that lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit and the lot is located in a designated growth area within a municipality or if the lot is served by a public, special district or



				other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system in a municipality without a comprehensive plan; 2. Certain zoning conditions that apply to dwelling units; 3. The requirement that a municipality allow an accessory dwelling unit on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in any area in which housing is permitted; and 4. Other requirements relating to accessory dwelling units.
LD 226	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill provides one-time funds to MaineHousing in the amount of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and in fiscal year 2024-25 (only these FYs) to increase affordable housing stock in the State.
LD 250	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Improve Housing by Increasing Housing Options	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would require the development and implementation of a program to increase housing options.
LD 314	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill would establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine. The commission would be a quasi-independent agency funded through the Department of Economic and Community Development. Members of the commission would include housing advocates and organizations, policy makers, housing developers, housing experts, landlords and tenants. The commission would identify the hurdles to 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 in front of the Judiciary Committee held on 2/16	This bill would require the development and implementation of a program to ensure legal representation for residents facing eviction. Development of the program would employ best practices and apply recent research.
LD 337	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would amend the regulation of manufactured housing to increase the amount of affordable housing.
LD 371	Sen. Jeffrey Timberlake	An Act to Address Certain Local Zoning Ordinances	Referred to State and Local Government Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to address certain local zoning ordinances.
LD 387	Rep. Mark Blier	An Act to Promote Affordable Housing by Providing a Tax Exemption for Housing Choice Vouchers	Referred to Housing Committee	This bill provides an income tax deduction for income received by a landlord as tenant9 based housing assistance payments in the form of Section 8 housing choice vouchers administered by the Maine State Housing Authority.
LD 462	Rep. Colleen Madigan	An Act to Assist Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Areas of High Median Rent by Seeking a Waiver from the Federal Government	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill provides that, for an area where the actual fair market rent for existing housing is greater than the fair market rent calculated by HUD, the Maine State Housing Authority is required to seek a temporary waiver of the requirements of the so-called Section 8 housing program administered by HUD

				or any other federal housing assistance program to permit additional funds to cover the cost of the actual fair market rent for a person who is homeless. The temporary waiver must be terminated when the fair market rent calculated by HUD is equal to or greater than the actual fair market rent for existing housing in the area.
LD 554	Rep. Daniel Shagoury	An Act to Continue the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill provides one-time funds in the amount of \$10 million in FY 2023-2024 to continue the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program through the Maine State Housing Authority
LD 557	Rep. Ambureen Rana	An Act to Decrease Discrimination in Housing Applications	Public Hearing 3/9 at 2pm in front of the Judiciary Committee	This bill prohibits a landlord or landlord's agent from asking about previous evictions in an application for the rental or lease of a residence or discriminating against an applicant in the rental or lease of a residence on the basis of an applicant's history of eviction.
LD 558	Rep. Danny Costain	An Act Regarding Rental Housing Applications	Referred to the Judiciary Committee	This bill requires a landlord or landlord's agent, prior to obtaining any information about a prospective tenant, to notify the prospective tenant in writing what types of information will be accessed to conduct the tenant screening, including, but not limited to, background checks and credit checks, and what criteria may result in denial of the rental application. The bill also prohibits a landlord or landlord's agent from charging a prospective tenant any payment, fee or charge for the processing, review or acceptance of a rental application more than one time in a 12-month period.
LD 638	Rep. Marc Malon	Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority to Study Strategies for Improving Abandoned Properties and Developing Housing Infrastructure	Referred to the Housing Committee	This resolve directs the Maine State Housing Authority to study strategies for improving abandoned properties and recommend strategies for municipal governments and regional organizations to create incentives for land improvements, including the use of state infrastructure banks or other means to guarantee loans, and a structure for repayment of those loans, for housing infrastructure projects serving a larger area built by private developers or others. The resolve requires the Maine State Housing Authority to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business by December 1, 2024 regarding the study.
LD 690	Rep. Amy Roeder	An Act to Streamline Rental Application Screenings by Allowing Potential Tenants to Use Screening Services	Referred to the Judiciary Committee	This bill allows a prospective tenant to use a screening service report in applying for the rental of a residence. An owner of residential rental property or a residential rental property manager may choose to not allow a prospective tenant to use a screening service report in an application for the rental of a residence, but the owner or manager is then limited to charging an application fee no greater than \$25.

LD 691	Rep. Chris Kessler	An Act to Reduce Barriers to Housing by Prohibiting Tenant Application Fees	Referred to the Judiciary Committee	This bill prohibits a landlord from requiring a person to pay a fee in order to submit an application to enter into an agreement to rent a residential dwelling unit.
LD 705	Rep. Grayson Lookner	An Act Concerning the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund and Expenditures by the Maine State Housing Authority	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill would examine the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund and other sources of revenue for the Maine State Housing Authority, review how those resources are being allocated by the authority and determine whether more guidelines about those allocations are necessary.
LD 721	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Preserve Historic Buildings and Promote Affordable Housing	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would enact provisions of law to preserve historic buildings and promote affordable housing.
LD 724	Sen. Cameron Reny	An Act to Expand Workforce Housing in Rural Maine by Funding the Maine State Housing Authority's Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill provides one-time funds in the amount of \$10M each years in fiscal year 2023-24 and fiscal year 2024-25 only to the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program within the Maine State Housing Authority for the development of smaller affordable rental housing projects.
LD 772	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Establish a Process to Vest Rights for Land Use Permit Applicants	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill gives an applicant for a land use permit the right to have a municipality or the Maine Land Use Planning Commission review the application solely on the basis of any orders, regulations, ordinances, rules, expiration dates, fees or other requirements in effect at the time the original application for the land use permit is filed for review.
LD 774	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Require the Maine State Housing Authority to Report to the Legislature on the Home Fund	Referred to the Housing Committee	This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs with a full accounting of how revenues transferred to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to be used to support the creation of new housing units through new construction or adaptive reuse were spent, looking back 10 years
LD 801	Rep. Joe Perry	An Act to Require Municipalities to Obtain Housing Units for Homeless Residents	Referred to the Housing Committee	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	Likely referred to 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.
LR 2062	Rep. Charles Skold	An Act to Improve Affordability and Opportunity for Maine Renters and Landlords RE: State Housing Authorities		
LR 716	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Facilitate Property Redevelopment and Encourage Affordable Housing by Allowing the Conveyance of Unfinished Commercial Condominium Units		
LR 949	Rep. Jack Ducharme	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Foreclosure Proceedings to Enhance Housing Affordability and Access		
LR 49	Senate President Troy Jackson	An Act to Enact a Property Owner Bill of Rights		
LR 2199	Rep. Chris Kessler	An Act to Reduce Rental Housing Costs by Eliminating Additional Fees		
LR 1070	Rep. Amy Roeder	An Act to Increase Transparency for Landlords and Tenants		
LR 1528	Rep. James Boyle	An Act to Improve Housing Affordability by Amending the Definition of "Subdivision" under the Site Location of Development Laws		
LR 2154	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Construct Affordable Housing		
LR 1399	Rep. James Boyle	An Act to Increase Maine's Housing Supply, Combat Climate Change and Preserve Rural Open Spaces by Prohibiting Communities from Large Lot Zoning Practices in Areas Where Public Sewer and Water Infrastructure Are Available		

LR 553	Rep. Walter Riseman	An Act to Make Adjustments to Affordable Housing Requirements		
LR 920	Rep. Amy Kuhn	An Act to Clarify Density Bonus Eligibility for Affordable Housing Developments		
LR 1978	Sen. Ben Chipman	An Act to Support Residential Housing Development		
LR 2084	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Strengthen the Rights of Tenants and Protect the Rights of Landlords		
LR 1836	Rep. Drew Gattine	An Act to End Chronic Homelessness by Creating the Housing First Fund		
LR 1782	Rep. Traci Gere	An Act to Establish a Thriving Corridors Program by Encouraging Affordable Housing and Mixed-use Development		
LR 1054	Rep. Grayson Lookner	An Act to Establish the Maine Community Housing Development Authority		
LR 79	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Establish the Department of Housing Security		
LR 169	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Establish the Stable Housing and Reintegration Program		
LR 574	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Enact the Fair Chance Housing Act		
LR 1527	Rep. David Woodsome	An Act Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units and Municipal Zoning Ordinances		
LR 1708	Rep. Sophia Warren	An Act to Create a Housing Department		
LR 48	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Ensure Equal Access to Housing		
LR 1790	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Create the Stable Home Fund		
LR 19	Rep. Laura Supica	An Act to Create Statewide Rent Stabilization		
LR 833	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Enact the Housing Opportunity for Maine Act		
LR 2383	Rep. Traci Gere	An Act to Implement Several Recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals		
LR 512	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Implement Certain Recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals		

LR 2114	Senate President Troy Jackson	An Act to Revise the Laws Governing the Development of Rural Land for Housing		
LR 2034	Sen. Ben Chipman	An Act to Increase Affordable Housing by Eliminating Minimum Land Size Requirements for Multi-unit Housing and Minimum Unit Size Requirements for All Housing		
LR 2086	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Prioritize Affordable Housing Development on State-owned Real Estate		
LR 663	Rep. Sophia Warren	An Act to Extend the Emergency Rental Assistance Program		

GENERAL ASSISTANCE & SAFETY NET BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 80	Rep. Meyer	An Act to Improve Family Economic Security Under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program	Public Hearing- HHS Committee held 2/16, work session on 3/16	This bill amends the provisions of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or "TANF," program that relate to income disregards for the purposes of calculating a recipient's benefits.
LD 81	Rep. Meyer	An Act to Address Recovery Residence Participation in the Municipal General Assistance Program	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill requires a municipality to issue a general assistance housing assistance payment to the operator of a certified recovery residence upon request by an eligible person rather than to a landlord, including a property owner.
LD 182	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Create a 9-month Time Limit on General Assistance Benefits for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill limits to a maximum of 275 days every 5 years the general assistance benefits a person who does not have any dependents and who is capable of working may receive.
LD 183	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Incorporate Time Limits on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program into Municipal General Assistance Programs	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill provides that a person who has exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program benefits is ineligible to receive municipal general assistance program benefits, except that a person who has been ineligible to receive benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for 5 or more years may be considered eligible and a person who is in the process of seeking an extension of benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program may be considered eligible.
LD 268	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Establish a 45-day Municipal Residency Requirement for General Assistance Programs	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill establishes a 45-day residency requirement for applicants for municipal general assistance.
LD 364	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Prohibit the Use of General Assistance as a Replacement for Available Resources	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill makes an applicant for general assistance who voluntarily abandons or refuses to use an available resource without just cause ineligible to receive general assistance to replace the abandoned resource for a period of 120 days from the date the applicant abandons the resource. The bill defines

				"available resource" as a resource that is immediately available or can be secured without delay. The bill also makes an applicant who forfeits receipt of or causes a reduction in benefits from an available resource due to fraud, misrepresentation or intentional violation or refusal to comply with rules without just cause ineligible to receive general assistance to replace the forfeited or reduced benefits for the duration of the sanction imposed on the applicant for violation of a rule or 120 days, whichever is greater. The bill identifies circumstances relating to use of an available resource under which just cause must be found.
LD 454	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency Requirement for General Assistance Programs	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill establishes a 180-day state residency requirement for applicants for municipal general assistance.
LD 668	Rep. Randall Greenwood	An Act to Protect Maine Taxpayers by Requiring a Person to Be a United States Citizen to Receive General Assistance Benefits and to Ensure Municipal Compliance with Federal Immigration Laws		This bill requires a person to be a citizen of the United States in order to receive general assistance benefits. This bill provides that a municipality is ineligible to receive general purpose aid for local schools, municipal general assistance and state-municipal revenue sharing if that municipality prohibits or restricts, formally or informally, the exchange of information with federal immigration authorities or any other federal, state or local government entity regarding the immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual or the maintenance of such information.
LD 778	Sen. Harold Stewart	An Act Regarding Work Requirements for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents Under the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill, beginning January 1, 2024, prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from requesting certain waivers and exemptions under the federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP. It prohibits the department from applying for a waiver under 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o)(4), which allows for waivers in specific geographical areas that have unemployment over 10% or with insufficient jobs available. It also prohibits the department from providing exemptions to work requirements for up to 12% of individuals receiving SNAP benefits pursuant to 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o)(6)(E).
LD 784	Sen. Eric Brakey	An Act to Establish Welfare Work Requirements for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents	Referred to HHS Committee	This bill requires able-bodied adults without dependents enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the MaineCare program or a municipal general assistance program for longer than 3 months to participate in certain work requirements, including: 1. Working an average of 20 or more hours per week; 2. Participating in an employment or training program or a job search for an average of 20 hours or more per week; or

				3. Participating in a placement with public or private sector employers, including as a volunteer.
LR 674	Rep. Michele Meyer	An Act to Amend the General Assistance Program Laws		
LR 656	Rep. Kristi Mathieson	An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance		
LR 1348	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	An Act to Increase the General Assistance Maximums for Housing		
LR 1349	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	An Act Providing Additional Support to Municipal General Assistance Programs		
LR 64	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to Establish a 90 Percent Reimbursement Rate for the General Assistance Program		
LR 531	Sen. Marianne Moore	An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program		
LR 1345	Sen. Joseph Baldacci	An Act Increasing the State Reimbursement for General Assistance to 90 Percent and Providing a 5 Percent State Reimbursement for Municipal Administrative Costs		
LR 646	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Establish the Commission on Education for Asylum Seekers and Refugees		

FOOD SECURITY BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 568	Rep. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Provide Funding for the State Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives	Public Hearing held 2/27, Work Session on 3/8, Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee	This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$600,000 to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The bill also removes the \$50,000 limit on matching contributions from the fund criteria.
LR 649	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Address Food Insecurity and Support Local Agriculture		
LR 701	Rep. Maureen Terry	An Act to Support Food Access in Maine		
LR 2178	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Increase Food Security and Economic Resiliency in Local Communities and to Promote Policies Consistent with Growth Management Plans		
LR 2106	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food		