

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Agenda
March 21, 2023**



MEMBERS
Mayor Kate Snyder, Chair
Councilor April Fournier
Councilor Pious Ali
Councilor Regina Phillips

REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION:

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I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Minutes from the meeting of March 14, 2023

III. Legislative Update

- a. Discussion/Vote: LD 937 (Resolve, to Establish the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine)
- b. Discussion: LD 1046 (Decriminalize Public Drinking)
- c. Discussion: LD 1056 (Restricting State Assistance in Federal Collection of Personal Electronic Data and Metadata)
- d. Discussion: LD 199 (Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program)

- e. Review of New LDs (Bernstein Shur)
- f. Review: Legislative Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

IV. Other Business

- a. Discussion: Federal Priorities (in preparation for Hill Day, March 28, 2023)

V. Testimony

- a. Testimony in support of LD 787 (An Act to Create the New Maine Resident Service Coordination Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development)
 - i. *A public hearing is scheduled for March 21 at 1:00pm. Testimony has not yet been submitted.*
- b. Testimony in support of LD 37 (An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens to Eliminate the Requirement for an Annual Application)
- c. Testimony in support of LD 89 (An Act to Clarify Eligibility for Property Tax Stabilization for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older)
 - i. *Staff clarified that LD 89 would not result in any administrative change or additional cost. As of March 20, 2023, testimony has been delayed pending policy direction from the Committee.*
- d. Testimony to oppose LD 130 (An Act to Eliminate Senior Citizen Property Tax Stabilization and Expand the Homestead Property Tax Exemption)
 - i. *Based on a recommendation by Bernstein Shur, testimony was withheld pending review of other stakeholders' testimony and comments made at the public hearing.*
- e. Testimony in support of LD 937 (Resolve, to Establish the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine)
 - i. *A public hearing is scheduled for March 21 at 1:00pm. Testimony has not yet been submitted.*

VI. Adjournment

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Minutes**
March 14, 2023



MEMBERS

Mayor Kate Snyder, Chair
Councilor April Fournier
Councilor Pious Ali
Councilor Regina Phillips

I. Call to Order

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 8:05AM. In attendance were Councilor Regina Phillips, Councilor Pious Ali, Councilor April Fournier, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Danielle West (Interim City Manager), Sarah Lentz (School Board Chair), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur).

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Minutes from the March 3, 2023 Legislative/Nominating Committee meeting
- b. Minutes from the March 7, 2023 Legislative/Nominating Committee meeting

Councilor Ali made a motion to approve the minutes from March 3 and March 7, 2023, seconded by Councilor Fournier, vote (4-0).

III. LDs from March 7, 2023

- a. Discussion/Vote: LD 894 (*An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor*)

The Committee supported the delivery of testimony by Troy Moon, Sustainability Director, at an upcoming public hearing.

- b. Discussion: LD 787 (*An Act to Create the New Maine Resident Service Coordination Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development*)

The Committee supported the submission of testimony in support of LD 787 at the public hearing scheduled for March 21, 2023.

- c. Discussion: LD 37 (*An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens to Eliminate the Requirement for an Annual Application*), LD 89 (*An Act to Clarify Eligibility for Property Tax Stabilization for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older*), and LD 130 (*An Act to Eliminate Senior Citizen Property Tax Stabilization and Expand the Homestead Property Tax Exemption*).

Staff were asked to collect additional information from the Finance Director regarding the potential cost of LD 130 and prepare testimony for submission in time for the upcoming public hearings on March 16, 2023.

IV. Legislative Update

- a. Discussion: New LDs (Dena Libner, Chief of Staff)

LD 1046 (Decriminalize Public Drinking): Committee members asked for PD insight to be shared at the following Committee meeting.

Committee members asked that LD 1046, LD 984 (An Act to Expand Access to the Homestead Property Tax Exemption), LD 1055 (An Act to Prohibit the Use of Ballot Drop Boxes), LD 1060 (Increase State Municipal Revenue Sharing), LD 1050 (Resolve, Federal Waiver to Allow Work Eligibility for Asylum Seekers) and LD 996 (Local Option Sales Tax) be tracked for future testimony.

Committee members asked for additional insight regarding LD 1056 (Restricting State Assistance in Federal Collection of Personal Electronic Data and Metadata) to be provided at the next meeting.

The Committee agreed to discuss potential testimony in support of LD 199 (Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program) at their next meeting.

- b. Review: Legislative Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

V. Testimony

- a. Submitted: Testimony in Support of LD 88 (*An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax Revenues*)
- b. Submitted: Testimony Neither For or Against LD 812 (*An Act to Assist Clerks in Facilitating Elections and to Improve Access to In-person Absentee Voting for Working People by Increasing Time for Absentee Ballot Processing and In-person Voting*)

VI. Other Business

VII. Adjournment

Councilor Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03am. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fournier, vote (4-0).



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 937

H.P. 584

House of Representatives, March 2, 2023

**Resolve, to Establish the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained
Physicians Living in Maine**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senator CURRY of Waldo and
Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, PERRY of Calais, RIELLY
of Westbrook, ROBERTS of South Berwick, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: RAFFERTY of
York, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this legislation establishes the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained
4 Physicians Living in Maine to study integrating foreign-trained physicians into the health
5 care workforce; and

6 **Whereas,** this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period
7 so that the commission may timely meet and make its report to the Legislature; and

8 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
9 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
10 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission Regarding
13 Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine, referred to in this resolve as "the commission,"
14 is established.

15 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
16 353, the commission consists of 16 members appointed as follows:

17 1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, at least one
18 of whom must be a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development,
19 Economic Advancement and Business;

20 2. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives, at least one of whom must be a member of the Joint Standing
22 Committee on Health and Human Services;

23 3. One member who is a representative of the Board of Licensure in Medicine,
24 appointed by the President of the Senate;

25 4. One member who is a representative of the Maine Hospital Association, appointed
26 by the President of the Senate;

27 5. One member who is a representative of insurance carriers in the State, appointed by
28 the President of the Senate;

29 6. One member who is a representative of the New Mainers Resource Center,
30 appointed by the President of the Senate;

31 7. Three members who are physicians who are refugees or immigrants, 2 of whom are
32 appointed by the President of the Senate, at least one of whom must be licensed to practice
33 in the State, and one of whom is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

34 8. Two members who are representatives of the Maine Medical Association, appointed
35 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

36 9. One member who is a representative of the Maine Public Health Association,
37 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

38 10. One member who is a representative of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition,
39 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

1 11. One member from the staff of the Office of the Governor, appointed by the
2 Governor.

3 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair
4 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the
5 commission.

6 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
7 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
8 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
9 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
10 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more
11 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
12 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for
13 the commission to meet and conduct its business.

14 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study integrating foreign-
15 trained physicians living in the State into the health care workforce to best reflect their level
16 of skills and training, with a focus on those who are here as refugees and asylum seekers.
17 The commission shall explore a wide range of options for how to help enable foreign-
18 trained physicians who wish to live and practice in the State to best use their skills and
19 talents, increase health care workforce cultural competency and address potential
20 workforce shortages. The commission shall make recommendations on:

- 21 1. Strategies to integrate foreign-trained physicians into the health care workforce;
- 22 2. Other ways, outside of being licensed as a physician, that foreign-trained physicians
23 can be supported to best use their skills and training;
- 24 3. Changes for regulations that may pose unnecessary barriers to practice for foreign-
25 trained physicians;
- 26 4. Necessary supports for foreign-trained physicians moving through the different
27 steps in the licensing process prior to involvement with the Board of Licensure in Medicine;
- 28 5. Opportunities to advocate for corresponding changes to national licensing
29 requirements; and
- 30 6. Any other matters pertaining to foreign-trained physicians considered necessary by
31 the commission.

32 The commission shall review and identify best practices learned from similar efforts in
33 other states. The commission may hold hearings and invite testimony from experts and the
34 public to gather information. The commission may develop guidelines for full licensure
35 and conditional licensure of foreign-trained physicians and recommendations for the types
36 of strategies, programs and support that would benefit foreign-trained physicians to use the
37 fullest extent of their training and experience.

38 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
39 necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative Council staff support
40 is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 6, 2023, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This resolve creates the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to study integrating foreign-trained physicians living in the State into the health care workforce to best reflect their level of skills and training, with a focus on those who are here as refugees and asylum seekers.



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1046

S.P. 415

In Senate, March 7, 2023

An Act to Decriminalize Public Drinking

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook and
Senator: DUSON of Cumberland, Representative: GEIGER of Rockland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §2003-A**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 658, §1, is repealed.

3 **Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §2005, sub-§1, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 756, §1, is
4 amended to read:

5 C. "Public place" has the same meaning as ~~provided in Title 28-A~~, section ~~2003-A~~
6 ~~2090~~, subsection 1, paragraph D.

7 **Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §18, sub-§1, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 393, §1, is
8 amended to read:

9 B. "Listed offense" means:

10 (1) Criminal trespass in violation of section 402, subsection 1, paragraph C or F;

11 (2) Disorderly conduct in violation of section 501-A, subsection 1, paragraph A;

12 (3) Indecent conduct in violation of section 854 that is based on urinating in public;
13 or

14 (4) Possession of a scheduled drug in violation of chapter 45 that is based on using
15 the scheduled drug; ~~or~~

16 ~~(5) Public drinking in violation of Title 17, section 2003-A, subsection 2.~~

17 **Sec. 4. 28-A MRSA §2, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 45, Pt. A, §4, is amended
18 to read:

19 **3. Bottle club.** "Bottle club" means a person operating on a regular, profit or nonprofit
20 basis a facility for social activities in which members or guests provide their own liquor,
21 where no liquor is sold on the bottle club premises, which maintains suitable facilities for
22 the use of members on a regular basis or charges an admission fee to members or the general
23 public and where members, guests or others are regularly permitted to consume liquor. As
24 used in this definition, "regularly" includes daily, weekly or monthly, but does not include
25 once a year or less often. A bottle club is not a public place, as defined in ~~Title 17~~, section
26 ~~2003-A 2090~~, subsection 1, paragraph D.

27 A. "Bottle club premises" includes all parts of contiguous real estate occupied by the
28 bottle club over which the bottle club owner has direct or indirect control or interest
29 and which the bottle club owner uses in the operation of the bottle club.

30 **Sec. 5. 28-A MRSA §11, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 658, §48, is further
31 amended to read:

32 **2. Violation of public drinking law.** A person taking a drink of liquor to another
33 person, offering a drink of liquor to another person or consuming liquor within the licensed
34 premises of an off-premises retail licensee under the common roof is considered in
35 violation of ~~and subject to punishment under Title 17~~, section ~~2003-A 2090~~. This
36 subsection does not prohibit product sampling and taste testing authorized by and
37 conducted in accordance with the requirements of this Title.

38 **Sec. 6. 28-A MRSA §2090** is enacted to read:

39 **§2090. Public drinking**

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Authorized person" means a person having a relationship to the property that is unique and not shared by the general public. With respect to property owned by another, "authorized person" includes a tenant, custodian or night security guard. With respect to publicly owned property, "authorized person" includes police officers and other public employees charged with the responsibility of maintaining or protecting public property.

B. "Open container" means a container of liquor not having a cap, stopper or other cover in place.

C. "Public place" means:

(1) A place owned or operated by a governmental entity to which the public or a substantial group has access, including but not limited to:

(a) Public ways as defined in Title 17-A, section 505, subsection 2;

(b) Schools and government-owned custodial facilities;

(c) The lobbies, hallways, lavatories, toilets and basement portions of apartment houses, hotels, public buildings and transportation terminals; and

(d) Public beaches; and

(2) Private ways and parking areas physically adjacent to public ways and designed primarily for vehicular traffic.

2. Violation. A person may not drink liquor in any public place within 200 feet of a notice posted conspicuously in the public place by the owner or an authorized person that forbids drinking in the public place or after being forbidden to do so personally by a law enforcement officer, unless the person has been given permission to do so by the owner or authorized person.

3. Evidence. The possession of an open container of liquor in a public place is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

4. Civil violation. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged.

SUMMARY

This bill changes public drinking from a crime to a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged.



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1056

S.P. 425

In Senate, March 7, 2023

An Act Restricting State Assistance in Federal Collection of Personal Electronic Data and Metadata

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland and
Senators: GUERIN of Penobscot, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: ANDREWS of
Paris, MORRIS of Turner, WHITE of Guilford.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §60 is enacted to read:

§60. Federal collection of electronic data or metadata

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Electronic data" means information related to an electronic communication or the use of an electronic communication service, including the contents, sender, recipient or format of an electronic communication, the precise or approximate location of the sender or recipient of an electronic communication at any time during the electronic communication, the time or date the electronic communication was created, sent or received and the identity of a person or device involved in the electronic communication, including an Internet protocol address.

B. "Metadata" means information generally not visible when a document created electronically is printed describing the history, tracking or management of the electronic document, including information about data in the electronic document that describes how, when and by whom the data were collected, created, accessed or modified and how the data are formatted.

2. Prohibition on assistance to federal agencies. A department, agency or political subdivision of the State may not assist, participate with or provide material support or resources to enable or facilitate a federal agency in the collection or use of a person's electronic communications unless one or more of the following apply.

A. The person has given informed consent.

B. The collection or use of the electronic data or metadata is pursuant to a warrant, based upon probable cause, that particularly describes the person, place or thing to be searched or seized.

C. The collection or use of electronic data or metadata is in accordance with a legally recognized exception to the federal warrant requirements.

SUMMARY

This bill restricts an agency, department or political subdivision of the State from assisting, participating with or providing material support or resources to facilitate a federal agency's collection or use of a person's electronic communications.



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

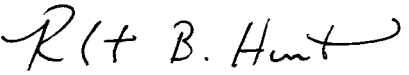
No. 199

H.P. 123

House of Representatives, January 17, 2023

An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, GATTINE of Westbrook, MEYER of Eliot,
RANA of Bangor, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: INGWERSEN of York, ROTUNDO of
Androscoggin.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-FFF, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. DDD, §1, is amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read:

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, effective January 1, 2024, a person 21 years of age or older is eligible for the same scope of medical assistance provided under section 3174-G for comparable enrollment groups to a person who would be eligible for assistance under the federal Medicaid program under Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act but for the person's immigration status. In accordance with 8 United States Code, Section 1621, the State shall appropriate funds in the state budget to provide state-funded medical assistance through the MaineCare program for noncitizen individuals who reside in the State and are ineligible for coverage due to federal restrictions relating to immigration status in the federal Medicaid program. Implementation of coverage required by this section is not contingent on federal approval of any waivers or amendments to the state Medicaid plan for this purpose.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3174-FFF, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Maximization of federal funds. The department shall maximize the receipt of available federal matching funds for coverage provided under this section.

Sec. 3. Federal Medicaid waivers or state plan amendments; funding. The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish coverage under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-FFF, subsection 1 as of January 1, 2024 using state funds. The department may seek to acquire matching federal funds under the Medicaid program by submitting to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services any waivers or state plan amendments determined necessary.

Sec. 4. Rulemaking. By January 1, 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt rules to implement the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-FFF, subsection 1, as amended by this Act. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill provides MaineCare program coverage for noncitizen residents of this State 21 years of age or older with qualifying low incomes who are ineligible for coverage under the federal Medicaid program due to their immigration status.

**Bernstein, Shur,
Sawyer & Nelson, P.A.**
45 Memorial Circle
PO Box 5057
Augusta, ME 04332

**T (207) 623-1596
F (207) 626-0200**

Memorandum

To: Portland, City of
From: Bernstein Shur
Date: March 15, 2023
Re: New Legislative Bills Report

Please find below the new legislative documents (LD) printed this week that we have flagged to be of possible interest to your organization. Please indicate to us which bills you would like included on your tracking report.

LD 1074 (SP443)

An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-income Households

LD 1087 (HP682)

An Act to Remove Restrictions in the Provisions of Law Relating to No knock Warrants

LD 1097 (HP692)

An Act to Replace Participation Thresholds in Municipal Referenda with Lower Approval Thresholds

LD 1098 (HP693)

An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions Regarding Immunization Requirements

LD 1107 (HP703)

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Improve Access to Credit for Low-income Individuals

LD 1115 (HP711)

An Act Regarding Economic Development Funds for Federally Recognized Indian Tribes

LD 1119 (SP453)

An Act to Clarify the Criminal Statutes with Regard to Assaults on Emergency Medical Services Persons

LD 1133 (HP719)

An Act Regarding Emergency Management Funding for Municipal Shelters

LD 1134 (HP720)

An Act to Improve Housing Affordability by Amending the Definition of "Subdivision" Under the Site Location of Development Laws

LD 1153 (HP725)

An Act to Allow Municipalities to Tax Personal Solar Energy Equipment Under 5 Megawatts

LD 1154 (HP726)

An Act Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units and Municipal Zoning Ordinances

LD 1158 (HP730)

An Act to Recognize the Critical Nature of Workforce Development Through Career and Technical Education by Establishing an Adjustment for Career and Technical Education Centers in the School Funding Formula

LD 1159 (HP731)

An Act to Establish a Pilot Project Regarding Harm Reduction Health Centers

LD 1160 (HP732)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Conduct a Study on the Equity of the State Education Subsidy Formula

LD 1161 (HP733)

An Act to Fund Free Health Clinics

LD 1170 (HP742)

Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters

LD 1176 (HP748)

An Act to Create Municipal Cannabis Revenue Sharing

LD 1177 (HP749)

An Act to Assess a Slip Fee on Megayachts Registered in Overseas Tax Havens

LD 1181 (HP753)

An Act to Allow for the Recall of an Elected Municipal Official for Any Reason

LD 1182 (HP754)

An Act to Make Revisions to the Tax Increment Financing and Development District Laws

LD 1185 (SP481)

An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund

LD 1193 (SP489)

An Act to Allow Residents of Low-income Housing to Keep Pets

LD 1202 (HP762)

An Act to Increase the Homestead Exemption to \$50,000

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
787	Asylum seekers	An Act to Create the New Maine Resident Service Coordination Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development	Bennett	IDEA	Bill Text	Support	3/21/23 1:00 PM Rm 206 COB			904	Testimony	
1050	Asylum seekers	Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor to Request a Federal Waiver to Allow Presumptive Work Eligibility for Asylum Seekers	Brakey	LH	Bill Text	Support	3/21/23 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB			1577	Testimony	
235	Dredging	An Act to Promote Economic Development in the Fishing Industry by Funding a Dredging Project in Portland Harbor	Brennan	TRAN	Bill Text	Support				864		Y
236	Dredging	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Support the Economic Development of the Fishing Industry	Brennan	AFA	Bill Text	Support				865		Y
812	Elections	An Act to Assist Clerks in Facilitating Elections and to Improve Access to In-person Absentee Voting for Working People by Increasing Time for Absentee Ballot Processing and In-person Voting	Skold	VLA	Bill Text		3/13/23 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	3/20/23 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH		2039	Leaning in direction of supporting components – requesting info from clerk	
1055	Elections	An Act to Prohibit the Use of Ballot Drop Boxes	Brakey	VLA	Bill Text	Oppose	3/22/23 11:00 AM Rm 437 SH			2301	Testify	
894	Energy	An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy	Harrington	SLG	Bill Text	Oppose	3/16/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	3/23/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB		1475	Testify	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
81	GA	An Act to Address Recovery Residence Participation in the Municipal General Assistance Program	Meyer	HHS	Bill Text	Staff to review				160		
182	GA	An Act to Create a 9-month Time Limit on General Assistance Benefits for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents	Brakey	HHS	Bill Text	Oppose and testify				1564	Staff concerned would great barriers to individuals that rely on GA	
183	GA	An Act to Incorporate Time Limits on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program into Municipal General Assistance Programs	Brakey	HHS	Bill Text	Oppose and testify				1562	Staff concerned would great barriers to individuals that rely on GA	
268	GA	An Act to Establish a 45-day Municipal Residency Requirement for General Assistance Programs	Brakey	HHS	Bill Text	Oppose and testify				628	Staff believe this would restrict use and push people onto the streets.	
454	GA	An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency Requirement for Municipal General Assistance	Brakey	HHS	Bill Text	Opposed				627		
199	Healthcare	An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Removing Exclusions to the MaineCare Program	Talbot Ross	HHS	Bill Text	Support	3/28/23 2:00 PM Rm 209 COB			509		
2	Housing	An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis	Talbot Ross	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				345		
3	Housing	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 (Emergency)	Talbot Ross	AFA	Bill Text	Support/ Submitted testimony	12/21/22 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH	Work session held 12/21/22	1/4/23 Public Law Ch. 1	601		
45	Housing	An Act to Prevent Retaliatory Evictions	Carney	JUD	Bill Text	Monitor	2/9/23 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH			47		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
107	Housing	An Act Regarding Municipal Efforts to Avert Evictions and Heating Shut-offs During Winter (Emergency)	Ankeles	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				491		
226	Housing	An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis	Millet	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				791		
250	Housing	An Act to Improve Housing by Increasing Housing Options	Pouliot	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				1223		
314	Housing	An Act to Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine	Hickman	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				2107		
330	Housing	An Act to Ensure Legal Representation for Residents Facing Eviction	Tipping	JUD	Bill Text	Monitor	2/16/23 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH			2017		
337	Housing	An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing	Golek	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				1984		
388	Housing	An Act to Require the State and Municipalities to Reimburse Landlords for Unpaid Rent During Eviction Moratoriums	Blier	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				876	Given minimal detail re: eligibility and other parameters, this bill is too broad to determine the financial impact or to prevent abuse of such a program	
462	Housing	An Act to Assist Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Areas of High Rent by Seeking a Waiver from the Federal Government	Madigan	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				956		
492	Housing	An Act to Repurpose Vacant Shopping Mall and Retail Space to Mixed-use Housing and Retail	Campbell	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				2040		
599	Housing	An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons	Brennan	HHS	Bill Text					1507	Bernstein to get more information from sponsor	

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
25	Other	An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks	Hickman	ACF	Bill Text	Monitor	1/25/23 9:00 AM Rm 214 COB	2/1/23 11:00 AM Rm 214 COB	Voted 2/1/23 OTP-AM Not rpt out	82		
34	Other	An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting	Pouliot	VLA	Bill Text	Monitor	2/6/23 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	3/3/23 9:30 AM Rm 437 SH		214	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	
52	Other	An Act to Allow Certain School Employees to Carry Firearms on School Property	Foster	EDU	Bill Text	Monitor				7	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	
96	Other	An Act to Ensure Release of Relevant Background Investigation Material to Current Employers of Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers	Cyrway	CJPS	Bill Text	More info needed from staff	1/30/23 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	2/8/23 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	Voted 2/8/23 OTP-AM Not rpt out	115		
109	Other	An Act to Improve Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residences	Landry	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor/ Staff to review	1/30/23 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	2/8/23 10:00 AM Rm 436 SH	Tabled 2/8/23	348	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	
116	Other	An Act to Establish a Minimum Wage for All Health Care Workers Including All Support Staff	Baldacci	LH	Bill Text	Monitor	2/14/23 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB			597	Staff will assess/Councilor Fournier requested tracking	
127	Other	An Act to Eliminate Television Recycling Fees for Charitable Entities	Stewart	ENR	Bill Text		1/30/23 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	2/8/23 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	DEAD	386	Tracking requested by April	
276	Other	An Act to Assist Municipalities in Preventing Damage from Storm Water	Ankeles	ENR	Bill Text	Monitor	2/15/23 11:00 AM Rm 216 COB	3/8/23 11:00 AM Rm 216 COB	Voted 3/8/23 OTP-AM Not rpt out	492	Staff indicated it could be helpful.	
288	Other	An Act Concerning Housing and Support Services for At-risk Youth and Youth Who Have Committed Juvenile Crimes	Lookner	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor				1142		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
422	Other	An Act to Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities Provide Public Notice in Newspapers	Newman	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor	3/2/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	3/9/23 1:30 PM Rm 214 COB	Voted 3/9/23 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	1511		
772	Permitting	An Act to Establish a Process to Vest Rights for Land Use Permit Applicants	Pouliot	Housing	Bill Text	Monitor				1486		
145	Public safety	An Act to Increase the Penalties for Operation of a Motor Vehicle While Using a Handheld Electronic Device or Mobile Telephone	Zeigler	TRAN	Bill Text	Testify	3/1/23 10:00 AM Rm 126 SH	3/22/23 10:00 AM Rm 126 SH		138	2/15/23 Support concept, but concerns with penalty 2/8/23 Staff strongly support	
847	Public safety	An Act to Support Law Enforcement in Interactions with Individuals with Histories of Trauma	Gramlich	CJPS	Bill Text	Support				2341	PD to testify, already happens in Portland	
1046	Public safety	An Act to Decriminalize Public Drinking	Beebe-Center	CJPS	Bill Text	Monitor	3/27/23 1:00 PM Rm 436 SH			831		
354	Public works	An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Use of Engineers on Public Works Projects over \$100,000	Farrin	SLG	Bill Text	Monitor	2/14/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	3/9/23 1:30 PM Rm 214 COB	Tabled 3/9/23	1484		
407	Public works	An Act to Support Recreational Trails	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2161		
860	Rail	An Act to Identify the Railroad Lines from Portland to Bangor as a Major Corridor and to Fund a Feasibility Study	Baldacci	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				645		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
880	Rail	Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Initiate a Service Development Plan for Commuter and Passenger Train Service Between Portland and the Lewiston and Auburn Area	Rotundo	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				645		
37	Revenue	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens to Eliminate the Requirement for an Annual Application	Pouliot	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor/ Staff support	3/16/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			211		
88	Revenue	An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax Revenues	Paulhus	TAX	Bill Text	Testify	3/9/23 2:00 PM Rm 127 SH	3/21/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH		488	Strong support from staff	
89	Revenue	An Act to Clarify Eligibility for Property Tax Stabilization for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older	Moriarty	TAX	Bill Text	Need Clarification	3/16/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			218		
130	Revenue	An Act to Eliminate Senior Citizen Property Tax Stabilization and Expand the Homestead Property Tax Exemption	Bennett	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	3/16/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			29		
166	Revenue	An Act to Provide Revenue for Property Tax Relief and Capital Infrastructure Projects	Williams	SLG	Bill Text	Support	1/31/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	2/9/23 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB	MAJ: OTP MIN: ONTP Reported out 2/21/23	302	Senator Duson testifying	
286	Revenue	An Act to Authorize the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Constructing or Renovating Municipal Offices and Other Municipal Buildings	Carlow	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	2/14/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	3/2/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	Tabled 3/2/23	1192		

LD #	Category	Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	LR #	Notes	Priority
793	Revenue	An Act to Support Municipal Services with Revenue Sharing	Brakey	TAX	Bill Text	Monitor	3/30/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			1463	More information needed, will discuss at next meeting	
996	Revenue	An Act to Allow a Municipality to Establish a Local Option Sales Tax	Gramlich	TAX	Bill Text	Support				2326	Testimony	
1060	Revenue	An Act to Support Municipal Public Safety by Increasing State-Municipal Revenue Sharing to 7 Percent	Jackson	TAX	Bill Text	Support	3/30/23 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH			132	Testify	
112	Schools	An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance (Emergency)	Dodge	LH	Bill Text		2/9/23 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB	3/9/23 2:00 PM Rm 202 COB	Voted 3/9/23 Anticipated Divided Rpt Not rpt out	207	Tracking requested by April	
293	Schools	An Act to Revise the School Funding Formula	Ducharme	EDU	Bill Text	Monitor				2059		
338	Schools	An Act to Allow Education Funding to Follow the Student	Campbell	EDU	Bill Text	Monitor				228		
518	Schools	An Act to Allow Armed Security in Schools	Andrews	EDU	Bill Text	Monitor				2211		
406	Transportation	An Act to Expand Passenger Rail Service	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2041		
408	Transportation	An Act to Expand Bus Service	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2196		
409	Transportation	An Act to Improve Pedestrian Safety	Chipman	TRAN	Bill Text	Monitor				2303		
336	Tribes	An Act Regarding State Recognition of Native American Tribes	Poirier	JUD	Bill Text	Monitor	3/15/23 9:00 AM Rm 438 SH			749		

City of Portland | City Council Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

From: Mayor Kate Snyder, City of Portland

Date: 03/16/2023

Re: LD 37

Testimony in Support of LD 37 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens to Eliminate the Requirement for an Annual Application

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:

I write to you on behalf of the City of Portland's Legislative/Nominating Committee in support of LD 37, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens to Eliminate the Requirement for an Annual Application.

The City of Portland is in support of amending the laws governing property tax stabilization for senior citizens to eliminate the requirement for an annual application, which will relieve both residents and municipal staff of the unnecessary administrative burden.

Thank you for your consideration.

389 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101 | 207-874-8300 | info@portlandmaine.gov



Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 130

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Michael Foley and I'm honored to serve as the Mayor of the City of Westbrook and Vice Chair of the Maine Mayors Coalition. I've been serving in municipal government for two decades with experience at all levels of local government.

The Maine Mayors Coalition is a nonpartisan group representing the mayors of ten Maine communities – Auburn, Augusta, Biddeford, Lewiston, Portland, Rockland, Saco, Sanford, South Portland and Westbrook, more than 260,000 residents. The Coalition advocates on behalf of our citizens and municipalities for policies that recognize the vital services Maine cities provide and the positive impact Maine cities have on our state. The Coalition seeks to work in partnership with state and federal elected officials to meet the needs of Maine people.

The Maine Mayors Coalition is testifying neither for nor against LD 130, An Act to Eliminate Senior Citizen Property Tax Stabilization and Expand the Homestead Property Tax Exemption. Maine's housing crisis directly impacts each of our cities, and housing is top of mind for all of us. Increased property values and rising property taxes are among the economic consequences of the housing crisis, especially for our seniors. Every day we see them struggling to stay in their homes and in their communities among their families and friends.

The Legislature's effort to address this critical and immediate need brought about the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens program. It's a very popular program and our staffs have been overwhelmed with applications. We are working diligently to process them along with accompanying tax bills, all which is done manually as none of our software systems allow for this process to be automated.

While we agree with the intent and principles of this program, we share several of the same concerns that your Committee outlined in its budget report back to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. We, too, see the costs of the program increasing over the years and are particularly concerned about continuing the rate of reimbursement to municipalities at 100%. We also remain concerned that some participants of this program may have more means than others and feel there should be some effort made to qualify for this program at different levels.

Like you, we Mayors must balance the competing interests of what our citizens need with what we, and they, can afford. It's a difficult balance to attain for you and for us. In this particular situation, we need a program that is sustainable and fair. Those who have already applied, and many who plan to, are now counting on property tax relief. We all know there is nothing worse for public officials than to make promises that cannot be fulfilled, particularly for our most vulnerable citizens – the elderly.

We ask the Committee to consider the concepts put forth in all the property tax stabilization bills and work with us and others to determine the best way to help our seniors, whether it's revising the existing program or expanding the homestead exemption in Senator Bennett's bill or Representative Terry's bill, which we understand is forthcoming.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to working with you and would be happy to provide you with information that may be helpful as you move forward.