

# **EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

One City Center

**Thursday, May 16, 2024  
9:00 AM**

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Introductions**
  - a. Review and Approval of March 21, 2024 Draft Minutes
- 2. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics**
  - a. April, 2024 Monthly Shelter Statistics
- 3. Hub 2 Update**
- 4. Region 1 Update**
- 5. Federal, State and Local Legislation**
  - a. Bill Tracking
- 6. Other Business**

### **Next Meeting**

**June 20, 2024**

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

**Location:** One City Center

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Social Services Division  
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Adam Harr  
Health & Human Services Department  
Social Services Division  
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# Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

## Remote Meeting

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:00 am – 10:00 am

## Minutes

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Brian Townsend	Commonspace
Anne-Marie Brown	UWSM	George Rheault	Resident
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland	Ben Martineau	HVJ
Greg Owen	HA4All	Mike Guthrie	City of Portland
Cullen Ryan	CHOM	Terrence Miller	Preble Street
Stephanie Gilbert	DA Office	Lauren Chan	City of Portland
Kirk Carlsen	Milestone Recovery	Briana Costello	Maine Medical Center
Taylor Cray	Preble Street	Jenny Stasio	TTD
Ben Skillings	Spurwink	Tracy	HVJ
Connor O'niel			

### Meeting Summary

Coordinated Entry has 3 Rapid Re-Housing Programs with 17 organizations participating in case conferencing. Of the 739 participants on the HUB 2 prioritization list, 43 have been housed since mid-august. 18 are working with a navigator and 7 have active vouchers. The warming center was debriefed during which it was announced that a new location is needed for next year. The group discussed the importance of GA reimbursement getting increased in the update to General Assistance. NOTED: the version of the GA bill that passed did so without any meaningful reform (re: reimbursement), outside of creating a statewide database.

### Introductions

- Anne Marie moved to approve the January and February meeting minutes, Aaron seconded and the minutes were approved without discussion. Taylor moved to approve February, Aaron seconded and they were approved without discussion. The January and February minutes will be reviewed at the March meeting.
- It is Taylor's last meeting. (Thank you, Taylor!)

## Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

### February Emergency Shelter Statistics

- Update housing placement total on placement type slide.

### 166 Riverside Shelter and HSC Capacity

- 2 beds at 166 and 5-7 for women.

### HUB 2

- CE has 3 RRH programs & 17 organizations are participating in case conferencing and working on a landlord list to include in case conferencing process.
- 739 participants on the HUB 2 prioritization list, 43 have been housed since mid-August. 18 are working with a navigator and 7 have active vouchers.
  - Do the 3 RRH programs involve the HOPE program?
    - No
  - Is one of them ending?
    - MaineHousing is funding the three highest performing RRH projects and is not winding down.
    - Preble Street and United Way received CoC funding for RRH.
- Hope program approved by the City Council for a collaboration between the City, Commonsense, Milestone, and Preble Street.
  - Recruitment for coordinators is in process.

### Region 1

- Discussed Warming Centers in York and Cumberland Counties.
- York county is experiencing a lot of people sleeping outside.
- Representation for region 1 to the statewide homeless council
  - Elected seats are up for renewal.
  - Will hold vote at the next meeting.

### Legislative Update

- Federal
  - Looking at a partial shutdown Saturday.
    - Funding that needs to pass affects homelessness
  - Passed THUD budget.
    - 4 billion for homeless assistance (.5 billion increase).
    - 3.41 for public housing
    - 1.1 increase for section 8.
    - Level funding for HOPWA.
    - 86 million for fair housing
    - Level funding for eviction prevention.
    - Decrease to HOME funding.
    - T-HUD paid for the OSS conversion.

## Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Low income 12.5% tax credit increase is supported by our delegation.
- President's budget is flat.
- Farm Bill is cutting SNAP benefits.
- Housing Access bill.
- Watching the supreme court case on homelessness
- 30 day notice for nonpayment of rent.
- The child tax credit is back in and waiting senate approval.
- State
  - Work session on the governor's budget
    - 16 million for emergency housing relief with emergency shelter funding and asylum seeker funding and warming centers.
      - Low barrier, Saco, warming center, RRH, and emergency shelter
      - 2.5 to low barrier and looking for a separate line in the general fund.
      - 10 million for emergency shelter
      - Warming centers, Saco come out of remainder.
      - Governor's office will decide the division of funds.
  - 10 million for Maine state housing authority for affordable housing
  - 10 million for rural and 10 million for urban housing development.
    - 10 million can build 45 units of housing and we are short 26,000 units.
    - We are falling behind other New England States.
  - Service bills
    - 1710 passed house and is onto senate
      - Amended to a study only with no money.
      - The legislature only funds 2 years out and hopes the next legislature will fund.
  - GA bill removed the increase in reimbursement.
    - Reluctance to reimburse municipalities leads people from communities that refuse to meet their GA obligations ending up in Portland.
    - Many partners supported testimony on GA reimbursement.
    - Reimbursement was 70% and after a certain threshold it went up to 90%.
      - It is a flat 70% now.
    - In 2015 it changed to individual bed nights and shelter applications because billing for operations went away and it was reduced to the flat 70%
    - Would advocating to go back to threshold then to 90% be a first step?
      - 90% flat will solve the problem of people sent to Portland from home municipalities that would not trigger 90%.
      - Sponsored by a republican in oxford county.
    - We need to convince the governor that this is important.

## Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

### Warming Center

- First parish will not be available next year. Is there any lead for on peninsula?
- The Warming center was only open on an emergency basis when it was very cold outside.
- It was open 21 nights this Winter.
- There issues were parameters for funding and the landlords.
- If they had allocation, they would open every night for the season.
  - The State was willing to fund a nightly shelter.
- The facility only had two bathrooms and the space was confined.
- There were three fatalities in February, were they warming center clients?
- There were reported overdose reversals.

### Statewide Homeless Council Strategy

- Cullen read a statement to take the temperature of the room around their strategy
  - Homeless system in Maine has inflow but little outflow.
    - Prevention
    - Housing
    - Shelter
  - Feedback:
    - Just removing 2136 as it will get rolled into another bill.

# PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Average Total Number of Individuals Residing in Shelters\* per Night:

	<b>April, 2023</b>	<b>April, 2024</b>
<b>ADOLESCENTS</b>	22 Individuals	19 Individuals
<b>FAMILIES</b>	102 Individuals 38 Average Families	145 Individuals 49 Average Families
<b>ADULTS</b>	619 Individuals	521 Individuals
<b>Total</b>	<b>743 Individuals</b>	<b>685 Individuals</b>

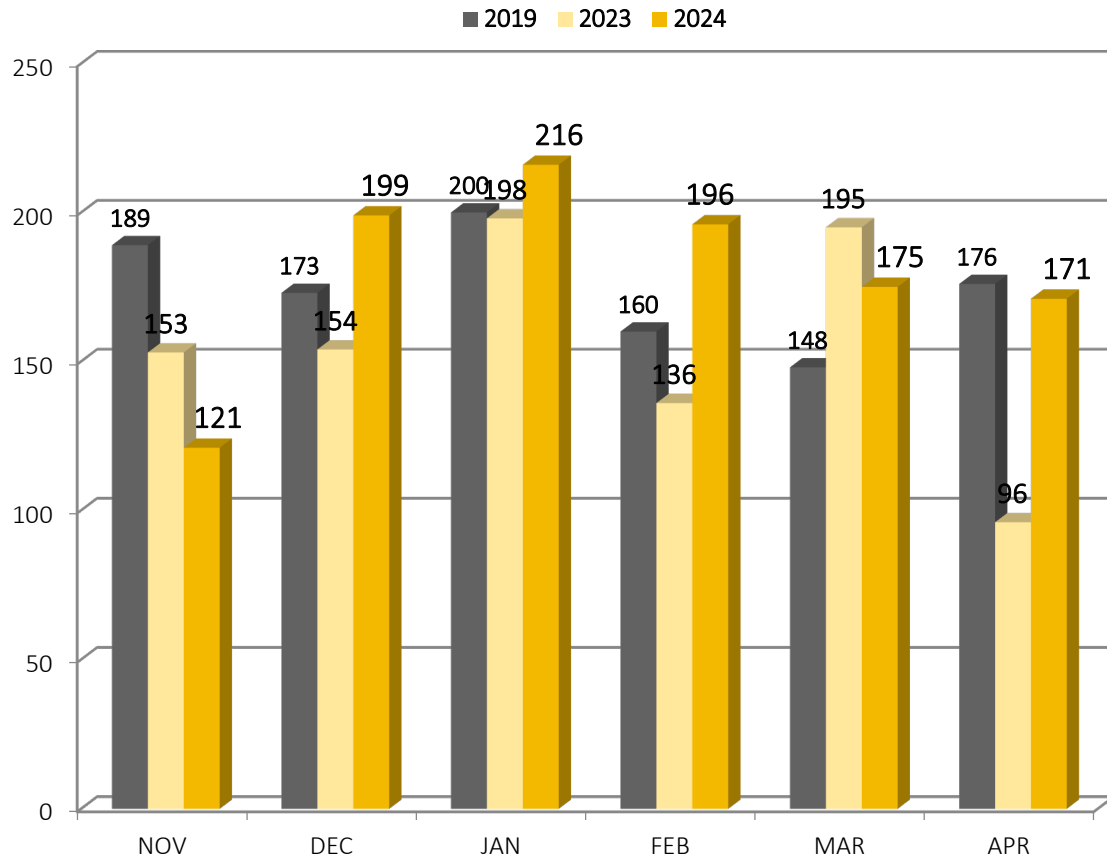
# HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER

## APRIL, 2024

### Intakes by Residency

MAINE TOWN								OUT-OF-STATE				*OUT-OF-COUNTRY	
Acton	1	Lebanon	1	Standish	2			AK	1	OR	2		
Augusta	2	North Monmouth	1	Turner	1			CA	1	RI	1		
Bethel	1	Old Orchard Beach	2	Warren	3			CO	1	SC	3		
Biddeford	4	Pittston	1	Westbrook	2			FL	2	TX	1		
Boothbay Harbor	1	Randolph	1	Winthrop	1			IL	1	WA	1		
Buxton	1	Raymond	1	Wiscasset	1			MD	1				
Ellsworth	1	Saco	1					MI	1				
Fryeburg	1	Sanford	2					MT	1				
Glenburn	1	Scarborough	2					NC	1				
Gorham	2	South Portland	4					NH	1				
Gray	2	St. Albans	1					NV	1				

# PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE APRIL, 2024 SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH

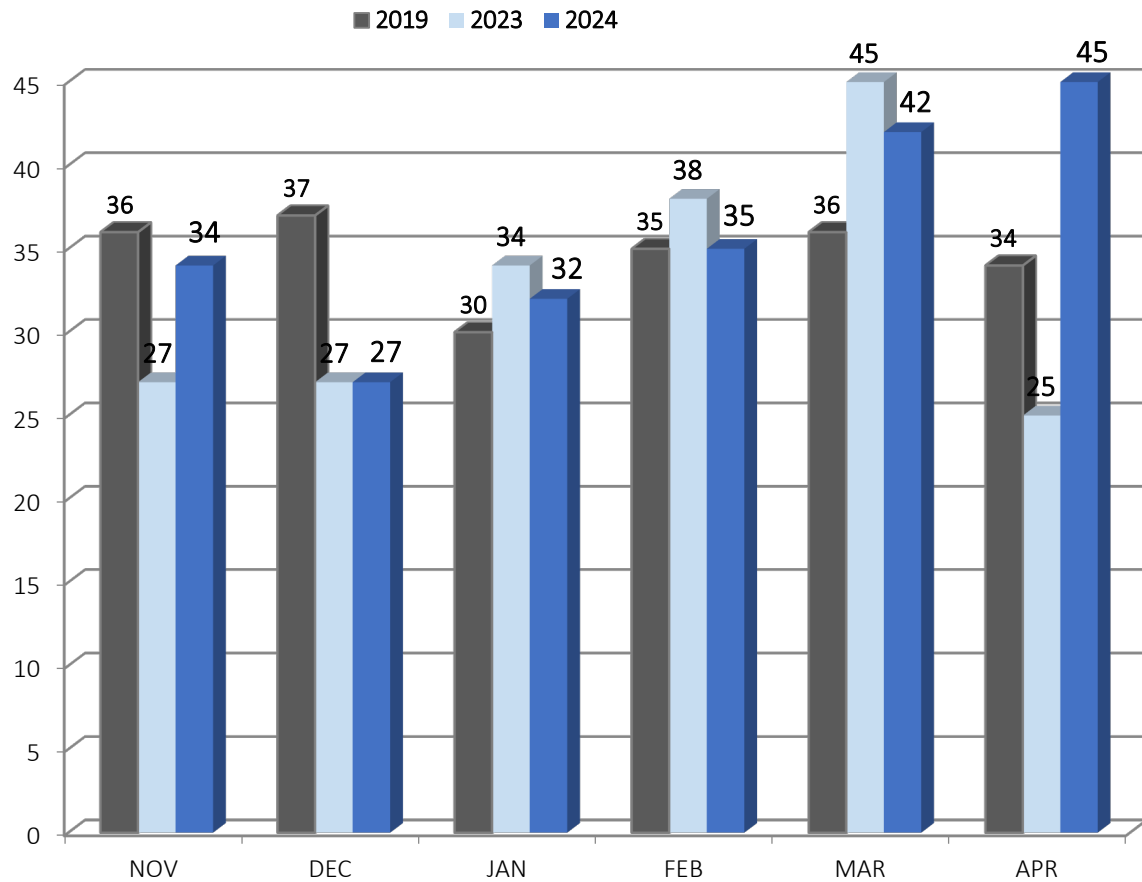


\* NOTE: this and the next two slides compare the current year, last year, and the last year before the pandemic.

\* \* All new intakes were unsheltered.

	INTAKES	Current Bed Capacity
Through These Doors	0	16+ at shelter and hotel overflow
Family Shelter	7/21	146
Joe Kreisler**	9	24
Milestone	5	36
HSC (Men)	74	208 + 50 temporary beds
HSC(Women)	23	
Florence House	21	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven
Elena's Way**	2	40
166 Riverside	30	179
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>739+</b>

# PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE APRIL, 2024 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH



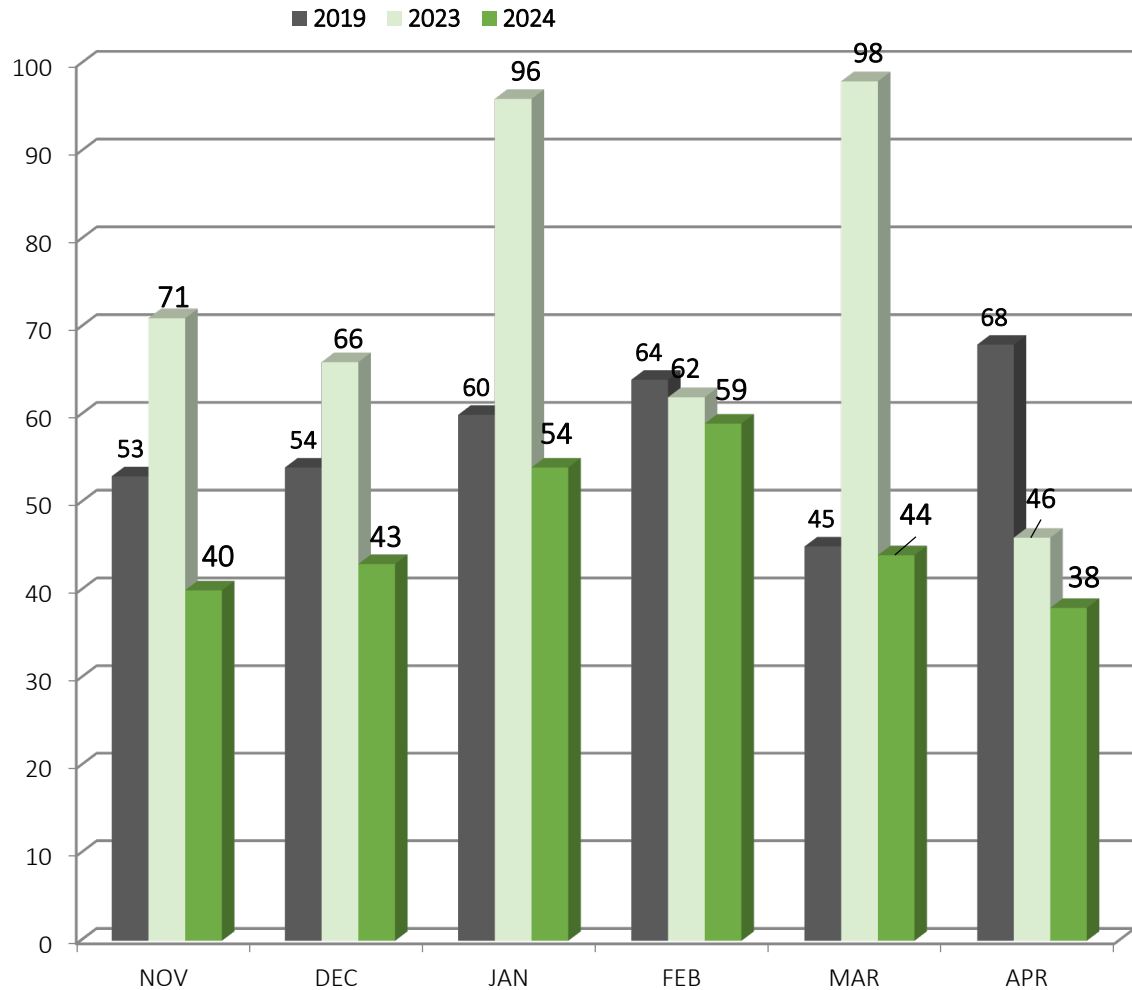
**\*Starting October, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter (replaced by HSC) shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.**

	HOUSING PLACEMENTS	BED NIGHTS	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	1	119		1
Family Shelter	8 / 27	5549		8 / 27
Joe Kreisler	1	58		1
Milestone	2	1344		2
HSC (Men)	5	338		5
HSC (Women)	1	122		1
Florence House	1	566		1
Elena's Way	0	0	0	0
166 Riverside	26	5304		26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1,340</b>		<b>45</b>

# PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

## APRIL, 2024

### 1st TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS (BASED ON SELF-REPORTING)



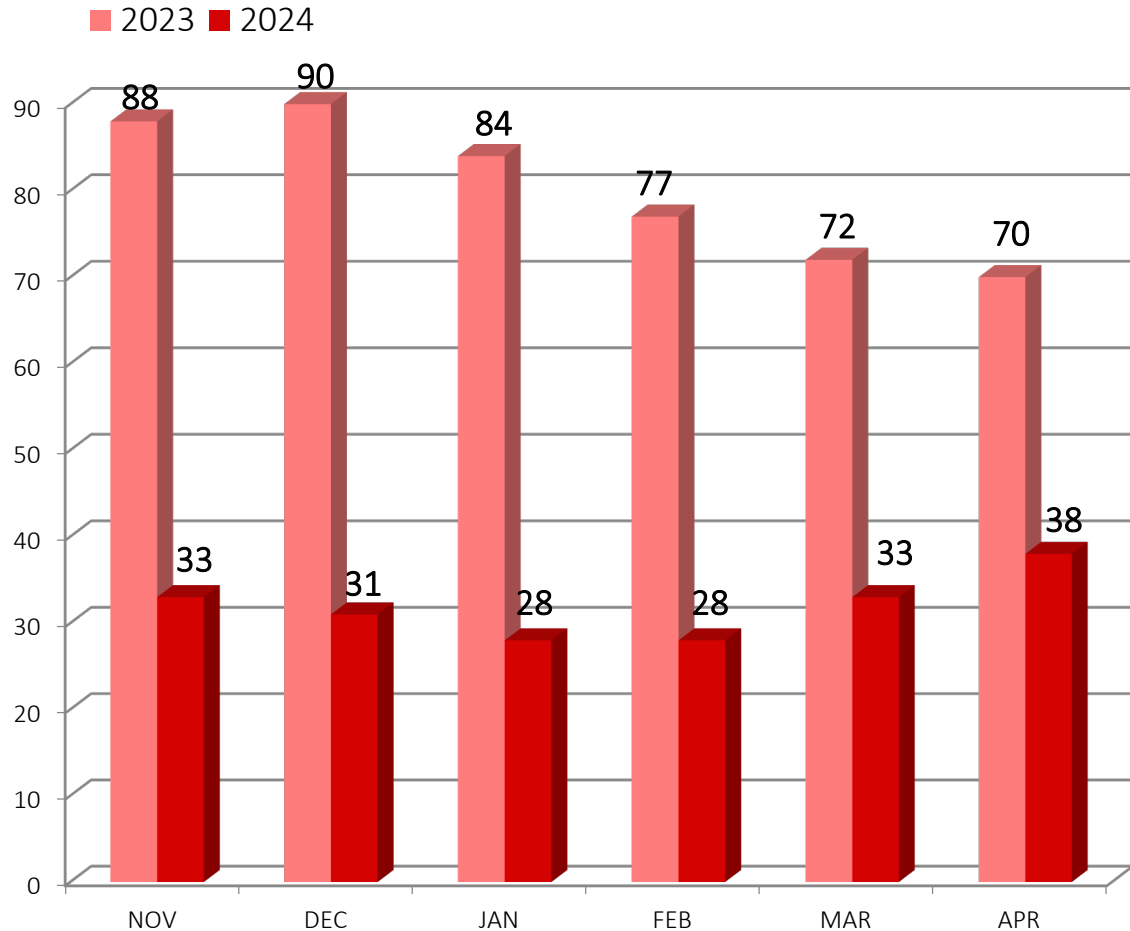
\*Not yet collected.

1 <sup>ST</sup> TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS	All Intakes	1 <sup>ST</sup> Time Homeless Intakes	% of Shelter's Intakes	% of All Intake	% of 1 <sup>ST</sup> Time Homeless Intakes
Through These Doors	0	0			
Family Shelter	7/21	7/21	100%	4%	18%
Joe Kreisler	9	4	44%	2%	11%
Milestone	5	3	60%	2%	8%
HSC (Men)	74	12	16%	7%	32%
HSC (Women)	23	7	22%	4%	18%
Florence House	21	5	24%	3%	13%
Elena's Way	2	0	-	-	-
166 Riverside	30	*	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>38</b>		<b>22%</b>	<b>100%</b>

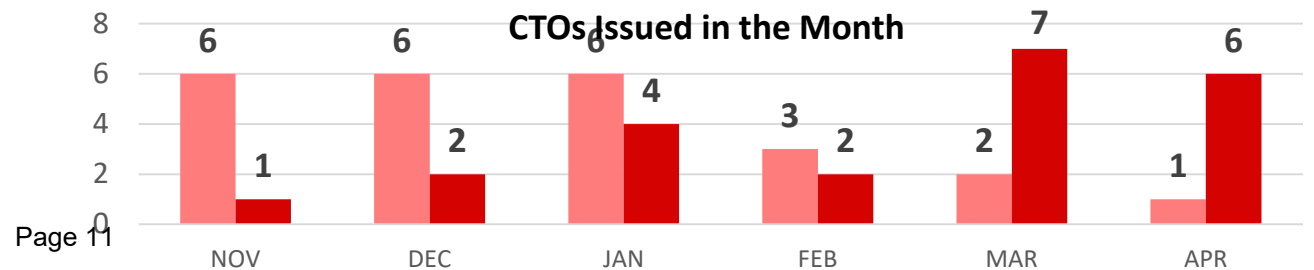
# PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE APRIL, 2024 CTOs FROM SHELTER

\*Some CTOs may overlap and “Current CTOs” is not an unduplicated number of people.

Total Current Criminal Trespass Orders



CTO STATISTICS	CTOs in the Month	Medical Restrictions in Month	Current CTOs*
Family Shelter	0		0
Joe Kreisler	0		3
Milestone	0		10
HSC*	5		20
Florence House	0		3
Elena’s Way	1		1
166 Riverside	0		1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>38</b>



# PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE APRIL, 2024

## HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY TYPE

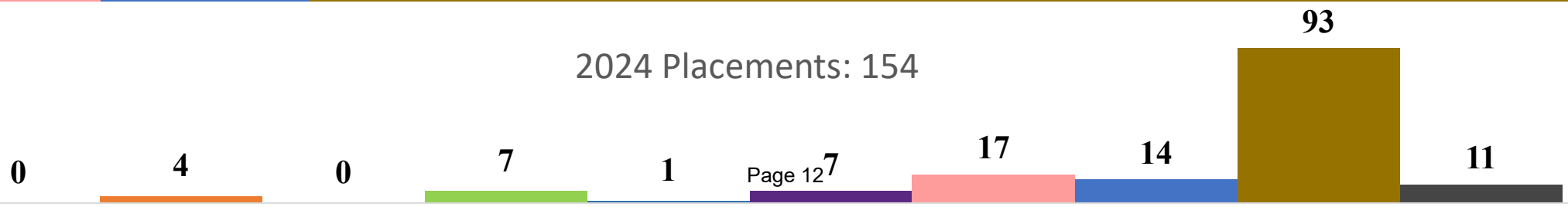
	S+C	BRAP	Recovery Home	Housing Project/PSH	STEP	Family Reunification	Sect. 8/HCV	OTHER*	GA	No Subsidy
Through These Doors								1		
Family Shelter								4	3	1
Joe Kreisler									1	
Milestone				2						
HSC (Men)						1	1		3	
HSC (Women)							1			
Florence House							1			
Elena's Way										
166 Riverside									26	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>

\*1 RRH, 4 Families in Brunswick Landing,

Distribution of the 45 Placements in the Month



2024 Placements: 154

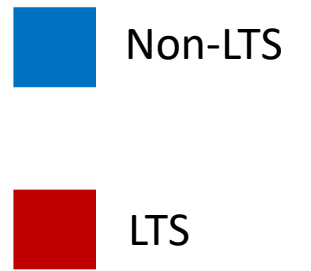


# PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE APRIL, 2024 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

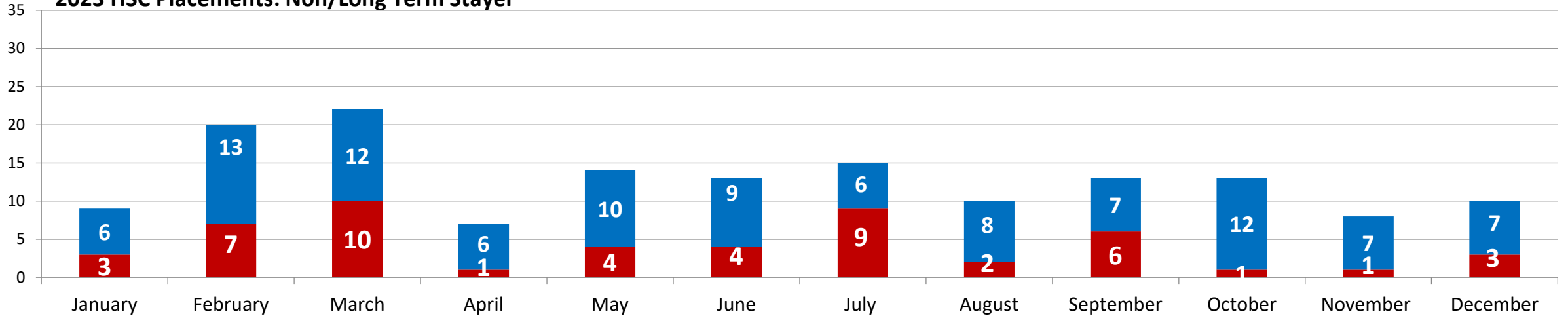
On April: 4  
704 individuals  
*(including families)*  
were utilizing shelter  
services in Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Doors	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	TTD Hotels	Elena's Way	166 Riverside	Total Bed Nights
1	14	139	37	21	35	235	0	40	171	692
2	14	134	38	21	39	234	0	40	170	690
3	14	139	39	18	32	238	0	40	166	686
4	14	139	39	17	36	245	0	40	174	704
5	14	139	41	16	35	228	0	40	169	682
6	14	139	40	16	35	226	0	40	174	684
7	14	139	39	17	37	228	0	40	169	683
8	14	139	40	20	34	228	0	40	170	685
9	14	139	41	21	36	228	0	39	176	694
10	14	139	38	22	41	226	0	40	173	693
11	14	139	40	19	37	225	0	40	171	685
12	14	131	39	18	37	225	0	40	170	674
13	14	131	36	17	38	230	0	39	165	670
14	14	131	34	20	38	226	0	39	174	676
15	14	131	36	21	37	225	0	39	175	678
16	14	131	38	19	38	225	0	39	175	679
17	14	128	36	19	38	233	0	39	170	677
18	14	128	37	19	36	244	0	40	174	692
19	14	125	41	19	37	242	0	40	171	689
20	14	125	37	17	38	235	0	40	169	675
21	14	125	37	19	37	229	0	40	172	673
22	14	128	38	18	37	236	0	40	173	684
23	14	124	38	19	37	236	0	40	173	681
24	14	123	39	18	35	237	0	40	177	683
25	14	123	40	21	36	245	0	40	168	687
26	14	123	38	20	38	246	0	40	167	686
27	14	123	38	20	37	247	0	40	168	687
28	14	123	38	19	28	249	0	40	174	685
29	14	125	40	23	35	246	0	40	174	697
30	14	126	38	24	34	245	0	40	173	694
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>3,928</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>7,042</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>5,145</b>	<b>20,545</b>
<b>Avg/night</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>685</b>
<b>Highest</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>704</b>
<b>Lowest</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>670</b>

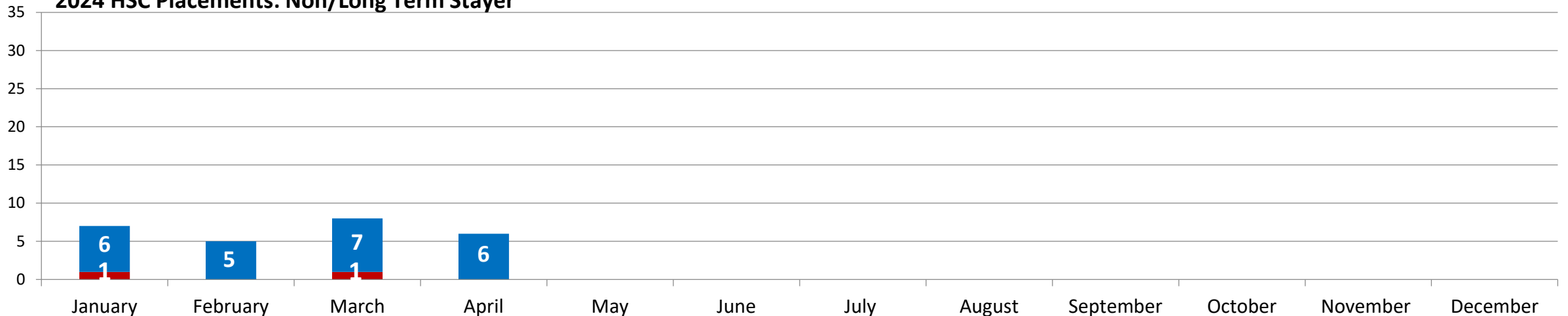
# HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



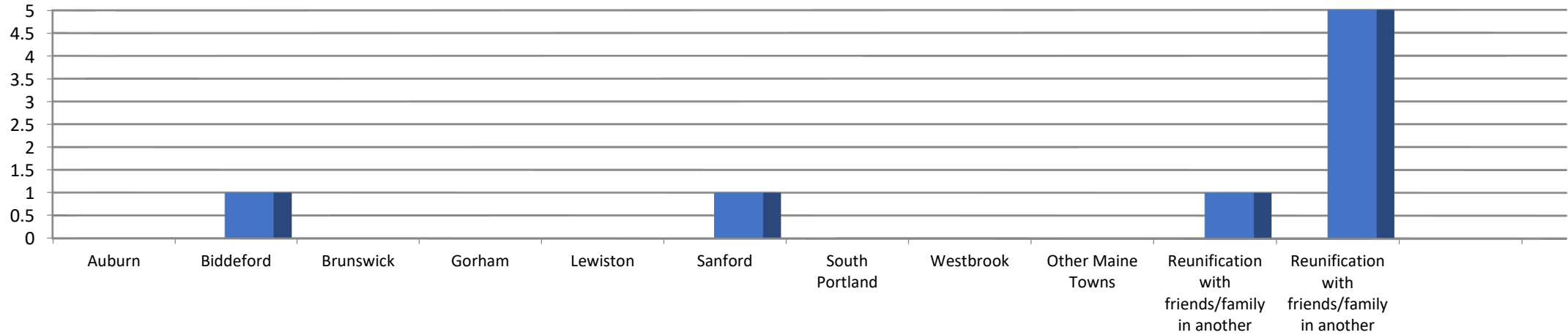
**2023 HSC Placements: Non/Long Term Stayer**



**2024 HSC Placements: Non/Long Term Stayer**



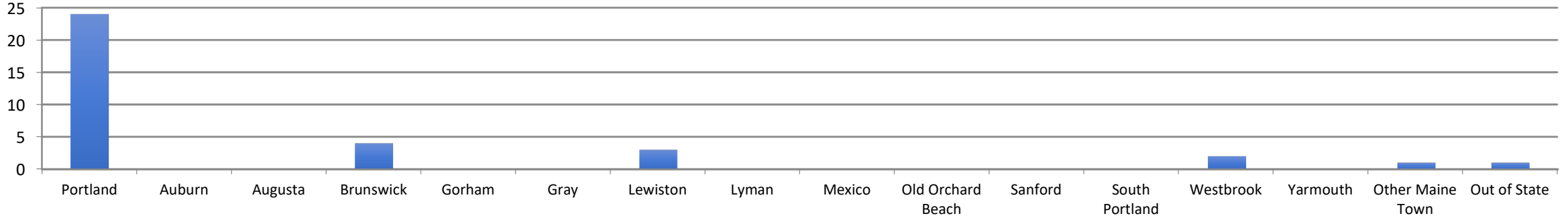
# HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2024 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
<b>TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>									<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Portland</b>	6	3	4	5									<b>13</b>	<b>69.2%</b>
<b>Auburn</b>														<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Biddeford</b>	1												<b>1</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
<b>Brunswick</b>														<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Gorham</b>														<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Lewiston</b>														<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Sanford</b>		1											<b>1</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
<b>South Portland</b>														<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Westbrook</b>														<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Other Maine Towns</b>														<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Reunification with friends/family in another Maine town*</b>			1										<b>1</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
<b>Reunification with friends/family in another state*</b>		1	3	1	Page 15								<b>4</b>	<b>19.2%</b>

# FAMILY SHELTER PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA

■ 2024



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	100%
<b>TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>									<b>27</b>	
Portland	9	5	6	4									20	68.6%
Auburn														0.0%
Augusta														0.0%
Brunswick				4										11.4%
Gorham														0.0%
Gray														0.0%
Lewiston	1		2										3	8.6%
Lyman														0.0%
Mexico														0.0%
Old Orchard Beach														0.0%
Sanford														0.0%
South Portland														0.0%
Westbrook		1	1										2	5.7%
Yarmouth														0.0%
Other Maine Town			1										1	2.9%
Out of State			1										1	2.9%

**131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION BILL TRACKING**

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

**USEFUL LINKS**

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

<b>BUDGET BILLS</b>				
Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 2214</a>	Governor's Bill	An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 (aka Supplemental Budget)	Signed by the Governor - will become Public Law	The bill, as <a href="#">Amended &amp; Enacted</a> , provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$13.5 M in one-time funding to supplement or establish programs addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness or facing other immediate housing needs and support other uses that address housing emergencies in the State, such as through winter warming shelters, legal services and other wraparound settlement supports intended to help individuals integrate into Maine's workforce and communities.</li> <li>• \$2.5 M in funds to privately operated low-barrier shelters to be distributed in fiscal year 2024-25 through fiscal year 2026-27.</li> <li>• \$10 M in one-time funding for new housing units through the authority's Affordable Homeownership Program to expand affordable, energy-efficient housing options that are affordable to workers and support state workforce needs.</li> <li>• \$20 M in one-time funding to expand affordable rental and ownership housing options through the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program and the federal Low-income Housing Tax Credit Program.</li> <li>• \$2 M in one-time funding for housing subsidies for homeless students in elementary school and secondary school.</li> <li>• \$18 M in one-time funds for a pilot program to provide support for eviction prevention (rent relief program).</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10 M in additional one-time funding in tandem with programmatic reforms in order to support the substantial new demand for the General Assistance - Reimbursement to Cities and Towns program</li> <li>• \$1,168,299 to strengthen mental health crisis intervention mobile response services in order to provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week beginning January 1, 2025. This funding must provide funding for mobile outreach peer support specialists (Part DDDD). And funding for Crisis receiving centers (Part EEEE).</li> <li>• Establishes the Office of New Americans</li> </ul>
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**HOMELESSNESS BILLS**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 2136</a> 	Rep A Mastraccio	An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals	<b>Passed to be Enacted in the House on 3/28/24 and the Senate on 4/1/24 and placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted</b>	This bill, as amended by the Committee: This amendment increases the ongoing appropriation to support emergency shelter operations in the bill from \$10,000,000 to \$12,500,000 and requires the Maine State Housing Authority to reserve \$2,500,000 annually exclusively for distribution to low barrier emergency shelters. The amendment requires the Statewide Homeless Council to convene a stakeholder group to develop a 10-year plan to address the root causes of homelessness. The stakeholder group is required to notify the Joint Select Committee on Housing of all meetings of the stakeholder group. The stakeholder group is required to hold at least 4 meetings prior to the council's submitting a report to the Joint Select Committee on Housing by November 6, 2024. The amendment also requires the Maine State Housing Authority to amend its rules to ensure that \$2,500,000, or an equivalent percentage of the funds appropriated for the shelter operation subsidy, is reserved exclusively for distribution to low-barrier shelters.
<a href="#">LD 2146</a>	Rep. G Lookner	An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters	<b>House Passed to be Engrossed by Committee Amendment A on 2/22; the Senate accepted the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report - sent back to the House.</b>	This bill prohibits municipalities with populations exceeding 30,000 people from adopting moratoria on the establishment of emergency shelters that provide temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness.

<a href="#">LD 1422</a>	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless by Establishing a Housing Voucher Program and Providing Site-based Housing Services	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – CARRIED OVER	This bill establishes a housing voucher program for homeless students under the authority of the Maine State Housing Authority and appropriates one-time funding of \$2 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. The bill directs the Maine State Housing Authority to identify 3 sites in Maine to be used for a site-based housing program and appropriates one-time funding of \$3.5 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the Department of Health and Human Services to support the program.
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**SERVICE BILLS**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 2082</a>	Sen. R Bennett	An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service and Housing Providers	Became Law without the Governor's Signature	This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to pay administrative expenses and interest charged on lines of credit or loans accessed by behavioral health services providers and housing assistance providers when a delay in department contract award, finalization or payments requires the provider to access the line of credit or loan.
<a href="#">LD 2237</a>	Speaker R Talbot Ross	An Act to Strengthen Public Safety, Health and Well-being by Expanding Services and Coordinating Violence Prevention Resources	Passed to be Enacted, in the House and Senate on 3/21/24 and placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted	<p>This bill includes parts A-F. <a href="#">Click here for the full bill text</a>. Relevant parts are below.</p> <p>This bill enacts provisions to improve mental health crisis response services and to reduce violence, including gun violence.</p> <p>Part A provides funding to strengthen and expand mental health crisis intervention mobile response services in order to provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide for the incorporation of specific types of mental health and crisis intervention experts into the existing crisis services response system. It also provides funding for ancillary services for mobile response services, including necessary travel and telephone conferences with clients. Part A also requires the Department of Health and Human Services, by January 30, 2025, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, to ensure the coordination of services under the State's E-9-1-1 system and the State's 9-8-8 mobile crisis services system. By January 30, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services must submit a status report related to the coordination of services, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, and the joint standing committee may submit a bill relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.</p> <p>Part B directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish crisis receiving centers across the State to support individuals dealing with behavioral health, mental health or substance use issues. At a minimum, a crisis receiving center must be established in Androscoggin, Aroostook, Oxford, Penobscot, Washington and York counties. Crisis receiving centers must provide culturally sensitive</p>

				<p>trauma-informed care. Part B also provides funding to establish 6 crisis receiving centers.</p> <p>Part D provides funding to reduce waiting lists for and expand access to medication management services, including telehealth services and employee recruitment and retention incentives, provided by the Office of Behavioral Health that are similar to the services provided under Department of Health and Human Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, to meet the timely access requirements under the consent decree referenced in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 1217.</p>
<a href="#">LD 2243</a>	Sen. T Stewart	Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend MaineCare Rules Governing Certain Types of Behavioral and Mental Health Services and to Form a Stakeholder Group to Study Methods for Improving Those Services	<b>Passed the House on 4/3/24 and the Senate on 4/9/24 and placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Final Passage</b>	This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend the MaineCare rules governing reimbursement for outpatient behavioral health services provided in public schools under the MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapters II and III, Section 65 and for services provided in residential treatment facilities for persons with mental illness and in specialized or scattered residential treatment facilities as described in the MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 97, Appendices E and F, respectively. The department must initiate the rule-making process immediately after the resolve goes into effect, and the rules must remain in effect until the department completes a full rate determination. Finally, the resolve requires the department to form a stakeholder group to study how to develop more sustainable models of outpatient and residential mental and behavioral health treatment services and how to increase access to those services within the State. By January 1, 2025, the stakeholder group must submit a report to the department, and by January 15, 2025, the department must submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters a summary of the report based on the stakeholder group's findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out legislation.
<a href="#">LD 1975</a>	Rep. Lydia Crafts	An Act to Implement a Statewide Public Health Response to Substance Use and Amend the Laws Governing Scheduled Drugs	<b>Passed to be Enacted in the House on 4/10/24 - Placed on the Special Study Table pending final Passage.</b>	This bill establishes the Substance Use, Health and Safety Fund in the Department of Health and Human Services. Money deposited in the fund must be used by the department to oversee, approve and provide grants and funding to agencies, organizations and service providers, including the federally recognized Indian tribes in this State and service providers that are affiliated with federally recognized Indian tribes in this State, to increase voluntary access to community care for persons who need services related to substance use, as set forth in the bill. By June 30, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Legislature must appropriate to the fund an amount sufficient to fully fund the services as set forth in the bill. The bill repeals the laws that make possession of a schedule W, X, Y or Z drug

				and use of drug paraphernalia a crime. It also repeals the laws governing the civil violation of use of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia.
<a href="#">LD 540</a>	Rep. Melanie Sachs	An Act to Establish Peer Respite Centers for Adults with Mental Health Challenges in Maine	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill requires the department to establish through contracts 2 peer respite centers in the State for persons 18 years of age or older. The centers must provide 24-hour intentional peer support to persons in need of mental health services on a voluntary, short-term basis.
<a href="#">LD 599</a>	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill provides ongoing funding for support services for a transitional housing program in Portland.

### HOUSING/RENTAL ASSISTANCE BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 337</a>	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing	Signed by the Governor - will become Public Law	Sponsor Amendment replaces the entire concept draft bill: This amendment aims to increase affordable housing by allowing manufactured housing (modular and “newer mobile homes” as defined) to be located on lots where single family homes are allowed. This includes only 1) “newer mobile homes” built after 1976 that are constructed in compliance with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development standards, and 2) modular homes that the manufacturer certifies are constructed in compliance with Title 10, chapter 951, and rules adopted under that chapter.
<a href="#">LD 1294</a>	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	Signed by the Governor - will become Public Law	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would implement certain recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals.
<a href="#">LD 1505</a>	Rep. Kristen Cloutier	An Act to Amend the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act	Signed by the Governor - will become Public Law	This bill amends the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act to include group equity cooperatives. It also provides that a housing assistance program must be made reasonably available to residents of housing cooperatives.
<a href="#">LD 1721</a>	Sen. Jill Duson	An Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations in the State <b>Amended Bill Title: Resolve, to Establish a Plan to Provide Transitional Housing and to Support the Growth of Maine's Workforce</b>	Signed by the Governor - will become Public Law	This bill as Enacted: The Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall propose a plan to provide transitional housing for persons seeking federal work permits and their families based on the model being used in southern Maine, which consists of leasing a property formerly used as a hotel and contracting with a private nonprofit entity to provide support services. The plan must include an evaluation of options for purchasing a similar property, or allocating funds to a nongovernmental entity to purchase a similar property, to provide transitional housing concurrent with services aimed at supporting

				entry into the workforce and an evaluation of the financial impacts upon the State and the municipality in which the property is located. The plan must identify potential funding sources, including but not limited to existing state and federal funds. In addition to the proposed plan, using data collected from the current model used to provide transitional housing, the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall provide information regarding who is being served by the model, how many enter the workforce, the amount of time those being served use transitional housing and accompanying services before successfully entering the workforce and how workforce needs are affected by the model.
<a href="#">LD 2209</a>	Committee Bill	An Act to Increase the Cap on Bonds Issued by the Maine State Housing Authority to Reflect Current Housing Production Needs in the State	Signed by the Governor - will become Public Law	This committee bill is presented by the Joint Select Committee on Housing pursuant to Joint Order 2023, H.P. 3, section 3. The bill increases the cap on mortgage purchase bonds authorized to be issued by the Maine State Housing Authority to align with current housing production needs in the State.
<a href="#">LD 1673</a>	Rep. Traci Gere	An Act to Encourage Affordable Housing and Mixed-use Development by Establishing a Thriving Corridors Program	Became law without the Governor's Signature on 3/26/24	As Amended, this bill would establish a resolve to create a working group to design a cross-agency plan. The Working Group would consist of the Commissioners of: DOT, EPA, DECD, ACF, Housing, GOPIF.
<a href="#">LD 2158</a>	Rep. C Golek	An Act to Improve the Housing Voucher System <b>Amended Bill Title: Resolve, to Improve the Housing Voucher System and Reduce the Number of Voucher Expirations</b>	Signed by the Governor - will become Public Law	<b>This bill was Amended prior to enactment and becoming law.</b> This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve directing the Maine State Housing Authority to convene a stakeholder group to gather information about the use of housing vouchers and income-based rental assistance and consider ways to maximize the use of housing vouchers by outlining the process for local housing authorities to request fair market rent waivers from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, making changes to the rules governing the expiration of housing vouchers and the area of the State in which a housing voucher can be used and educating landlords to increase the number of landlords who accept tenants who use housing vouchers or other income-based rental assistance. The authority is directed to submit a report to the joint select or joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters by January 15, 2025.
<a href="#">LD 1490</a>	Rep. Chris Kessler	An Act to Reduce Rental Housing Costs by Eliminating Additional Fees at or Prior to the Commencement of Tenancy <b>New Bill Title: An Act to Reduce Rental Housing Costs by Limiting Additional Fees at or Prior to the Commencement of Tenancy</b>	Signed by the Governor - will become Public Law	<b>This bill as Amended by House Amendment A:</b> This amendment replaces the bill and does the following in the laws regarding rental property. 1. It adds definitions for "mandatory recurring fee," "rent," "utility service costs" and "optional recurring fee." 2. It adds mandatory recurring fees to the notice of rent increase requirement for landlords, requiring them to provide notice to tenants 45 days in advance of a fee increase. 3. It creates a limit on the amount of money required to initiate tenancy.

				<p>4. It adds provisions requiring tenants to pay certain charges to the list of unenforceable provisions currently in law.</p> <p>5. It requires landlords to provide a total price disclosure statement to potential tenants or lessees.</p> <p>The amendment also adds an effective date of January 1, 2025.</p>
<a href="#">LD 2169</a>	Sen. M Daughtry	An Act to Create Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine	Signed by the Governor - will become Public Law	This bill establishes the Workforce Housing Development Loan Fund in the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide loans to support the development of affordable workforce housing. The department must solicit applications for loans from the fund through a competitive application process. Loans may be awarded to community banks at an interest rate of 0% to provide funding to housing developers to develop housing for employees who earn 60% to 120% of the area median income as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
<a href="#">LD 1710</a>	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program	Passed to be Enacted in the House on 3/19/24 and the Senate on 3/20/24 and Placed on the Special Study Table pending final Passage.	Sponsor Amendment amends the bill as follows: This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment requires the Maine State Housing Authority to establish and administer the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program. The program must include a rental assistance component to assist individuals with the cost of rent and a rental guarantee component to encourage landlords to work with the program and other rental assistance programs in the State. The amendment also creates the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund under the Maine State Housing Authority to carry out the program. The bill appropriates \$16,000,000 of ongoing funds annually. The amendment makes it an unfair trade practice for a landlord to refuse to participate in a federal, state or local tenant-based rental assistance program.
<a href="#">LD 2106</a> ★	Sen. M Rotundo	An Act to Accelerate the Production of Housing and Strengthen the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit	Passed to be Enacted in the House on 3/19/24; on 3/20/24 Senate Placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted.	This bill increases the maximum tax credit allowed for certified historic property rehabilitation projects. It also allows nonprofit organizations that claim the historic preservation tax credit or the affordable housing tax credit to file their refund claims on a calendar year basis. The changes in the bill apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.
<a href="#">LD 1867</a>	Rep. Grayson Lookner	An Act to Establish the Community Housing and Rural Development Authority	Passed to be Enacted in the House on 2/27/24; on 2/28 Senate Placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted.	This bill establishes the Community Housing and Rural Development Authority within the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to develop, own, lease and maintain mixed-income, permanently affordable public residential housing in this State.
<a href="#">LD 853</a>	Rep. Benjamin Collings	RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to Housing	Public Hearing, Tuesday 1/23/24; Work Session 1/30/24	This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to declare that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable

			& 2/6/24 – Housing Committee – Divided Report	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?"
<a href="#">LD 1074</a> ★	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-Income Households	Public Hearing on 4/25/23 - AFA Committee	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$100,000,000, will be used to build new affordable housing for low-income households through the construction of new structures and adaptive reuse of existing structures.
<a href="#">LD 226</a> ★	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Address Maine’s Affordable Housing Crisis	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill provides one-time funds to MaineHousing in the amount of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and in fiscal year 2024-25 (only these FYs) to increase affordable housing stock in the State.
<a href="#">LD 1493</a>	Rep. Raegan LaRochelle	An Act to Increase Affordable Housing by Expanding Tax Increment Financing	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Taken from the Table on 4/18/24 - failed final passage, tabled pending final Passage to be Enacted.	This bill authorizes the creation of Pine Tree Housing Zones to allow retained value resulting from a tax increment financing district in a municipality to be used anywhere in the municipality for the purposes of the purchase, rehabilitation or establishment of affordable and workforce housing in the municipality. The bill provides for a sales tax exemption for the associated purchasing of goods and services and electricity for a qualified project in a Pine Tree Housing Zone.
<a href="#">LD 1540</a>	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Create the Stable Home Fund Program	Emergency bill requiring 2/3’s majority vote – failed 2/3’s majority vote in the House but Passed in the Senate to be Placed on the Special Appropriations Table on 6/21. Sent back to the House for concurrence where it failed 2/3’s needed for final passage – Carried over	This bill, which includes an emergency preamble and emergency clause, creates the Stable Home Fund and the Stable Home Fund Program within MaineHousing. The purpose of the program is to provide persons earning up to 60% of the median income for an area as defined by HUD with \$300 per month in rental assistance paid directly to the landlord for up to 24 months or until those persons secure housing by means of a housing voucher program administered by HUD under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, or secure a subsidized housing unit. The bill directs MaineHousing to administer the program except that MaineHousing may delegate the administration of the program and provide appropriate funding from the fund to a municipal housing authority with respect to eligible persons located within the municipal housing authority's jurisdiction.

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE & SAFETY NET BILLS**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 1732</a>	Rep. Michele Meyer	An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program	Became law without the Governor's signature on 3/27/24	<p><b>This bill as Enacted as Public Law:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires overseers and designated or appointed municipal officials administering the program to complete training within 120 days of election or appointment.</li> <li>Adds the delivery of trauma-informed services and culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the training requirements for overseers and municipal officials.</li> <li>Requires municipalities to provide general assistance with trauma-informed services and culturally and linguistically appropriate services.</li> <li>Requires municipalities to accept applications for general assistance during regular business hours.</li> <li>Amends provisions governing the municipality of responsibility to increase the provision of assistance from 30 days to 6 months when a municipality assists an applicant in relocating to another community and from 6 months to 12 months when an applicant is residing in a group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home or hospital or other institution.</li> <li>Requires DHHS to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over general assistance matters no later than January 30, 2026 and no later than January 30th of each odd-numbered calendar year thereafter. The initial report must include recommendations regarding a potential extension of the general assistance eligibility period beyond the 30-day limit.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">LD 1664</a>	Sen. Marianne Moore	An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe.

**FOOD SECURITY BILLS**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 568</a>	Rep. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Provide Funding for the State Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives	Passed to be Enacted in the House and Senate. Placed on the Special Appropriations Table – Carried over	This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$600,000 to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The bill also removes the \$50,000 limit on matching contributions from the fund criteria.
<a href="#">LD 1584</a>	Rep. Holly Stover	An Act to Provide Funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to Temporarily Restore Benefits Being Reduced by the Federal Government	Passed to be Enacted in the House and Senate. Placed on the Special Appropriations Table – Carried over	Under the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Federal Government provided emergency benefit allotments under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. These emergency benefit allotments are scheduled to expire March 1, 2023.

				<p>This bill extends for 6 months, but on a decreasing basis, the amount of benefits available under SNAP by providing General Fund funds to provide the following level of benefits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In March 2023, 100% of the federal emergency benefit allotment;</li> <li>2. In April 2023, 75% of the federal emergency benefit allotment;</li> <li>3. In May 2023, 50% of the federal emergency benefit allotment; and</li> <li>4. From June through August 2023, 25% of the federal emergency benefit allotment.</li> </ol> <p>Beginning in September 2023, an additional amount is not provided.</p>
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**BILLS THE ARE NOW DEAD**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 2138</a>	Rep C Madigan	An Act to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters	<b>This bill is now DEAD</b> (instead incorporated in LD 2136 above)	This resolve, as amended by the Sponsor, provides ongoing funds for low-barrier homeless shelters – allocating \$2.5 million beginning next fiscal year.
<a href="#">LD 328</a>	Sen. Trey Stewart	An Act to Improve Mental Health in Maine	<b>This bill is now DEAD</b>	This bill brings MaineCare regulations into alignment with Dartmouth Assertive Community Treatment Scale fidelity items, ensuring high-quality, evidence based Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) services for Maine residents with psychotic disorders and high needs.
<a href="#">LD 1633</a>	Sen. Pinny Beebe-Center	An Act to Establish a Community-based Reentry Program in All Department of Corrections Facilities	<b>This bill is now DEAD</b>	This bill creates a community-based reentry program administered by a community based organization at each correctional facility operated by the Department of Corrections. The program is a peer-supported program that provides individualized reentry plans to incarcerated individuals starting from 2 years prior to an individual's release, involving multiple meetings to determine the individual's education, job training, substance use disorder treatment, housing and other needs subsequent to release and follow-up meetings after release to support the individual's reentry into the community and to reduce or prevent recidivism. This bill also creates the Peer Reentry Review Board, which oversees, advises, studies data and makes recommendations to the community-based reentry program and reports to the Commissioner of Corrections and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters.
<a href="#">LD 1298</a>	Rep. Charles Skold	An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing	<b>This bill is now DEAD</b>	This bill allows a municipality to impose a local option sales tax of 1% on short-term lodging that is subject to the state sales and use tax if approved by referendum of the voters in that municipality. The revenue from the local option sales tax must be distributed to the municipality imposing the local option sales tax. The distributed revenue must be used in municipal programs that support affordable housing development in that municipality, including rental assistance for lower income households or

				moderate-income households. Revenue received by a municipality may not be used to reduce or eliminate funding otherwise due the municipality under other provisions of law. The local option sales tax may not take effect before July 1, 2024.
<a href="#">LD 1672</a>	Rep. Traci Gere	An Act to Establish an Affordable Housing Permitting Process	<b>This bill is now DEAD</b>	This bill establishes the Affordable Housing Development Review Board under the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning in order to issue permits for the development of affordable housing and workforce housing.
<a href="#">LD 314</a>	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Housing in Maine	<b>This Bill is now DEAD</b>	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.
<a href="#">LD 371</a>	Sen. Jeffrey Timberlake	An Act to Address Certain Local Zoning Ordinances	<b>This bill is now DEAD</b>	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to address certain local zoning ordinances.
<a href="#">LD 387</a>	Rep. Mark Blier	An Act to Promote Affordable Housing by Providing a Tax Exemption for Housing Choice Vouchers	<b>This Bill is now DEAD</b>	This bill provides an income tax deduction for income received by a landlord as tenant based housing assistance payments in the form of Section 8 housing choice vouchers administered by the Maine State Housing Authority.
<a href="#">LD 721</a>	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Preserve Historic Buildings and Promote Affordable Housing	<b>This Bill is now DEAD</b>	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.
<a href="#">LD 1864</a>	Rep. James Boyle	An Act to Increase Maine's Housing Supply by Prohibiting Certain Zoning Requirements in Areas Where Public Sewer and Water Infrastructure Are Available and in Designated Growth Areas	<b>This Bill is now DEAD</b>	This bill provides restrictions on municipal ordinance requirements related to minimum lot size in areas where water and sewer infrastructure are available and in areas where water and sewer infrastructure are not available but that are within designated growth areas. For a housing development served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system and that is located in an area in which dwelling units are allowed, a municipality must allow a dwelling unit on a lot with a minimum size of 5,000 square feet. For a housing development located in a designated growth area that is not served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system, that complies with minimum lot size requirements in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 423-A and that is located in an area in which dwelling units are allowed, a municipality must allow a dwelling unit on a lot with a minimum size of 20,000 square feet.

				The bill also provides limits to ordinance provisions relating to lot coverage, road frontage and setback requirements.
<a href="#">LD 1904</a>	Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross	An Act to Enact the Fair Chance Housing Act	This Bill is now DEAD	This bill establishes the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act, the purpose of which is to ensure that a person is not denied housing based solely on the existence of a history of criminal convictions. This bill prohibits a housing provider from considering an applicant's criminal history until after the housing provider determines that the applicant meets all other qualifications for tenancy. A person who is aggrieved by a violation of the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act by a housing provider may file a grievance with the Maine Human Rights Commission and, if it is a violation by a private housing provider, may bring a civil action in court.
<a href="#">LD 1426</a>	Rep. Kristi Mathieson	An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance	This bill is now DEAD	This bill: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requires an overseer, no later than the 120th day following appointment or election, to complete training on the requirements of the municipal general assistance program;</li> <li>2. Replaces, for determining the maximum level of assistance, the fair market value determination with setting the assistance at the equivalent amount of rental assistance provided for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 except that the benefit level may not be less than the difference between the applicant's income and 110% of the area's fair market rent;</li> <li>3. Provides that if general assistance is being used to pay rent for an applicant whose rent is subject to a lease an overseer may redetermine the applicant's eligibility annually;</li> <li>4. Increases from 70% to 90% the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by a municipality and each Indian tribe;</li> <li>5. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse each municipality for 5% of the direct costs of paying benefits incurred through its general assistance program;</li> <li>6. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and provide overseers with access to a statewide database for tracking applicants for the general assistance program and expenses relating to the program; and</li> <li>7. Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide assistance to municipalities with regard to processing applications for the general assistance program and directs the department to establish a hotline that is available 24 hours per day in order to provide consistent, accurate advice to overseers. It also requires the department to respond to requests for assistance within 24 hours</li> </ol>
<a href="#">LD 1675</a>	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the General Assistance Program Regarding Eligibility, Housing	This bill is now DEAD	This bill amends the law governing the General Assistance (GA) program to provide that a municipality must calculate housing assistance equivalent to the amount of rental assistance provided

		Assistance and State Reimbursement and to Establish a Working Group		for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937. The bill extends the period of eligibility from one month to 6 months. Beginning July 1, 2023, when a municipality incurs net general assistance costs in excess of 0.008% of that municipality's most recent state valuation relative to the state fiscal year for which reimbursement is being issued, DHHS must reimburse the municipality for 90% of the amount in excess of these expenditures. The bill also directs the department to establish a working group to study and make recommendations related to a uniform intake process and the conversion of the GA program into a housing assistance program.
<a href="#">LD 1940</a>	Sen. Craig Hickman	An Act to Promote Consistent Policies within Growth Management Programs in Order to Increase Food Security and Economic Resiliency in Local Communities	<b>This Bill is now DEAD</b>	This bill amends the laws governing planning and land use regulation to encourage: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Municipalities to ensure that the language and requirements in charters, policies, codes, regulations, bylaws and fees align with each other and meet the overall intent of the comprehensive plan approved by the legislative body;</li> <li>2. Municipalities to develop policies that assess community needs and environmental, food security and economic resiliency effects of municipal regulations, lessen the effect of excessive parking requirements for buildings in downtowns and on main streets and provide for alternative approaches for compliance relating to the reuse of upper floors of buildings in downtowns and on main streets; and</li> <li>3. In the development of affordable housing, municipalities and multimunicipal regions to establish policies that assess food security and economic resiliency effects of municipal regulations.</li> </ol>

## Federal Legislation Update

## BUDGET &amp; FUNDING-RELATED ITEMS - Updates

➔ **Tax Package – No New Update** – The House passed its tax package, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024 (H.R. 7024), at the end of January. The bill now faces a full vote in the Senate. The tax bill includes provisions to expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC), as well as top two legislative priorities related to affordable housing (also included in the bipartisan Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act that has widespread bipartisan support). The tax bill would do the following for affordable housing:

- Restore the 12.5 percent allocation increase for nine percent LIHTCs for 2023 to 2025; and
- Lower the 50 percent bond financing test to 30 percent for 2024 to 2025.

**President’s FY 25 Budget – No New Update**– On 3/11, President Biden and HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge released their full FY25 budget request. Per the NLIHC: Overall, the budget request proposes \$72.6 billion – essentially level funding compared to FY24 – through the appropriations process for affordable housing and homelessness programs. The president’s funding proposal is limited by the strict spending caps agreed to by Congress and the White House under the “Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023,” which allows for a spending increase of only 1% in FY25 compared to FY24. The president’s budget was written before Congress finalized the FY24 spending bill, which was signed into law. Additionally, per CBPP: The budget calls for tax cuts enacted in 2017 to end on schedule for households with incomes of more than \$400,000, and for tax cuts for households earning less than \$400,000 to continue and to be fully offset.

➔ **FY 25 Budget – New** – Congress is in the midst of FY 25 budget negotiations. Advocates are requesting the highest funding increases possible for programs related to housing and homelessness, though the FY 25 budget will have to remain within tight budget caps previously voted upon.

➔ **Dear Colleague Sign on Letters – New** – Bipartisan “Dear Colleague” Letters are circulating in Congress advocating for increased Homeless Assistance Grant funding in the FY 25 budget. Senator King, Congresswoman Pingree, and Congressman Golden have all signed onto letters in the Senate and House. (Senator Collins would not sign on to a letter as she is Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee). There is also a bipartisan Dear Colleague letter circulating in the House that calls for \$800 million for the McKinney-Vento Act’s Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program and \$304 million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) program and in the FY 25 budget.

**BILLS – Updates**

➔ **Farm Bill – Update** – On 5/1, the chairs of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees released differing visions of a farm bill. Per CBPP: The nutrition provisions of the farm bill framework proposed by Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow would protect and strengthen SNAP, the nation’s most important and effective anti-hunger program. It expands access to SNAP benefits for groups that have historically been excluded from the program, ensures that benefits are adequate to provide a nutritious diet, and improves customer service for participants. It would restore SNAP eligibility for people convicted of a drug-related felony, ending a punitive policy that worsens food insecurity and disproportionately impacts people of color. It would also reduce barriers to SNAP participation for older adults, military families, and some college students. In contrast, the proposal from House Agriculture Committee Chair Glenn “GT” Thompson would put a healthy diet out of reach in the future for millions of families with low incomes by cutting future benefits for all SNAP participants and eroding the adequacy of SNAP benefits over time. It would prevent SNAP benefits from keeping pace with the cost of a healthy, realistic diet over time, which the Congressional Budget Office estimates would result in a roughly \$30 billion cut to SNAP over the next decade. The proposal would do this by freezing the cost of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Thrifty Food Plan (the basis for SNAP benefit levels) outside of inflation adjustments, even if nutrition guidelines or other factors change the cost of an adequate diet.

**HR 6696 / S 3463 Eviction Prevention Act – No New Update** – On 12/11 Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced the “[Eviction Prevention Act](#)” ([H.R.6696](#), [S.3463](#)) in the House and Senate, respectively. The bill would authorize new grants to provide legal representation to tenants, create the country’s first federal evictions database, and mandate a government report on evictions in the U.S.

➔ **S 2932 Housing ACCESS Act – No New Update** – On 9/26 Senator Markey introduced the Housing ACCESS Act, which would align housing and services resources and address the barriers providers face when seeking Medicaid reimbursement for housing-related services and support. It also requires a national study to determine rates that allow providers to pay living wages, reduce staff turnover, and ensure evidence-based case ratios. A companion bill is expected in the House.


**Farm Bill – No New Update**– The US Farm Bill is a critical piece of legislation that sets agricultural policies nationwide for the next five years. The Farm Bill offers an opportunity to expand/enhance SNAP benefits for low-income households across the country. Some lawmakers wish to make changes to SNAP through the Farm bill which would reduce eligibility for and availability of SNAP benefits for households.

**S 4270 / HR 8273 The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth (HEASHFY) Act of 2024 – New** – The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth (HEASHFY) Act of 2024 [S.4270/H.R. 8273](#), was re-introduced by U.S. Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Mike Braun (R-IN) in the Senate, and by U.S. Representatives Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) and Erin Houchin (R-IN-09) in the House. HEASHFY removes barriers and ensures that homeless and foster youth have clear and reliable pathways into and through higher education. This legislation:

- Requires institutions of higher education to designate a homeless and foster liaison to help students navigate higher education and access services;
- Requires institutions of higher education to develop a plan for homeless and foster youth to access on-campus housing during and between academic breaks;
- Asks states to grant in-state tuition rates to those students who haven't had stable residency;
- Ensures that college access programs identify, recruit, and prepare homeless and foster students for college; and
- Requires data collection in the admissions process on homeless and foster youth to support student services and provide outcome data

**HR 5221 Homeless Children and Youth Act – No New Update** – On 8/15 Representatives Mikie Sherrill, Bill Posey, Delia Ramirez, and Don Bacon reintroduced the bipartisan Homeless Children and Youth Act. This bill remedies the issue of most children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness being ineligible for homeless assistance because they do not meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness by aligning federal definitions of homelessness for children and youth, streamlining assistance, leveraging resources, and bringing greater visibility to the reality of family and youth homelessness.

**S 2701/HR 5254 Housing for All Act of 2023 – No New Update** – Introduced by Senator Alex Padilla on 7/27 in the Senate (and by Rep Ted Lieu in the House on 8/22), this bill would address the homelessness and housing crises, moving towards the goal of providing for a home for all Americans.

 **S 1557/ HR 3238 The Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act – No New Update** – Senators Collins and King cosponsored bipartisan legislation to create nearly two million new affordable homes across the country – including thousands in Maine. The Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act would expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to provide more homes for low-income people, support small businesses trying to attract workers, and fill the state's gap of more than 20,000 affordable housing units. The bill would:

- Increase the number of credits available to states by 50 percent for the next two years and make the temporary 12.5 percent increase secured in 2018 permanent—which has already helped build more than 59,000 additional affordable housing units nationwide.
- Stabilize financing for workforce housing projects built using private activity bonds by decreasing the amount of private activity bonds needed to secure Housing Credit funding. As a result, projects would have to carry less debt, and more projects would be eligible to receive funding.

**S 1436, CHARGE Act of 2023 – No New Update** – Introduced on 5/3 by Senator Jon Tester, this bill would permanently authorize additional services for Veterans experiencing homelessness that were authorized at the beginning of the pandemic. These services include: Basic essentials like food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items; Transportation to appointments with service providers and conducting housing searches; and ways to stay in touch with providers and landlords, such as tablets, smartphones, and data plans.

**HR 3848, Housing Our Military Veterans Effectively Act of 2023 – No New Update** – This bill passed the House on 12/5 and was sent to the Senate for consideration. Introduced on 7/26 by Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer, this bill would revive crucial services authorized during the pandemic to provide lifesaving services under the Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD), which funds transitional housing programs for homeless veterans. These services include transportation to doctor appointments and food banks, communications devices for hearing impaired veterans, personal care products along with a dearth of other vital services and resources. that have led to a significant increase in the housing stability and improved the lives of veterans across the country.

**S 1257 / HR 3776, Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act – No New Update** – This bill was reintroduced in the Senate on 4/25 by Senators Van Hollen and Young. This bipartisan bill would create 250,000 new housing vouchers, paired with mobility-related services, to help low-income families with young children move to communities of their choice, including neighborhoods with high-performing schools and high-quality childcare and early education programs.

**S 680 / HR 6970 DASH Act – No new update** – Reintroduced by Senator Wyden on 3/7, the [DASH Act](#) would make a generational investment to house all people experiencing homelessness, tackle the housing affordability crisis, and expand homeownership opportunities for young people by creating a new down payment tax credit for first-time homebuyers. On 1/11/24, Representatives Val Hoyle (D-OR) and Salud Carbajal (D-CA) introduced a companion bill in the House. The DASH Act would make stable, safe and decent housing available for all by:

- Housing everyone experiencing homelessness within five years, and prioritizing children and families for placement, by issuing them a Housing Choice Voucher, because young children are heavily impacted by housing instability, and because housing is a chief determinant of health;
- Expanding health, child care, financial and nutrition services for families and individuals to stay on a path to unassisted housing stability, because the climb out of housing poverty is nearly impossible to complete alone;
- Greatly increasing the production of deeply affordable housing for families exiting homelessness and for low-income households by investing in effective, efficient existing programs and reforming the tax code to strengthen the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to weather the economic fallout from the pandemic, as well as establish a Renter's Tax Credit and Middle-Income Housing Tax Credit (MIHTC);
- Investing in homeownership in underserved communities and for low income Americans with new tax credits and down payment assistance, including a down payment tax credit for first-time homebuyers; and

- Incentivizing environmentally-friendly development strategies and land use policies.
- Permanent authorization of appropriations for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act grants.

**HR 1708 Housing is a Human Right Act of 2023 – No New Update** – On 3/22 Rep. Pramila Jayapal introduced the Housing is a Human Right Act of 2023, which would address root causes of homelessness, meet the needs of community members experiencing harms from homelessness, transition communities towards providing housing for all, end penalization of homelessness, and ensure full democratic participation and inclusion of persons experiencing homelessness, and for other purposes.

**S 255 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. On 3/1, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree reintroduced the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act in the House.

**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**

**HUD Proposed Rule Reducing Barriers to HUD-Assisted Housing – New** – HUD’s [Reducing Barriers to HUD-Assisted Housing proposed rule](#) would make changes to HUD’s existing screening regulations for applicants with conviction histories or a history of involvement with the criminal-legal system. The proposed changes would reduce barriers to HUD-assisted housing that have prevented people impacted by the criminal-legal system from accessing housing. The deadline for advocates to submit [comments](#) is June 10.

**Supreme Court Case Re. Homelessness – No new update** – The U.S. Supreme Court announced on 1/12 that it will hear [Johnson v. City of Grants Pass](#), a case that will determine whether people experiencing homelessness have a constitutional right to camp on public property when they do not have a place to sleep. The Supreme Court will decide whether laws regulating camping on public property constitute “cruel and unusual punishment” prohibited by the Eighth Amendment.

**Proposed Rule to Provide 30-Day Notice before Initiating Eviction Proceedings for Non-Payment of Rent – No new update** – HUD has a [proposed rule](#) that would require a public housing agency (PHA) or owner of a property assisted with Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) to provide a 30-day notice to a household before starting a formal judicial eviction procedure to terminate a lease for non-payment of rent.

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**State Update:** Please see the [Bill Tracking document for the State legislature Update](#).

USEFUL LINKS

- Maine Legislature Homepage: <http://legislature.maine.gov/>
- 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.

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

**BUDGET BILLS**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 2214</a>	Governor's Bill	An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 (aka Supplemental Budget)	Signed by the Governor - will become Public Law	The bill, as <a href="#">Amended &amp; Enacted</a> , provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$13.5 M in one-time funding to supplement or establish programs addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness or facing other immediate housing needs and support other uses that address housing emergencies in the State, such as through winter warming shelters, legal services and other wraparound settlement supports intended to help individuals integrate into Maine's workforce and communities.</li> <li>• \$2.5 M in funds to privately operated low-barrier shelters to be distributed in fiscal year 2024-25 through fiscal year 2026-27.</li> <li>• \$10 M in one-time funding for new housing units through the authority's Affordable Homeownership Program to expand affordable, energy-efficient housing options that are affordable to workers and support state workforce needs.</li> <li>• \$20 M in one-time funding to expand affordable rental and ownership housing options through the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program and the federal Low-income Housing Tax Credit Program.</li> <li>• \$2 M in one-time funding for housing subsidies for homeless students in elementary school and secondary school.</li> <li>• \$18 M in one-time funds for a pilot program to provide support for eviction prevention (rent relief program).</li> <li>• \$10 M in additional one-time funding in tandem with programmatic reforms in order to support the substantial new demand for the General Assistance - Reimbursement to Cities and Towns program</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,168,299 to strengthen mental health crisis intervention mobile response services in order to provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week beginning January 1, 2025. This funding must provide funding for mobile outreach peer support specialists (Part DDDD). And funding for Crisis receiving centers (Part EEEE).</li> <li>• Establishes the Office of New Americans</li> </ul>
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**HOMELESSNESS BILLS**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 2136</a> ★	Rep A Mastraccio	An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals	Passed to be Enacted in the House on 3/28/24 and the Senate on 4/1/24 and placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted	This bill, as amended by the Committee: This amendment increases the ongoing appropriation to support emergency shelter operations in the bill from \$10,000,000 to \$12,500,000 and requires the Maine State Housing Authority to reserve \$2,500,000 annually exclusively for distribution to low barrier emergency shelters. The amendment requires the Statewide Homeless Council to convene a stakeholder group to develop a 10-year plan to address the root causes of homelessness. The stakeholder group is required to notify the Joint Select Committee on Housing of all meetings of the stakeholder group. The stakeholder group is required to hold at least 4 meetings prior to the council's submitting a report to the Joint Select Committee on Housing by November 6, 2024. The amendment also requires the Maine State Housing Authority to amend its rules to ensure that \$2,500,000, or an equivalent percentage of the funds appropriated for the shelter operation subsidy, is reserved exclusively for distribution to low-barrier shelters.
<a href="#">LD 2146</a>	Rep. G Lookner	An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters	House Passed to be Engrossed by Committee Amendment A on 2/22; the Senate accepted the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report - sent back to the House.	This bill prohibits municipalities with populations exceeding 30,000 people from adopting moratoria on the establishment of emergency shelters that provide temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness.
<a href="#">LD 1422</a>	Rep. Michael Brennan	An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless by Establishing a Housing Voucher Program and Providing Site-based Housing Services	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – CARRIED OVER	This bill establishes a housing voucher program for homeless students under the authority of the Maine State Housing Authority and appropriates one-time funding of \$2 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. The bill directs the Maine State Housing Authority to identify 3 sites in Maine to be used for a site-based housing program and

appropriates one-time funding of \$3.5 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the DHHS to support the program.

**SERVICE BILLS**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 2237</a>	Speaker R Talbot Ross	An Act to Strengthen Public Safety, Health and Well-being by Expanding Services and Coordinating Violence Prevention Resources	Passed to be Enacted, in the House and Senate on 3/21/24 and placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted	<p>This bill includes parts A-F. <a href="#">Click here for the full bill text.</a> Relevant parts are below.</p> <p>This bill enacts provisions to improve mental health crisis response services and to reduce violence, including gun violence.</p> <p>Part A provides funding to strengthen and expand mental health crisis intervention mobile response services in order to provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide for the incorporation of specific types of mental health and crisis intervention experts into the existing crisis services response system. It also provides funding for ancillary services for mobile response services, including necessary travel and telephone conferences with clients. Part A also requires the Department of Health and Human Services, by January 30, 2025, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, to ensure the coordination of services under the State's E-9-1-1 system and the State's 9-8-8 mobile crisis services system. By January 30, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services must submit a status report related to the coordination of services, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, and the joint standing committee may submit a bill relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.</p> <p>Part B directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish crisis receiving centers across the State to support individuals dealing with behavioral health, mental health or substance use issues. At a minimum, a crisis receiving center must be established in Androscoggin, Aroostook, Oxford, Penobscot, Washington and York counties. Crisis receiving centers must provide culturally sensitive trauma-informed care. Part B also provides funding to establish 6 crisis receiving centers.</p> <p>Part D provides funding to reduce waiting lists for and expand access to medication management services, including telehealth services and employee recruitment and retention incentives, provided by the Office of Behavioral Health that are similar to the services provided under Department of Health and Human Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, to meet the timely access requirements under the consent decree referenced in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 1217.</p>

<a href="#">LD 1975</a>	Rep. Lydia Crafts	An Act to Implement a Statewide Public Health Response to Substance Use and Amend the Laws Governing Scheduled Drugs	<b>Passed to be Enacted in the House on 4/10/24 - Placed on the Special Study Table pending final Passage.</b>	This bill establishes the Substance Use, Health and Safety Fund in the Department of Health and Human Services. Money deposited in the fund must be used by the department to oversee, approve and provide grants and funding to agencies, organizations and service providers, including the federally recognized Indian tribes in this State and service providers that are affiliated with federally recognized Indian tribes in this State, to increase voluntary access to community care for persons who need services related to substance use, as set forth in the bill. By June 30, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Legislature must appropriate to the fund an amount sufficient to fully fund the services as set forth in the bill. The bill repeals the laws that make possession of a schedule W, X, Y or Z drug and use of drug paraphernalia a crime. It also repeals the laws governing the civil violation of use of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia.
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**HOUSING/RENTAL ASSISTANCE BILLS**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 1710</a>	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program	<b>Passed to be Enacted in the House on 3/19/24 and the Senate on 3/20/24 and Placed on the Special Study Table pending final Passage.</b>	Sponsor Amendment amends the bill as follows: This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment requires the Maine State Housing Authority to establish and administer the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program. The program must include a rental assistance component to assist individuals with the cost of rent and a rental guarantee component to encourage landlords to work with the program and other rental assistance programs in the State. The amendment also creates the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund under the Maine State Housing Authority to carry out the program. The bill appropriates \$16,000,000 of ongoing funds annually. The amendment makes it an unfair trade practice for a landlord to refuse to participate in a federal, state or local tenant-based rental assistance program.
<a href="#">LD 2106</a> ★	Sen. M Rotundo	An Act to Accelerate the Production of Housing and Strengthen the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit	<b>Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment A in the Senate on 3/12/24 and the House on 3/13/24 - the bill now faces votes for enactment</b>	This bill increases the maximum tax credit allowed for certified historic property rehabilitation projects. It also allows nonprofit organizations that claim the historic preservation tax credit or the affordable housing tax credit to file their refund claims on a calendar year basis. The changes in the bill apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.
<a href="#">LD 1074</a> ★	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-Income Households	Public Hearing on 4/25/23 - AFA Committee	\$100,000,000 bond issue to build new affordable housing for low-income households.

<a href="#">LD 226</a> ★	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill provides one-time funds to MaineHousing in the amount of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and in fiscal year 2024-25 (only these FYs) to increase affordable housing stock in the State.
<a href="#">LD 1540</a>	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Create the Stable Home Fund Program	Emergency bill requiring 2/3's majority vote – failed 2/3's majority vote in the House but Passed in the Senate to be Placed on the Special Appropriations Table on 6/21. Sent back to the House for concurrence where it failed 2/3's needed for final passage – Carried over	This bill, which includes an emergency preamble and emergency clause, creates the Stable Home Fund and the Stable Home Fund Program within MaineHousing. The purpose of the program is to provide persons earning up to 60% of the median income for an area as defined by HUD with \$300 per month in rental assistance paid directly to the landlord for up to 24 months or until those persons secure housing by means of a housing voucher program administered by HUD under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, or secure a subsidized housing unit. The bill directs MaineHousing to administer the program except that MaineHousing may delegate the administration of the program and provide appropriate funding from the fund to a municipal housing authority with respect to eligible persons located within the municipal housing authority's jurisdiction.

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE & SAFETY NET BILLS**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
<a href="#">LD 1732</a>	Rep. Michele Meyer	An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program	Became law without the Governor's signature on 3/27/24	<p><b>This bill as Enacted as Public Law:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires overseers and designated or appointed municipal officials administering the program to complete training within 120 days of election or appointment.</li> <li>Adds the delivery of trauma-informed services and culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the training requirements for overseers and municipal officials.</li> <li>Requires municipalities to provide general assistance with trauma-informed services and culturally and linguistically appropriate services.</li> <li>Requires municipalities to accept applications for general assistance during regular business hours.</li> <li>Amends provisions governing the municipality of responsibility to increase the provision of assistance from 30 days to 6 months when a municipality assists an applicant in relocating to another community and from 6 months to 12 months when an applicant is residing in a group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home or hospital or other institution.</li> <li>Requires DHHS to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over general assistance matters no later than January 30, 2026 and no later than January 30th of each odd-numbered calendar year thereafter. The initial report must include recommendations regarding a potential extension of the general assistance eligibility period beyond the 30-day limit.</li> </ul>

<a href="#">LD 1664</a>	Sen. Marianne Moore	An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	This bill increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe.
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**FOOD SECURITY BILLS**

<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status &amp; Committee</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<a href="#">LD 568</a>	Rep. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Provide Funding for the State Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives	Passed to be Enacted in the House and Senate. Placed on the Special Appropriations Table – Carried over	This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$600,000 to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The bill also removes the \$50,000 limit on matching contributions from the fund criteria.