



Legislative/Nominating Committee Meeting

October 26, 2021

Virtual meetings are allowed using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online. '

Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live, a recording will be uploaded to portlandmaine.gov/livestream the next day.

For public comment, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit *9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

AGENDA

ZOOM INFORMATION:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89282443981?pwd=b09Zay90R1I4K1I5UWN4WmhvZXRvQT09>

Passcode: 831104

Or One tap mobile :

US: +19292056099,,89282443981#,,,,*831104# or +13017158592,,89282443981#,,,,*831104#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 892 8244 3981

Passcode: 831104

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89282443981>

- II. Call to Order**
- III. Approval of the October 19, 2021 Meeting minutes**
 - a. Minutes from the October 19, 2021 Meeting
- IV. Meeting with Portland Delegation to Augusta**
 - a. Bills Carried Over from Prior Session
- V. Other Business**
- VI. Adjournment**

Legislative and Nominating Committee Minutes
October 19, 2021

The October 19, 2021 Legislative Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:00 AM on Zoom.

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Nick Mavodones, Jon Jennings (City manager) Anne McGuire (Assistant City Manager), Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Christine Grimando (Director of Planning and Urban Development, Mary Davis (Acting Housing and Economic Development Director), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur) Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present. Councilor April Fournier was not in attendance.

Kate Knox noted that the Committee discussed doing a deeper dive into the bills that were reviewed in the prior meeting. Outlined that the City supported 8 bills that were carried over. Most were carried over due to lack of funding.

Mayor Snyder asked for a timeline of how to prepare for the upcoming legislative session in January. Kate Knox said information on bills should be gathered by the end of December. New bills will likely begin to be printed in December. It's likely that only 200 bills will be printed.

Jon Jennings stated leases up to \$25 million and any ARPA or State Bond funds can be used to lower expenses to the city, which is working with the County to request additional ARPA funds for that purpose.

Mayor Snyder noted that staff were in attendance to present on Speaker Fecteau's Commission to increase housing opportunities in Maine.

Christine Grimando explained that the Commission has a tight timeline, though there has been discussion of extending it. The Maine Municipal Association also has a representative on the commission. There has been extensive discussion of the legacy of discriminatory zoning practices, rules and regulations. The process has involved a balancing of diverse opinions and resistance to the idea that there is a need for new rules. Some areas of discussion include Accessory Dwelling Unit policies, single family zoning, and reducing barriers to multifamily housing. Grimando also noted the need for technical assistance for a number of smaller municipalities and sharing of best practices. Final recommendations are expected in early November.

Mayor Snyder asked what recommendations or guidance for municipalities might result from this Commission. Grimando explained that there is resistance to rule changes, and it is likely that a blend of technical assistance proposals and possible restrictions may result from the process.

Mayor Snyder also announced that the full Council has been invited to a stakeholder meeting on homelessness and transiency, particularly as it relates to the Asylum Seeker populations in Portland.

Jon Jennings discussed a potential request by the City of Portland to work in partnership with a potential consortium of neighboring towns and cities to ask for their support in building a homeless services center.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes for the September October 5, 2021 Legislative Committee meeting, seconded by Councilor Mavodones, vote (3-0).

Councilor Mavodones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Snyder, vote (3-0). Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Carried Over Bills from Tracker

Support

[LD 17](#) Resolve, To Provide Rural Nonmedical Transportation Services to the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Receiving Home and Community Benefits under the MaineCare Program (Emergency)

- Amendment introduced in committee, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the resolve. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with an academic or policy organization with relevant expertise to design a pilot project providing nonmedical transportation to individuals receiving services under the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 19. It changes the dates of the pilot project under the resolve to allow time for the design stage and includes an evaluation requirement. The amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.
- Presented by Senator MAXMIN of Lincoln. Cosponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot and Representatives: COREY of Windham, CRAVEN of Lewiston, FAY of Raymond, MADIGAN of Waterville, PLUECKER of Warren, STOVER of Boothbay.

[LD 910](#) An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement

- **Provided Testimony**
- This bill requires the State to provide 100% reimbursement for general assistance costs to Indian tribes. It provides that a municipality's most recent state valuation rather than the all state valuation is used for calculating when the municipality begins to be reimbursed 90% for general assistance costs and that the reimbursement is for gross costs rather than net costs. It establishes that the new departmental reimbursement to municipalities begins July 1, 2022.
- Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

[LD 328](#) An Act To Fully Fund and Restore State-Municipal Revenue Sharing (Emergency)

- This bill increases state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% from 3.75% in the final 6 3 months of fiscal year 2020-21. Current law restores state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% 4 beginning in fiscal year 2021-22.
- **Amendment:** This amendment requires the State Controller to transfer to the Local Government Fund 19 for state-municipal revenue sharing the amount required retroactively under the bill within 20 30 days after the effective date of this legislation.
- Presented by Representative HARNETT of Gardiner. Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, LANDRY of Farmington, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, RECKITT of South Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, WHITE of Waterville, Senator: President JACKSON of Aroostook.

[LD 1195](#) An Act To Increase Funding to Qualifying Municipalities by Sharing Adult Use Marijuana Sales and Excise Tax Revenue

- **Testified in support.**
- This bill allocates 5% of the gross sales and excise tax revenue generated by adult use marijuana establishments in the State to the municipalities where the revenue was generated and makes a reduction to the amount deposited in the Adult Use Marijuana Public Health and Safety Fund.
- Presented by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick. Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: JOHANSEN of Monticello, MEYER of Eliot, WARREN of Hallowell

[LD 1246](#) Resolve, To Study Best Practices and Different Area Needs for Development of Affordable Homes and Expanding Home Ownership in Maine Communities

- This resolve creates the Commission to Study Best Practices and Different Area Needs for Development of Affordable Homes and Expanding Home Ownership in Maine Communities. The commission has 13 members consisting of Legislators and others with interest or experience in affordable housing and financing in the State. The commission is required to submit its report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor and housing matters no later than December 7, 2022.
- Presented by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport. Cosponsored by Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BAILEY of Gorham, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GEIGER of Rockland, MORALES of South Portland, OSHER of Orono, SACHS of Freeport, SYLVESTER of Portland.

[LD 1337](#) An Act To Increase Affordable Housing and Reduce Property Taxes through an Impact Fee on Vacant Residences

- **Support with changes. Staff strongly support vacancy fees, but believe program should be local with revenue staying in the municipality to further affordable housing goals and/or reducing the tax burden**
- This bill creates a residential vacancy impact fee for certain vacant residential property. The revenue from the impact fee is distributed to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to be used to fund affordable housing activities and to the Local Government Fund to be used to reimburse municipalities for the Maine residents homestead property tax exemption. The bill also requires the impact fee to be evaluated by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability in the same manner as are tax expenditures.
- Presented by Representative KESSLER of South Portland. Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GERE of Kennebunkport, HYMANSON of York, MORALES of South Portland, OSHER of Orono, STOVER of Boothbay.

[LD 1440](#) An Act To Provide Safe Gear for Female Firefighters

- **Portland already does this.**
- This bill appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 for the State Fire Marshal to provide grants to municipal fire departments, volunteer fire associations and fire districts to purchase safe and properly fitting personal protective equipment and firefighter turnout gear for female firefighters.

[LD 1447](#) An Act To Require Training in Racial Issues, Racial Justice and Social Issues at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and To Establish Additional Requirements for Law Enforcement Officers and Candidates

- This bill requires basic law enforcement training to include training in racial issues and racial justice, regarding persons with substance use disorder and regarding social issues and law enforcement responses to challenging social situations. The bill requires in-service training for law enforcement officers to include information on behavioral health, substance use disorder, homelessness, racial issues and racial justice and other social situations that might be presented to a law enforcement officer. Beginning with applications for certification and recertification on January 1, 2022, this bill requires an applicant for certification or recertification as a law enforcement officer to be legally authorized to work in this country, to be at least 21 years of age, to possess a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma and an associate degree in criminal justice, sociology, psychology, mental health, substance use disorder or implicit bias, to submit to an extensive criminal history record check and to meet the standards for approval established by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and to have completed at least 60 credit hours of postsecondary education, which may be fulfilled by course work completed in earning an associate degree, in criminal justice or a related field, including but not limited to courses in sociology, psychology, mental health, substance use disorder and implicit bias.
- Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach. Cosponsored by Representatives: HARNETT of Gardiner, MORALES of South Portland, PLUECKER of Warren, RECKITT of South Portland, TALBOT ROSS of Portland, WARREN of Hallowell.

Monitor

[LD 1448](#) An Act To Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption (Title change)

- Amendment changed original bill. The amendment increases the total homestead property tax exemption from \$25,000 to \$30,000 beginning April 1, 2022. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.
- Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland

[LD 1482](#) An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners

- This bill removes the requirement that a person own a homestead in this State for 12 months before being eligible for the homestead property tax exemption. This bill also requires the

State to provide reimbursement of 100% of the revenue lost by a municipality due to removing that 12-month requirement, but only for the first year of eligibility. If a resident is eligible for the homestead exemption but does not take it until after the first year of eligibility, that exemption is eligible only for 70% reimbursement by the State. After the first year of eligibility, the state reimbursement rate drops to the current rate of 70%.

- Amendment: Amendment deletes from the bill the provisions that require the State to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the cost of expanding the homestead property tax exemption to individuals who have owned the homestead for less than 12 months. Under the amendment, the exemptions are eligible for the current 70% reimbursement.
- Presented by Representative GROHOSKI of Ellsworth.

LD 148 An Act To Establish Ongoing Absentee Voting

- **Amended:** This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, provides that only voters who will be at least 65 years of age before the next election or who self-identify as having a disability are eligible to apply for ongoing absentee voter status. In addition to the reasons for termination set forth in the bill, the amendment provides that a voter's ongoing absentee voter status must be terminated if the voter fails to return an absentee ballot issued to that voter for a general election. The amendment removes the provision of the bill requiring municipal clerks to notify voters within 24 hours when the clerks detect missing or mismatched signatures on an absentee ballot return envelope. The amendment also clarifies that, as soon as official ballots become available, the municipal clerk must immediately issue absentee ballots and return envelopes to voters with ongoing absentee voter status as well as all other voters who have submitted applications for absentee ballots for a single election that have been accepted by the clerk. The amendment provides that election officials may not make any mark indicating the political party of absentee voters on the outside of the return envelopes issued during a general election. The amendment further requires the Secretary of State to enter into a membership agreement with the Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. by January 1, 2023 for periodic sharing of voter registration information with member states and to use that information to periodically update the central voter registration system. Finally, the amendment delays the effective date of the ongoing absentee voter status provisions of the bill from January 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023, and it also adds an appropriations and allocations section.
- Presented by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford.

LD 197 Resolve, To Ensure That Community Mental Health Service Providers Can Access Pandemic Stimulus Funds

- This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to designate \$15,000,000 of federal COVID-19 stimulus funding allocated to the State pursuant to a federal law enacted after December 15, 2020 for community mental health service providers.

- Presented by Senator BREEN of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth and Senator: CLAXTON of Androscoggin, Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CRAVEN of Lewiston, WARREN of Hallowell.

LD 202 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Implement Ranked-choice Voting

- **Amendment:** This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to apply ranked-choice voting to general elections for the political offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative.
- Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox. Cosponsored by Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship and Senator: President JACKSON of Aroostook, Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, GEIGER of Rockland, HARNETT of Gardiner, MATLACK of St. George, McCREIGHT of Harpswell.

LD 211 An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

- **Amendment:** This amendment expands the use of funds to support shelter operations at all emergency homeless shelters, not just low-barrier emergency shelters as proposed in the bill. It also allows the Maine State Housing Authority to allocate funds to shelters using the funding formula methodology for shelter operations from its rule regarding homeless solutions. It requires the Maine State Housing Authority to submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing by March 1, 2022 a report detailing funds disbursed from the Shelter Operating Subsidy program. The committee may report out a bill.
- Presented by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Senator SANBORN, H. of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CRAVEN of Lewiston, LOOKNER of Portland, MORALES of South Portland, SUPICA of Bangor, TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senators: CLAXTON of Androscoggin, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

LD 259 An Act To Improve Solid Waste Management

- This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. 5 This bill proposes to enact measures to improve solid waste management.
- Presented by Representative McDONALD of Stonington.

LD 343 An Act To Set Aside Funds from Federal Block Grants for Certain Communities

- This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to annually set aside 20% of each federal block grant it receives for the most vulnerable communities in the State and at least 12% of each federal block grant it receives for federally recognized Indian nations, tribes and bands in the State.
- Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland. Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representative: MARTIN of Greene.

LD 555 An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees

- This bill allows public employees, including municipal and county employees, state employees and legislative employees, university, academy and community college employees and judicial employees, but not including employees whose duties include protecting public

safety or judicial employees whose duties ensure an individual's procedural due process rights are not denied, to strike. The bill requires that notice be given to the public employer stating the dates upon which the strike will begin and end. The bill provides that the employee organization or public employer may call for emergency bargaining within 3 days prior to the intended start of the strike. The bill prohibits a public employer from permanently replacing an employee because that employee engaged in a strike.

- **Presented by Representative SYLVESTER of Portland.**

[LD 647](#) An Act To Expand Eligibility for the Veterans' Property Tax Exemption

- This bill allows persons who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during 18 the period from February 1, 1955 to February 27, 1961 to qualify for the veterans' property 19 tax exemption based on dates of service.
- **Amended:** This amendment provides that the expanded period in the bill for eligibility for 3 veterans' property tax exemptions also applies to the \$50,000 exemption for certain 4 paraplegic veterans receiving a federal grant for specially adapted housing units. The 5 amendment also provides that the expanded period of eligibility applies to property taxes 6 based on the status of property on or after April 1, 2022.
- Presented by Senator KEIM of Oxford. Cosponsored by Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, POULIOT of Kennebec.

[LD 654](#) An Act To Create a 24-hour Shelter Capital Project Funding Program

- This bill establishes the Twenty-four-hour Shelter Capital Project program within the Maine State Housing Authority to support new construction or expansion of emergency 24-hour shelters for persons experiencing homelessness. New construction and expansion projects funded by the program must address an increase in the need for shelter capacity in the region since the construction, or expansion, of an existing shelter or shelters in the region or since the start of the outbreak of COVID-19 or both. The bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 to the Maine State Housing Authority to fund the program. This bill specifies that the funding is supplemental to funding for the Maine State Housing Authority's emergency shelter and housing assistance program.
- **Amended.** This amendment specifies that the Twenty four-hour Shelter Capital Project program funding does not need to be delivered in accordance with applicable funding formulas.
- Presented by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick. Cosponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CUDDY of Winterport, KESSLER of South Portland, MORALES of South Portland, SACHS of Freeport, SYLVESTER of Portland.

[LD 684](#) Resolve, To Amend MaineCare Reimbursement Provisions Governing Supplemental Payments to Nursing Facilities with High MaineCare Use (Emergency)

- This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules 28 governing supplemental payments to nursing facilities where the number of MaineCare 29 residents constitutes more than 80% of the total number of residents to remove the 30 requirement that such nursing facilities have base year direct and routine aggregate costs 31 per day that are less than the median aggregate direct and routine allowable costs for the 32 facility's peer group.

- Presented by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin. Cosponsored by Senator: BALDACCI of Penobscot.

LD 773 An Act To Assist Public School Students and Families Who Are Homeless

- This bill requires that the Maine State Housing Authority give priority for temporary housing assistance to homeless students and their families who are identified and referred to the authority by a local educational agency liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001.
- Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

LD 1338 An Act To Prohibit Employers from Retaliating against the Use of Earned Paid 13 Leave

- **Amendment:** This amendment, which is the majority report, replaces the bill. It adds language 19 prohibiting employers from retaliating against employees for the use of earned paid leave. It also directs the Department of Labor to review provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, chapter 7 relating to retaliation and submit a report, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing no later than January 1, 2022. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.
- Presented by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth. Cosponsored by Representatives: CUDDY of Winterport, GERE of Kennebunkport, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: MIRAMANT of Knox.

LD 1386 Resolve, To Improve Access to Bariatric Care (Emergency)

- This amendment replaces the resolve. It changes the number of bariatric care beds to be established from 16 beds by September 1, 2022 to 4 beds by this date and 4 beds a year for the next 3 years. It removes the request for information process and replaces it with an informal stakeholder group that includes the Department of Health and Human Services, the long-term care ombudsman program and representatives of a statewide organization representing nursing facilities. It clarifies that the amendments to the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 67, Principles of Reimbursement for Nursing Facilities, must include up to 30 bed hold days a year for individuals occupying bariatric care beds and decrease the amount of time for processing prior authorization requests for bariatric patients.
- Presented by Representative PERRY of Calais. Cosponsored by Representatives: FAY of Raymond, HYMANSON of York, Senator: CLAXTON of Androscoggin.

LD 1428 An Act To Increase the Availability of Nasal Naloxone in Community Settings

- This bill allows community organizations, which are defined as private or nonprofit 35 organizations operating a facility that serves the community, to store and administer nasal 36 naloxone hydrochloride upon a standing order from a licensed health care professional 37 authorized by law to prescribe nasal naloxone hydrochloride.

- Presented by Representative DODGE of Belfast. Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, HARNETT of Gardiner, MADIGAN of Waterville, MORALES of South Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, TEPLER of Topsham, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

LD 1555 An Act To Fund Broadband Internet Infrastructure for Marginalized Groups in the State

- This bill appropriates \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the ConnectMaine Authority for the provision of broadband Internet infrastructure to benefit marginalized groups. The ConnectMaine Authority is directed to consult with organizations representing marginalized groups, including historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal communities, individuals who were formerly incarcerated or are unhoused, individuals in substance use disorder recovery and low-income individuals, when making determinations regarding the distribution of these funds.
- Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland. Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, EVANS of Dover-Foxcroft, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, KESSLER of South Portland, Senators: LAWRENCE of York, VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

Opposed

LD 290 An Act To Stabilize Property Taxes for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older Who Own a Homestead for at Least 10 Year

- **Reported out of committee ONTP**
- This bill requires a municipality to maintain the property tax on the homestead of a permanent resident who is at least 65 years of age at the amount billed in the year prior to an application for stabilization. The amount by which the property tax assessed exceeds the stabilized amount must be paid to the municipality by the State. If an eligible individual moves to a different municipality, the stabilized property tax amount continues at the new location. An applicant for stabilization must be a permanent resident of the State and must have owned a homestead for at least 10 years. An application for stabilization must be made each year to continue eligibility.
- Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook. Cosponsored by Representative BICKFORD of Auburn and Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec

Bonds

LD 133 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Fire Stations (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$25,000,000, will be used for the rehabilitation or new construction of fire stations by municipalities.
- Presented by Representative CROCKETT of Portland.

[LD 49](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to improve waterfront and coastal infrastructure in municipalities to address sea level rise.
- Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

[LD 50](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$15,000,000, will be used for capital construction costs for housing for persons who are homeless.
- Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

[LD 175](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters (Bond)

- **City Provided Testimony**
- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to 24 create and enhance regional homeless shelters.
- Presented by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CARDONE of Bangor, COREY of Windham, CRAVEN of Lewiston, DOORE of Augusta, LOOKNER of Portland, MORALES of South Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

[LD 181](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Complete the Renovation of a Wharf and Bulkhead in Portland for Marine Research (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$2,000,000, will be used to complete the renovation of a wharf and bulkhead at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland to bring the wharf back into operation for a fishing vessel berthing resource to support marine research at sea and for continued long-term marine job development.
- Presented by Representative SYLVESTER of Portland.

[LD 969](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Construction of a Convention Center in Portland, Improvements to the Augusta Civic Center and a Competitive Grant Program for Capital Improvements to Public Venues across the State (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$115,000,000, will be used for 37 the construction of a convention center in Portland, improvements to the Augusta Civic 38 Center and a competitive grant program for capital improvements to public venues across 39 the State.

- Presented by Representative BAILEY of Gorham. Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DOORE of Augusta, DOUDERA of Camden, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE of Kennebunkport, SACHS of Freeport, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: SANBORN of Cumberland.

[LD 987](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Portland Harbor Commercial Revitalization Project's Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell and Dredging Projects (Bond)

- **Testified in support**
- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$28,000,000, will be used to construct a confined aquatic disposal cell within Portland Harbor and engage in a maintenance dredge of the marine facilities of Portland and South Portland in order to promote commercial economic growth, maintain the working waterfront and improve the sediment and water quality of the harbor, allowing the marine industry to continue to grow and support the State's economy.
- Presented by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Representative ALLEY of Beals and Senator: MIRAMANT of Knox, Representatives: COREY of Windham, HARRINGTON of Sanford, RECKITT of South Portland.

[LD 1086](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade Customs Facilities at the Portland International Jetport and the Bangor International Airport To Promote International Tourism and Commerce (Bond)

- **Testified in support**
- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$14,000,000, will be used to construct a United States Customs and Border Protection facility at the Portland International Jetport to allow international commercial passenger service and a temperature-controlled, United States Customs and Border Protection bonded warehouse at Bangor International Airport to allow international cargo service.
- Presented by Representative BAILEY of Gorham. Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, CARDONE of Bangor, FAY of Raymond, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, WHITE of Waterville, Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, DIAMOND of Cumberland, President JACKSON of Aroostook.

[LD 1094](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Reduce Homeowner and Municipal Energy Bills through Increased Efficiency and Weatherization Projects (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$20,000,000, will be 36 administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust and used to reduce energy costs for senior 37 citizens, low-income residents, municipalities and schools through investments in 38 weatherization and energy efficiency.

- Presented by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec. Cosponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland and Senator: MOORE of Washington, Representatives: HARNETT of Gardiner, WHITE of Waterville.

[LD 1475](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Targeted Food Processing Infrastructure (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be used to provide funding to pursue targeted and appropriately scaled food processing infrastructure projects in the State as determined by the agricultural resources development division within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. Projects may include the support of meat and poultry processing, including mobile processing infrastructure, specialty grain milling, malting and storage facilities, cheesemaking equipment and storage, and organic dairy processing infrastructure.
- Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

Carried Over Bills from Tracker

Support

[LD 17](#) Resolve, To Provide Rural Nonmedical Transportation Services to the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Receiving Home and Community Benefits under the MaineCare Program (Emergency)

- Amendment introduced in committee, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the resolve. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with an academic or policy organization with relevant expertise to design a pilot project providing nonmedical transportation to individuals receiving services under the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 19. It changes the dates of the pilot project under the resolve to allow time for the design stage and includes an evaluation requirement. The amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.
- Presented by Senator MAXMIN of Lincoln. Cosponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot and Representatives: COREY of Windham, CRAVEN of Lewiston, FAY of Raymond, MADIGAN of Waterville, PLUECKER of Warren, STOVER of Boothbay.

[LD 910](#) An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement

- **Provided Testimony**
- This bill requires the State to provide 100% reimbursement for general assistance costs to Indian tribes. It provides that a municipality's most recent state valuation rather than the all state valuation is used for calculating when the municipality begins to be reimbursed 90% for general assistance costs and that the reimbursement is for gross costs rather than net costs. It establishes that the new departmental reimbursement to municipalities begins July 1, 2022.
- Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

[LD 328](#) An Act To Fully Fund and Restore State-Municipal Revenue Sharing (Emergency)

- This bill increases state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% from 3.75% in the final 6 3 months of fiscal year 2020-21. Current law restores state-municipal revenue sharing to 5% 4 beginning in fiscal year 2021-22.
- **Amendment:** This amendment requires the State Controller to transfer to the Local Government Fund 19 for state-municipal revenue sharing the amount required retroactively under the bill within 20 30 days after the effective date of this legislation.
- Presented by Representative HARNETT of Gardiner. Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, LANDRY of Farmington, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, RECKITT of South Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, WHITE of Waterville, Senator: President JACKSON of Aroostook.

[LD 1195](#) An Act To Increase Funding to Qualifying Municipalities by Sharing Adult Use Marijuana Sales and Excise Tax Revenue

- **Testified in support.**
- This bill allocates 5% of the gross sales and excise tax revenue generated by adult use marijuana establishments in the State to the municipalities where the revenue was generated and makes a reduction to the amount deposited in the Adult Use Marijuana Public Health and Safety Fund.
- Presented by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick. Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: JOHANSEN of Monticello, MEYER of Eliot, WARREN of Hallowell

[LD 1246](#) Resolve, To Study Best Practices and Different Area Needs for Development of Affordable Homes and Expanding Home Ownership in Maine Communities

- This resolve creates the Commission to Study Best Practices and Different Area Needs for Development of Affordable Homes and Expanding Home Ownership in Maine Communities. The commission has 13 members consisting of Legislators and others with interest or experience in affordable housing and financing in the State. The commission is required to submit its report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor and housing matters no later than December 7, 2022.
- Presented by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport. Cosponsored by Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BAILEY of Gorham, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GEIGER of Rockland, MORALES of South Portland, OSHER of Orono, SACHS of Freeport, SYLVESTER of Portland.

[LD 1337](#) An Act To Increase Affordable Housing and Reduce Property Taxes through an Impact Fee on Vacant Residences

- **Support with changes. Staff strongly support vacancy fees, but believe program should be local with revenue staying in the municipality to further affordable housing goals and/or reducing the tax burden**
- This bill creates a residential vacancy impact fee for certain vacant residential property. The revenue from the impact fee is distributed to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to be used to fund affordable housing activities and to the Local Government Fund to be used to reimburse municipalities for the Maine residents homestead property tax exemption. The bill also requires the impact fee to be evaluated by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability in the same manner as are tax expenditures.
- Presented by Representative KESSLER of South Portland. Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GERE of Kennebunkport, HYMANSON of York, MORALES of South Portland, OSHER of Orono, STOVER of Boothbay.

[LD 1440](#) An Act To Provide Safe Gear for Female Firefighters

- **Portland already does this.**
- This bill appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 for the State Fire Marshal to provide grants to municipal fire departments, volunteer fire associations and fire districts to purchase safe and properly fitting personal protective equipment and firefighter turnout gear for female firefighters.

[LD 1447](#) An Act To Require Training in Racial Issues, Racial Justice and Social Issues at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and To Establish Additional Requirements for Law Enforcement Officers and Candidates

- This bill requires basic law enforcement training to include training in racial issues and racial justice, regarding persons with substance use disorder and regarding social issues and law enforcement responses to challenging social situations. The bill requires in-service training for law enforcement officers to include information on behavioral health, substance use disorder, homelessness, racial issues and racial justice and other social situations that might be presented to a law enforcement officer. Beginning with applications for certification and recertification on January 1, 2022, this bill requires an applicant for certification or recertification as a law enforcement officer to be legally authorized to work in this country, to be at least 21 years of age, to possess a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma and an associate degree in criminal justice, sociology, psychology, mental health, substance use disorder or implicit bias, to submit to an extensive criminal history record check and to meet the standards for approval established by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and to have completed at least 60 credit hours of postsecondary education, which may be fulfilled by course work completed in earning an associate degree, in criminal justice or a related field, including but not limited to courses in sociology, psychology, mental health, substance use disorder and implicit bias.
- Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach. Cosponsored by Representatives: HARNETT of Gardiner, MORALES of South Portland, PLUECKER of Warren, RECKITT of South Portland, TALBOT ROSS of Portland, WARREN of Hallowell.

Monitor

[LD 1448](#) An Act To Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption (Title change)

- Amendment changed original bill. The amendment increases the total homestead property tax exemption from \$25,000 to \$30,000 beginning April 1, 2022. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.
- Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland

[LD 1482](#) An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners

- This bill removes the requirement that a person own a homestead in this State for 12 months before being eligible for the homestead property tax exemption. This bill also requires the

State to provide reimbursement of 100% of the revenue lost by a municipality due to removing that 12-month requirement, but only for the first year of eligibility. If a resident is eligible for the homestead exemption but does not take it until after the first year of eligibility, that exemption is eligible only for 70% reimbursement by the State. After the first year of eligibility, the state reimbursement rate drops to the current rate of 70%.

- Amendment: Amendment deletes from the bill the provisions that require the State to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the cost of expanding the homestead property tax exemption to individuals who have owned the homestead for less than 12 months. Under the amendment, the exemptions are eligible for the current 70% reimbursement.
- Presented by Representative GROHOSKI of Ellsworth.

LD 148 An Act To Establish Ongoing Absentee Voting

- **Amended:** This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, provides that only voters who will be at least 65 years of age before the next election or who self-identify as having a disability are eligible to apply for ongoing absentee voter status. In addition to the reasons for termination set forth in the bill, the amendment provides that a voter's ongoing absentee voter status must be terminated if the voter fails to return an absentee ballot issued to that voter for a general election. The amendment removes the provision of the bill requiring municipal clerks to notify voters within 24 hours when the clerks detect missing or mismatched signatures on an absentee ballot return envelope. The amendment also clarifies that, as soon as official ballots become available, the municipal clerk must immediately issue absentee ballots and return envelopes to voters with ongoing absentee voter status as well as all other voters who have submitted applications for absentee ballots for a single election that have been accepted by the clerk. The amendment provides that election officials may not make any mark indicating the political party of absentee voters on the outside of the return envelopes issued during a general election. The amendment further requires the Secretary of State to enter into a membership agreement with the Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. by January 1, 2023 for periodic sharing of voter registration information with member states and to use that information to periodically update the central voter registration system. Finally, the amendment delays the effective date of the ongoing absentee voter status provisions of the bill from January 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023, and it also adds an appropriations and allocations section.
- Presented by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford.

LD 197 Resolve, To Ensure That Community Mental Health Service Providers Can Access Pandemic Stimulus Funds

- This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to designate \$15,000,000 of federal COVID-19 stimulus funding allocated to the State pursuant to a federal law enacted after December 15, 2020 for community mental health service providers.

- Presented by Senator BREEN of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth and Senator: CLAXTON of Androscoggin, Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CRAVEN of Lewiston, WARREN of Hallowell.

LD 202 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Implement Ranked-choice Voting

- **Amendment:** This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to apply ranked-choice voting to general elections for the political offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative.
- Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox. Cosponsored by Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship and Senator: President JACKSON of Aroostook, Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, GEIGER of Rockland, HARNETT of Gardiner, MATLACK of St. George, McCREIGHT of Harpswell.

LD 211 An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

- **Amendment:** This amendment expands the use of funds to support shelter operations at all emergency homeless shelters, not just low-barrier emergency shelters as proposed in the bill. It also allows the Maine State Housing Authority to allocate funds to shelters using the funding formula methodology for shelter operations from its rule regarding homeless solutions. It requires the Maine State Housing Authority to submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing by March 1, 2022 a report detailing funds disbursed from the Shelter Operating Subsidy program. The committee may report out a bill.
- Presented by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Senator SANBORN, H. of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CRAVEN of Lewiston, LOOKNER of Portland, MORALES of South Portland, SUPICA of Bangor, TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senators: CLAXTON of Androscoggin, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

LD 259 An Act To Improve Solid Waste Management

- This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. 5 This bill proposes to enact measures to improve solid waste management.
- Presented by Representative McDONALD of Stonington.

LD 343 An Act To Set Aside Funds from Federal Block Grants for Certain Communities

- This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to annually set aside 20% of each federal block grant it receives for the most vulnerable communities in the State and at least 12% of each federal block grant it receives for federally recognized Indian nations, tribes and bands in the State.
- Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland. Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representative: MARTIN of Greene.

LD 555 An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees

- This bill allows public employees, including municipal and county employees, state employees and legislative employees, university, academy and community college employees and judicial employees, but not including employees whose duties include protecting public

safety or judicial employees whose duties ensure an individual's procedural due process rights are not denied, to strike. The bill requires that notice be given to the public employer stating the dates upon which the strike will begin and end. The bill provides that the employee organization or public employer may call for emergency bargaining within 3 days prior to the intended start of the strike. The bill prohibits a public employer from permanently replacing an employee because that employee engaged in a strike.

- **Presented by Representative SYLVESTER of Portland.**

[LD 647](#) An Act To Expand Eligibility for the Veterans' Property Tax Exemption

- This bill allows persons who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during 18 the period from February 1, 1955 to February 27, 1961 to qualify for the veterans' property 19 tax exemption based on dates of service.
- **Amended:** This amendment provides that the expanded period in the bill for eligibility for 3 veterans' property tax exemptions also applies to the \$50,000 exemption for certain 4 paraplegic veterans receiving a federal grant for specially adapted housing units. The 5 amendment also provides that the expanded period of eligibility applies to property taxes 6 based on the status of property on or after April 1, 2022.
- Presented by Senator KEIM of Oxford. Cosponsored by Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, POULIOT of Kennebec.

[LD 654](#) An Act To Create a 24-hour Shelter Capital Project Funding Program

- This bill establishes the Twenty-four-hour Shelter Capital Project program within the Maine State Housing Authority to support new construction or expansion of emergency 24-hour shelters for persons experiencing homelessness. New construction and expansion projects funded by the program must address an increase in the need for shelter capacity in the region since the construction, or expansion, of an existing shelter or shelters in the region or since the start of the outbreak of COVID-19 or both. The bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 to the Maine State Housing Authority to fund the program. This bill specifies that the funding is supplemental to funding for the Maine State Housing Authority's emergency shelter and housing assistance program.
- **Amended.** This amendment specifies that the Twenty four-hour Shelter Capital Project program funding does not need to be delivered in accordance with applicable funding formulas.
- Presented by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick. Cosponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CUDDY of Winterport, KESSLER of South Portland, MORALES of South Portland, SACHS of Freeport, SYLVESTER of Portland.

[LD 684](#) Resolve, To Amend MaineCare Reimbursement Provisions Governing Supplemental Payments to Nursing Facilities with High MaineCare Use (Emergency)

- This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules 28 governing supplemental payments to nursing facilities where the number of MaineCare 29 residents constitutes more than 80% of the total number of residents to remove the 30 requirement that such nursing facilities have base year direct and routine aggregate costs 31 per day that are less than the median aggregate direct and routine allowable costs for the 32 facility's peer group.

- Presented by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin. Cosponsored by Senator: BALDACCI of Penobscot.

LD 773 An Act To Assist Public School Students and Families Who Are Homeless

- This bill requires that the Maine State Housing Authority give priority for temporary housing assistance to homeless students and their families who are identified and referred to the authority by a local educational agency liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001.
- Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

LD 1338 An Act To Prohibit Employers from Retaliating against the Use of Earned Paid 13 Leave

- **Amendment:** This amendment, which is the majority report, replaces the bill. It adds language 19 prohibiting employers from retaliating against employees for the use of earned paid leave. It also directs the Department of Labor to review provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, chapter 7 relating to retaliation and submit a report, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing no later than January 1, 2022. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.
- Presented by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth. Cosponsored by Representatives: CUDDY of Winterport, GERE of Kennebunkport, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: MIRAMANT of Knox.

LD 1386 Resolve, To Improve Access to Bariatric Care (Emergency)

- This amendment replaces the resolve. It changes the number of bariatric care beds to be established from 16 beds by September 1, 2022 to 4 beds by this date and 4 beds a year for the next 3 years. It removes the request for information process and replaces it with an informal stakeholder group that includes the Department of Health and Human Services, the long-term care ombudsman program and representatives of a statewide organization representing nursing facilities. It clarifies that the amendments to the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 67, Principles of Reimbursement for Nursing Facilities, must include up to 30 bed hold days a year for individuals occupying bariatric care beds and decrease the amount of time for processing prior authorization requests for bariatric patients.
- Presented by Representative PERRY of Calais. Cosponsored by Representatives: FAY of Raymond, HYMANSON of York, Senator: CLAXTON of Androscoggin.

LD 1428 An Act To Increase the Availability of Nasal Naloxone in Community Settings

- This bill allows community organizations, which are defined as private or nonprofit 35 organizations operating a facility that serves the community, to store and administer nasal 36 naloxone hydrochloride upon a standing order from a licensed health care professional 37 authorized by law to prescribe nasal naloxone hydrochloride.

- Presented by Representative DODGE of Belfast. Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, HARNETT of Gardiner, MADIGAN of Waterville, MORALES of South Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, TEPLER of Topsham, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

LD 1555 An Act To Fund Broadband Internet Infrastructure for Marginalized Groups in the State

- This bill appropriates \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the ConnectMaine Authority for the provision of broadband Internet infrastructure to benefit marginalized groups. The ConnectMaine Authority is directed to consult with organizations representing marginalized groups, including historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal communities, individuals who were formerly incarcerated or are unhoused, individuals in substance use disorder recovery and low-income individuals, when making determinations regarding the distribution of these funds.
- Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland. Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, EVANS of Dover-Foxcroft, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, KESSLER of South Portland, Senators: LAWRENCE of York, VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

Opposed

LD 290 An Act To Stabilize Property Taxes for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older Who Own a Homestead for at Least 10 Year

- **Reported out of committee ONTP**
- This bill requires a municipality to maintain the property tax on the homestead of a permanent resident who is at least 65 years of age at the amount billed in the year prior to an application for stabilization. The amount by which the property tax assessed exceeds the stabilized amount must be paid to the municipality by the State. If an eligible individual moves to a different municipality, the stabilized property tax amount continues at the new location. An applicant for stabilization must be a permanent resident of the State and must have owned a homestead for at least 10 years. An application for stabilization must be made each year to continue eligibility.
- Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook. Cosponsored by Representative BICKFORD of Auburn and Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec

Bonds

LD 133 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Fire Stations (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$25,000,000, will be used for the rehabilitation or new construction of fire stations by municipalities.
- Presented by Representative CROCKETT of Portland.

[LD 49](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to improve waterfront and coastal infrastructure in municipalities to address sea level rise.
- Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

[LD 50](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$15,000,000, will be used for capital construction costs for housing for persons who are homeless.
- Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

[LD 175](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters (Bond)

- **City Provided Testimony**
- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to 24 create and enhance regional homeless shelters.
- Presented by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CARDONE of Bangor, COREY of Windham, CRAVEN of Lewiston, DOORE of Augusta, LOOKNER of Portland, MORALES of South Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

[LD 181](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Complete the Renovation of a Wharf and Bulkhead in Portland for Marine Research (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$2,000,000, will be used to complete the renovation of a wharf and bulkhead at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland to bring the wharf back into operation for a fishing vessel berthing resource to support marine research at sea and for continued long-term marine job development.
- Presented by Representative SYLVESTER of Portland.

[LD 969](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Construction of a Convention Center in Portland, Improvements to the Augusta Civic Center and a Competitive Grant Program for Capital Improvements to Public Venues across the State (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$115,000,000, will be used for 37 the construction of a convention center in Portland, improvements to the Augusta Civic 38 Center and a competitive grant program for capital improvements to public venues across 39 the State.

- Presented by Representative BAILEY of Gorham. Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DOORE of Augusta, DOUDERA of Camden, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE of Kennebunkport, SACHS of Freeport, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: SANBORN of Cumberland.

[LD 987](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Portland Harbor Commercial Revitalization Project's Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell and Dredging Projects (Bond)

- **Testified in support**
- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$28,000,000, will be used to construct a confined aquatic disposal cell within Portland Harbor and engage in a maintenance dredge of the marine facilities of Portland and South Portland in order to promote commercial economic growth, maintain the working waterfront and improve the sediment and water quality of the harbor, allowing the marine industry to continue to grow and support the State's economy.
- Presented by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Representative ALLEY of Beals and Senator: MIRAMANT of Knox, Representatives: COREY of Windham, HARRINGTON of Sanford, RECKITT of South Portland.

[LD 1086](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade Customs Facilities at the Portland International Jetport and the Bangor International Airport To Promote International Tourism and Commerce (Bond)

- **Testified in support**
- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$14,000,000, will be used to construct a United States Customs and Border Protection facility at the Portland International Jetport to allow international commercial passenger service and a temperature-controlled, United States Customs and Border Protection bonded warehouse at Bangor International Airport to allow international cargo service.
- Presented by Representative BAILEY of Gorham. Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, CARDONE of Bangor, FAY of Raymond, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, WHITE of Waterville, Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, DIAMOND of Cumberland, President JACKSON of Aroostook.

[LD 1094](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Reduce Homeowner and Municipal Energy Bills through Increased Efficiency and Weatherization Projects (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$20,000,000, will be 36 administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust and used to reduce energy costs for senior 37 citizens, low-income residents, municipalities and schools through investments in 38 weatherization and energy efficiency.

- Presented by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec. Cosponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland and Senator: MOORE of Washington, Representatives: HARNETT of Gardiner, WHITE of Waterville.

[LD 1475](#) An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Targeted Food Processing Infrastructure (Bond)

- The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be used to provide funding to pursue targeted and appropriately scaled food processing infrastructure projects in the State as determined by the agricultural resources development division within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. Projects may include the support of meat and poultry processing, including mobile processing infrastructure, specialty grain milling, malting and storage facilities, cheesemaking equipment and storage, and organic dairy processing infrastructure.
- Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.