LR: 2120  Sponsor: Representative Hickman of Winthrop
Title: An Act To Increase Transparency in Cooperative Agreements Entered Into by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Comment: This bill would increase transparency in cooperative agreements entered into by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by requiring the department to solicit public comments regarding each such agreement, respond to questions and comments from the public, respond to inquiries and notify the Legislature regarding such agreements. The bill would also authorize the Legislature to hold a public hearing on any such agreement.

LR: 2512  Sponsor: Senator Willette of Aroostook
Title: An Act To Require Veterinarians To Report Suspected Animal Abuse
Comment: This bill would require a veterinarian who suspects that an animal may have been abused to report that to the animal welfare program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

LR: 2545  Sponsor: Representative Monaghan of Cape Elizabeth
Title: An Act To Protect Elephants
Comment: This bill would prohibit the use of a bull hook or other similar device on elephants.

LR: 2549  Sponsor: Representative Monaghan of Cape Elizabeth
Title: An Act To Protect Dogs from Extreme Weather
Comment: This bill would prohibit owners from leaving dogs outside during weather warnings related to temperature, severe weather and precipitation.
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

ANIMALS
COMpanion
LR: 2358  Sponsor: Representative Marean of Hollis
Title: An Act To Improve Maine's Companion Animal Sterilization Fund
Comment: This bill would require that the fund for the spaying and neutering of companion animals be administered by a nonprofit animal welfare group and amend the law regarding the payment of copayments.

ANIMALS
PETS
LR: 2135  Sponsor: Senator Davis, Sr. of Piscataquis
Title: An Act To Prohibit Raising Cats and Dogs for Human Consumption
Comment: This bill would prohibit a person from raising cats or dogs for human consumption.

FORESTRY
PRACTICES
LR: 2528  Sponsor: Representative Martin of Eagle Lake
Title: An Act To Clarify the Authority of a Plantation To Regulate Land Use
Comment: This bill would clarify that plantations have the same amount of authority to regulate land use as that granted to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.

PRODUCTS
ORGANIC
LR: 2206  Sponsor: Senator Saviello of Franklin
Title: An Act To Oversee Organic Dairy Farm Audits
Comment: This bill would establish a public process to allow organic dairy farms to appeal audits conducted by private firms.
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

PUBLIC LANDS

CONVEYANCES

LR: 2312  
Title: An Act To Limit Consent Regarding Land Transfers to the Federal Government
Comment: This bill would limit the application of the law providing the automatic consent of the Legislature to acquisitions of land by the United States to areas of land of 5 square miles or less.

PUBLIC LANDS

LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE BOARD

LR: 2256  
Title: An Act To Amend the Appointment Process for Members of the Land for Maine's Future Board and the Responsibilities of the Board
Comment: This bill would place the Land for Maine's Future Program under the direction and control of the Land for Maine's Future Board and require that board members be appointed by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House and the Governor.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2360  Representative McCabe, J
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2458  Senator Hill, D

LR: 2360  
Title: An Act To Protect the Land for Maine's Future Program
Comment: This bill would protect the Land for Maine's Future Program by ensuring that the Land for Maine's Future Board is able to do its work to enable the continuance of the program.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2458  Senator Hill, D
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2256  Representative Cooper, J

LR: 2458  
Title: An Act To Amend the Appointment Process for Members of the Land for Maine's Future Board and the Responsibilities of the Board
Comment: This bill would change the appointment process and quorum requirements for the Land for Maine's Future Board.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2360  Representative McCabe, J
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2256  Representative Cooper, J
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

PUBLIC LANDS

STATE PARKS

LR: 2141  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Provide Military Families Free Access to State Parks
Comment: This bill would allow a Maine resident who is the spouse or child of a member of the military free access to state parks while that member of the military is away on active duty.

LR: 2225  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Provide Military Families Free Access to State Parks
Comment: This bill would allow a Maine resident who is the spouse or child of a member of the military free access to state parks while that member of the military is away on active duty.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

INSPECTORS

LR: 2306  Sponsor: Representative Espling of New Gloucester
Title: An Act To Require the Local Appointment of Inspectors of Weights and Measures
Comment: This bill would require the local appointment of inspectors of weights and measures.
LR: 2130
Title: An Act To Reauthorize Certain Land for Maine's Future Bonds
Comment: This bill would reauthorize the issuance of the land conservation bonds that were ratified by the voters of the State in statewide elections held in November 2010 and November 2012. This bill would also make necessary changes to the law to ensure that those bonds are issued and funds are transferred in accordance with those ratified bonds.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2212  Representative Timmons, M
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2373  Representative Guerin, S
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2131  Representative McCabe, J
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2132  Representative Pouliot, M
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2133  Representative Vachon, K

LR: 2343
Title: An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Marine Transportation and Port Infrastructure at Mack Point To Meet the Needs of the Marine Construction and Shipping Business Sector and To Create Jobs
Comment: This bill would authorize a general fund bond issue in the amount of $15,000,000 to invest in marine transportation and port infrastructure at Mack Point to meet the needs of the marine construction and shipping business sector and to create jobs.

LR: 2176
Title: An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Vocational High Schools
Comment: This bill would authorize a general fund bond issue in the amount of $10,000,000 for vocational high schools.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2130  Representative Fecteau of Biddeford
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2212  Representative Timmons, M
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2373  Representative Guerin, S
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2131  Representative McCabe, J
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2132  Representative Pouliot, M
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2133  Representative Vachon, K
LR: 2131  Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan
Title:     Resolve, To Reauthorize Bonds for Land for Maine's Future
Comment:  This bill would reauthorize land for Maine's Future bonds that expired in November 2015.

LR: 2132  Sponsor: Representative Pouliot of Augusta
Title:     Resolve, To Reauthorize the Issuance of Certain Bonds
Comment:  This resolve would reauthorize the issuance of bonds for certain land conservation projects.

LR: 2133  Sponsor: Representative Vachon of Scarborough
Title:     An Act To Reauthorize Certain Bonds for the Land for Maine's Future Fund
Comment:  This bill would reauthorize the bonds for the Land for Maine's Future Fund that expire in November 2015.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

BOND ISSUES

PUBLIC LANDS

LR: 2212  Sponsor: Representative Timmons of Cumberland
Title:    An Act Regarding Affordable Heating and the Issuance of Land Conservation Bonds
Comment: This bill would use revenues from the sale of timber and other things of value from Maine's public reserved lands for reducing residential heating costs and extending the period for issuance of certain land conservation bonds.

Potential JR 217:    LR1397

Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2373  Representative Guerin, S
Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2130  Senator Katz, R
Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2131  Representative McCabe, J
Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2132  Representative Pouliot, M
Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2133  Representative Vachon, K

LR: 2373  Sponsor: Representative Guerin of Glenburn
Title:    An Act Relating to Land for Maine's Future Bonds and To Provide Low-income Heating Assistance Upgrades
Comment: This bill would reauthorize certain Land for Maine's Future bonds and ensure the bonds are issued; move $3,000,000 from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, General Fund account to the Maine State Housing Authority to be used for low-income heating assistance upgrades; and move $3,000,000 from the Bureau of Parks and Lands, Other Special Revenue Funds account relating to wood harvesting to the Bureau of Parks and Lands, General Fund account.

Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2212  Representative Timmons, M
Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2130  Senator Katz, R
Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2131  Representative McCabe, J
Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2132  Representative Pouliot, M
Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2133  Representative Vachon, K

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

BENEFITS

LR: 2230  Sponsor: Representative Foley of Wells
Title:    An Act To Allow Members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program To Reapply for Disability Retirement Benefits after Denial
Comment: This bill would allow members of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program who have applied for and been denied disability retirement benefits to apply again for the same disability under certain circumstances.
Title: An Act To Increase Transparency in the Setting of Normal Teacher Retirement Costs Rates for School Districts

Comment: This bill would require that an actuarial report on the estimated costs of normal teacher retirement be presented to a joint meeting of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters in the 2nd year of the biennium to project costs for the next biennium. Based on that actuarial report, a rate would be established in the 2nd year of the biennium for the amount school districts would have to pay in the new biennium and estimates would be published on what increase or decrease is projected in terms of dollar amount by district.

Title: An Act To Update the Laws Governing the Maine Public Employees Retirement System as They Relate to War-time Veterans

Comment: Current law allows members of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to purchase military time to add those years to their years of creditable service for purposes of calculating their retirement benefits. The cost of purchasing military time depends on whether a member served during a federally recognized period of conflict. This bill would update the definition of "federally recognized period of conflict" to include Lebanon, 1982-1983; Grenada, 1983; the Persian Gulf War, August 2, 1990 to April 6, 1991; and Afghanistan and Iraq, September 11, 2001 to present.

Title: An Act To Ensure State Retirees Receive the Same Health Information State Employees Receive

Comment: This bill would ensure state retirees receive the same health information and wellness advice that state employees receive and help contain health care costs.
LR: 2495  Sponsor: Representative Nadeau of Winslow
Title: An Act To Include Law Enforcement Officers within the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement
Comment: This bill would allow law enforcement officers within the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles to participate in the 1998 Special Plan of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.
Closely Related CO:   LD 654   Representative Nadeau, C

SPENDING
TRANSPORTATION
LR: 2488  Sponsor: Representative Gideon of Freeport
Title: An Act To Revitalize Infrastructure Investment To Create Jobs
Comment: This bill would appropriate proceeds from Maine's liquor contract to address emergency needs of the State's public infrastructure, including roads and bridges.

STATE FINANCES
BONDED DEBT
LR: 2134  Sponsor: Representative Vachon of Scarborough
Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds
Comment: This bill would require the Governor to issue a general obligation bond that has been ratified by the legal voters of the State unless one of 5 specific conditions exists, and it would require the Governor to provide certain information upon delaying or forgoing issuance of a bond.
Potential JR 217:   LD 1378
Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2322  Representative McCabe, J

LR: 2257  Sponsor: Representative Tuell of East Machias
Title: An Act To Expand the Role of Voters in the Governmental Facilities Bonding Process
Comment: This bill would reclassify governmental facilities bonds as "general obligation bonds" and require that any governmental facilities bond approved by the Legislature also be approved by a majority of those qualified to vote in the next general or primary election.
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

BONDED DEBT

LR: 2316  Sponsor: Senator Valentino of York
Title:  An Act To Modernize and Consolidate Court Facilities
Comment: This bill would increase the maximum amount of securities that may be issued by the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority for specific allocation to the judicial branch. The increase would be used to fund projects for court facilities in Waldo, Oxford and York counties.

STATE FINANCES

BUDGET PROCEDURES

LR: 2145  Sponsor: Representative Lockman of Amherst
Title:  An Act To Make Information on the Biennial Budget Available in a Timely Manner
Comment: This bill would require that the biennial budget be available online at least 72 hours before legislators vote on it. It would also require any amendments to be posted online at least 24 hours before legislators vote on them.

LR: 2338  Sponsor: Representative Rotundo of Lewiston
Title:  An Act To Clarify Expenditures Regarding Androscoggin County
Comment: This bill would clarify that an appropriation in the current biennial budget is for the College for ME in Androscoggin County.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
CORRECTIONS DEPT
ADMINISTRATION
LR: 2399 Sponsor: Representative Rotundo of Lewiston
Title: An Act To Fund and Implement Wage Adjustments for All State Correctional Employees Who Perform Direct Care or Supervision of Prisoners
Comment: This bill would allocate funding necessary to meet the legislative intent to provide wage adjustment to all correctional employees who perform direct care or supervision of prisoners.

CRIMES
ABUSE AND NEGLECT
LR: 2327 Sponsor: Representative Head of Bethel
Title: An Act To Establish a Registry for Domestic Violence Offenders
Comment: This bill would establish a registry for domestic violence offenders.

CRIMES
DRUG OFFENSES
LR: 2486 Sponsor: Representative Fowle of Vassalboro
Title: An Act To Correct a Conflict in the Laws Regarding Schedule W Drugs
Comment: This bill would correct a conflict created by Public Law 2015, chapters 308 and 346 in the laws regarding schedule W drugs.

CRIMES
NEW
LR: 2321 Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan
Title: An Act To Amend the Maine Criminal Code To Clarify the Prohibition on the Exercise of Improper Influence
Comment: This bill would amend the Maine Criminal Code to clarify that a person is guilty of improper influence if, being a public servant, that person threatens any harm, including the withholding of public funds, to another entity with the intention of influencing that entity's action, decision, opinion, recommendation, nomination, vote or other exercise of discretion.

LR: 2322 Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan
Title: An Act To Ensure the Proper Functioning of State Government by Ensuring Execution of Executive Branch Duties
Comment: This bill would require the Governor to issue a general obligation bond that has been ratified by the legal voters of the State unless one of 5 specific conditions exists, and it would require the Governor to provide certain information upon delaying or forgoing issuance of a bond. This bill would also amend the Maine Criminal Code to specify that a public servant is guilty of official oppression if the public servant, acting with the intent to harm or unduly influence another person or entity, refrains from performing a duty imposed upon that public servant by law or clearly inherent in the nature of that public servant's office.

Potential JR 217: LD 1378
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2134 Representative Vachon, K
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

CRIMES

SEX OFFENSES

LR: 2139  Sponsor: Representative Chipman of Portland
Title: An Act To Allow Municipalities To Restrict How Close to Daycare Facilities Convicted Sex Offenders May Live
Comment: This bill allows municipalities to restrict how close to daycare facilities convicted sex offenders may live.

LR: 2476  Sponsor: Senator Dutremble of York
Title: An Act To Increase Penalties for Gross Sexual Assault
Comment: This bill would increase the penalty for a repeat offender convicted of gross sexual assault by one class of penalty. The bill would also repeal the statute of limitations for the crime of gross sexual assault.

CRIMINAL HISTORIES

CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS

LR: 2243  Sponsor: Representative Kinney of Knox
Title: An Act Regarding Sealing the Records of Class C, D and E Crimes
Comment: This bill would require the records of a person's Class C, D or E crime to be sealed after 10 years if the person has no further convictions.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

OTHER CRIMINAL LAW

LR: 2192  Sponsor: Representative Dion of Portland
Title: An Act To Improve Pretrial Justice and Public Safety
Comment: This bill would implement the recommendations of the Pretrial Justice Reform Task Force, which was created to make recommendations designed to reduce the human and financial costs of pretrial incarceration, while maintaining individual and public safety and the integrity of the criminal justice system.

FIRE SAFETY

FIREWORKS

LR: 2167  Sponsor: Representative Devin of Newcastle
Title: An Act To Allow Plantations To Establish Local Fireworks Ordinances
Comment: This bill would allow a plantation to establish ordinances for the sale and use of fireworks within that plantation.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE SAFETY

PREVENTION

LR: 2242    Sponsor: Senator Diamond of Cumberland
Title:     An Act To Improve the Law Concerning Carbon Monoxide Detectors
Comment:   This bill would exempt a battery-powered carbon monoxide detector from the requirement that a detector must be powered by a nonreplaceable 10-year battery if the detector uses a low-power radio frequency wireless communication signal or multiple sensors, has low-frequency audible notification capability or is connected to a control panel.

FIRE SAFETY

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

LR: 2123    Sponsor: Representative Head of Bethel
Title:     An Act To Allow Tiered Qualifications for Volunteer Firefighters in Certain Municipalities
Comment:   This bill would provide that in a municipality with fewer than 2,500 permanent residents the fire chief, with the approval of the municipal officers of that municipality, may approve training for volunteer firefighters that provides for 3 tiers of qualifications.

Potential JR 217:     LD 748

JAILS

STATE FUNDING

LR: 2253    Sponsor: Representative Long of Sherman
Title:     An Act To Provide Proper Funding for County Jails
Comment:   This bill would appropriate funds to the counties sufficient to cover the costs of operating the county jails.

Closely Related Legislator Req:     LR 2286    Representative Nadeau, C

LR: 2286    Sponsor: Representative Nadeau of Winslow
Title:     An Act To Provide Supplemental Funding to the County Jail Operations Fund
Comment:   This bill would appropriate $1,800,000 to the County Jail Operations Fund.

Closely Related Legislator Req:     LR 2253    Representative Long, R
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

JAILS

STATE FUNDING

LR: 2287  Sponsor: Senator Rosen of Hancock
Title: An Act To Amend the Law Reversing Jail Consolidation
Comment: This bill would amend the law reversing jail consolidation to provide consistency in the administration of the finances for the jails by the Department of Corrections and to correct minor errors in the use of the terms "prisoner" and "inmate" and in the wording on deductions from days of sentence of a prisoner transferred from one jail to another.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

LOCAL POLICE

LR: 2438  Sponsor: Representative Grohman of Biddeford
Title: An Act To Allow School Resource Officers To Have Jurisdiction at Off-site Events
Comment: This bill would allow school resource officers to have jurisdiction at events that are school-related but are held outside the school district, such as proms.

LR: 2317  Sponsor: Senator Davis, Sr. of Piscataquis
Title: An Act To Provide Wage Parity for Supervisors in Law Enforcement
Comment: This bill would allocate funding for wage adjustments for law enforcement supervisors in order to eliminate the salary schedule compression between supervisory and nonsupervisory job classifications.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2463  Senator Burns, D

LR: 2323  Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan
Title: An Act To Ensure Adequate Funding To Provide Bulletproof Vests for All Members of Law Enforcement
Comment: This bill would provide ballistic vests to state law enforcement officers.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2323  Representative McCabe, J
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

LR: 2155  Sponsor: Senator Miramant of Knox
Title: An Act To Prevent the Use of Surplus Military Equipment for Routine Law Enforcement
Comment: This bill would require law enforcement agencies to post a notice on the internet any time they make a request to acquire military equipment. Agencies would be required to establish policies for the use of such equipment and receive the approval of elected officials to take possession of that equipment. They would be required to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public safety matters about use of the equipment within 2 weeks of any deployment.

LR: 2472  Sponsor: Senator Dutremble of York
Title: An Act To Increase Public Access to Information Regarding Crimes of Sexual Assault
Comment: This bill would require a criminal justice agency to acknowledge whether or not it is engaged in an active investigation of a sexual assault.

OPERATING UNDER INFLUENCE

PENALTIES

LR: 2136  Sponsor: Senator Cyrway of Kennebec
Title: An Act To Require Ignition Interlock Devices on Vehicles Operated by First-time Operating-under-the-influence Offenders
Comment: This bill would require an ignition interlock device to be installed in the motor vehicle operated by a person who has been convicted of operating under the influence for the first time.

LR: 2285  Sponsor: Senator Cyrway of Kennebec
Title: An Act Regarding Ignition Interlock Devices
Comment: This bill would set the minimum alcohol concentration at which an ignition interlock device is set to lock a motor vehicle ignition at 0% BAC.

LR: 2356  Sponsor: Representative Hymanson of York
Title: An Act To Reduce Drunk Driving
Comment: This bill would establish a "24/7 Sobriety Program" under which repeat offenders of the laws governing operating under the influence do not lose their driver's license but are required to take daily breathalyzer tests.
PRISONERS

MEDICAL CARE

LR: 2297  Sponsor: Representative Beavers of South Berwick
Title:  Resolve, To Provide the Legislature with Information on the Need for Mental Health Services in County Jails
Comment:  This resolve would direct the Consumer Council System of Maine to convene a working group to collect data to determine the unmet needs for mental health services in the county jails.
Potential JR 217:  LD657

PUBLIC SAFETY

AMUSEMENT RIDES

LR: 2315  Sponsor: Senator Rosen of Hancock
Title:  An Act Regarding the Application Fees and Inspection Fees Associated with the Provision of Amusement Rides
Comment:  This bill would amend the application fees and inspection fees charged by the Department of Public Safety for amusement rides set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 472.

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPT

ADMINISTRATION

LR: 2363  Sponsor: Senator Burns of Washington
Title:  An Act To Reduce the Trafficking of Illegal Drugs in the State
Comment:  This bill would establish a unit within the Department of Public Safety consisting of State Police officers trained in drug trafficking interdiction techniques who will conduct patrols on selected highways and at selected access points to the State.

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPT

PROCEDURES

LR: 2250  Sponsor: Senator Burns of Washington
Title:  An Act To Expand the Definition of "Advocate" for Purposes of Disclosure of Information by a Criminal Justice Agency
Comment:  This bill would allow a state criminal justice agency to disclose intelligence and investigative record information to employees or volunteers of a nongovernmental advocacy program for victims of mental illness, as well as domestic or family violence.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

SENTENCES

DRUG OFFENSES

LR: 2284 Sponsor: Senator Cyrway of Kennebec
Title: An Act To Increase Sentences Imposed for Interstate Trafficking of Illegal Drugs
Comment: This bill would increase the sentences that are imposed for interstate trafficking of illegal drugs.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2244 Representative Pierce, J

SENTENCES

MANDATORY MINIMUM

LR: 2244 Sponsor: Representative Pierce of Dresden
Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Sentencing of Persons Convicted of Trafficking Heroin or Opiates
Comment: This bill would require that a person convicted of trafficking heroin or opiates receive a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years imprisonment, without the possibility of a reduction in the sentence for good behavior.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2284 Senator Cyrway, S

VICTIMS OF CRIME

RESTITUTION

LR: 2142 Sponsor: Senator Baker of Sagadahoc
Title: An Act To Ensure Restitution at the Full Value of the Stolen Property for Victims of Theft
Comment: This bill would ensure restitution at the full value of the stolen property for victims of theft.

LR: 2473 Sponsor: Senator Dutremble of York
Title: An Act To Require Full Restitution by a Person in a Position of Authority Who Misuses Funds in the Control of That Person
Comment: This bill would require that a person who uses that person's position of authority to misappropriate funds for that person's personal gain is required to pay full restitution of those funds as well as any investigative and prosecution costs.
Comment:
Recent legislation that added categories of persons to the list of persons prohibited from possessing firearms overlooked designating the class of crime for violations by persons in each new category. This bill would add the class of crime for each category of prohibited person.

LR: 2158  Sponsor: Representative Devin of Newcastle
Title:  An Act To Increase Firearm Safety
Comment:  This bill would require a person purchasing any type of firearm to present proof of completion of an approved firearm safety course. A firearm safety course used for a permit to carry a concealed handgun would be considered an approved course.

Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2166  Senator Miramant, D

LR: 2209  Sponsor: Representative Fowle of Vassalboro
Title:  An Act To Amend the Public Safety Laws
Comment:  Recent legislation that added categories of persons to the list of persons prohibited from possessing firearms overlooked designating the class of crime for violations by persons in each new category. This bill would add the class of crime for each category of prohibited person.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

WEAPONS

POSSESSION

LR: 2234  
Sponsor: Representative Beebe-Center of Rockland

Comment: This bill would allow a municipality to prohibit firearms in an area of the municipality that is frequented by minors and that has been designated as a safe zone by the municipality.

WEAPONS

SALES

LR: 2296  
Sponsor: Representative Beavers of South Berwick

Comment: This bill would require a person who wishes to obtain a firearm in a private sale or transfer to first obtain a background check from a licensed firearm dealer.
### EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
#### COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
##### POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LR: 2320</th>
<th>Sponsor: Senator Millett of Cumberland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>An Act To Promote Postsecondary Education Attainment and Degree Completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment:</td>
<td>This bill would establish postsecondary education attainment goals for the State's adult population and would establish the Commission on Higher Education and Workforce Needs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LR: 2366</th>
<th>Sponsor: Senator Katz of Kennebec</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>An Act To Establish the Maine Tuition Integrity Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment:</td>
<td>This bill would establish laws governing for-profit colleges, including provisions requiring: evaluation at the program level; spending student tuition dollars on instruction rather than advertising and administrative salaries; meeting benchmarks for outcomes; obtaining correct accreditations; and informing students of the existence of certain barriers to certain types of licensure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
#### STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LR: 2365</th>
<th>Sponsor: Senator Katz of Kennebec</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>An Act To Establish the Maine Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment:</td>
<td>This bill, which is modeled on Connecticut's Student Loan Bill of Rights, would establish a Student Loan Ombudsman, regulate entities that service student loans, prohibit certain misleading and fraudulent actions and establish certain practices as unfair and deceptive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CULTURAL AGENCIES
#### ARTS COMMISSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LR: 2440</th>
<th>Sponsor: Representative McClellan of Raymond</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>An Act To Create Arts Engage ME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment:</td>
<td>This bill would allow the Maine Arts Commission to have a support organization.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>LR: 2441</th>
<th>Sponsor: Representative McClellan of Raymond</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>An Act Regarding the Maine Arts Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment:</td>
<td>This bill would allow the Maine Arts Commission to create an endowment fund.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comment:
Under current law, a decision on a request for a student transfer from one school administrative district to another may be appealed, but there is no similar provision for appealing a request involving a receiving school district that does not operate a public school. This bill would establish an opportunity for appeal.

LR: 2174
Sponsor: Representative Higgins of Dover-Foxcroft
Title: An Act To Establish an Opportunity for Appeal of Certain Decisions Concerning Transfers of Students

Comment: Currently, the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey is administered in odd-numbered years to the parents of students in kindergarten to 3rd grade, and to students in 5th grade to 12th grade to assess the health status of Maine's youth. This bill would terminate administration of the survey.

LR: 2389
Sponsor: Representative Tuell of East Machias
Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Amend Its Rules Regarding Teacher In-service Days

Comment: This resolve would direct the Department of Education to review the law related to public charter school students' participation in interscholastic activities in a school unit to ensure that the law is being implemented in a fair manner.
127th Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

SCHOOL CHOICE

LR: 2299  Sponsor: Representative McClellan of Raymond
Title:  An Act to Limit Municipalities' Exposure on Tuition Payments for Choice Students
Comment:  This bill would ensure that a student in a regional school unit or any school choice situation would have state funding available at the State-set rate for the year and would prohibit a regional school unit or parent from negotiating a higher payment to a school charging a higher rate.

LR: 2361  Sponsor: Representative Stearns of Guilford
Title:  An Act To Improve the Superintendent Transfer Process
Comment:  This bill would make binding the decision of 2 school superintendents not to approve the transfer of a student from one school administrative unit to the other.

HEALTH EDUCATION

DRUG EDUCATION

LR: 2378  Sponsor: Senator Johnson of Lincoln
Title:  An Act To Establish a Pilot Program To Prevent Student Drug Addiction
Comment:  This bill would establish a pilot program funded through the Fund for a Healthy Maine to improve student health by preventing student drug and tobacco addiction, preventing abusive relationships between students and reducing teen pregnancy.

Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2478  Senator Whittemore, R

LR: 2478  Sponsor: Senator Whittemore of Somerset
Title:  An Act To Promote Drug Awareness Education in Maine's Schools
Comment:  This bill would transfer $2,000,000 from the Fund for a Healthy Maine into a grant program administered by the Department of Education. A school district would be able to apply for a grant to fund drug abuse education programs.

Closely Related Legislator Req:  LR 2378  Senator Johnson, C

LR: 2503  Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan
Title:  An Act To Coordinate Education and Prevention Efforts in Our Schools To Stop Harmful Drug Use
Comment:  This bill would link schools throughout the State with existing successful and effective programming to help prevent youth in the State from using harmful drugs.
LR: 2328  Sponsor: Representative Head of Bethel  
Title:  An Act To Review the Impact of Withdrawal from Regional School Units
Comment:  This bill would direct the Commissioner of Education to review the impact of a municipality's withdrawal from a regional school unit. It would also suspend withdrawals until July 1, 2017.

LR: 2334  Sponsor: Senator Langley of Hancock
Title:  An Act To Amend Certain Education Statutes
Comment:  This bill would authorize the Commissioner of Education to designate a school administrative unit to enroll a student who lives in a school administrative unit without a school or a contract with another school administrative unit. This bill would also amend the laws regarding public charter schools.

Potential JR 217:  LD1448

LR: 2350  Sponsor: Representative Turner of Burlington
Title:  An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Withdrawal of a Single Municipality from a Regional School Unit
Comment:  This bill would make the following changes to the laws governing the withdrawal of a single municipality from a regional school unit. It would limit the time between proposals and counterproposals of the municipality and the regional school unit to 30 days; require the parties to bargain in good faith; and require the Commissioner of Education or the department to help facilitate a compromise if the parties are unable to reach an agreement.

LR: 2269  Sponsor: Senator Breen of Cumberland
Title:  An Act To Promote Private Fund-raising for the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf
Comment:  This bill would enable the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf to engage in private fundraising to support its mission. It will use an existing 501(c)(3) organization as its fiscal agent.
### EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

#### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>LR:</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2274</td>
<td>Senator Hill of York</td>
<td>An Act To Facilitate the Use of State Education Subsidies</td>
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<td>This bill would freeze the positions of the top 20 projects currently in place for state funding for school construction in the event that a new application process is begun.</td>
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<tr>
<th>LR:</th>
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<tr>
<td>2329</td>
<td>Senator Millett of Cumberland</td>
<td>An Act To Facilitate the Use of State Education Subsidies</td>
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<td>This bill would authorize a regional school unit or other school administrative unit to include an article in the warrant for its annual budget meeting providing that, in the event that the school unit receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, the school board is authorized to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the board, without a special budget meeting and budget validation referendum.</td>
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<th>LR:</th>
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<tr>
<td>2340</td>
<td>Senator Collins of York</td>
<td>An Act To Improve School Construction Finance</td>
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<td>This bill would amend a provision of law enacted by the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature that allows bonds issued by a regional school unit for a non-state-funded school construction project that is 100% locally funded to be repaid using a level debt payment structure by removing the requirement that the payment structure result in lower costs for the regional school unit throughout the life of the issue of the bonds. This change would facilitate the financing of these projects.</td>
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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

ADJUSTMENTS

LR: 2149  Sponsor: Senator Johnson of Lincoln
Title: An Act To Change the School Funding Formula To Provide Funding Based on a Minimum of One Teacher for Each School Day
Comment: This bill would change the school funding formula for small, isolated schools to provide funding based on a minimum of one teacher.

LR: 2353  Sponsor: Representative Martin of Eagle Lake
Title: An Act To Transfer Excess Revenue from the State's Liquor Contract in Fiscal Year 2016-17 to General Purpose Aid to Local Schools
Comment: This bill would transfer excess revenue from the State's liquor contract in fiscal year 2016-17 to general purpose aid to local schools.

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

SPECIAL EDUCATION

LR: 2511  Sponsor: Representative Devin of Newcastle
Title: An Act To Address the Costs for Certain Special Education Students
Comment: This bill would provide school administrative units with additional state funding for certain special education students under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in time for the 2016-2017 school year.

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

SUBSIDIZABLE COSTS

LR: 2521  Sponsor: Senator Gerzofsky of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Place a 2-year Moratorium on All State Mandates Involving Public Education and To Evaluate Current Mandates
Comment: This bill would place a 2-year moratorium on all state mandates involving public education and would establish a commission to evaluate current mandates.

Potential JR 217: LD 793
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

SUBSIDIZABLE COSTS

LR: 2526    Sponsor: Representative Tipping-Spitz of Orono
Title:      An Act To Improve Transparency in Education Funding
Comment:   This bill would require education budget initiatives currently combined under "miscellaneous costs" and "student opportunity fund" to be listed as separate line items in budgets.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

BENEFITS

LR: 2300    Sponsor: Representative Hubbell of Bar Harbor
Title:      An Act To Enable Alternative Organizational Structures To Purchase Group Health Insurance for All Employees
Comment:   This bill would allow a school administrative unit that is a member of an alternative organizational structure to obtain health insurance loss information on an aggregate basis and to purchase a single health insurance policy that is offered to all members of the alternative organizational structure.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

TRAINING

LR: 2214    Sponsor: Representative Chenette of Saco
Title:      An Act To Allow Trained, Nonmedical Employees in Schools To Administer Emergency Rescue Medications
Comment:   This bill would authorize a school administrative unit to participate in a program to allow trained, nonmedical employees in schools to volunteer to provide medical assistance, specifically administering emergency rescue medication to pupils with epilepsy or other seizure disorders.

SCHOOL POLICIES

COMPUTERS

LR: 2484    Sponsor: Representative Brooks of Lewiston
Title:      An Act To Improve Internet Safety for Children
Comment:   This bill would require Internet safety training for children receiving laptops in school, which would include warnings against communicating with strangers.
The bill would direct school guidance counselors to work with high school juniors and seniors on completing the free application for federal student aid form, even if the students are not intending to pursue postsecondary education.

LR: 2532  
Sponsor: Senator Alfond of Cumberland  
Title: An Act To Increase Awareness of Postsecondary Financial Aid Options  
Comment: The bill would direct school guidance counselors to work with high school juniors and seniors on completing the free application for federal student aid form, even if the students are not intending to pursue postsecondary education.
LR: 2213  Sponsor: Representative Espling of New Gloucester
Title:  An Act To Delay Any New Statewide Assessment Test
Comment:  This bill would delay the implementation of any test chosen by the Department of Education to replace the Smarter Balanced assessment by one year but allow schools to opt in to that new test under a pilot program.

LR: 2397  Sponsor: Representative Golden of Lewiston
Title:  An Act To Increase Information for Parents and Teachers Regarding Standardized Tests
Comment:  This bill would require school boards to convene a stakeholder group of parents, teachers, school board members and administrators to develop a common policy and protocols concerning standardized testing and its usage. The group would be composed of a majority of parents and teachers. Each school board would be required to adopt a policy that clearly articulates the number of standardized assessments each student will be expected to take and provides a summary of the time students will spend on testing, and the board would be required to adopt a plan to communicate clearly with parents the testing schedule and the usefulness of the standardized tests.

LR: 2279  Sponsor: Representative Daughtry of Brunswick
Title:  An Act To Require That High School Curricula Include Instruction Regarding Affirmative Consent, Communication and Decision-making Skills
Comment:  This bill would require that high school curricula include instruction regarding affirmative consent, communication and decision-making skills.

LR: 2409  Sponsor: Senator Alfond of Cumberland
Title:  An Act To Increase Collaboration between the Department of Education and School Food Service Directors
Comment:  This bill would increase collaboration between the Department of Education and school food service directors.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
SCHOOL PROGRAMS
NUTRITION PROGRAMS
LR: 2416  Sponsor: Senator Alfond of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Feed Children from Low-income Families
Comment: This bill would provide funding to subsidize students' copayments for reduced price lunch.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
FUNDING
LR: 2140  Sponsor: Representative Maker of Calais
Title: An Act To Amend the Teacher Certification Statutes
Comment: This bill would amend the teacher certification statutes.

LR: 2273  Sponsor: Representative Hubbell of Bar Harbor
Title: An Act To Clarify the Liability for Special Education Costs under State-directed Student Transfers
Comment: This bill would prohibit transfers effected by the Commissioner of Education or the State Board of Education from resulting in reduction of state liability for the subsidy of special education costs for individual transferred students.

TEACHERS
CERTIFICATION
LR: 2452  Sponsor: Senator Baker of Sagadahoc
Title: An Act To Improve Teaching Assignments in Maine's Public Schools
Comment: This bill would expressly permit teachers to collectively bargain over involuntary transfers of teachers and require any transfer to be done with only the best interest of the students in mind.
Currently, the laws governing truancy do not apply to children who are less than 7 years of age. This bill would provide that, if a child is enrolled in school, the laws governing truancy would apply.
Comment:
This bill would exempt a parcel of land in the Town of Gray from shoreland zoning requirements so that the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad may reuse an old trolley track site and move from downtown Portland to Gray.

Title:
An Act To Reestablish Recreational Use of Historic Trolley Lines

Sponsor: Senator Breen of Cumberland

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPT POWERS

Comment:
This bill would require the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt statewide standards for the use of pesticides and prohibit a municipality from adopting a different standard. A municipality that adopted a different standard prior to the department’s establishment of standards could enforce that standard only if it creates an entity similar to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control.

Title:
An Act To Create Stability in the Control of Pesticides

Sponsor: Representative Fredette of Newport

LR: 2493

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

CONTAINERS - RETURNABLE BOTTLES

Comment:
This bill would make 50-milliliter liquor containers subject to Maine's returnable container law.

Title:
An Act To Include 50-milliliter Liquor Bottles in Maine's Returnable Container Law

Sponsor: Representative Mastraccio of Sanford

LR: 2337

Comment:
This resolve would direct the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct testing of well water in the Town of Plymouth.

Title:
Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection To Conduct Testing of Well Water in the Town of Plymouth

Sponsor: Representative Timberlake of Turner

LR: 2251

LAND USE

SHORELAND ZONING

This bill would exempt a parcel of land in the Town of Gray from shoreland zoning requirements so that the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad may reuse an old trolley track site and move from downtown Portland to Gray.

Title:
An Act To Reestablish Recreational Use of Historic Trolley Lines

Sponsor: Senator Breen of Cumberland

LR: 2270
ENIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

OILS

SPILLS

LR: 2301  Sponsor: Representative Duchesne of Hudson
Title: An Act To Revise Oil Spill Reporting Standards
Comment: This bill would set the minimum oil spill size requiring a report to the Department of Environmental Protection at 10 gallons.

PROTECTED NATURAL RESOURCES

SAND DUNES

LR: 2443  Sponsor: Representative Blume of York
Title: An Act To Improve the Management of "Beach-cast" Seaweed for Purposes of Health, Ecology and Tourism
Comment: This bill would amend the law regarding the management of "beach-cast" seaweed in coastal sand dune systems in order to help towns be more responsive to increasing accumulations of seaweed on our beaches.

TOXIC SUBSTANCES

TOXIC CHEMICALS

LR: 2351  Sponsor: Senator Baker of Sagadahoc
Title: An Act To Protect Firefighters by Prohibiting the Use of Certain Flame-retardant Chemicals in New Upholstered Furniture
Comment: This bill would prohibit the use of certain flame-retardant chemicals in new upholstered furniture.

WASTE FACILITIES

LANDFILLS

LR: 2267  Sponsor: Senator Dill of Penobscot
Title: An Act To Extend the Funding Period for Landfill Closure Costs To Include Applications Pending Prior to September 1, 1989
Comment: Under current law, the Department of Environmental Protection pays 75% of certain landfill closure costs incurred on or after July 1, 1994 and before December 31, 2025 if the Commissioner originally issued the operation license for that landfill on or before September 1, 1989. This bill would expand eligibility for funding landfill closure costs to landfills for which the application for an operation license was received on or before September 1, 1989.
Bill Requests For Screening
Draft
Sorted By Subject

ENIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASTES

SLUDGE

LR: 2318  
Sponsor: Representative Powers of Naples
Comment:  
This bill would require houseboats to have a marine sanitation device to prevent the overboard discharge of treated or untreated sewage or any waste derived from sewage. The bill would also define “houseboat” as any watercraft that is moored, docked or anchored and is used for a dwelling on the inland waters of the State.

LR: 2205  
Sponsor: Senator Saviello of Franklin
Comment:  
This bill would create a battery stewardship program to require labeling of batteries, indicating the chemistry used to store energy, and to require the provider of a battery to develop and maintain a program to manage discarded batteries.

LR: 2281  
Sponsor: Representative Kruger of Thomaston
Comment:  
This bill would require that an environmental impact assessment be completed for a dredging project in the Penobscot River watershed. It also would require that the dredging activity be the least environmentally and economically damaging alternative available.

WATER QUALITY

WASTEWATER DISCHARGES

LR: 2318  
Sponsor: Representative Powers of Naples
Comment:  
An Act To Require Houseboats To Have a Marine Sanitation Device
ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

HYDROPOWER

LR: 2173  Sponsor: Representative Fredette of Newport
Title:    Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Conduct a Study Regarding the Transmission of Hydroelectric Power from Canada to Maine and New England
Comment: This resolve would direct the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a study regarding the transmission of hydroelectric power from Canada to Maine and New England.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

SOLAR ENERGY

LR: 2479  Sponsor: Representative Gideon of Freeport
Title:    An Act To Make Maine Energy-independent
Comment: This bill would facilitate grid-scale solar projects that are community-owned and located on properties that cannot be used for other development.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

WIND ENERGY

LR: 2203  Sponsor: Senator Saviello of Franklin
Title:    An Act To Protect the Scenic Character of Maine's Special Places
Comment: This bill would extend from 8 miles to 15 miles the requirement for a visual impact assessment for a grid-scale wind energy development for a specified list of scenic resources determined to be of particularly high scenic value or significance.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

DELIVERY

LR: 2138  Sponsor: Representative Chipman of Portland
Title:    An Act To Require Electric Utility Meter Reading and Billing Dates To Be Changed upon the Request of Customers
Comment: This bill requires electric utilities to change meter reading dates and billing dates upon the request of customers.
ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

DELIVERY

LR: 2507  Sponsor: Representative Dion of Portland  
Title: An Act Regarding the Competitive Bidding Process for Nontransmission Alternatives  
Comment: The bill would provide an incentive to an electric transmission and distribution utility to develop and deploy nontransmission alternatives.

LR: 2508  Sponsor: Representative Dion of Portland  
Title: An Act To Establish a Pilot Program To Enhance the Development of Distributed Generation in Maine  
Comment: This bill would authorize an electric transmission and distribution utility to propose to the Public Utility Commission and to implement a limited distributed generation program capped at a specified megawatt level.

ELECTRIC UTILITIES  
PLANNING

LR: 2461  Sponsor: Senator Patrick of Oxford  
Title: An Act To Include Energy from Combined Heat and Power Facilities as Part of the Maine Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard  
Comment: This bill would allow energy generated by combined heat and power facilities to be eligible energy under Maine's renewable energy portfolio standard.

LR: 2489  Sponsor: Representative Wadsworth of Hiram  
Title: An Act To Ensure a Timely Reduction in Energy Costs for Maine Consumers  
Comment: This bill would direct the 2 investor-owned electricity utilities in the State to purchase their respective New England power pool load ratio share of natural gas pipeline capacity at the lowest price available as determined by each utility's competitive solicitation process.

ENERGY

ELECTRICITY GENERATION

LR: 2506  Sponsor: Representative Dion of Portland  
Title: An Act To Clarify Laws Relating to Affiliate Ownership of Electric Generation  
Comment: This bill would address ambiguities in statute regarding affiliates of electric transmission and distribution companies seeking to interconnect with the electric transmission and distribution system.
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2546  Representative Babbidge, C

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

ENERGY PLANNING

LR: 2331  Sponsor: Representative Campbell of Orrington
Title: An Act To Encourage the Development of Electrical and Natural Gas Infrastructure in Bucksport
Comment: This bill would encourage the development of electrical and natural gas infrastructure at the former site of the mill in Bucksport.

GAS UTILITIES

NATURAL GAS

LR: 2380  Sponsor: Representative Beavers of South Berwick
Title: An Act To Establish a Single Government Entity To Coordinate and Ensure Pipeline Safety in Maine
Comment: This bill would require a single government entity to have pipeline facility inspection authority, require first responders to have 24-hour access to pipeline facilities, ensure these responders are equipped and trained to deal safely with pipeline incidents and require pipeline owners to educate citizens fully about the dangers of hazardous material transportation.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION POWERS

LR: 2435  Sponsor: Representative Grohman of Biddeford
Title: An Act To Make Efficient Heat Pumps Available to Low-income Customers
Comment: This bill would allow transmission and distribution utilities to implement a program to make efficient heat pumps available for use by low-income customers and others who face significant barriers to purchasing a heat pump directly. The program, whose design is subject to review by the Public Utilities Commission, may include special rates for participating customers to cover program costs, which costs may be paid only by participating customers, and the program must offer customer choice of qualified 3rd-party installers and distributors.
Potential JR 217:  LD1257

LR: 2475  Sponsor: Representative Pouliot of Augusta
Title: An Act To Implement a Maine Solar Policy To Maximize Ratepayer Benefits
Comment: This bill would implement solar policy proposals that maximize benefits to ratepayers developed as part of the Public Utilities Commission stakeholder process.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2546  Representative Babbidge, C
ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
POWERS

LR: 2546  Sponsor: Representative Babbidge of Kennebunk
Title: An Act To Establish Policy Regarding Distributed Solar Power
Comment: This bill would establish policy concerning continued use and expansion of solar energy through information gathered and studied by the Public Utilities Commission.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2475  Representative Pouliot, M

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
PROCEDURES

LR: 2217  Sponsor: Representative Dunphy of Old Town
Title: An Act To Prevent Discontinuation of Utility Services to Customers Who Rely on Life-sustaining Medical Devices
Comment: This bill would prevent the discontinuation of utility services to customers who rely on life-sustaining medical devices at home.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CELLULAR PHONES

LR: 2137  Sponsor: Senator Baker of Sagadahoc
Title: An Act To Increase Access to Call Location Information by Law Enforcement Agencies
Comment: This bill would require wireless service providers to provide call location information when requested by a law enforcement agency for the purpose of responding to emergency situations.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
RELAY SERVICES

LR: 2459  Sponsor: Representative Beavers of South Berwick
Title: An Act To Revise Qualifications for Certain Members of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council
Comment: This bill would revise the qualifications of 4 members of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council.
ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LR: 2308  Sponsor: Representative Vachon of Scarborough
Title:  An Act To Prohibit Telecommunications Companies from Charging Consumers a Fee To Have an Unlisted Telephone Number
Comment: This bill would prevent telecommunications companies from charging an additional fee to customers who choose to have an unlisted telephone number.

UTILITY DISTRICTS

CHARTER CHANGES

LR: 2264  Sponsor: Senator Patrick of Oxford
Title:  An Act To Make Changes to the Rumford Water District Charter
Comment: This bill would amend the language of the charter of the Rumford Water District to delete obsolete language and to clarify the purposes and powers of the district, consistent with the Standard Water District Enabling Act.

UTILITY DISTRICTS

POWERS

LR: 2202  Sponsor: Representative Nadeau of Winslow
Title:  An Act To Allow the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District To Establish and Maintain a Capital Reserve Fund
Comment: This bill would allow the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District to establish a capital reserve fund to help in paying for the maintaining, upgrading and replacing of its aging infrastructure.
Comment: This bill would add de facto parents to the types of parents recognized by the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of the reunification and placement process. It would not change procedures in the reunification and placement process.

LR: 2404 Sponsor: Representative Beavers of South Berwick
Title: An Act To Establish the Maine Foster Children's Bill of Rights
Comment: This bill would establish the Maine Foster Children's Bill of Rights.

Comment: This bill would enact the foster parents' bill of rights. It would enumerate the rights of foster parents, including the right to training, consultation and assistance in evaluating, identifying and accessing services to meet their needs related to their role as foster parents; the right to all pertinent information known to the Department of Health and Human Services about a foster child; and the right to a written explanation of the plan concerning the placement of a child in the foster parents' home.

LR: 2410 Sponsor: Senator Alfond of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Feed Young Children by Strengthening the Child and Adult Care Food Program
Comment: This bill would provide for feeding young children by strengthening the child and adult care food program.

LR: 2554 Sponsor: Representative Malaby of Hancock
Title: An Act To Enact the Foster Parents' Bill of Rights
Comment: This bill would provide for feeding young children by strengthening the child and adult care food program.

Comment: This bill would add de facto parents to the types of parents recognized by the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of the reunification and placement process. It would not change procedures in the reunification and placement process.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DEATH RECORDS

LR: 2263  Sponsor: Senator Libby of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Amend Maine's Death Certificate Disclosure Law
Comment: This bill would allow the sole living parent of a minor to obtain a certified copy of the death certificate of the minor's other parent.

DISABLED PERSONS

PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITY

LR: 2426  Sponsor: Representative Peterson of Rumford
Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Oversight over and Responsibility for the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program
Comment: This bill would transfer authority over the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund to a program administrator, eliminate the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund Board, authorize the establishment of an advisory board and transfer authority for administration of the fund from the Finance Authority of Maine to the Office of the Treasurer of State.

ELDERLY NUTRITION SERVICES

LR: 2525  Sponsor: Representative Hamann of South Portland
Title: An Act To Provide Meals to Homebound Individuals
Comment: This bill would fully fund the waitlist for Meals on Wheels.

FOOD STAMPS SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM

LR: 2280  Sponsor: Representative Hamann of South Portland
Title: An Act To Eliminate Asset Tests for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits
Comment: This bill would require the Department of Health and Humans Services to eliminate asset tests for individuals applying for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

LR: 2421  Sponsor: Representative Sirocki of Scarborough
Title: An Act To Amend the Membership of the Maine Vaccine Board To Remove the Treasurer of State
Comment: This bill would remove the Treasurer of State as a member of the Maine Vaccine Board.

LR: 2432  Sponsor: Representative Gattine of Westbrook
Title: An Act To Promote the Success and Accountability of Welfare Reform Initiatives in Maine
Comment: This bill would require certain public benefit programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Family Independence to measure annually outcomes for populations served and provide data to ensure state and federal funds are used to better manage performance and would require that legislation affecting the general assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and food supplement programs be evaluated to determine financial and human impact.

LR: 2536  Sponsor: Representative Grohman of Biddeford
Title: An Act To Engender Financial Responsibility among Recipients of Public Assistance
Comment: This bill would set up a state-funded pilot program for certain recipients of public assistance to teach them budgeting skills and encourage them to access community and social services.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

ELIGIBILITY

LR: 2437  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Reform General Assistance Benefits
Comment: This bill would prohibit the State from paying benefits for any additional child born after the recipient has been accepted into a general assistance program.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPT

ADMINISTRATION
An Act To Support State Psychiatric and Forensic Workers

This bill would provide funding for a wage adjustment stipend for state employees in the state psychiatric and forensic facilities to assist in recruitment and retention. This bill also would include monthly reporting requirements for the Department of Health and Human Services on worker injury rates, the use of mandated overtime and other worker safety issues.

An Act To Establish an Advisory Committee To Study the Prevalence and Service Needs of People Who are Deaf or Blind or Have a Dual Sensory Loss

This bill would establish an advisory committee to study the prevalence and service needs of people who are deaf or blind or have a dual sensory loss.

An Act To Support and Strengthen the Direct Care Workforce

This bill would establish a career pathways program that encourages workers to enter into the field of long-term care and to move up through career steps over time. This program, which would build off current efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services, would be designed to develop and implement advanced training for direct care workers and efforts to expand services provided by direct care workers to persons receiving home-based and community-based services; identify the high-demand occupations within long-term care; and establish pathways to those occupations by creating clear and tangible linkages between programs, offering scholarships to participants and leveraging other public money.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
CERTIFICATE OF NEED

LR: 2442  Sponsor: President Thibodeau of Waldo
Title: An Act To Improve Hospital Governance by Removing the Requirement for a Certificate of Need for Intracorporation Transfers
Comment: This bill would remove the requirement for a certificate of need when there is a change in ownership or acquisition of control in which the entities or health facilities involved are already in the same corporate family, such as when the entities or health facilities involved are subsidiaries of the same parent corporation or the transaction involves a parent and its subsidiary.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
FINANCING

LR: 2293  Sponsor: Senator Burns of Washington
Title: An Act To Provide an Annual Cost-of-living Adjustment to Nursing Facilities
Comment: This bill would provide funds to give nursing facilities the annual cost-of-living adjustment in accordance with Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 67, the Principles of Reimbursement for Nursing Facilities, Section 91, and would require an annual cost-of-living adjustment using the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for medical care services in nursing homes and adult day care services.

LR: 2294  Sponsor: Senator Burns of Washington
Title: An Act To Preserve MaineCare Assisted Living by Providing a Cost-of-living Adjustment to Private Nonmedical Institutions and Adult Family Care Homes
Comment: This bill would provide funds to give adult family care homes and so-called "Appendix C" private nonmedical institutions a 4% cost-of-living rate increase in funding in the 2nd year of the current biennium, and provides that annual cost-of-living adjustments must be provided by rule for each fiscal year thereafter in accordance with the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index medical care services index.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

LR: 2182  Sponsor: Representative Kinney of Knox
Title:  An Act To Establish the Telehealth Working Group
Comment:  This resolve would establish the Telehealth Working Group to examine issues associated with the increasing role of remote patient care and monitoring. The resolve would direct the group to develop recommendations and report back to the Legislature.

LR: 2531  Sponsor: Representative Guerin of Glenburn
Title:  An Act To Prohibit State Funds to Entities That Perform Abortions or Operate Facilities at Which Abortions Are Performed
Comment:  The bill would prohibit payment of state funds to an entity that performs nonfederally qualified abortions or operates a facility where nonfederally qualified abortions are performed. This bill also prioritizes the allocation of state funds to health care entities.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2531  Representative Guerin, S

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

DELIVERY

LR: 2171  Sponsor: Senator Cyrway of Kennebec
Title:  An Act To Require That Licensed Marijuana Growers Implement Adequate Odor Control Technology
Comment:  This bill would require that licensed marijuana growers implement adequate odor control technology.

LR: 2246  Sponsor: Senator Gratwick of Penobscot
Title:  Resolve, To Establish the Telehealth Working Group
Comment:  This resolve would establish the Telehealth Working Group to examine issues associated with the increasing role of remote patient care and monitoring. The resolve would direct the group to develop recommendations and report back to the Legislature.
Title: An Act To Allow Greater Patient Access to Primary Caregivers under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act

Comment: This bill would increase the number of patients that may be served by a single primary caregiver from 5 to 50.

Potential JR 217: LD5

Title: Resolve, To Clarify Inspections of Caregivers under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act

Comment: This resolve would require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish clear standards for the inspection of caregivers under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act.

Title: Resolve, To Establish a Task Force To Recommend Improvements to Maine's Medical Marijuana Laws

Comment: This bill would establish a task force to recommend improvements to Maine's medical marijuana laws. In developing its recommendations, the task force will consider issues including, but not limited to, the sealing or expunging of criminal records of certain nonviolent, nontrafficking offenses; facilitating research to establish an impairment limit for driving; and increasing the State's investment in prevention, treatment and recovery services.

Title: An Act To Make Consistent Certain Laws Governing the Medical Use of Marijuana by Qualifying Minors and Adults

Comment: Under current law, an adult qualifying patient who is visiting Maine from another jurisdiction that authorizes the medical use of marijuana and who possesses valid written certification may engage in conduct authorized for a qualifying patient under Maine law without prior consultation with a physician in Maine. This bill would amend the law governing qualifying patients who are minors so that it is consistent with the laws governing adult qualifying patients.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

LR: 2307    Sponsor: Representative Vachon of Scarborough
Title:      An Act To Encourage Living Kidney Donation
Comment:   This bill would allow individual grants of up to $5,000 for living kidney donors to cover lost wages, unreimbursed travel and lodging costs and medical expenses associated with the donation. The bill also would include a grant provision for a specialized transplant educator.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

LR: 2125    Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title:      An Act To Increase Access to Oral Contraceptives
Comment:   This bill would authorize doctors to prescribe a year's supply of oral contraceptives at a time.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2160   Senator Miramant, D

LR: 2160    Sponsor: Senator Miramant of Knox
Title:      An Act To Improve Access to Women's Health Care
Comment:   This bill would provide that, after obtaining an initial prescription for an oral contraceptive and a 3-month period of using that contraceptive to check for contraindication, a woman may obtain up to a 12-month supply of that contraceptive. In order to continue to refill the supply, a woman requesting the refill would be required to complete an annual risk self-assessment, which the pharmacy would review and keep on file. If a health insurance company pays for the prescriptions for a participant of a health insurance plan, it would continue to do so under the provisions of this bill.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2125   Senator Brakey, E

LR: 2436    Sponsor: Representative Cooper of Yarmouth
Title:      An Act To Limit the Increase in the Price of Prescription Drugs
Comment:   This bill would prohibit the sale of a prescription drug in Maine if its price has more than doubled in the previous 12 months or is proposed to be increased by more than twice its current price unless the manufacturer is able to demonstrate that the cost of manufacturing the drug justifies the price increase.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

LR: 2520  Sponsor: Representative Hamann of South Portland
Comment: This bill would allow school nurses and people caring for senior citizens to have access to naloxone hydrochloride.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

RESPITE CARE

LR: 2548  Sponsor: Representative Jorgensen of Portland
Comment: This bill would allocate funding to the Respite Care Fund for a second program to provide short-term respite care for people with diseases other than Alzheimer's and dementia who are significantly limited in their ability to care for themselves and dependent upon others to help them with activities of daily living.

MEDICAID

MAINECARE

LR: 2195  Sponsor: Representative Tepler of Topsham
Comment: This bill would provide MaineCare coverage to intellectually disabled adults receiving so-called Section 21 or Section 29 services for the same level of dental services that are provided to children under MaineCare.

LR: 2291  Sponsor: Representative Malaby of Hancock
Comment: Current law provides that MaineCare reimbursement rate for ambulance services may not be less than 65% of the average allowable reimbursement rate under Medicare for such services. This bill would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules to implement the law.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MEDICAID

MAINECARE

LR: 2325  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Impose Penalties for Certain Transfers of Assets at Less Than Fair Market Value by Individuals
Comment: This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to impose an asset transfer penalty, with a lookback period of 60 months, on a person seeking to qualify for MaineCare funding and support of any long-term care services, and who has made a transfer or other disposal of assets at less than fair market value.

LR: 2354  Sponsor: Representative Lajoie of Lewiston
Title: An Act To Require the State To Adequately Pay for Emergency Medical Services
Comment: This bill would increase the MaineCare reimbursement for ambulance services to the federal Medicare allowable rate.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2291  Representative Malaby, R
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2515  Senator Burns, D

LR: 2407  Sponsor: Senator Woodsome of York
Title: An Act To Increase Access to Opiate Addiction Treatment in Maine
Comment: This bill would increase access to opiate addiction treatment by setting the MaineCare reimbursement rate for outpatient methadone treatment at a level equal to the rates in effect prior to the 2010 and 2012 rate cuts.

LR: 2450  Sponsor: Representative Gattine of Westbrook
Title: An Act To Eliminate the Waiting List for Community-based Services Provided under MaineCare for Individuals with a Brain Injury, an Intellectual Disability or Autism
Comment: This bill would use excess proceeds from the state liquor contract to provide funding to eliminate the waiting list for community-based services provided under MaineCare for individuals with a brain injury, an intellectual disability or autism.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
MEDICAID
MAINECARE
LR: 2515 Sponsor: Senator Burns of Washington
Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Amend Its Rules To Provide Fair Access to, and Prevent Abuse of, Ambulance Services
Comment: This bill would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules designed to prevent abuse of ambulance services by MaineCare members and would set the reimbursement rate of these services at the Medicare rate.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2291 Representative Malaby, R
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2354 Representative Lajoie, M

LR: 2522 Sponsor: Senator Gerzofsky of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Increase Salaries for Personal Care Assistants
Comment: This bill would increase MaineCare reimbursement for salaries for personal care assistants.

Closely Related CO: LD 886 Representative Espling, E

MEDICAID
MANAGED CARE PLAN
LR: 2454 Sponsor: Representative Vachon of Scarborough
Title: An Act To Clarify Medicaid Managed Care Ombudsman Services
Comment: This bill would amend the laws regarding the Medicaid managed care ombudsman to make them consistent with federal law and guidance. It also clarifies the services the ombudsman provides.

MEDICAID PROVIDERS
LR: 2229 Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Align the Asset Lookback Standards for Senior Care
Comment: This bill would establish a 5-year asset lookback period for Medicaid qualification for services with private nonmedical institutions and home-based care identical to the current standards associated with nursing homes.
This resolve would require the Department of Health and Human Services, by November 1, 2016, to develop an extensive and comprehensive plan to improve access to and the quality of care for patients who need inpatient and residential mental health services, whether forensic or civil. The plan would include an evaluation of the need for such services in Maine, the number of patients who need the services, a 10-year projection of the number of patients who will need to be served and multiple options for meeting any unmet needs that are determined to exist or improvements to care that need to be made.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC SAFETY

LEAD POISONING

LR: 2533  Sponsor: Representative Devin of Newcastle
Title: An Act To Ensure Lead Paint Protection and Mitigation Programs Are Enforced
Comment: The bill would develop an approach to ensure that Maine children are fully protected from lead poisoning and that lead paint protection and mitigation programs are enforced.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2533  Representative Devin, M

LR: 2541  Sponsor: Representative Jorgensen of Portland
Title: An Act To Protect Families from Lead Paint Poisoning
Comment: This bill would add testing for lead paint to the home visiting program, which is an existing program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. A home visitor would ask a parent for permission to test for lead paint and, if the parent agreed, would collect a paint sample to be tested by the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. If lead paint is detected, the parent would be notified, and, if the level is high, a lead inspector would confirm the reading.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2541  Representative Jorgensen, E

SMOKING

CIGARETTES

LR: 2336  Sponsor: Representative Short of Pittsfield
Title: An Act Regarding Wholesale Sales of Cigarettes
Comment: This bill would require distributors of cigarettes to sell cigarettes to stores at the same price.

SMOKING

PUBLIC PROTECTION

LR: 2339  Sponsor: Representative Kinney of Knox
Title: An Act To Limit Smoking to Designated Areas at Certain Outdoor Events
Comment: This bill would limit smoking to designated areas at certain outdoor events.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SUBSTANCE ABUSE
EDUCATION

LR: 2555  Sponsor: Senator Willette of Aroostook
Title: An Act To Amend the Law Regarding the Diversion Alert Program
Comment: This bill would provide additional funding for the diversion alert program and move the program from the Office of the Attorney General to the Department of Public Safety.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PREVENTION

LR: 2165  Sponsor: Representative Dion of Portland
Title: An Act To Establish the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program in Maine
Comment: This bill would establish the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, or "LEAD," program to address drug crimes by diverting low-level offenders into community-based treatment and support services. Case managers will work with offenders to get them into treatment and connect with other supports such as housing, health care, job training and mental health services. This legislation will establish 8 pilot projects in communities around the State. It will provide $250,000 for each project. This funding will allow for a full-time case manager to work with people struggling with addiction and provide flexible funding to assist participants as they seek to stabilize their lives and move past addiction.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE
TREATMENT

LR: 2385  Sponsor: Representative Lyford of Eddington
Title: An Act To Require That a Person Undergoing Methadone Treatment Be Accompanied by a Driver or Have Another Transportation Arrangement
Comment: This bill would require that a person undergoing a methadone treatment be accompanied by a designated driver or have an alternative means of getting home after the treatment.

LR: 2492  Sponsor: Representative Lyford of Eddington
Title: An Act To Require That a Person Undergoing Methadone Treatment Be Accompanied by a Driver or Have Another Transportation Arrangement
Comment: This bill would require that a person undergoing a methadone treatment be accompanied by a designated driver or have an alternative means of getting home after the treatment.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

LR: 2501  Sponsor: Representative Maker of Calais
Title: An Act To Support Maine People in Recovery
Comment: This bill would provide funding for 3 new centers in different parts of the State to coordinate and run peer support programs to help persons in recovery from drug addiction. Two of these centers would be located outside of Maine's service centers, in order to serve populations in more rural parts of the State. Funding for each center would support the hiring of a coordinator who would support recovery group facilitation, peer mentoring and peer recovery resource connecting, and the centers could be coordinated and housed within existing health care settings, such as rural health care centers.

TEMPORARY ASSIST TO NEEDY FAMILIES PROVISIONS

LR: 2417  Sponsor: President Thibodeau of Waldo
Title: An Act To Ensure Accountability in Maine's Welfare System
Comment: This bill would amend certain of the State's laws governing benefits provided under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program, or TANF, the Additional Support for People in Retraining and Education program, or ASPIRE, and the food supplement program. This bill would: require work searches by certain recipients of TANF benefits; prohibit the use of electronic benefits cards to access TANF outside the State; limit certain cash withdrawals of TANF benefits; prohibit the use of TANF benefits and electronic benefits cards for certain specified products; amend the laws governing the imposition of sanctions under the ASPIRE and TANF programs; remove the limit on education, training and treatment for participants in the ASPIRE program; amend the laws governing the receipt of alternative aid; and eliminate eligibility for convicted drug traffickers under TANF and the food supplement program.

Potential JR 217: LD452, 1144, 1375
Closely Related CO: LD 1097 Senator Libby, N
This bill would establish a transitional employment program for certain people with children who are current or former recipients of benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, in order to provide them with the opportunity for temporary employment and improve their potential employability through increased work experience in a competitive work environment.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

CREDIT UNIONS

LR: 2464
Title: An Act To Promote Access to Financial Institutions by Entities That Are Authorized under State Law
Comment: Current law limits the ability of medical marijuana providers to access financial institutions that are federally insured. This bill would allow state-chartered credit unions to procure private deposit insurance in lieu of federal deposit insurance.

INSURANCE

HEALTH

LR: 2197
Title: An Act To Protect Consumers from Excess Copayments for Prescription Drugs
Comment: This bill would prohibit a health insurance company from requiring a consumer to pay a copayment that exceeds the total of the pharmacy's acquisition cost for the drug and the pharmacy's dispensing fee.

LR: 2248
Title: An Act To Clarify and Expand Maine's Laws Governing Private Payer Parity for Telehealth Services
Comment: This bill would ensure that services rendered by telehealth are reimbursed appropriately and at parity with face-to-face services, when equivalent.

LR: 2249
Title: An Act To Create Improved Consumer Protection against Long-term Care Insurance Premium Rate Increases
Comment: This bill would amend the laws governing long-term care insurance to implement certain safeguards based on consumer age and limit the amount and number of increases over a defined period of time.

LR: 2309
Title: An Act To Require Health Insurance Carriers To Provide Notification to Medicare-eligible Customers
Comment: This bill would require an individual health insurance carrier to notify policyholders 3 months before they turn 65 years of age that upon turning 65 years of age they may not stay on the carrier's plan, they must enroll in Medicare and they must cancel their premium tax credit.
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

INSURANCE

HEALTH

LR: 2420  Sponsor: Representative Sirocki of Scarborough
Title:  An Act To Repeal the Laws Establishing the Board of Trustees of Dirigo Health
Comment:  This bill would repeal the laws establishing the Board of Trustees of Dirigo Health.

LR: 2485  Sponsor: Representative Brooks of Lewiston
Title:  An Act To Improve Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening and To Inform Patients If They Have Increased Breast Density
Comment:  This bill would require insurance companies to cover additional breast cancer screening tests recommended by a patient's physician. It would also require that, if it is determined by a medical provider that a patient undergoing mammography has increased breast density, the patient be informed of that fact.

INSURANCE PRACTICES

REINSURANCE

LR: 2371  Sponsor: Senator Whittemore of Somerset
Title:  An Act To Amend the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association Act
Comment:  This bill would amend the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association Act to reflect changes in the individual health insurance market following passage of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
LR: 2362  Sponsor: Representative DeChant of Bath

Title: An Act To Require Workers' Compensation Insurance Carriers To Reimburse the State the Amount of Certain Withheld Benefits

Comment: This bill would require workers' compensation insurance carriers to account for and reimburse the State the amount of weekly indemnity benefits withheld from an injured worker during the course of the claim due to the worker's receiving benefits under the Employment Security Law.
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

FISH

PROTECTION

LR: 2344  Sponsor: Representative Wood of Greene
Title:  An Act To Establish a Fall Fish Stocking Program for Lakes and Ponds That Do Not Meet the Equitable Access Requirements
Comment:  This bill would establish a fall fish stocking program for lakes and ponds that do not meet the equitable access requirements that provide the public with the same level of access to a body of water as an owner of property on that body of water.

GAME

MOOSE

LR: 2161  Sponsor: Representative Bear of Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Title:  An Act To Reduce Diabetes and Obesity among Members of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians by Recognizing and Providing for the Right of Tribal Members To Hunt Moose for Sustenance throughout Aroostook County
Comment:  This bill would allow the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians to issue up to 75 tribal moose permits per year to resident tribal members to hunt in Aroostook County to improve health conditions with preferred protein sustenance and traditional, physical activity.
Potential JR 217:  LD888

RECREATION

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

LR: 2305  Sponsor: Representative Martin of Sinclair
Title:  An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Fees for All-terrain Vehicle Registrations
Comment:  This bill would increase the resident all-terrain vehicle registration fee from $33.00 to $38.00 and the nonresident all-terrain vehicle registration fee from $68.00 to $73.00, and would allocate all of the $5.00 increase to the ATV Recreational Management Fund in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

RECREATION

SNOWMOBILES

LR: 2349  Sponsor: Representative Black of Wilton
Title: An Act To Allow the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands To Transfer Ownership of Snowmobile Trail Grooming Equipment to Incorporated Nonprofit Snowmobile Clubs
Comment: This bill would authorize the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to transfer ownership of snowmobile trail maintenance equipment to incorporated nonprofit snowmobile clubs for snowmobile trail maintenance on snowmobile trail systems currently maintained by the State.

RECREATION

WATERCRAFT

LR: 2238  Sponsor: Representative Doore of Augusta
Title: An Act To Ensure That Public Boat Ramps Are Accessible to Persons with Physical Disabilities
Comment: This bill would require that 4 public boat ramps be made accessible to persons with physical disabilities each year.

LR: 2290  Sponsor: Representative Stanley of Medway
Title: An Act To Allow Persons 16 Years of Age and Older To Operate Personal Watercraft
Comment: This bill would reduce from 18 to 16 the age at which a person may operate a personal watercraft.

LR: 2319  Sponsor: Representative Powers of Naples
Title: An Act Regarding Lake Moorings
Comment: This bill would amend the laws governing lake moorings.
Potential JR 217:  LD22
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2210  Representative Fowle, L

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Protection from Abuse Orders in Order To Implement the Laws Regarding the Unauthorized Dissemination of Certain Private Images

Comment: This bill would amend the laws regarding protection from abuse orders to make changes necessary to implement Public Law 2015, chapter 339, An Act To Prohibit the Unauthorized Dissemination of Certain Private Images.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2211  Representative Fredette, K

Title: An Act To Amend the Laws on Protection from Abuse and Unauthorized Dissemination of Certain Private Images

Comment: Recent legislation prohibiting unauthorized dissemination of private images included amendments to the protection from abuse laws to coordinate the laws. This bill would further amend the protection of abuse laws with respect to the definition of "abuse" and remedies.
LR: 2220  
Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Consider the Rights of Siblings in Situations of Adoption  
Comment: This bill would require that the Department of Health and Human Services, when working with minors in the custody of the State who may be adopted, consider facilitating regular visitation between siblings.

LR: 2271  
Title: An Act To Clarify Financial Responsibility in Gestational Carrier Agreements  
Comment: This bill would amend the Maine Parentage Act to clarify financial responsibility for the costs of delivering a child when the child is the subject of a gestational carrier agreement.

LR: 2383  
Title: An Act To Enact The Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act  
Comment: This bill would enact the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders, which establishes uniform procedures that enable courts to recognize and enforce valid domestic protection orders issued in other jurisdictions.

LR: 2513  
Title: An Act To Protect Victims of Human Trafficking  
Comment: This bill would strengthen the criteria for protection orders to better protect trafficking victims.
JUDICIARY

CIVIL PROCEDURE
LIMITATION OF ACTIONS
LR: 2498  Sponsor: Representative Corey of Windham
Title: An Act To Protect and Promote Access to Shooting Ranges
Comment: This bill would protect shooting ranges against private or public civil actions, including injunctive and nuisance actions, using state statutes or rules or local ordinances or standards that did not exist at the time of the initial construction or operation of the range.

COURTS
DISTRICT COURT
LR: 2254  Sponsor: Representative Long of Sherman
Title: An Act To Establish the County Court System and Provide for Elected Judges
Comment: This bill would abolish district courts and establish a county court system with judges elected by the voters of each county.

COURTS
DRUG COURT
LR: 2427  Sponsor: Representative Frey of Bangor
Title: An Act To Strengthen Programs To Help Individuals Overcome Addiction
Comment: This bill would provide the necessary funds to conduct an evaluation of the State's drug courts to ensure that the best and most effective practices are identified and implemented in drug courts across the State and fund a pilot project for new case management services for people in jail who are struggling with addiction.

COURTS
SECURITY
LR: 2326  Sponsor: Representative Head of Bethel
Title: An Act To Improve Security in Courtrooms
Comment: This bill would provide for a review of security in courtrooms to determine the need for more cameras and for funding for more cameras.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

JUDICIARY

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

CHILD CUSTODY

LR: 2527  Sponsor: Senator Dutremble of York
Title:  An Act Regarding Shared Primary Residential Care of Children
Comment: This bill would define the term "shared primary residential care," require courts to consider the great value of keeping separated parents involved and engaged in their children's lives and require courts awarding custody of children to state clear and compelling reasons for their orders unless substantially equal residential care is ordered or the parents agree on some other custody arrangement.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

GRANDPARENTS

LR: 2152  Sponsor: Senator Miramant of Knox
Title:  An Act To Establish Visitation Rights for Grandparents
Comment: This bill would establish visitation rights for grandparents.

LR: 2355  Sponsor: Representative Picchiotti of Fairfield
Title:  An Act To Ensure Children in the Care of Their Grandparents Can Access Fundamental Services
Comment: This bill would create state educational and health care consent laws for children in the care of their grandparents.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

PARENTAL RIGHTS

LR: 2347  Sponsor: Senator Diamond of Cumberland
Title:  An Act To Protect Victims of Sexual Assault
Comment: This bill would provide that a victim of sexual assault may petition the court for termination of the parental rights of the person who committed the sexual assault and require the court to terminate the parental rights upon clear and convincing evidence of the sexual assault.
JUDICIARY

FREEDOM OF ACCESS

Title: An Act To Ensure Nondiscrimination against Gun Owners in Housing
Comment: This bill would prohibit a landlord who receives public funds for rent from prohibiting a tenant from possessing a firearm while on the premises being rented.

Title: An Act To Give Proper Oversight to the So-called Fusion Center Advisory Board
Comment: This bill would ensure that the so-called Fusion Center Advisory Board has sufficient security clearance to receive classified information and would require that the board treat as confidential information it receives.

Title: An Act To Increase the Safety of Social Workers
Comment: This bill would prohibit the publication of the home addresses of social workers.

Title: An Act Regarding Public Access to Certain Records of the State Board of Nursing
Comment: This bill would enhance the safety of nurses working at family planning clinics by prohibiting the disclosure of State Board of Nursing licensing records.

Title: An Act To Protect the Privacy of People Receiving Public Assistance
Comment: This bill would make it a crime to publish any personal information of an individual who is receiving public assistance.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Title: An Act To Ensure Nondiscrimination against Gun Owners in Housing
Comment: This bill would prohibit a landlord who receives public funds for rent from prohibiting a tenant from possessing a firearm while on the premises being rented.
JUDICIARY

HUMAN RIGHTS

PRIVACY

LR: 2477  
Sponsor: Representative Davitt of Hampden
Title: An Act To Ensure Protection against the Invasion of Privacy by Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
Comment: This bill would clarify that existing protections against the invasion of privacy also apply to using unmanned aerial vehicles to observe, photograph or record without consent or otherwise violate the privacy of an individual in an area where that individual has the reasonable expectation of privacy. As a violation of privacy, it would be a Class D crime.

Potential JR 217: LD482

PROBATE

GUARDIAN AD LITEM

LR: 2275  
Sponsor: Representative Frey of Bangor
Title: An Act To Increase Compensation for Guardians Ad Litem Appointed in Child Protection Proceedings
Comment: This bill would set the rate of compensation for court-appointed guardians ad litem in child protection proceedings to the rates established for assigned counsel.

REAL ESTATE

CONVEYANCES

LR: 2143  
Sponsor: Representative Malaby of Hancock
Title: An Act To Create a Transfer on Death Deed
Comment: This bill would authorize a special type of deed to transfer ownership of real estate upon death, outside of probate, to beneficiaries named on the deed.
JUDICIARY

REAL ESTATE

FORECLOSURE

LR: 2245  Sponsor: Representative Pierce of Dresden
Title:    An Act To Ensure Consumer Protection in the Laws Governing Foreclosure
Comment: This bill, which is modeled on Nevada law, would establish a process of
         mandatory mediation for parties to a foreclosure.

LR: 2418  Sponsor: Representative Monaghan of Cape
           Elizabeth
Title:    An Act To Expedite Foreclosure Actions
Comment: This bill would permit the Foreclosure Mediation Fund to be used to support
          other expenses incurred by the court in support of resolving foreclosure cases.

REAL ESTATE

TIMESHARES

LR: 2502  Sponsor: Representative Chenette of Saco
Title:    An Act To Amend the Language of Liens on Time Shares
Comment: This bill would clarify that an individual's liability for a time share does not
          extend to the rest of the individual's estate.

TORTS

LIABILITY

LR: 2419  Sponsor: Senator Volk of Cumberland
Title:    An Act To Provide Immunity from Liability for a Person Operating a Motor
           Vehicle While Acting on Behalf of a Charitable Organization
Comment: This bill would exempt from liability a director, officer or volunteer of a
          charitable organization while that person is operating a motor vehicle for the
          benefit of the charitable organization.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS PRACTICES

AUTOMOBILE SALES

LR: 2153  Sponsor: Senator Miramant of Knox
Title:  An Act To Clarify the Contracts Used for Automobile Sales
Comment: This bill would provide that when the terms of an agreement are established during the negotiations for purchase of an automobile, a summary must be presented in plain language for the buyer to review, and the signature acknowledging the terms must be immediately below the summary.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

FAIR CREDIT REPORTING

LR: 2224  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title:  An Act Regarding Credit Checks
Comment: This bill would require all companies that perform credit checks for their services to report relevant information from their services to the credit reporting agencies.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

REGULATIONS

LR: 2189  Sponsor: Senator Dutremble of York
Title:  An Act To Require Certain Retail Facilities Open to the Public To Be Equipped with Automated External Defibrillators
Comment: This bill would require a retail facility over a specified square footage to be equipped with an external defibrillator.

LR: 2276  Sponsor: Representative Daughtry of Brunswick
Title:  An Act Regarding the Cancellation of Subscription Services
Comment: This bill would require that a business that makes an automatic renewal subscription offer for certain products or services present the consumer with an easily accessible disclosure of the methods by which the consumer may cancel the agreement.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

SALES

LR: 2228  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title:  An Act To Reform Credit and Debit Card Standards
Comment: This bill would repeal the prohibition against a business's charging additional fees to customers who choose to pay with a credit or debit card.
LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS PRACTICES

LR: 2233  Sponsor: Senator Miramant of Knox
Title: An Act To Protect Worker Benefits
Comment: This bill would provide that if an employee earns vacation time as part of the benefits offered by an employer, the employee must be paid for unused vacation time earned at the pay rate of the employee if the employee leaves that employee's job, voluntarily or involuntarily.

LEAVE POLICIES

LR: 2196  Sponsor: Senator Gerzofsky of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Create and Sustain High-quality Maine Jobs
Comment: This bill would create the Maine Capital Program within the Finance Authority of Maine with authority to provide loans or bond funding to eligible business projects that have projected costs of at least $50,000,000 or are projected to result in the creation or retention of at least 250 full-time employment positions that pay at least 125% of the state annual average wage.

LR: 2252  Sponsor: Senator Alfond of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Transfer the Maine Coworking Development Fund from the Department of Economic and Community Development to the Finance Authority of Maine
Comment: The bill would transfer the Maine Coworking Development Fund from the Department of Economic and Community Development to the Finance Authority of Maine.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

LR: 2154  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title: An Act Regarding Retail Businesses on Sundays
Comment: This bill would prohibit a retail business that is not owned by a person in this State from being open on Sundays.
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
LEAVE POLICIES

LR: 2497  Sponsor: Senator Haskell of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Strengthen the Economic Well-being of Maine's Workforce by Ensuring Employees Can Earn Paid Sick Time
Comment: This bill would require employers of 11 or more employees to allow employees to earn 56 hours of paid sick time.

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

DRUG TESTING

LR: 2124  Sponsor: Senator Cyrway of Kennebec
Title: An Act To Permit Employers To Drug-test Their Employees and Prohibit an Employee from Using or Being under the Influence of Marijuana in the Workplace
Comment: This bill would allow employers to test their employees to determine whether the employees were under the influence of marijuana while in the workplace.

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES
PROTECTIONS

LR: 2219  Sponsor: Senator Volk of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Protect Low-wage Workers
Comment: This bill would increase the minimum wage, clarify the authority of municipalities and counties to enact ordinances governing employment and make changes to the laws governing the employment of minors.
Potential JR 217: LD 36,52,72,77,92,487,843,1393

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION

LR: 2449  Sponsor: Senator Volk of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Appeal of Unemployment Tax Cases To Conform with Federal Law
Comment: This bill would amend the laws governing the appeal of unemployment tax cases to conform with federal law. This bill would establish a first level of appeal in unemployment contribution cases to the Division of Administrative Hearings within the Department of Labor.
LR: 2382  
Title: Resolve, To Establish a Program To Support Maine Agriculture and Improve Nutrition in the State  
Comment: This resolve would direct the Finance Authority of Maine to establish a program by contracting with an appropriate statewide organization to purchase and distribute Maine agricultural and seafood commodities.

LR: 2453  
Title: An Act To Protect Taxpayer Dollars and Ensure the Integrity of State Economic Development Programs  
Comment: This bill would reform the Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program by directing the Governor and State Tax Assessor to recapture tax credits associated with any fraudulent transactions that have occurred under this program; designate the Finance Authority of Maine, instead of a qualified community development entity, as the owner of tax credits under this program; and increase accountability for future projects in the program by establishing job creation and job quality standards.

LR: 2460  
Title: An Act To Create a Maine State Rural Investment Tax Credits Program  
Comment: This bill would establish a program to replace the Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program.

LR: 2535  
Title: An Act To Establish the Let's Grow Maine Program  
Comment: This bill would establish the Let's Grow Maine Program, to be administered by the Finance Authority of Maine and funded by 25% of the revenue from the tax on certain tobacco products, to purchase fruits and vegetables from Maine's farms for distribution to schools, seniors and low-income individuals.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

LR: 2191
Title: An Act Requiring Builders To Provide Information Regarding Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems
Comment: This bill would require builders of new, one-or-2-family dwellings that are 3 stories or less to provide to the purchasers a cost estimate from the builder for an automatic fire sprinkler system, as well as information from the State Fire Marshall's office about the benefits of such a system.

HOUSING

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

LR: 2359
Title: An Act To Provide Heating Assistance for Maine Seniors and Families
Comment: This bill would provide heating assistance for Maine seniors and families using proceeds from the State's liquor contract.

LR: 2487
Title: An Act To Facilitate Affordable Green Housing
Comment: This bill would create new financing mechanisms to make older housing stock more heat-efficient and electricity-efficient.

LR: 2499
Title: An Act To Provide Incentives to Homeowners To Increase the Use of Clean Energy
Comment: This bill would strengthen the residential solar panel rebate program.

HOUSING

RENTAL

LR: 2439
Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Apartment Housing
Comment: This bill would make it a crime for a person to remove or disable a smoke or carbon monoxide detector in an apartment, block an exit if the blockage results in injury or death or intentionally cause damage to an apartment under the person's control.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

LR: 2529  Sponsor: Representative Moonen of Portland
Title: An Act To Improve Transparency and Strengthen Consumer Protection in Rental Housing
Comment: This bill would require local code enforcement officers to keep a publicly accessible online database of complaints and violations related to rental housing.

JOB TRAINING

LR: 2367  Sponsor: Senator Katz of Kennebec
Title: An Act To Enhance Economic Development through the Attraction and Support of Immigrant Populations
Comment: This bill would develop a highly coordinated pathway system that is easily understood and navigated for immigrants to integrate into the workforce and community. As part of this system, this bill would create pilot projects throughout the State that enhance access to services and training for immigrants and have defined, measurable outcomes for individuals.

LR: 2398  Sponsor: Representative Golden of Lewiston
Title: An Act To Ensure Central Maine Companies Have Access to Skilled Labor
Comment: This bill would provide funding of $75,000 in each year of the biennium to the Department of Education for the New Mainers Program in Lewiston adult education.

LR: 2480  Sponsor: Representative Gideon of Freeport
Title: An Act To Create the Maine Workforce Academy
Comment: This bill would create a program to facilitate paid work or training for Maine students with Maine businesses. The program is intended for students who have graduated from high school but have not yet attended community college or a 4-year college.
Bill Requests For Screening

127th Legislature - Second Regular Session
Sorted By Subject

LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR RELATIONS

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

LR: 2402  Sponsor: Senator Gratwick of Penobscot
Title:  An Act To Adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
Comment:  This bill would adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact so that Maine health care providers, institutions and patients can practice across state lines and in different licensure regions.

LR: 2414  Sponsor: Representative Sirocki of Scarborough
Title:  An Act To Conform Maine Law to the Requirements of the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation
Comment:  The bill would conform Maine law to the requirements of the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

LR: 2231  Sponsor: Representative Rykerson of Kittery
Title:  An Act Regarding Clinical Practice Requirements for Licensure as an Independent Practice Dental Hygienist
Comment:  This bill would require applicants for licensure as independent practice dental hygienists to provide proof of having at least 5 years of clinical practice experience, including part-time practice or employment, to meet the clinical practice requirement for licensure.

LR: 2247  Sponsor: Senator Patrick of Oxford
Title:  An Act To Improve Working Conditions for Public Sector Employees by Removing the Prohibition against Striking
Comment:  This bill would remove the prohibition against striking for public sector employees under all sections of public sector labor law in Maine.

LICENSING

DENTAL PERSONNEL

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
LR: 2147  Sponsor: Senator Johnson of Lincoln

An Act To Ensure the Proportional Offset against Social Security Retirement Benefits of Workers' Compensation Awards

This bill would ensure the proportional offset against social security retirement benefits of workers' compensation awards.
Title: Resolve, To Ensure the Sustainability of the Periwinkle Fishery
Comment: This resolve would require the Department of Marine Resources to adopt major substantive rules regarding the harvest of periwinkles including limits on the size and volume of periwinkles harvested and the time and location of the harvest.

Title: An Act To Protect Shellfish Conservation Areas
Comment: This bill would amend the permit criteria related to unreasonably interfering with fishing that a municipal shellfish aquaculture proposed project must meet.

Title: An Act To Implement an Owner-operator Requirement in the Scallop and Sea Urchin Fisheries
Comment: This bill would waive for 3 years the requirement that a member of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians have 1,000 hours of experience and have completed a 2-year apprenticeship in lobster fishing in order to be granted a commercial lobster and crab fishing license.

Title: An Act To Alleviate Tribal Unemployment by Removing Barriers to the Granting of Commercial Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses to Members of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Comment: This bill would require municipal licensing for the taking of marine worms.

Title: An Act To Ensure Fairness in Shellfish and Marine Worm Digger Licensing
Comment: This bill would require scallop and sea urchin dragging license holders to own and operate their vessels in order to participate in the relevant fishery.

Title: An Act To Protect Shellfish Conservation Areas
Comment: This bill would amend the permit criteria related to unreasonably interfering with fishing that a municipal shellfish aquaculture proposed project must meet.
LR: 2530  Sponsor: Representative Devin of Newcastle
Title: An Act To Recognize a Previously Completed Lobster Apprenticeship Program or Relevant Lobster Fishing Experience
Comment: This bill would enable recognition of and credit for the previous completion of the lobster apprenticeship program by an applicant for a lobster fishing license. It also would permit the requirement for completion of the lobster apprenticeship program to be waived for an applicant who demonstrates relevant experience.

LR: 2183  Sponsor: Representative Tuell of East Machias
Title: An Act To Extend the Length of Maine's Elver Fishing Season in Certain Circumstances
Comment: This bill would allow the Commissioner of Marine Resources to extend the State's elver harvesting season by an additional 2 weeks if the State's annual harvest quota has not been reached.

LR: 2424  Sponsor: Representative Kumiega, III of Deer Isle
Title: An Act To Provide Flexibility To Designate the Closed Period for Elver Harvesting
Comment: This bill would require the Commissioner of Marine Resources to set the 48-hour weekly closed period to harvest elvers by rule prior to the start of the season to increase fishing opportunities, based on the timing of the tides. Currently the period in statute is from noon Friday to noon Sunday.

LR: 2144  Sponsor: Representative Beebe-Center of Rockland
Title: An Act To Improve the Elver Season
Comment: This bill would allow the Commissioner of Marine Resources to set the starting date for the elver season based on weather conditions.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2183  Representative Tuell, W
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2144  Representative Beebe-Center, P
**Title:** An Act Regarding Authorized Municipal Shellfish Conservation Areas

**Comment:** This bill would allow the closure of authorized municipal shellfish conservation areas to all fisheries under certain circumstances. A municipality may apply to the Department of Marine Resources to close areas with a documented conservation investment by the municipality to foster the health and growth of shellfish when such a closure is necessary to allow shellfish to achieve legally harvestable size.

**Title:** An Act To Change the Size Restriction on Soft-shell Clams

**Comment:** This bill would change the size restriction on soft-shell clams from the current minimum shell length of 2 inches to a prohibition on possession of soft-shell clams with shell lengths that are less than 1.5 inches or greater than 3.5 inches.

**Title:** An Act To Improve Maine's Lobster Licensing and Limited-entry System

**Comment:** This bill would change the lobster licensing and limited-entry system to remove the option for zones to use tags as an entry mechanism, change the time frame to convert a student license to a commercial license, create a new Class II limited lobster and crab fishing license eligible for a maximum of 300 rather than 800 traps, eliminate the current limit on increasing trap tags and eliminate the apprenticeship requirement in the island limited-entry program.
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

LR: 2405  Sponsor: Representative Chace of Durham
Title: An Act To Revise the Governance of the Cumberland County Recreation Center
Comment: This bill would change the entity responsible for the management of the Cumberland County Recreation Center to the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners.

LR: 2208  Sponsor: Senator Saviello of Franklin
Title: An Act To Transfer Approximately .75 Acres of Land from the Town of Madrid to the Madrid Historical Society
Comment: This bill would transfer approximately .75 acres of land from the Town of Madrid to the Madrid Historical Society.

LR: 2178  Sponsor: Representative Verow of Brewer
Title: An Act To Require Disclosure of Settlement Amounts between Persons and Local Governments
Comment: This bill would require disclosure of monetary settlement amounts between persons and local governments.

LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATORS

LR: 2425  Sponsor: Representative Lockman of Amherst
Title: An Act To Require Random Drug Testing of Legislators
Comment: This bill would require random drug testing of legislators.

MUNICIPALITIES

ORDINANCES

LR: 2341  Sponsor: Representative Lockman of Amherst
Title: An Act To Ensure That Local Governments Are in Compliance with Federal Immigration Law
Comment: This bill would prohibit local governments from enacting an order or ordinance that prohibits communicating or cooperating with federal agencies or officials to verify or report the immigration status of an alien in that locality.

MUNICIPALITIES

PROPERTY TRANSFER
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MUNICIPALITIES
SECESSION
LR: 2184  Sponsor: Senator Edgecomb of Aroostook
Title: An Act To Allow a Part of the Town of Caribou To Secede and Form the Town of Lyndon
Comment: This bill would begin the process of permitting a portion of the Town of Caribou to secede and form the new town called Lyndon.

NOTARIES PUBLIC
OUT OF STATE NOTARIES
LR: 2451  Sponsor: Representative Maker of Calais
Title: An Act To Permit a Resident of a Canadian Province Adjoining Maine To Qualify as a Notary Public
Comment: This bill would allow a person from an adjoining province of Canada to qualify to be a notary public in Maine.

STATE GOVERNMENT
APPOINTMENTS
LR: 2379  Sponsor: Senator Johnson of Lincoln
Title: An Act To Ensure the Continued Operation of Boards and Commissions in State Government
Comment: This bill would provide that the President of the Senate may nominate persons to positions subject to nomination by the Governor, except for a nominating process set forth in the Constitution of Maine, if these positions are vacant for 6 months or more because no nomination is made or a nomination is made and withdrawn.
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2324  Senator Katz, R

STATE GOVERNMENT
CONTRACTED SERVICES
LR: 2236  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Prohibit Certain Entities Who Have Contracts with the State from Expending Funds To Influence Elections
Comment: This bill would require that, with respect to state contracts with private organizations and contracts with state employee unions, if an organization or its members receive payment of over $10,000 in public money for services provided in a given year, the contract must include a clause prohibiting the organization from spending financial resources to influence state elections, including donations to candidates, political action committees and political parties, for a period of 4 years from receipt of final payment.
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<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Senator Miramant of Knox</td>
<td>An Act To Reduce Fuel Costs to State, County and Local Government</td>
<td>This bill would require that fuel economy be the first consideration for purchasing a vehicle for use by state, local or county government or a government agency.</td>
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<td>Senator Katz of Kennebec</td>
<td>An Act To Strengthen Intragovernment Communication and Ensure the Ability of Boards and Commissions To Function</td>
<td>This bill would require that the commissioner of an executive branch department or the commissioner's designee attend and participate in legislative hearings and work sessions. This bill would also allow the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to jointly fill vacancies of more than 30 days on boards and commissions. Those appointments will be active until the Governor issues an appointment or, in the event of a confirmable appointment, until the date of the confirmation hearing before the appropriate joint standing committee of the Legislature for the Governor's nominee.</td>
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Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2379  Senator Johnson, C

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<tr>
<td>Representative Ward of Dedham</td>
<td>An Act To Eliminate Conflict of Interest in Publicly Funded Projects</td>
<td>This bill would require that bidding on a publicly funded project be limited to persons without an ownership stake in the project.</td>
</tr>
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LR: 2278  Sponsor: Representative Daughtry of Brunswick
Title: An Act Regarding Maine's Bicentennial
Comment: This bill would establish and fund a position at the Maine State Museum to coordinate activities around Maine's 200th anniversary.

Potential JR 217: LD407

LR: 2259  Sponsor: Representative Tuell of East Machias
Title: An Act To Establish September 11th as First Responders Day and Provide an Exemption from the Tax on Prepared Foods for First Responders on September 11th
Comment: This bill would designate September 11th of each calendar year as First Responders Day. This bill would also exempt any first responder or active or honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces from paying meals tax on September 11th.

LR: 2146  Sponsor: Representative Duchesne of Hudson
Title: An Act To Establish November 1st as Veterans in the Arts and Humanities Day
Comment: This bill would establish November 1st as Veterans in the Arts and Humanities Day.

LR: 2207  Sponsor: Senator Saviello of Franklin
Title: An Act To Give Preference to Maine Vendors and American Products When Issuing State Funding
Comment: This bill would give preference in the awarding of state contracts and purchases to in-state vendors whose bids are within 5% of the lowest bid by an out-of-state vendor and whose qualifications are equal to those of that out-of-state vendor.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
STATE OFFICERS
GOVERNOR

LR: 2127    Sponsor: Representative Hamann of South Portland
Comment: This bill would require the Governor's office to account for the money in the Governor's expense account and restrict the expense account's use so that money in the expense account may not be used to purchase liquor, tobacco products, lottery tickets, tattoo marks or figures, bail, gifts for political donors or any product or service that may be perceived as immoral, offensive or unbecoming to the Office of Governor. It includes penalties for violations and failure to report.

Title: An Act To Increase Accountability in the Governor's Expense Account
TAXATION

INCOME TAX
CHECKOFFS

LR: 2311  Sponsor: Representative Davitt of Hampden
Title:   An Act To Establish the Veterans Count Maine Donation Fund
Comment: This bill would establish the Veterans Count Maine Donation Fund funded by a $2 voluntary checkoff on personal income tax forms. The fund would provide funding to nonprofit agencies that provide assistance to Maine veterans.

Potential JR 217:  LD544

INCOME TAX
CREDITS

LR: 2193  Sponsor: Representative McCreight of Harpswell
Title:   An Act To Facilitate Student Loan Repayment by Allowing Graduates To Claim Educational Opportunity Tax Credits on Eligible Portions of Consolidated Loans
Comment: This bill would amend the law by allowing graduates who have consolidated their eligible student loans with their noneligible student loans to claim educational opportunity tax credits on those portions of their loans that are eligible, if they provide sufficient proof of which parts of the consolidated loans, and thus payments, are eligible.

LR: 2342  Sponsor: Senator Libby of Androscoggin
Title:   An Act To Expand the Dental Care Access Credit
Comment: This bill would provide funding to promote the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit.

LR: 2415  Sponsor: Senator Alfond of Cumberland
Title:   An Act To Attract Talent to Maine by Promoting the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit
Comment: This bill would provide funding to promote the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit.

LR: 2524  Sponsor: Speaker Eves of North Berwick
Title:   An Act To Strengthen Maine's Economy and Create New Jobs in the State
Comment: This bill would establish a clean energy jobs tax credit. The bill would provide a tax credit for each new clean energy job created within the State by the taxpayer.
TAXATION

INCOME TAX

DEDUCTIONS

LR: 2518 Sponsor: Representative Pouliot of Augusta
Title: An Act To Improve Access to Higher Education, Encourage Homeownership, Manage Medical Expenses and Strengthen Charitable Institutions by Eliminating Limitations on Claiming Itemized Deductions From Maine Adjusted Gross Income
Comment: This bill would amend the law to allow taxpayers to claim all itemized charitable, mortgage interest and medical deductions. In addition, the bill would remove the $27,500 cap on itemized deductions.

LR: 2510 Sponsor: Representative Welsh of Rockport
Title: An Act To Provide Incentives for Child Care and Elder Care
Comment: This bill would provide incentives for child care and elder care by reforming the tax laws to allow family members to make tax-deductible contributions to a caregiver's retirement plan.

LR: 2434 Sponsor: Representative Fredette of Newport
Title: An Act To Make Additional Technical Changes to Recently Enacted Tax Legislation Concerning Pension Income
Comment: This bill would make additional technical changes to recently enacted tax legislation concerning pension income.

LR: 2542 Sponsor: Representative Beck of Waterville
Title: An Act To Encourage Maine Employers To Offer and Employees To Enroll in Disability Income Protection Plans in the Workplace
Comment: This bill would encourage employers to offer and employees to enroll in group disability income protection plans in the workplace by clarifying the ability of employers to offer appropriate opt-out enrollment to provide lower premium rates. This bill would provide employers an incentive to offer these plans by providing a limited tax credit to offset employer costs of administering a group disability income protection plan for employees.
MISCELLANEOUS TAXES

EXCISE TAX

LR: 2335 Sponsor: Senator Dill of Penobscot
Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Assumption of Motor Vehicle Leases
Comment: This bill would ensure that municipalities charge the same amount of excise tax for a motor vehicle upon the assumption of a lease on that motor vehicle.

LR: 2534 Sponsor: Senator Valentino of York
Title: An Act To Exempt Members of the Maine National Guard from the Vehicle Excise Tax
Comment: This bill would provide to full-time members of the Maine National Guard the same exemption from the excise tax imposed on motor vehicles as is currently provided to active military stationed in Maine.

LR: 2292 Sponsor: Representative Malaby of Hancock
Title: An Act To Waive the Fee on Annuitizing Financial Instruments
Comment: Under current law, when a financial instrument is annuitized, a 2% premium tax is imposed based on the value of the principal. This bill would waive the premium fee imposed on annuitizing financial instruments.

MISCELLANEOUS TAXES

SERVICE PROVIDER TAX

LR: 2384 Sponsor: Representative Gattine of Westbrook
Title: An Act To Fix Changes Made to Maine's Provider Tax
Comment: This bill would allow for eligible MaineCare providers to receive a small increase in reimbursement rates to offset the cost of the increased tax to the provider through the State's tax and match program.
127th Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

TAXATION

MISCELLANEOUS TAXES

SERVICE PROVIDER TAX

LR: 2496   Sponsor: Senator Cushing of Penobscot
Title:     An Act To Repeal the Service Provider Tax on So-called Appendix C Private Nonmedical Institutions
Comment:  This bill would repeal the service provider tax for private nonmedical institution services provided by MaineCare Appendix C private nonmedical institutions. The service provider tax would be maintained at a level of 6% for private nonmedical institution services that are provided by MaineCare Appendix B, D, E or F private nonmedical institutions and for personal home care services.

Potential JR 217:  LD502

PROPERTY TAX

ELDERLY

LR: 2551   Sponsor: Representative Martin of Eagle Lake
Title:     An Act To Provide State Funding for the School Costs Portion of a Property Tax Bill for a Senior Citizen Whose Property Valuation Is below $100,000
Comment:  This bill would provide state funding for the school costs portion of a property tax bill for a person who is 65 years of age or older and whose property valuation is below $100,000.

PROPERTY TAX

FAIRNESS CREDIT

LR: 2218   Sponsor: Senator Davis, Sr. of Piscataquis
Title:     An Act To Adjust the Property Tax Fairness Credit
Comment:  This bill would make adjustments to the property tax fairness credit to increase the amount of credit certain households may claim for property taxes or rent paid.

Potential JR 217:  LD1095

LR: 2265   Sponsor: Representative Beck of Waterville
Title:     An Act To Exempt Social Security Income from the Property Tax Fairness Credit
Comment:  This bill would exempt social security income from the property tax fairness credit.
TAXATION

PROPERTY TAX

FAIRNESS CREDIT

LR: 2377 Sponsor: Senator Johnson of Lincoln
Title: An Act To Adjust the Property Tax Fairness Credit To Ensure Sustainable Island Resident Populations
Comment: This bill would adjust the property tax fairness credit to ensure sustainable island resident populations. The adjustment would be based on the cost of living on an island and would help to alleviate the burden that a higher cost of living on an island places on the recruitment and retention of year-round island residents.

LR: 2504 Sponsor: Representative Brooks of Lewiston
Title: An Act To Increase the Maximum Property Tax Fairness Credit for Taxpayers Who Are 65 Years of Age or Older
Comment: This bill would increase the maximum property tax fairness credit for taxpayers who are 65 years of age or older from $900 to $1,200.
Potential JR 217: LD76

PROPERTY TAX

RELIEF

LR: 2393 Sponsor: Representative Wadsworth of Hiram
Title: An Act To Reduce the Property Taxes of Volunteer Firefighters
Comment: This bill would reduce the property taxes of volunteer firefighters.

SALES AND USE TAX

EXEMPT ITEMS

LR: 2215 Sponsor: Senator Davis, Sr. of Piscataquis
Title: An Act To Protect Maine's Natural Resources Jobs by Exempting from Sales Tax Petroleum Products Used in Farming, Fishing and Forestry
Comment: This bill would exempt from the sales tax all petroleum products used by persons engaged in farming, fishing or forestry.
Potential JR 217: LD 432, LD290, LD30

SALES AND USE TAX

EXEMPT PURCHASERS

LR: 2128 Sponsor: Representative Turner of Burlington
Title: An Act To Allow Parent-teacher Associations To Be Exempt from the Sales Tax
Comment: This bill would exempt parent-teacher associations from the sales tax.
TAXATION

SALES AND USE TAX
EXEMPT PURCHASERS

LR: 2431  Sponsor: Representative Gattine of Westbrook
Title: An Act To Create Equity among Essential Nonprofit Health Care Providers in Relation to the Sales Tax
Comment: This bill would add community health centers serving all individuals regardless of insurance status and ability to pay to the list of nonprofits exempted from paying sales tax.

TAX ASSESSMENT

VALUATION

LR: 2268  Sponsor: Senator Dill of Penobscot
Title: Resolve, To Modify the State Valuation of the Town of Old Town To Reflect the Loss in Valuation of the Former Old Town Fuel and Fiber Pulp Mill
Comment: This resolve would modify the state valuation of the Town of Old Town to reflect the loss in valuation of the former Old Town Fuel and Fiber pulp mill.

LR: 2289  Sponsor: Representative Stanley of Medway
Title: An Act To Promote Snowmobile and All-terrain Vehicle Trails
Comment: This bill would allow for a 10% reduction in the value of a parcel of land when determining property tax for that parcel if the parcel's owner has allowed a club such as an all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile club to make a trail through that parcel.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

DISTRICTS

LR: 2188  Sponsor: Representative Turner of Burlington
Title: An Act To Provide Sensible Options for Tax Increment Financing Proceeds in Small Towns
Comment: This bill would clarify the procedure for municipalities to jointly participate in a tax increment financing district and permit municipalities with a population of fewer than 1,500 persons singly or jointly to include certain regional and municipal improvements in project costs.
TAXATION

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING
USES EXPANDED

LR: 2200  Sponsor: Senator Gerzofsky of Cumberland
Title:      An Act To Amend and Clarify the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund
Comment:   This bill would amend the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund so that a portion of money that goes to Southern Maine Community College is used only to support direct workforce and educational programs related to the target industry sectors at Brunswick Landing.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

TRANSPORTATION
MOTOR CARRIERS
WEIGHT

LR: 2348  Sponsor: Senator Diamond of Cumberland
Title:  Resolve, To Require the Department of Transportation To Establish a Working
Comment:  Group To Examine Weight Limits for Tractor-trailers with Different Axle
Spacings
This bill would direct the Department of Transportation to convene a working
group to examine amending the law to include greater flexibility in axle spacing
and weight limits for the combination vehicle consisting of a 4-axle single unit
truck operating in combination with a 2-axle trailer, which has a gross allowable
weight of 94,000 pounds.
Potential JR 217:  LD293

MOTOR VEHICLES
INSPECTION

LR: 2198  Sponsor: Representative Sherman of Hodgdon
Title:  An Act To Require the State Police To Study Automobile Inspection and the
Comment:  Reliability of Automobiles Bought from Used Automobile Dealers
This resolve would require the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State
Police to study the uniformity of automobile inspections across the State and the
number of used automobiles sold by used car dealers that do not pass their first
inspection after purchase.

MOTOR VEHICLES
LIGHTS

LR: 2283  Sponsor: Senator Cyrway of Kennebec
Title:  An Act To Prohibit Alley Lights on Other Than Law Enforcement Vehicles
Comment:  This bill would prohibit the placement of alley lights on other than law
enforcement vehicles.

MOTOR VEHICLES
NUMBER PLATES

LR: 2310  Sponsor: Representative Head of Bethel
Title:  An Act To Include Emergency Medical Service Vehicles in the Firefighter
Registration Plate Program
Comment:  This bill would include emergency medical service vehicles in the firefighter
registration plate program.
TRANSPORTATION

MOTOR VEHICLES
REGISTRATION

LR: 2221  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title:  An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Commercial Truck Registration Requirements
Comment: This bill would exempt owners of trucks over 6,000 pounds that serve no commercial purpose from the requirement to register such vehicles as commercial vehicles.

LR: 2226  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title:  An Act To Expand Access to Farm Vehicle License Plates
Comment: This bill would allow vehicles used exclusively for farm work to be registered with farm vehicle plates.

NAVIGATION

FERRIES

LR: 2364  Sponsor: Senator Miramant of Knox
Title:  An Act To Improve the Safety of Ferries in the State
Comment: This bill would improve the safety of ferries in the State by implementing recommendations of a safety management systems report issued in 2008 addressing standard operating procedure matters and amending the membership of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board within the Department of Transportation.

OPERATORS LICENSES

AUTOMOBILE

LR: 2240  Sponsor: Representative Hanington of Lincoln
Title:  An Act To Authorize an Individual Holding a Restricted License To Operate a Motor Vehicle between Midnight and 5:00 a.m. in Circumstances of Employment Need or Medical Need
Comment: This bill would allow a person under 18 years of age who has been issued a driver's license to receive from the Secretary of State authority, during the initial 9-month period of restriction, to operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m. if that person demonstrates a specific employment need or specific circumstances of medical necessity involving the person or a member of that person's immediate family.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

TRANSPORTATION

OPERATORS LICENSES

SUSPENSION
LR: 2181  Sponsor: Representative Kinney of Knox
Title: An Act To Authorize a Person Whose Driver's License Is Suspended Due To Failure To Pay Child Support To Drive to and from a Place of Employment
Comment: This bill would allow a person whose driver's license was suspended because of failure to pay child support to hold a driver's license that is restricted to travel to and from that person's place of employment.

LR: 2494  Sponsor: Representative Wadsworth of Hiram
Title: An Act To Suspend a Driver's License after a Fatal Accident Resulting from Criminal Speeding
Comment: This bill would require the suspension of a driver's license if the driver is involved in a fatal accident resulting from the driver's criminal speeding.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

COMPANIES
LR: 2298  Sponsor: Senator Haskell of Cumberland
Title: An Act To Allow Municipalities To Regulate Transportation Network Companies
Comment: This bill would allow a municipality to regulate the operations of a transportation network company, including the driver and motor vehicle, at a municipal airport.

RAILROADS

SAFETY
LR: 2519  Sponsor: Senator Gerzofsky of Cumberland
Title: An Act Regarding Pedestrians Crossing Train Tracks
Comment: This bill would prohibit pedestrians from crossing at railroad crossings if the crossing gates are down or flashing lights are engaged.

RAILROADS

TRACKS
LR: 2517  Sponsor: Senator Gratwick of Penobscot
Title: An Act To Prohibit the Abandonment of Railroad Ties
Comment: This bill would prohibit a railroad company or other company from abandoning treated railroad ties, which are the result of replacement or repairs, along a railway line or in a railway yard for more than 90 days. This bill would require abandoned railroad ties to be disposed of at a disposal site permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection.
TRANSPORTATION

ROADS
RL: 2313 Sponsor: Representative Maker of Calais
Title: An Act To Expand Access to Calais via the Sunrise Trail
Comment: This bill would provide for studying and funding the removal of train tracks on the snowmobile trail between Ayer's Point and Calais.

BRIDGES
RL: 2126 Sponsor: Senator Davis, Sr. of Piscataquis
Title: Resolve, To Name a Bridge in the Town of Sebec the John R. Brainard Bridge
Comment: This resolve would name a bridge in Sebec the John R. Brainard Bridge.

CONSTRUCTION
RL: 2199 Sponsor: Representative Sherman of Hodgdon
Title: Resolve, Requiring the Department of Transportation To Expedite Planning and Upgrading of Route 1 between Houlton and Topsfield
Comment: This resolve would require the Department of Transportation to expedite planning for the upgrading of United States Route 1 between Houlton and Topsfield.

ROADS
HIGHWAY SAFETY
RL: 2255 Sponsor: Representative Long of Sherman
Title: An Act To Ensure That Horse-drawn Wagons Are Safe and in Compliance with Safety Requirements
Comment: This bill would require horse-drawn wagons to comply with certain safety requirements, such as rubber tires and adequate lighting.

RL: 2400 Sponsor: Senator Collins of York
Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Install a Traffic Signal Light in Wells
Comment: This resolve would direct the Department of Transportation to install a traffic signal light in Wells at the intersection of routes 109 and 9A.
Bill Requests For Screening
Sorted By Subject

TRANSPORTATION

ROADS

MAINTENANCE

LR: 2186
Title: An Act To Eliminate the Use of Calcium Chloride on the Roads of the State
Comment: This bill would eliminate the use of calcium chloride on the roads statewide.

LR: 2357
Title: An Act To Require Municipalities To Maintain Certain Rights-of-way to Standards Required by Federal Postal Regulations
Comment: This bill would require municipalities to maintain rights-of-way over which there are mail routes to the standards required by federal postal regulations.

ROADS

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

LR: 2241
Title: An Act To Promote Business by Allowing Increased Opportunity for Advertising
Comment: This bill would allow the placement of a sign advertising a business on property that is not the property upon which the business is located as long as the property is owned by the business.

ROADS

REST AREAS

LR: 2216
Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Name the Southbound Interstate 95 Rest Area in Hampden the Hannibal Hamlin Rest Area
Comment: This resolve would direct the Department of Transportation to name the southbound Interstate 95 rest area in Hampden the Hannibal Hamlin Rest Area.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

PARKING

LR: 2222
Title: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Requirements for Private Parking Signs
Comment: This bill would require owners and operators of private parking lots that ticket or affix a wheel boot to out-of-compliance vehicles in their lots to clearly state on visible signs the amount that owners of out-of-compliance vehicles will be charged for any given period of time.
LR: 2448  Sponsor: Representative Golden of Lewiston
Title: An Act To Provide Wage Parity and Promote Retention for Transportation Workers in the Department of Transportation
Comment: This bill would allocate funding for wage adjustments to benefit employees in the Transportation Worker job classes who have experienced wage compression due to new hires starting at step 4 in the pay schedule.

LR: 2330  Sponsor: Representative Campbell of Orrington
Title: An Act To Encourage the Development of Commercial Transportation Opportunities in Bucksport
Comment: This bill would encourage the development of a transportation facility, including upgrading roads, rail and water access, at the former site of the mill in Bucksport.
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations To Amend Its Rules To Allow Retailers To Return Promotional Alcoholic Beverages to Distributors

Comment: This resolve would direct the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to amend its rules to allow retailers to return promotional alcoholic beverages to distributors.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Title: An Act To Permit Tasting Rooms and Pubs Operated by a Manufacturer under an On-premises Retail License To Sell Their Products for On-premises or Off-premises Consumption without Physical Separation or Separate Inventory

Comment: This bill would remove the requirement that a manufacturer that holds an on-premises liquor license and that also sells food maintain separate entrances and physical separation of on-premises and off-premises retail areas.

Title: An Act To Allow All Beer Manufacturers To Provide Samples of Products to Retail Licensees

Comment: This bill would allow all beer manufacturers, regardless of size, to provide samples of products to retail licensees.

Title: An Act To Improve and Enhance Maine's Spirits Business

Comment: This bill would allow the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to collect spirits sales data of on-premises licensees and disseminate that data in the aggregate.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Title: Resolve, Directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations To Amend Its Rules To Allow Retailers To Return Promotional Alcoholic Beverages to Distributors

Comment: This resolve would direct the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to amend its rules to allow retailers to return promotional alcoholic beverages to distributors.
Title: An Act To Clarify the Definition of "Sales Representative"
Comment: This bill would exempt from licensing by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverage and Lottery Operations a sales representative who is employed by a distributor and who does not participate in product sampling or tasting with the public.

LR: 2288 Sponsor: Representative Hawke of Boothbay Harbor
Title: An Act To Update the Laws Regarding the Sale of Alcohol at Golf Courses
Comment: This bill would update in statutes the term "golf club" to "golf course" and clarify that a golf course includes all areas of sales and service of alcohol.

LR: 2295 Sponsor: Senator Patrick of Oxford
Title: An Act To Clarify the Definition of "Sales Representative"
Comment: This bill would exempt from licensing by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations a sales representative who is employed by a distributor and who does not participate in product sampling or tasting with the public.

Potential JR 217: LD986

LR: 2180 Sponsor: Representative Luchini of Ellsworth
Title: An Act To Allow Municipalities To Adjust Times of Operation for Establishments That Serve Alcohol
Comment: This bill would allow municipalities to extend the time that establishments serve alcohol by one hour outside current State statutes for opening and closing times.

Potential JR 217: LD1436

LR: 2151 Sponsor: Senator Miramant of Knox
Title: An Act To Allow Distilleries To Retain Product for Retail Sales
Comment: This bill would provide that a distillery that has retail locations is not required to transport alcohol that is destined for retail sale in those locations to the facility designated by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverage and Lottery Operations for inspection. The distillery would be required to maintain records of all alcohol sold at retail and submit documentation for these sales to the bureau or a designated contractor on a monthly basis.
This bill would allow a nonprofit organization to occasionally auction, raffle or sell donated bottles of wine without a license from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations.

**Title:** An Act To Support Vendors at Gated, Paid-entry Events

*Comment:* This bill would allow attendees of gated, paid-entry events to consume beer or wine in any area within the gated event as long as the beverage was purchased at the event and served in a disposable unmarked container.

**Title:** An Act To Allow the Direct Shipment of Wine in Containers of Less Than 750 Milliliters

*Comment:* This bill would allow the direct shipment of wine in containers of less than 750 milliliters.

This bill would allow wineries to provide tasting samples of products offered for sale at taste-testing events. Samples must be 4 ounces or less and may be provided only to persons 21 years of age or older.

**Title:** An Act To Allow Wineries To Provide Sample Tasting

*Comment:*
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

ELECTIONS

ABSENT VOTING

LR: 2302  Sponsor: Representative Chipman of Portland
Title: An Act To Expand Early Processing of Absentee Ballots
Comment: This bill would allow a municipality to process absentee ballots as early as the 4th day before the election. It would also authorize the Secretary of State to make available high-speed tabulators for absentee ballots and allow a municipality to bring absentee ballots to a central location for tabulating by the high-speed tabulators as long as security guidelines are properly followed.

Potential JR 217: LD585 and LD 1335
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2303  Representative O'Connor, B
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2346  Senator Cyrway, S

LR: 2303  Sponsor: Representative O'Connor of Berwick
Title: An Act To Expand the Early Processing of Absentee Ballots
Comment: This bill would allow a municipality to opt to process absentee ballots as early as the 4th day before the election and would allow the Secretary of State to make available high-speed tabulators.

Potential JR 217: LD585 and LD1335
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2346  Senator Cyrway, S
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2302  Representative Chipman, B

LR: 2346  Sponsor: Senator Cyrway of Kennebec
Title: An Act To Authorize the Expansion of Processing of Absentee Ballots
Comment: Under current law, municipal clerks are authorized to process absentee ballots on the Monday before the election as long as established notice, inspection, processing and security procedures are followed. This bill would provide that a municipality may opt to process absentee ballots as early as the 4th day before the election as long as all of these procedures are followed.

Potential JR 217: LD585 and 1335
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2302  Representative Chipman, B
Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2303  Representative O'Connor, B
ELECTIONS

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

LR: 2540  Sponsor: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan  
Title: An Act To Create Transparency in Elections  
Comment: This bill would require national organizations to disclose their donor lists. This requirement would apply to political committees and ballot question committees that spend more than $5,000 to influence the outcome of an election or referendum.

ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS

LR: 2430  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin  
Title: An Act To Allow for the Nomination of a Candidate by Multiple Political Parties  
Comment: This bill would amend Maine's election laws to allow a candidate for any state, county or local office with partisan elections to receive the nomination of multiple political parties.

ELECTIONS

REFERENDA

LR: 2304  Sponsor: Representative Parry of Arundel  
Title: An Act To Adjust the Timing for Recounts in Certain Municipal and Local School Elections  
Comment: This bill would increase the time to collect signatures for a recount in a municipal, local school or local referendum election. Current law allows 5 business days after the election to collect the signatures for a recount and requires the voter list to be sealed for 5 business days after the election. This bill would increase the time to collect signatures from 5 business days to 10 business days. An automatic recount would be triggered if any of the municipalities hand count ballots for the election in question and the total vote difference is 10 votes or less.
ELECTIONS

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

LR: 2194  Sponsor: Representative Chenette of Saco
Title: An Act To Require the Secretary of State To Automatically Register Nonregistered Persons Who Are Qualified To Vote from Records from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Comment: This bill would require the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles to provide the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions electronic records containing the legal name, age, residence and citizenship information and electronic signature of each person who may qualify as a voter as prescribed by rule. It also would direct the Secretary of State to register as a voter each nonregistered person who is qualified to vote and to notify persons how to decline registration and how to adopt political party affiliation and would allow automatic voter registration connected to a person's driver's license.

ELECTIONS

VOTING PROCEDURES

LR: 2258  Sponsor: Representative Tuell of East Machias
Title: RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require Certain Elected Officials To Be Elected by a Majority of Voters Qualified To Vote
Comment: This resolution would propose to amend the Constitution of Maine to require the Governor, United States Senators and Representatives, members of the Legislature and other statewide office holders to be elected by a majority of eligible voters. If a majority was not obtained, a run-off election would be held.

GAMBLING

BINGO

LR: 2227  Sponsor: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Legalize Bingo at Campgrounds and Summer Camps
Comment: This bill would legalize the playing of bingo at campgrounds and summer camps.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2239  Senator Collins, R
This bill would distribute 2% of the net slot machine income from slot machines at the casino in Bangor to the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and 2% to the Aroostook Band of Micmacs. Current law provides that 4% of net slot machine income from the casino in Oxford be distributed to the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2227  Senator Brakey, E

GAMBLING
CASINO GAMBLING

LR: 2164  Sponsor: Representative Bear of Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Title: An Act To Alleviate Tribal Unemployment, Fund Economic Development for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and Provide Funding for Essential Tribal Government Health and Housing Programs in Aroostook County by Annually Apportioning a Percentage of Slot Machine Income from the Casino in Bangor to Federally Recognized Tribes in Aroostook County

Comment: This bill would authorize a tribal casino operated by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians in Houlton. The purpose of this bill is to reduce unemployment within all 4 federally recognized Indian tribes and in Aroostook and Washington counties, promote economic development for all 4 tribes and in Aroostook and Washington counties and fund critical tribal government programs including elder care, housing, health and education.

Potential JR 217: LD1066, LD1446

LR: 2162  Sponsor: Representative Bear of Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Title: An Act To Alleviate Unemployment in Aroostook and Washington Counties by Authorizing a Tribal Casino To Be Operated by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians on Tribal Lands in Aroostook County

Comment: This bill would authorize a tribal casino operated by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians in Houlton. The purpose of this bill is to reduce unemployment within all 4 federally recognized Indian tribes and in Aroostook and Washington counties, promote economic development for all 4 tribes and in Aroostook and Washington counties and fund critical tribal government programs including elder care, housing, health and education.
VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

GAMBLING

Title: An Act To Alleviate Tribal Unemployment and Fund Critical Tribal Government Programs for Federally Recognized Tribes in the State by Exempting the Tribes from State Gaming Laws for Gaming Conducted on Tribal Lands Using 350 or Fewer Slot Machines and Located More Than 80 Miles from an Existing Casino

Comment: This bill would exempt federally recognized Indian tribes located in this State from state gaming laws for gaming conducted on tribal lands in order to provide these tribes the same opportunities for alleviating tribal unemployment, raising tribal government revenues and providing funding for vital tribal programs as have been available to federally recognized tribes in other states beginning with the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in California v. Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, 480 U.S. 202 (1987).

LOBBYISTS

Title: An Act To Require Lobbyists To Be Sworn in When Registering as Lobbyists

Comment: This bill would require a person, when registering as a lobbyist with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, to be administered and swear to an oath to tell the truth when working as a lobbyist.

VETERANS

Title: An Act To Update the Laws Governing the Maine Veterans' Home

Comment: This bill would update the laws governing the Maine Veterans' Home.
Total number of bills screened: 397