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132nd MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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TO: Ryan D. Fecteau, Chair, Legislative Council
Matthea E. L. Daughtry, Vice-Chair, Legislative Council
Members of the Legislative Council

FROM: Suzanne M. Gresser, Executive Director

DATE: June 23, 2025

RE: Consideration of Proposed Legislative Studies

The Legislative Council will meet on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 3:00 P.M. to consider proposed legislative studies. Attached are background materials on the proposed studies for the upcoming legislative interim. The materials consist of:

- A suggested protocol for considering the proposed studies (see attached);
- A spreadsheet listing the proposed legislative study commissions and task forces along with summary information related to each proposed study; and
- A spreadsheet summarizing the costs of each study by funding source.

The studies packet also includes the following appendices for your reference:

- A copy of *Joint Rule 353* regarding the legislative studies (see subsection 10 of the Joint Rule for reference to the study table);
- A copy of the *Legislative Council Policy on Legislative Studies*;
- Copies of the engrossed version (or the latest version available) of the bill, resolve or joint order that would authorize each study.

Historically, when evaluating items that have been placed on the Special Study Table, Legislative Councils have considered the following: the number of proposed studies on the Study Table, the funds available for proposed studies, the timing of the proposed studies, and staff resources. For your convenience, below is a bullet-point summary of those elements.

Studies listed on the Study Summaries spreadsheet

- There are 30 bills proposing legislative studies that are on the Study Table or the Appropriations Table. Three of those bills propose statutory, ongoing studies.
- Additionally, there is one bill that would require legislative drafting assistance, and another bill that would require Legislative Council implementation of a pilot project implementation of a pilot project.

Budget Resources

- The annual budget for the General Fund studies account is \$17,696, plus any remaining balance from prior years, subject to the approval of the Legislative Council.
- The cost of proposed studies exceed available resources by \$69,564 in FY 26.

Staff Resources

- Historically, the Legislative Council considers the number of staff available when setting the maximum number of studies to approve. Generally, each study is assigned at least two analysts. In allocating staffing resources, one factor that affects the allocation of staffing resources is whether Joint Standing Committees have been directed to meet over the interim to work and vote on carry over bills. 1

Protocols for Review of Legislative Study Proposals
132nd Legislature
Legislative Council Meeting
June 24, 2025

Background: Requirements Relevant to Studies in the First Regular Session

Under the terms of the Joint Rules of the 131st Legislature, section 353, all joint orders and legislation proposing legislative studies regardless of funding source must be placed on a special study table. The Legislative Council must review proposed studies and establish priorities for allocation of budgetary and staffing resources.

For studies authorized by the Legislative Council, the Legislative Council must provide funds sufficient to enable the committee to reasonably conduct and complete the requirements of the studies.

Also under the Joint Rules, the Legislative Council must adopt a policy relating to preparing study legislation. On April 24, 2025, the Legislative Council unanimously adopted a policy on legislative studies for the 132nd Legislature. Joint Rules and the related council policy specify the manner of appointment, selection of chair, compensation of members, report date and other relevants as part of study legislation. Copies of the Joint Rules and the adopted policy are in your notebook (see appendices).

Decision: Suggested Protocol for Authorizing Legislative Studies

- The Legislative Council will review study requests, which are presented in separate binders in LD order and grouped by funding source.
- Voting will be by a show of hands or roll call vote, and each Legislative Council member's vote will be recorded. The record of each vote will be made available for public inspection following the meeting.
- Committee chairs and others are welcome to observe the council's deliberations on the study requests, but discussion of the requests will be confined to council members. However, Legislative Council members may ask questions of committee chairs and other legislators regarding the proposed study if needed.
- With respect to studies approved by the Legislative Council, the Council shall specifically review those elements of the studies that do not conform to applicable standards and policies approved by the Council. The Council will include as part of its motion to authorize a study acceptance of any non-conforming elements of the study. Floor amendments to authorized studies making Council-authorized changes will be prepared in the name of the Senate Majority Leader, except for studies tabled in the House, which will be in the name of the House Majority Leader.

Issues: Policy Issues Needing Decision

1. **Number of authorized meetings and meeting location-Recommendation:** Unless otherwise specified by the Legislative Council, the number of study meetings is not to exceed four (4) and meetings are to be held in the Augusta area.
2. **Studies conducted using non-General Fund sources-Recommendation:** When a study committee is required to be funded by outside funds, the study committee may not convene until sufficient funds are received to pay for the study.
3. **Interim committee meetings-Recommendation:** When authorized by law or joint order or approved jointly by the presiding officers, joint standing and joint select committees may meet during the legislative interim. The number of authorized days may not exceed availability of budgeted funds. Except as approved, committee clerks are not authorized to staff interim committee meetings or studies. Joint standing and joint select committees must complete all assigned work within their authorized meeting days.

132nd MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REVIEW OF PROPOSED STUDIES
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS
PROPOSED STUDIES SUMMARY

					Does it Conform to Rules and Council Policy?										
LD (or other)	Emergency/Non-Emergency	Current Status	Policy Area	Study Name	Purpose	Membership		Report Date(s)	Staff	Jt. Rule and Council Policies	Compensation and # mtgs.	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Proposed Studies to be Funded from the General Fund Miscellaneous Studies Budget (yellow tab)															
LD 169	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	HHS	Commission to Study MaineCare Estate Recovery	Study issues associated with MaineCare estate recovery procedures.	TOTAL: Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative	10	December 3, 2025 to HHS Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 10)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			
LD 353	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	JUD	Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State	Study options for preventing deed fraud and recompensing the victims of deed fraud.	TOTAL: Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative	13	December 3, 2025 to the JUD Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 13)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			
LD 634	Non-Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	SLG	Commission to Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal and County Mandates (two-year study)	Review unfunded and outdated municipal and county mandates to provide recommendations and report out a list of mandates for the Legislature to consider eliminating or revising.	TOTAL: Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First named Senator and Representative	15	December 3, 2025 - interim report to SLG Committee; November 4, 2026 - final report to the SLG Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Non-emergency *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 15)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050	\$ 3,050		
LD 646	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Engrossed with Committee "A" in House; failed final passage in House; in non-concurrence)	ENR	Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution	Review, study and analyze existing scientific literature and data on storm water pollution gathered from stakeholder input and how it has affected or potentially will affect the State's valuable waters, habitats and species along the coast.	TOTAL: Legis: 5 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 3 (at least one from each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative	13	December 3, 2025 to the ENR Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (5 of 13)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,750			
LD 760	Non-Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	HED	Commission to Study the Need to Codify or Recodify Laws Regarding Residential Community Ownership Associations by Adopting the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act	Review data on existing condominium and noncondominium community ownership association in the State; review state statutes that govern and case law that affects condominium and noncondominium community ownership association developments in the State; review efforts in other states to address problems with community ownership associations; and consider whether adoption of the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act or other laws may be suitable for the State.	TOTAL: Legis: 5 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 3 (at least 1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representatives	12	December 3, 2025 to the HED Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Non-emergency *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (5 of 12)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,750			

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Does it Conform to Rules and Council Policy?

LD (or other)	Emergency/Non-Emergency	Current Status	Policy Area	Study Name	Purpose	Membership		Report Date(s)	Staff	Jt. Rule and Council Policies	Compensation and # mtgs.	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
LD 793	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	ACF	Working Group to Review and Update the Laws Governing Harness Racing	Review the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, chapter 11 and prepare a partial or complete revision of that chapter and any other sections of law reasonably related to harness racing in the State as may be necessary to modernize and sustain the sport of harness racing and to provide support for gambling addiction.	TOTAL: 12 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party; of the two, one must be on VLA Committee) House: 2 (1 each maj. party; of the two, one must be on ACF Committee) Chairs: Senate member who serves on VLA Committee and House member who serves on ACF committee		December 3, 2025 to VLA Committee and ACF Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions) May request that experts in the field serve as consultants	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 12)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,500			
LD 1023	Emergency	On Senate Special Appropriations Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Engrossed with Committee "A" in House; failed final passage in House; in non-concurrence)	HED	Blue Economy Task Force	Support the State's emergence as a center for blue economy innovation and opportunity in the 21st century and make recommendations to improve and expand the blue economy workforce education and training to encompass the elementary and secondary school system and public and private institutions of higher education.	TOTAL: 23 Legis: 3 Sen: 1 House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: Commissioner of DECD to appoint chairs; one member from a state agency and one member who is not from a state agency		December 3, 2025 to HED Committee	DECD May request information and analysis from other state agencies and state entities	Non-conforming *Membership - legislators are members of a non-legislative commission, staffed by an executive department *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (3 of 23 members) *Chairs - chairs selected by Commissioner of DECD; non-legislators	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$2,100 May accept grants, private contributions and other outside funding			
LD 1107	Non-Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Passed to be Enacted in the House with Committee "A")	TAX	Incentive Data Task force (two-year study)	Developing a plan for the centralization and standardization of data related to state tax expenditures and incentives and examining barriers to the access and disclosure of state tax expenditures and incentives information to the public.	TOTAL: 11 Legis: 6 Sen: 3 (2 maj. party; 1 min. party) House: 3 (2 maj. party; 1 min. party) Chairs: Senator from TAX Committee and Representative from the GOC Committee		October 30, 2026 to TAX Committee, HED Committee and the GOC Committee	OPEGA	Non-conforming *Non-emergency *Appointing authority - minority leaders in Senate and House each appoint 1 member (2 total)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings during the first year of the study and 2 meetings during the second year of the study	\$ 4,200	\$ 2,350		

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LD (or other)	Emergency/Non-Emergency	Current Status	Policy Area	Study Name	Purpose	Membership		Report Date(s)	Staff	Jt. Rule and Council Policies	Compensation and # mtgs.	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
LD 1286	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	HCIFS	Commission to Study the Impact of Blockchain Technology and Cryptocurrency on Maine's Economy and the Risks of Fraud and Theft to Maine Consumers	Review data and information on the scope of the use of blockchain technology and cryptocurrency throughout the country; determine the current status of the use of blockchain technology and cryptocurrency in relation to related laws in the State and the occurrences of theft and fraud associated wit blockchain technology and cryptocurrency in this State; study nonfungible tokens, including their use, prevalence and functions; and compile potential legislation to help develop a regulatory and taxation framework for blockchain technology and cryptocurrency in this State.	TOTAL: 14 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 1 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative		January 1, 2026 to HCIFS Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions) May request that experts in the field serve as consultants	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 14) *Report date - report due during 132nd Second Regular Session	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			
LD 1297	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Engrossed with Committee "A" in House; failed final passage in House; in non-concurrence)	ACF	Committee to Study the Use of Sunflower Crops to Produce Biofuels and Other Products	Study the feasibility of using the State's sunflower crops to produce biofuels, food-grade oil and livestock feed and review current and past legislation and biofuels projects in Hawaii as a potential model for use in the State.	TOTAL: 9 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party; 1 must be from EUT committee and one from Aroostook County) House: 2 (1 each maj. party; 1 must be from ACF committee and one from Aroostook County) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative		December 1, 2024 to EUT Committee and ACF Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 9)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			
LD 1347	Non-emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	JUD	Commission to Study the Maine Tort Claims Act	Review the Maine Tort Claims Act to determine whether any additional negligent acts or omissions by a governmental agency should be excepted from tort claim immunity, including an assessment of schools and school field trips; whether to increase the cap on damages or change the structure of available damages awards; and other states' use of medical pay coverage, in addition to any damages from those states' tort claims laws.	TOTAL: 13 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative		December 3, 2025 to EDU Committee, JUD Committee and the SLG Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Non-emergency *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 13)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			

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LD (or other)	Emergency/Non-Emergency	Current Status	Policy Area	Study Name	Purpose	Membership	Report Date(s)	Staff	Jt. Rule and Council Policies	Compensation and # mtgs.	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
LD 1420	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Engrossed with Committee "A" in House; failed final passage in House; in non-concurrence)	EUT	Commission to Ensure a Just and Equitable Energy Transition for Maine's Workforce	Review and evaluate the State's current energy workforce, including compensation levels and benefits that are provided for workers in the energy industry; consider the economic impacts that the energy transition has on low-income ratepayers, including but not limited to strategies to mitigate economic hardship to low-income ratepayers; consider the benefits of a well-compensated workforce in the State as the benefits pertain to careers that help the State meet its energy policy and goals; and examine how a coordinated and holistic statewide effort to ensure a just and equitable energy transition for individuals employed in the State's energy industry could benefit from the establishment of a state entity, a state framework or a coordinated effort by the State dedicated to that purpose and how such an entity, framework or coordinated effort could also help meet the needs of employers in the energy industry.	TOTAL: 16 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative	December 15, 2025 to EUT Committee and LAB Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 16) *Report Date - Report is due later than the date required in the council study policy (December 3, 2025)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 6 meetings	\$ 3,050			
LD 1453	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in the House)	HED	Housing Production Innovation Working Group	Study and advise on the potential for innovative housing construction technologies to reduce housing production costs and accelerate housing production in the State.	TOTAL: 11 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party from HED Committee) House: 2 (1 each maj. party from HED Committee) Chairs: Elected by majority vote of those present at first meeting from among members who are not legislators	December 3, 2025 to HED Committee	DECD	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 11) *Staffing - DECD - executive department staffing a legislative study *Chairs - legislative members may not be the chairs	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 2,800			
LD 1558	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	EDU	Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education (two-year study)	Review all related laws and rules addressing the State's public policy on higher education and make recommendations for potential legislative changes.	TOTAL: 14 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (both from EDU Committee, 1 from each maj. party) House: 2 (both from EDU Committee; 1 from each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative	November 4, 2026 to EDU Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions) DOE, UMS, MCCS and MMA may assist with data and information	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 14)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 8 meetings over the 2 years of the study	\$ 2,800	\$ 3,050		

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LD (or other)	Emergency/Non-Emergency	Current Status	Policy Area	Study Name	Purpose	Membership		Report Date(s)	Staff	Jt. Rule and Council Policies	Compensation and # mtgs.	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
LD 1578	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	HCIFS	Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care Transactions that Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State	Evaluate potential changes to the State's certificate of need laws, including, but not limited to, expanding the scope of review to the termination or disruption of health care services and changing the monetary thresholds that trigger review; Evaluate potential legislative changes to require regulatory review and oversight of substantial health care transactions, such as transfers of ownership or control, among hospitals, health care facilities and health care provider organizations; Evaluate the role of a private equity company or real estate investment trust taking 8 a direct or indirect ownership interest, operational control or financial control of a hospital in the State; and Examine any other issues to further the duties and purposes of the study. The commission shall review and identify best practices learned from similar efforts in other states.	TOTAL: 15 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative		January 15, 2026 to HCIFS Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions) May invite stakeholders to participate in meetings, including UNE College of Dental Medicine and MPHA	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 15) *Report date - report due during 132nd Second Regular Session	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			
LD 1615	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	HCIFS	Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry	Study integrating foreign-trained dentists and out-of-state dentists into the dental care workforce in the State that best reflects their level of skills and training and reducing barriers to licensing for foreign-trained dentists and dentists from other states.	TOTAL: 11 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 must be from HCIFS Committee) House: 2 (1 must be from HCIFS Committee) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative		January 15, 2026 to the HCIFS Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions) May invite stakeholders to participate in meetings, including UNE College of Dental Medicine and MPHA May hold hearings and invite testimony from experts	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 11) *Report date - report due during 132nd Second Regular Session	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			
LD 1618	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	JUD	Study Group to Research the Feasibility of Establishing a Dedicated Family Court in Maine	Comprehensively evaluate the feasibility, potential benefits and challenges associated with establishing a dedicated family court system.	TOTAL: 13 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative		December 3, 2025	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 13)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			

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LD (or other)	Emergency/Non-Emergency	Current Status	Policy Area	Study Name	Purpose	Membership	Report Date(s)	Staff	Jt. Rule and Council Policies	Compensation and # mtgs.	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
LD 1640	Non-Emergency	On Senate Special Appropriations Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Enacted in the House with Committee "A")	VLA	Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission (reestablishes prior commission)	Study the effects of exposure to harmful chemicals on individuals who trained at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada as a member of the United States Armed Forces, as a member of the reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or as a member of the National Guard of any state from the United States Department of Defense and other federal agencies.	TOTAL: 12 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative	December 3, 2025 to the VLA Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Non-emergency *Membership - legislative members may be former legislators	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			
LD 1649	Non-Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	SLG	Commission to Study and Recommend Solutions for Modernizing and Improving the Effectiveness of the Legislature	Study the existing structure and operations of the Legislature for the purpose of determining the adequacy and effectiveness of the structure and operations and to identify changes to modernize the Legislature in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness; provide better information to inform decisions; help prioritize legislative activity; develop, implement and coordinate a strategic plan; and reinforce political trust and support in the Legislature.	TOTAL: 10 Legis: 9 Sen: 4 (2 each maj. party) House: 5 (2 each maj. party; one without a party affiliation) Chairs: First-appointed Senator and Representative Appointed members may be former legislators	December 3, 2025 to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions) *Supported by a nonpartisan staff working group and a public citizen working group	Non-conforming *Non-emergency *Membership - legislative members may be former legislators *Membership - membership of working groups is in addition to commission membership *Staff - legislative staff as a member of the commission	Legislative per diem and expenses; monthly meetings; public citizen working group may hold at least 5 public meetings throughout the State	\$ 14,860			
LD 1696	Non-emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	ENR	Commission to Study Maine's Absolute Dominion and Beneficial Use Laws Relating to Water Rights	Review the report submitted to the Legislature by the Commission to Study the Role of Water as a Resource in the State; review the history and current legal status of groundwater rights and ownership in Maine; and review the approaches taken by other states in regulating groundwater rights and ownership.	TOTAL: 17 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative	December 3, 2025 to the ENR Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Non-emergency *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 17)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			
LD 1810	Non-Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	JUD	Commission to Study the Judicial Disciplinary Process	Examine the existing rules adopted by the Supreme Judicial Court regarding judicial discipline of probate court, District Court, Superior Court and Supreme Judicial Court judges and justices to determine whether the rules are adequate or whether changes should be made to those rules to enhance public trust and respect for the judicial system and the delivery of justice in the State.	TOTAL: 13 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative	December 3, 2025 to the JUD Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Non-emergency *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 13)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			

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LD (or other)	Emergency/Non-Emergency	Current Status	Policy Area	Study Name	Purpose	Membership		Report Date(s)	Staff	Jt. Rule and Council Policies	Compensation and # mtgs.	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
LD 1894	Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Engrossed with Committee "A" in House; failed final passage in House; in non-concurrence)	HED	Commission to Study Consumer Grocery Pricing Fairness	Study the terms and conditions of sale and other conditions of grocery supply chain in the State and the impact of product availability and price to the consumer and the competitiveness and viability of independent grocery stores, considering the growth of so-called food deserts in the State; the factors that influence affordable access to groceries for residents of the State; and federal and state antitrust laws affect on so-called food deserts or the grocery store supply chain.	TOTAL: 20 (17 voting and 3 non-voting) Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative		December 3, 2025 to the HED Committee and the ACF Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 20) *Membership - membership includes three non-voting members	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			
LD 1943	Non-Emergency	On Senate Study table (Finally passed with Committee "A" in Senate and House)	HED	Commission to Study the Role of Private Equity in Maine's Economy and in Key Economic Sectors	Examine the overall portion of the State's equity, markets and economy controlled by private equity, with particular attention to the portion that remains nontransparent to investors, markets, policy makers and the public; the effect of private equity firms that carry out business in the State on state and local economies; and the extent of the involvement of private equity firms in key sectors of the State, including energy, child care, health care, housing and nursing homes.	TOTAL: 18 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative		December 3, 2025 to HED Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Non-conforming *Non-emergency *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 18)	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$ 3,050			
Proposed Studies Requiring a General Fund Appropriation to the General Fund Legislative Account (orange tab)															
LD 245	Non-Emergency	On Senate Special Appropriations Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Enacted in the House with Committee "A")	CJPS	Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State (creates an on-going Title 5 commission)	Monitor and evaluate the State's emergency medical services system and provide recommendations to the appropriate state agencies and to the Legislature regarding necessary changes in the emergency medical services system.	TOTAL: 18 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: Commission members select a chair and vice-chair at first-meeting		January 1, 2026 and then annually	DPS	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 18) *Staffing - legislators are members of a commission staffed by an executive branch agency	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings per year	\$ 2,360	\$ 2,360	\$ 2,360	\$ 2,360
LD 259	Non-Emergency	On Senate Special Appropriations Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Enacted in the House with Committee "A")	JUD	Criminal Records Review Committee (creates an on-going Title 5 commission)	Review laws, rules and procedures pertaining to criminal history record information in the State, including criteria and eligibility for sealing criminal history record information, public access to criminal history record information and the vacating of criminal history record information.	TOTAL: 29 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative		No report is required, but may submit legislation at the start of each regular session recommending changes to the laws pertaining to criminal history record information.	May seek outside funding for staffing	Non-conforming *Membership -majority of members are not legislators (4 out of 29) *Staffing - no assigned staff to the commission	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings per year	\$1400 May seek outside funding	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800

132nd MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REVIEW OF PROPOSED STUDIES
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS
PROPOSED STUDIES SUMMARY

Does it Conform to Rules and Council Policy?														
LD (or other)	Emergency/Non-Emergency	Current Status	Policy Area	Study Name	Purpose	Membership	Report Date(s)	Staff	Jt. Rule and Council Policies	Compensation and # mtgs.	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
LD 1202	Non-Emergency	On Senate Special Appropriations Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Enacted in the House with Committee "A")	EDU	African American Studies Advisory Council (creates an on-going Title 5 commission)	Monitor and measure the implementation of African American studies.	TOTAL: 13 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 House: 2 Chairs: Elected by members; must be Legislators	January 15, 2027 to the EDU Committee and then annually by January 15 to the EDU Committee	DOE	Non-conforming *Membership -majority of members are not legislators (4 out of 13) *Appointments - Commissioner of DOE appoints 4 members *Staffing - legislators are members and chairs of an advisory council staffed by an executive department agency	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings per year	\$2,800 May seek outside funding *requires an appropriation of \$165,000 for state agency costs	\$2,800 May seek outside funding *requires an appropriation of \$165,000 for state agency costs	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800
LD 1770	Emergency	On Senate Special Appropriations Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed in the House with Committee "A")	TAX	Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force	Examine the assessment of property taxes and property tax relief programs and make recommendations for improving the process involved in determining, levying and paying property taxes and reducing the tax burden and examine the effects of state-level property tax policy on municipalities.	TOTAL: 13 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 from min. party and 1 with taxation expertise) House: 2 (1 from min. party and 1 with taxation expertise) Chairs: First-named Senator and Representative May invite nonvoting members of the task force; Chairs may appoint subcommittees	January 15, 2026 (interim report) to Tax Committee; December 15, 2026 (final report) to TAX Committee	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions) Chairs may select contracted entity for research and analytical support AG, SOS, GOPIF, DAFS, DECD and Treasurer shall provide information to the Task Force	Non-conforming *Membership - majority of members are not legislators (4 of 13) *Non-voting members - chairs may invite non-voting members of the task force *Report date -interim report is due during the Second Regular Session	Legislative per diem and expenses; at least 4 meetings, but no more than 8; at least one meeting to be held jointly with TAX Committee	\$2,800 *requires an appropriation of \$125,00 for contractor	\$3,050 *requires an appropriation of \$25,00 for contractor		
Proposed Studies to be Funded from Outside Funding Resources (blue tab)														
LD 624	Non-Emergency	On Senate Study Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed with Committee "A" in House)	SLG	Commission to Study a Legislative Internship Program	Study and develop a structure for an internship program to place a person attending an accredited postsecondary education institution in the State or a resident of the State who is a student at an accredited postsecondary institution in another state with a Legislator to assist with policy work immediately before, during and immediately after a legislative session.	TOTAL: 10 Legis: 6 Sen: 3 (1 each maj. party and 1 from EDU committee) House: 3 (1 each maj. party and 1 from EDU committee) Chairs: 2 appointed members from EDU committee	December 3, 2025 to the Legislative Council	Legislative Council (not during regular or special sessions)	Conforming *Outside funding is required to fund the Commission.	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings	\$4,450 *Must seek outside funding to fully fund the study			
LD 1449	Non-Emergency	On Senate Special Appropriations Table (Passed to be Engrossed with Committee "A" in Senate; Finally Passed in the House with Committee "A")	SLG	Working Group on Modernizing State Grants, Contracts and Procurement (two-year study)	Examine the State's grant and public procurement practices and make recommendations to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.	TOTAL: 14 Legis: 4 Sen: 2 (1 each maj. party) House: 2 (1 each maj. party) Chairs: DACF member chairs first meeting; working group selects the permanent chair at the first meeting; may not be a legislator	November 4, 2026 to SLG Committee, DAFS and State Auditor	DAFS, with support from DHHS, DOT, DACF and DOE	Non-conforming *Non-emergency *Membership - majority of member are not legislators (4 of 14) *Chairs - chairs may not be legislators *Staffing - executive agency provides staff support for a legislative study	Legislative per diem and expenses; 4 meetings the first year of the study and 2 meetings the second year of the study	\$2,360 *Must seek outside funding to fully fund the study	\$ 1,400		

132nd MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REVIEW OF PROPOSED STUDIES
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS
PROPOSED STUDIES SUMMARY

				Does it Conform to Rules and Council Policy?										
LD (or other)	Emergency/Non-Emergency	Current Status	Policy Area	Study Name	Purpose	Membership	Report Date(s)	Staff	Jt. Rule and Council Policies	Compensation and # mtgs.	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<u>Additional Legislative Staff Resources Needed for Interim Work (clear tab)</u>														
Department of Energy Resources	LD 1270, Part B-1	OPLA and ROS assistance in reviewing statutes and developing legislation by January 1, 2026	Currently on AFA Table											
Economic Impact Statement Pilot Project (two-year study)	LD 1673	Requires the Legislative Council to implement an economic impact statement process, including issuing an RFP for assistance with developing the economic impact statement.	On Senate Study Table											
Right to Know Advisory Committee	1 MRSA §411	Legislative Council Staff												
State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force	20-A MRSA, Chapter 437	Legislative Council Staff												
State Compensation Commission	3 MRSA §2-B	Legislative Council Staff *Appointments not made for 2025												

Summary of Projected Costs for Proposed Studies

General Fund Miscellaneous Studies - Budget

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Miscellaneous Studies Budget	\$ 10,000	\$ 17,696	\$ 17,696	\$ 17,696
Expended as of April 26, 2024	\$ 6,235			
Available Unobligated Balance - Prior Year	\$ 33,073			
Available Balance - General Fund Miscellaneous Studies Budget	\$ 36,838	\$ 17,696	\$ 17,696	\$ 17,696

Proposed studies be funded from the General Fund Miscellaneous Studies budget.

		2025	2026	2027	2028	Leg	Mtgs
LD 169	Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study MaineCare Estate Recovery		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 353	Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 634	Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal and County Mandates		\$ 3,050	\$ 3,050		4	4 & 4
LD 646	Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution		\$ 3,750			5	4
LD 760	Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Need to Codify or Recodify Laws Regarding Residential Community Ownership Associations by Adopting the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act		\$ 3,750			5	4
LD 793	Resolve, to Establish the Working Group to Review and Update the Laws Governing Harness Racing		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 1023	Resolve, to Reestablish a Blue Economy Task Force to Support Maine's Emergence as a Center for Blue Economy Innovation and Opportunity in the 21st Century		\$ 2,100			3	4
LD 1107	An Act to Improve the Tax Expenditure Review Process and Centralize Incentive Data Collection		\$ 4,200	\$ 2,350		6	4 & 2
LD 1286	Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Fostering a Positive Economic Environment for Blockchain Technology and Cryptocurrency		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 1297	Resolve, to Establish the Committee to Study the Use of Sunflower Crops to Produce Biofuels and Other Products		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 1347	Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study the Maine Tort Claim Act		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 1420	Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Ensure a Just and Equitable Energy Transition for Maine's Workforce		\$ 4,450			4	6
LD 1453	Resolve, to Establish the Housing Production Innovation Working Group		\$ 2,800			4	4
LD 1558	Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education		\$ 2,800	\$ 3,050		4	8
LD 1578	Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight Over Health Care Transactions that Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 1615	Resolve, to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 1618	Resolve, to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Dedicated Family Court in Maine		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 1640	An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission and to Reestablish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission		\$ 3,050			4	4

Proposed studies be funded from the General Fund Miscellaneous Studies budget.

		2025	2026	2027	2028	Leg	Mtgs
LD 1649	Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Operations of the Legislature		\$ 14,860			10	5
LD 1696	Resolve, to Study Maine's Absolute Dominion and Beneficial Use Laws Relating to Water Rights		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 1770	An Act to Provide Immediate and Long-term Property Tax Relief to Maine Households (See GF Appropriation section for contractor cost)		\$ 2,800	\$ 3,050		4	4 & 4
LD 1810	Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Judicial Discipline Process		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 1894	Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Consumer Grocery Pricing Fairness		\$ 3,050			4	4
LD 1943	Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study the Role of Private Equity in Maine's Economy and in Key Economic Sectors		\$ 3,050			4	4
Total - General Fund Miscellaneous Studies		\$ -	\$ 87,260	\$ 11,500	\$ -		

Annual Balance / (Shortfall) General Fund Miscellaneous Studies Account	\$ 36,838	\$ (69,564)	\$ 6,196	\$ 17,696
Cumulative Balance General Fund Miscellaneous Studies Account	\$ 36,838	\$ (32,726)	\$ (26,530)	\$ (8,834)

Proposed studies requiring an appropriation to the General Fund Legislative account

LD 245	An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State		\$ 2,360	\$ 2,360	\$ 2,360	4	4
LD 259	An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission in Statute		\$ 1,400	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800	4	4
LD 1202	An Act to Establish the African American Studies Advisory Council and Provide Funding to Support African American Studies		\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800	4	4
LD 1770	An Act to Provide Immediate and Long-term Property Tax Relief to Maine Households (Contractor costs)		\$ 125,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -		
Total - Studies Requiring a General Fund Appropriation		\$ -	\$ 131,560	\$ 32,960	\$ 7,960		

Proposed studies to be funded from outside funding resources.

LD 624	Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study a Legislative Internship Program		\$ 4,450			6	4
LD 1449	Resolve, Requiring the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to Conduct a Study of the State's Grant, Contracting and Procurement Practices		\$ 2,360	\$ 1,400		4	4 & 2
Total - Proposed Studies Requiring Outside Funding		\$ -	\$ 6,810	\$ 1,400	\$ -		

Other studies requiring the use of existing budget and staff resources.

LD 1270	An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources
LD 1673	Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact Statements in the Legislative Process