Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force This document includes recommendations and areas of interest[1] discussed at the Task Force's June 30, 2026 meeting that will assist the Task Force in completing its work when it resumes meeting in the fall. Please note that this is a planning document and items on this list may be explored in varying levels of detail, as determined by the chairs.		
Recommendation/Area of Interest		Number of votes in favor
Homestead Exemption		
1	• Evaluate impact of increasing homestead exemption.	9
2	• Evaluate impact of increasing the homestead exemption and providing a 100% reimbursement to municipalities.	6
3	• Expand eligibility to include property held by irrevocable trusts when the beneficiaries are long-term, full-time residents.	10
Property Tax Fairness Credit		
4	• Evaluate impact of expanding income eligibility and/or increase benefit amount.	10
5	• Address timing issue (i.e., reimbursement versus immediate application to offset property tax liability).	10
6	• Evaluate impact of limiting property tax liability to no more than a percentage of income.	10
7	• Evaluate impact of Homestead plus proposal.	10
Property Tax Deferral Program		
8	• Increase uptake of program & make program more appealing which could include changes to income/asset limits; consideration of and/or changes to the impact of lien on credit; reduction of interest rate; adjustments to payment plan structure/eligibility for those who may inherit; consideration of ownership types that are eligible; adjustments to acreage limits.	10
Current Use Programs, Exempt Property and Personal Property Exemptions		
9	• Establish review cycle for current use programs, exempt property, and personal property exemptions to ensure programs are still meeting the purpose for which they were created.	10
PILOTS		
10	• Discuss options related to PILOTS and municipal service charges, including tracking of PILOTS by MRS.	9
Property Tax Assessment Processes - Determining Assessed Value		
11	• Explore ways to ensure more frequent municipal revaluations: o Examine challenges to conducting more frequent valuations and identify what incentives/penalties exist under current Maine law; o Identify ways in which the State can support or assist municipalities in conducting more frequent valuations;	9

[1] This document does not include recommendations or areas of interest for which fewer than 2 votes were received.

Prepared by the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

	○ Consider recommending MRS training for assessors on statistical update process.	
12	• Seek additional information regarding FL approach -freezing PT assessment at amount related to sale price.	5
Municipal (non-school) & County Level Proposals		
13	• Incentivize or otherwise encourage regionalization/consolidation of services (not education related).	7
14	• Continue discussion of municipal auditing; examine any current requirements for municipal and county audits and compare them to practice.	9
15	• Unfunded mandates – obtain additional information on municipal costs and burdens; consider impact on municipalities and on property taxpayers the TF is trying to help.	10
Establish/Reform other Taxes/Fees or Revenue Sources		
16	• Consider legality of allowing municipalities to impose local option sales taxes.	7
Revenue Sharing		
17	• Look at restructuring Revenue Sharing II to get more relief for service centers by considering the current definition of service center.	9
Property Tax Rates – split rate or split-roll		
18	• Consider legality of establishing split-rate or split-roll property taxes.	9
19	• Consider property taxes with different rates for land and buildings.	3
20	• Consider property taxes with different rates for homestead v. non-homestead property.	9
21	• Consider property taxes with different rates for commercial v. residential property.	4
State Funding of Certain Costs		
22	• Jail funding - what would be the economic impact of the State fully funding jail costs?	5
23	• Education funding - what would be the economic impact of the State fully funding EPS costs?	5