

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
From: Karen S. Nadeau, Legislative Analyst
Date: February 8, 2022
Subj: **LD 174 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Ending Hunger by 2030 Advisory Group**

SUMMARY: This bill, which is a concept draft, proposes to implement the recommendations of the advisory group assembled pursuant to Resolve 2019, chapter 32 to end hunger in Maine by 2030.

Proponents: *Department of ACF; Full Plates Full Potential; Maine Women's Lobby; Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association; Preble Street; Homeless Voices for Justice; Good Shepherd; Jordan's Farm; Maine Transgender Network; Resources for Organizing & Social Change; Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition; Maine Credit Union League; Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations. Written only: Maine Food Policy Work Group; Maine Council of Churches; Maine Center for Economic Policy; St. Mary's Nutrition Center; Maine Primary Care Association; Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine*

- LF 174 originated from 129th Legislature/LD 1159, Resolve, To End Hunger in Maine by 2030, which charged DACF w/developing the strategic plan that would lead us to that goal.
- Development of plan spanned 28 months and engaged more than 200 people across the state.
- The causes of food insecurity have little to do with scarcity of food; food insecurity is a function of economic security; hunger is a symptom of poverty.
- DACF asked to move the work of the plan to the Governor's Office of Planning, Innovation and the Future (GOPIF), where the interdepartmental work can be executed by bringing together resources and data from across the state.
- One in 8 Mainers and one in 5 Maine children are hungry or at risk for hunger.
- Each year we incur \$709 million in hunger-related costs from lost productivity, increased need for special education services, elevated healthcare costs and more. That's on top of \$307 million dedicated to feeding people.
- DACF anticipates staying highly engaged with this initiative and working with GOPIF to meet the goals of this plan that are food-related.

Opponents: *None*

NFNA: *None*

NOTES:

Commissioner of DACF submitted the Ending Hunger in Maine by 2030 report 2/10/20
Everyone at the Table: Maine's Plan to End Hunger by 2030 was submitted 1/12/22

SPONSOR'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

- Requires the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) to act as the lead agency to implement a strategic plan to end hunger in the State.
- Requires the office to establish an advisory committee to guide the implementation of the strategic plan to end hunger in the State and to submit a report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature no later than January 1st of each year until 2030 regarding activities and progress made toward ending hunger in the State by 2030.
- Requires GOPIF to implement the strategies to build infrastructure and increase capacity to end hunger in the State as outlined in the DACF January 2022 report "Everyone at the Table: Maine's Plan to End Hunger by 2030."