

Danny Emerson  
South Berwick  
LD 406

I support LD 406 "An Act to Repeal the Laws Providing for Paid Family and Medical Leave and to Reimburse Taxpayers", and LD 539 "An Act to Repeal the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program."

The Paid Family and Medical Leave Program and its MANDATED taxes levied on Maine employees and business owners could not have come at a worse time. And, it was passed by a very short-sighted legislature.

We are still trying to recover from high inflation, the cost of literally all goods and services is still through the roof, housing is unaffordable, per Wallet Hub Maine has the highest property tax per percentage of income in the United States and we have the fourth highest overall total tax burden in the nation right now. Is the legislature trying to drive us to the number one highest taxed state? When does this continuing to tax us to the breaking point end?

<https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-highest-lowest-tax-burden/20494>

Not only will the Maine's employees and business employers take a tax hit, but the businesses will be forced to pass the added cost of doing business on to the consumer. Gee, thanks for that! And, how will small businesses be able to keep their doors open when they are short employees for up to an excessive three months out of the year? Will they hire more employees? Close their doors for good? A very short-sighted approach to try to "help" the Maine employee.

Lastly, the new law took effect on January 1st 2025 with a new payroll tax on Maine workers. Beginning in 2028, the program's third-party administrator will be able to unilaterally raise the new tax without legislative approval. Hear that? Unelected bureaucracy raising our taxes. This is 100% in violation of our Maine Constitution (Article 1, Declaration of Rights, Section 22: Taxes. "No tax or duty shall be imposed without the consent of the people or of their representatives in the Legislature").

This program is ripe for corruption and misuse. Sickening and short-sighted!

I support LD 406, and LD 539 "and they "ought to pass".