

132nd Legislative Full (January – June) Session Tracking
 (Session Term: December 4, 2024 – June 18, 2025)

LD (numerical order by Committee)	Committee* (alphabetical order)	Summary	Sponsor(s)	ASM Action	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status/Outcome
LD 209 (HP 131), An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 (EMERGENCY)	Appropriations	<p><i>This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill, as emergency legislation, proposes to make supplemental appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of State Government and to change certain provisions of the law necessary to the proper operations of State Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, as submitted by the Governor pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5.</i></p> <p><i>The documents submitted by the Governor may be found here: https://legislature.maine.gov/12509.</i></p> <p>Note: The supplemental budget does not include funding for enacted COLA.</p>	Rep. Gattine (Governor’s Bill)	Monitor -> Testify(?) (re: COLA funding) Co-tracking: CHQS DRM	Week of: January 20 (Schedule – see events to be held as sessions with other joint standing committees as designated) Work Session: Beginning January 27		

LD (numerical order by Committee)	Committee* (alphabetical order)	Summary	Sponsor(s)	ASM Action	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status/Outcome
<p>LD 210 (HP 132), An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027 (EMERGENCY)</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p><i>This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill, as emergency legislation, proposes to make unified appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of State Government and change certain provisions of the law necessary to the proper operations of State Government for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027, as submitted by the Governor pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5. The documents submitted by the Governor may be found here: https://legislature.maine.gov/12510.</i></p> <p>Additional Documents: Governor’s Budget Overview FY 26 & 27 Overview of DHHS Investments & Adjustments in FY26-27 Biennial Budget Proposal</p> <p>Note (from Governor’s Documents): Biennial Budget – Language Part UU amends aspects of rate setting/reimbursement and funding - The language regarding 125% of minimum wage pay for direct support providers reads: Sec. UU-2. 22 MRSA §7402 and §7403, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. AAAA, §1, is amended to read: <i>Services provided by essential support workers that are reimbursed by the department under the MaineCare program or another state-funded program must include in the reimbursement rate the following:</i> 1. At least 125% of the minimum wage. An amount equal to at least 125% of the minimum wage established</p>	<p>Rep. Gattine (Governor’s Bill)</p>	<p>Monitor -> Testify(?) Co-tracking: CHQS DRM</p>	<p>Week of: February 3 (Schedule – see events to be held as sessions with other joint standing committees as designated)</p> <p>Committees are reporting to the Appropriations Committee</p> <p>State of the Budget Address: January 28 7:00 PM</p>		

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		<p><i>in Title 26, section 664, subsection 1 for the labor portion of the reimbursement rate as determined under the process set forth in 22 MRSA §3173-J, sub-§2, ¶C-5 and subject to sufficient appropriations</i> An increase to the minimum wage must be applied to the reimbursement rate at the time the increase takes place; and</p> <p>2. Taxes and benefits. An amount necessary to reimburse the provider for taxes and benefits paid or costs incurred by the provider that are directly related to the reimbursed wage increase in subsection 1. This amount must be adjusted whenever an increase to the minimum wage is applied to the reimbursement rate under subsection 1.</p> <p>32. Effective date. This section takes effect January 1, 2022. (p. 94 – 95)</p> <p>Additional language is added to the Part specifying that rate adjustments are “<i>subject to the availability of appropriations</i>” (from portions of Part UU and as stated in the Part UU Summary, p. 103)*</p> <p>Part JJJ reduces plans for Crisis Receiving Centers as previously authorized by allocating a carry forward of: <i>...any unexpended balance remaining of the \$1,900,000 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 for the establishment of 2 behavioral health crisis receiving centers in Androscoggin and Penobscot counties to fiscal year 2025-26.</i> (p. 111)</p> <p>Essentially this suspends plans for a center in Kennebec and Aroostook counties, and limits plans for new crisis receiving centers to Lewiston and Penobscot County.</p>					

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		<p>Biennial Budget - Part A (as it relates to I/DD funding and MaineCare allocations) includes:</p> <p><i>Initiative: Establishes 3 Developmental Disabilities Resources Coordinator positions and 4 Public Service Manager II positions funded 50% Developmental Services Community program, General Fund and 50% Office of MaineCare Services program, Federal Expenditures Fund for the new Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) lifespan waiver. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs. (p. A-312)</i></p> <p><i>Initiative: Provides funding for agency home supports in the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 21, Home and Community Benefits for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder. (p. A-314)</i></p> <p><i>Initiative Reduces [emphasis added] funding for efficiencies achieved under the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 21, Home and Community Based Services for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder by returning to pre-COVID residential assignment practices to ensure efficient use of facilities. (p. A-314)</i></p> <p><i>Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations to reflect increases in costs and enrollment. (p. A-315)</i></p> <p><i>Initiative: Provides funding for agency home supports in</i></p>		<p>There are shared concerns regarding the reduction despite reference to retuning to pre-COVID practices (versus some other reduction). Questions,</p>			

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		<p><i>the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 21, Home and Community Benefits for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder. (p. A-355)</i></p> <p><i>Initiative: Reduces [emphasis added] funding for efficiencies achieved under the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 21, Home and Community Based Services for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder by returning to pre-COVID residential assignment practices to ensure efficient use of facilities. (p. A-356)</i></p> <p>*Note: The General Fund allotments are sufficient to include prior Section 21 COLA. The current OADS rate studies will not necessarily be reflected in the adopted biennial budget.</p>		<p>given the cost-savings expectation, include whether practice will be consistent with person-centered planning. The existing (and anticipated) recourse is to request an ADA accommodation through the process already in place.</p>			
<p>LD 42 (HP 6), An Act Regarding the Bind-over and Detention of Juveniles</p>	<p>Criminal Justice</p>	<p><i>This bill amends the law governing detention of juveniles who have been bound over for prosecution as an adult. Under current law, when a detained juvenile who has been bound over for prosecution as an adult reaches 18 years of age, the juvenile must be detained in an adult section of a jail. This bill adds an exception to this provision by allowing the Department of Corrections to request and the court to order that the juvenile be detained in a department detention facility exclusively for juveniles. The court may grant a request made pursuant to this provision only for the period of time that the juvenile is detained</i></p>	<p>Rep. Salisbury (submitted by the Department of Corrections)</p>	<p>Monitor (w/respect to future implication for incarcerated youth-adults with I/DD)</p>			

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		<i>prior to the commencement of adult proceedings, including while awaiting appeal of the order binding the juvenile over for prosecution as an adult but not including any period of time pending an appeal taken after the juvenile is convicted as an adult. Once a court has granted the department's request made pursuant to this provision, the department may at any time request that the court rescind that decision. If the court grants the request to rescind, the juvenile must be detained in an adult section of a jail. The bill also provides that a person may not be detained in a detention facility approved or operated by the department exclusively for juveniles if the person attains 21 years of age.</i>					
LD 298 (HP 198), An Act to Employ Mental Health Personnel Within the Maine State Police	Criminal Justice	<i>This bill creates 3 Behavioral Health Coordinator positions assigned to the state police Southern Field Troop, Central Field Troop and Troop F responsible for making decisions about the health, safety and welfare of persons in the community who have interacted with law enforcement professionals and are in need of services. The bill also creates one Behavioral Health Coordinator Supervisor position to oversee the activities of the Behavioral Health Coordinator positions and coordinate with the state police field troops.</i> Fiscal Note	Rep. Underwood Co-sponsored: Rep. Albert Rep. McIntyre Sen. Stewart	Monitor (for implication regarding autism related training/ experience of proposed Behavioral Health Coordinators) Co-tracking: DRM			
LD 405 (HP 259), An Act to Define Solitary	Criminal Justice	<i>This bill defines "solitary confinement" as the isolation of a client from the general population of the jail or correctional facility where the client is detained by</i>	Rep. Lookner	Monitor			

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Confinement for the Laws Governing Jails and Correctional Facilities		<p><i>confinement in a cell or other place for 22 hours or more within a 24-hour period.</i></p> <p>Note: Given the increasing number of autistic individuals within the criminal justice system and some other activity over the last couple of years regarding solitary confinement, in general and as it relates to individuals with disabilities, I have flagged this LD for continued monitoring.</p>	<p>Co-sponsored: Sen. Hickman Rep. Boyer Rep. Chapman Rep. Julia Rep. Libby Rep. Milliken Rep. Pluecker Rep. Sinclair Sen. Talbot Ross</p>				
LD 21 (SP 34), An Act to Update the Provision of Law Concerning Student Codes of Conduct in Order to Reflect Best Practices Regarding Behavioral Threat Assessment and Response	Education	<p><i>This bill amends the provision of law governing a school board's adoption of a student code of conduct to require the establishment of policies and procedures for students who may pose a threat of violence in order to reflect best practices regarding behavioral threat assessment and response.</i></p> <p>Note: May need to address with respect to the increased occurrence of students with disabilities being identified as disruptive/threats, and as pertains to IEP-related due process. The amended statute reads: <i>F. Establish policies and procedures concerning the removal of disruptive or violent students or students threatening death or bodily harm to others from a classroom or a school bus, as well as student disciplinary and placement decisions, when to identify, assess and intervene with students who may pose a threat of violence to themselves or others within the school community, including</i></p>	Sen. Rafferty	<p>Monitor -> Testify(?)</p> <p>Co-tracking: CHQS DRM</p>			

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		<p><u>policies and procedures regarding student supports, disciplinary actions and placement decisions if and when appropriate, up to and including removal from a classroom or a school bus;</u></p> <p>This amendment introduces the condition of “may pose” and there is no definition of “threat.”</p>					
<p>LD 34 (SP 53), An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers</p>	<p>Education</p>	<p><i>This bill incrementally increases minimum teacher salaries beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and provides limited supplemental funding to pay for those increases.</i></p> <p>Note: This current iteration, unlike last sessions’s minimum salary initiatives, does not include ed techs/paraprofessionals</p>	<p>Sen. Pierce</p> <p>Co-sponsored: Pres. Daughtry Speaker Fecteau Sen. Bennett Sen. Rafferty Sen. Libby Sen. Kuhn Sen. Murphy Sen. Mitchell</p>				
<p>LD 46 (HP 10), An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with</p>	<p>Education</p>	<p><i>This bill establishes a grant program in the Department of Education to increase postsecondary educational opportunities and support employability for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder.</i></p> <p><i>Under the grant program, the department awards competitive grants to institutions of higher education in the State to develop and implement program plans that offer students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder, to the greatest extent possible, the same rights, privileges, experiences,</i></p>	<p>Rep. Murphy</p> <p>Co-sponsored: Sen. Rafferty Rep. Dodge Rep. Gramlich Rep. Kuhn Rep. Sargent Sen. Pierce</p>	<p>Monitor -> Testify (testified “For” last session)</p> <p>Co-tracking: CHQS DRM</p>			

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Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder (EMERGENCY)		<p><i>benefits and outcomes in a higher education experience as students without disabilities.</i></p> <p><i>The bill requires that, in order to receive funding under the grant program, program plans developed by institutions of higher education must meet the requirements of a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 so that students enrolled in the program plan may be eligible for certain federal grants and work-study programs. The bill requires institutions of higher education to use 25% of the funds received through the grant program for scholarships for students participating in the program plan.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, the bill requires institutions of higher education that have been awarded grants to make periodic reports to the department concerning the progress and sustainability of their program plans and requires the department to annually report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the grant program.</i></p>					
<u>LD 71 (HP 35),</u> An Act Regarding Special Education Funding	Education	<p><i>This bill provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2025-26, the minimum state share of a school administrative unit's special education costs under the essential programs and services school funding formula must be 55%.</i></p> <p>Note: This applies the state's required 55% contribution (which the Governor has upheld in the proposed budgets) for funding of general education to the state's required contribution for special education.</p>	Rep. Mathieson Co-sponsored: Sen. Lawrence Rep. Sargent	Monitor -> Testify Assigned: David Roy			

LD (numerical order by Committee)	Committee* (alphabetical order)	Summary	Sponsor(s)	ASM Action	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status/Outcome
LD 78 (HP 42), An Act to Require Elementary School Students to Learn Cursive Writing	Education	<i>This bill requires the Department of Education to provide for regular instruction in and opportunities to use cursive handwriting beginning no later than grade 3. The instruction must be designed to enable students to demonstrate competency in cursive handwriting by the end of grade 5.</i>	Rep. Underwood	Monitor (relative to follow-up implication re: IEPs/ accommodatio ns)			
LD 165 (HP 98), An Act to Allow School Boards to Expel or Suspend Students Regardless of Grade Level	Education	<i>This bill allows a school board to expel or authorize the suspension of a student of any grade level.</i> Note: This amendment to existing law essentially strikes references to the exception of any student in grade 5 or below.	Rep. Tuell Co-sponsored: Rep. Carlow Rep. Mingo Rep. Poirier Rep. Strout Rep. Woodsome Sen. Cryway	Monitor (relative to future impact on adherence to due process within special education/IEP requirements) Co-tracking: DRM			
LD 170 (HP 103), Resolve, Establishing a Pilot Program to Reduce Personal Electronic Device Distractions	Education	<i>This resolve requires the Department of Education to establish a pilot program to reduce student use of personal electronic devices during the school day by awarding one-time funding to one or more school administrative units for the cost of implementing a policy during the 2026-2027 school year that requires all student personal electronic devices to be turned off, securely locked away and inaccessible to students during the school day. The total amount of funding for the pilot program may not exceed \$250,000. The resolve also directs the</i>	Rep. Mathieson Co-sponsored: Sen. Brenner Rep. Kuhn Rep. Sargent	Monitor (with respect to the forthcoming report should the Resolve be enacted; regarding adherence to IEP process			

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During the School Day		<p><i>Maine Education Policy Research Institute to support the department in developing an application form and provide the department with a list of possible evidence-based technology solutions and a pilot program evaluation plan. The resolve directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to submit a preliminary report by November 4, 2026 and a final report by December 1, 2027 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.</i></p> <p>Note (as written the LD includes):</p> <p>Sec. 2. Personal electronic device policy exemptions. Resolved: <i>That a personal electronic device policy developed pursuant to section 1 must include a provision that exempts a student from the personal electronic device policy if a licensed physician determines that the use of a personal electronic device is necessary for the health or well-being of the student or if an individualized education plan requires the possession or use of a personal electronic device by the student.</i></p>		relating to device use)			
<u>LD 174 (HP 107), An Act to Restore Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements</u>	Education	<p><i>This bill reinstates exemptions from immunization requirements based on a sincere religious belief for students in elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools and employees of nursery schools. It also provides the same exemption to health care practitioners.</i></p> <p>Note:</p>	Rep. Drinkwater Co-sponsored: Sen. Stewart Rep. Babin Rep. Bagshaw Rep. Caruso Rep. Cooper	? – with respect to position as related to greater impact of exposure on students with disabilities,			

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		The reinstatement does not include/add any provisions regarding communication of associated exposure risk.	Rep. Foley Rep. Hall Rep. Henderson Rep. Quint	including those with I/DD			
LD 211 (HP 134), An Act to Make School Safer for Students with Epilepsy and Other Seizure Disorders by Requiring Seizure Action Plans and Training in Schools	Education	<i>This bill requires school administrative units and approved private schools to employ at least one individual who has met the training requirements necessary to administer or assist in the self-administration of a seizure rescue medication or a medication prescribed to treat seizure disorder symptoms beginning July 1, 2026. The bill also requires that, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, all school employees subject to professional development must, for a minimum of one hour of self-directed study, review seizure disorder materials. The bill also requires that a student's parent or guardian must provide written authorization for a seizure medication to be administered at school by a school employee or self-administered at school with a school employee's assistance, a written statement from a physician licensed in this State and the prescribed medication in its unopened, sealed package with the label affixed by the dispensing pharmacy intact. A student's parent or guardian must also collaborate with the school to develop a seizure action plan, which must be kept on file in the office of the school nurse or a school administrator and be distributed to a school employee responsible for the supervision or care of the student. The bill also requires a school administrative unit and approved private school to provide age-appropriate seizure education programming to all students beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.</i>	Rep. Kuhn Co-sponsored: Sen. Pierce Rep. Graham Rep. Meyer Rep. Mitchell Rep. Murphy	? Co-tracking: DRM			

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LD 295 (HP 195) , An Act Regarding Education	Education	<i>This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures regarding education.</i>	Rep. Murphy Co-sponsored: Sen. Rafferty	Monitor			
LD 354 (SP 140) , An Act to Improve Education in Maine	Education	<i>This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures to improve education.</i>	Sen Rafferty Co-sponsored: Rep. Murphy	Monitor			
LD TBD (HP UK), Suggested Title: An Act to Provide Educators with the Better Methods to Address Challenging Behaviors from Students	Anticipated: Education		Introduced by Rep. Stover				
	Health Coverage Insurance & Financial Services						

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<p><u>LD 49</u> (HP 13), An Act to Ensure Quality in Personal Care Agencies</p>	<p>HHS</p>	<p><i>This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish by rule and post on a publicly accessible website annual quality performance metrics for personal care agencies. It authorizes the department to revoke the license of a personal care agency that fails to timely or adequately satisfy the metrics or file reports required by the department.</i></p>	<p>Rep. Cloutier (submitted by the DHHS)</p>	<p>Monitor</p>			
<p><u>LD 51</u> (HP 15), An Act to Increase Oversight of Fatalities of and Serious Injuries to Adults Subject to Public Guardianship</p>	<p>HHS</p>	<p><i>Under current law, the Aging and Disability Mortality Review Panel reviews deaths of and serious injuries to adults receiving services in home-based and community-based services programs, including participants in those programs who are subject to public guardianship. This bill expands the charge of the panel to review all deaths of and serious injuries to adults subject to public guardianship, whether or not they are enrolled in home-based and community-based services programs. It also amends the membership of the panel.</i></p> <p>Note: Of a 15-member panel the amendment adds just a single individual who is not representative of government/State office or other professional (i.e. <u>D-2. A member of the general public with lived experience as an adult receiving services</u>).</p>	<p>Rep. Shagoury (submitted by the DHHS)</p>	<p>Monitor -> Testify(?) Co-tracking: CHQS DRM A member of the current Mortality Review Panel (with whom I serve on the OAB) is having a meeting regarding key aspects. She is going to include the matter of representation along with</p>	<p>February 4 1:30 PM</p>		

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				other considerations. I will follow up with updates once she reports back.			
LD 52 (HP 16), An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Apply for Federal Benefits on Behalf of Children in the Department's Custody Who May Be Eligible for Those Benefits (EMERGENCY)	HHS	<p><i>This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to review whether a child in the custody of the department may be eligible for a benefit administered by the United States Social Security Administration or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. If the department determines the child may be eligible for a federal benefit, the department is required to apply for the federal benefit on behalf of the child. It also requires the department to provide training to children receiving a federal benefit, department staff and representative payees who receive the federal benefit on behalf of a child.</i></p> <p>Note (as written the LD includes): <u><i>E. Shall periodically provide the child with financial literacy training and support, including information regarding the availability and use of funds conserved for the child in accordance with this section. The training must begin before the child attains 14 years of age or, if the child is not in the custody of the department before the child attains 14 years of age, as soon as practicable.</i></u></p>	Rep. Roeder				

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		However, there is no requirement that the training/support address disability/accommodations to ensure relevance.					
LD 63 (HP 27), An Act to Support Implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Projects (EMERGENCY)	HHS	<p><i>This bill requires funding appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 for certified community behavioral health clinic projects to be used to support the Medicaid services state share of funds needed for state-licensed mental health organizations to participate in the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Medicaid Demonstration Program by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, in partnership with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.</i></p> <p>Note: The establishment of CCBHC includes those with I/DD as one of three target populations for whom outcome measures will be tracked.</p>	Rep. Graham (submitted by the DHHS)	Monitor (as this is funding legislation for enacted law) Co-tracking: DRM	February 4 1:30 PM		
LD 167 (HP 100), An Act to Provide 2 Hearing Aids to MaineCare Members with Diagnosed Hearing Loss	HHS	<p><i>This bill requires the MaineCare program to provide reimbursement for a hearing aid for each hearing-impaired ear of an individual enrolled in the MaineCare program. Under current law, the MaineCare program provides reimbursement for a hearing aid for one hearing-impaired ear of an individual enrolled in the MaineCare program, with additional requirements as established by rule for coverage of a hearing aid for the 2nd hearing-impaired ear.</i></p>	Rep. Graham Co-sponsored: Rep. Shagoury	? – w/respect to higher incidence of sensory impairments for autistic individuals Co-tracking: DRM			

LD (numerical order by Committee)	Committee* (alphabetical order)	Summary	Sponsor(s)	ASM Action	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status/Outcome
LD 169 (HP 102), An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Estate Recovery and Planning for Long-term Care	HHS	<i>This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to return the state portion of estate recovery under the MaineCare program to the estate. This requirement does not impact the portion that is required to be paid to the Federal Government for estate recovery for Medicaid. The bill requires the department to amend its rules in Chapter 332: MaineCare Eligibility Manual, Part 15, Transfer of Assets, to change the standard for transfer of assets from "clear and convincing evidence" to a "preponderance of evidence." The rule is a major substantive rule. The bill also requires the department to develop educational materials to assist individuals with accessing programs that allow family members or legal guardians to be reimbursed for providing personal care services to a family member who is eligible to receive home and community-based services under the MaineCare program or a state-funded program. It also requires the department to develop educational materials to assist individuals with long-term care planning, estate planning and asset transferring and sheltering.</i>	Rep. Hasenfus Co-sponsored: Sen. Hickman Sen. Libby	Monitor -> Testify (for which components?)			
LD 258 (SP 125), Resolve, to Establish a Program to Recruit and Retain Behavioral Health Clinicians	HHS	<i>This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement a program to provide a \$25,000 recruitment and retention incentive to behavioral health clinicians in the State during fiscal year 2025-26. It directs the department to establish criteria regarding participation in the program and to submit a report regarding the program to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services in 2025.</i>	Sen. Baldaccci Co-sponsored: Sen. Bennett Sen. Martin Sen. Timberlake Rep. Morris	Monitor ->Testify(?) (generally and/or w/respect to participation criteria and involvement of clinicians			

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		<p>Note: This is a reintroduction of LD 2200 from last session.</p>		<p>competent to work with autistic individuals)</p>			
<p>LD 263 (HP 166), Resolve, to Provide Rural Nonmedical Transportation Services to the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Receiving Home and Community Benefits Under MaineCare</p>	<p>HHS</p>	<p><i>This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a pilot project lasting 18 months that provides nonmedical transportation services to individuals receiving services pursuant to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 19, Home and Community Benefits for the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities, in an amount up to \$2,000, in addition to currently permissible medical transportation services. The department is required to submit a report regarding the costs, effectiveness and future viability of the pilot project to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than December 3, 2025.</i></p> <p>Note: This LD only addresses such transportation under Section 19.</p>	<p>Rep. Shagoury</p> <p>Co-sponsored: Sen. Ingwersen Rep. Cloutier Rep. Debrito Rep. Graham Rep. McCabe Rep. Mitchell Rep. Montell</p>	<p>Monitor -> Testify(?)</p> <p>Co-tracking: CHQS DRM</p>			
<p>LD 279 (SP 129), An Act to Address the Shortage of Direct Care Workers for Children with Disabilities in</p>	<p>HHS</p>	<p>This bill allows for the reimbursement of a parent providing in-home personal care services to the parent's child by allowing the parent to register as a personal care agency if the parent has made reasonable but unsuccessful efforts to obtain regular in-home personal care services and has passed a background check. The child must be eligible for the MaineCare program. An individual who is not a parent of the child must be designated as the employer and must be approved as the</p>	<p>Sen. Baldacci</p> <p>Co-sponsored: Sen. Grohoski Sen. Ingwersen Sen. Rafferty</p>	<p>Monitor -> Testify(?)</p> <p>Assigned: Roy</p> <p>Co-tracking: CHQS DRM</p>			

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Maine (EMERGENCY)		employer by both the parent and the Department of Health and Human Services. The department is required to request the necessary state plan amendments or waivers from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and adopt routine technical rules within 6 months of federal approval.					
	HED						
LD 260 (HP 163), RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law	Judiciary	<p><i>This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to prohibit the denial or abridgment by the State or any political subdivision of the State of equal rights based on the actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental disability, ancestry or national origin of an individual.</i></p> <p>Note: This is a reintroduction of LD 1412 passed last session, but which remained on the Appropriations Table. (A fiscal note was attached due to expenses related to the possibility of an additional ballot page for the associated referendum.)</p>	Rep. Sargent Co-sponsored: multi (see LD 260 page)	Monitor -> Testify(?) (re: classes included and/or related constitutional matter) Co-tracking: DRM			
LD 426 (HP 280),	Judiciary						
LD 60 (HP 24), An Act to Allow Employees to	Labor	<p><i>This bill does the following.</i></p> <p><i>1. It allows an employee to request in writing, including by electronic means, a flexible work schedule.</i></p>	Rep. Roeder Co-sponsored: Sen. Tipping	? – w/respect to best (inclusive)	February 5 10:00 AM		

LD (numerical order by Committee)	Committee* (alphabetical order)	Summary	Sponsor(s)	ASM Action	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status/Outcome
Request Flexible Work Schedules		<p>2. It requires an employer, which may be a private employer or public employer, to consider an employee's request for a flexible work schedule and whether the request may be granted in a manner that is not inconsistent with employer operations.</p> <p>3. It specifies that an employer and an employee must mutually agree on the duration of time and terms of a flexible work schedule.</p> <p>4. It allows an employer to rescind a flexible work schedule with as much notice to an employee as is practicable.</p> <p>5. It prohibits an employer from retaliating against an employee for exercising rights given by the bill.</p> <p>6. It specifies that a collective bargaining agreement may provide an employee with rights more expansive than rights established by the bill.</p> <p>Note: Best practice in employment recommends that policies such as these be delineated in a general HR policy rather than exclusively within disability-related accommodation request processes; thereby promoting inclusive concepts of work flexibility and limiting the circumstances requiring formal ADA accommodations requests.</p>		<p>employment practice</p> <p>Co-tracking: DRM</p>			
LD 87 (HP 51), An Act Regarding the State Workforce Board	Labor	<p><i>This bill changes the name of the State Workforce Board within the Department of Labor to the State Workforce Development Board for consistency with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. It amends the membership of the board by limiting membership to the members listed and by removing legislative review of member appointments. It clarifies that the recipient of an</i></p>	Rep. Roeder (submitted by the Department of Labor)	? – with respect to disability representation			

LD (numerical order by Committee)	Committee* (alphabetical order)	Summary	Sponsor(s)	ASM Action	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status/Outcome
		<p><i>annual report from the board is the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters instead of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, business, research and economic development matters. The bill also changes rules related to industry partnerships for workforce development to routine technical rules.</i></p> <p>Note regarding updated membership standards (as written the LD includes):</p> <p><i>Appointments must be consistent with the representation requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The Governor shall ensure that the board has sufficient expertise to effectively carry out the duties and functions of the board. Members must represent diverse geographic areas of the State, including urban, rural and suburban areas.</i></p> <p>However, the stipulated membership, including ex officio members representing governments offices/interests, does not include disability representation despite WIOA requirements concerning cross-disability programmatic accessibility within all workforce programs and resources (e.g. CareerCenters and their services).</p>					
<p><u>LD 216</u> (HP 139), An Act to Change the Statutory Adjournment Date for the</p>	<p>State and Local Government</p>	<p><i>This bill moves the day of adjournment for the second regular session to the Wednesday preceding Patriot's Day.</i></p>	<p>Rep. Hasenfus</p>	<p>Monitor (for updated adjournment of second session)</p>			

LD (numerical order by Committee)	Committee* (alphabetical order)	Summary	Sponsor(s)	ASM Action	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status/Outcome
Second Regular Session of the Legislature							
LD 236 (HP 159), An Act to Provide Legislative Oversight of the Rule-making Petition Process	State and Local Government	<i>This bill amends the law governing petition-based rulemaking by an agency to provide that a rule-making proceeding initiated by an agency based on a petition to adopt or modify a rule submitted by 150 or more registered voters of the State must be conducted by the agency through major substantive rulemaking in accordance with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.</i>	Rep. Campbell Co-sponsored: Rep. Soboleski Rep. Thorne	Monitor (for update concerning agency rulemaking requirements)			
LD 490 (HP 319), An Act to Provide for a 5-year Automatic Repeal of Agency Rules	State and Local Government	<i>This bill amends the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to provide that any agency rule that is finally adopted or an amendment to which is finally adopted in accordance with the requirements of that Act after January 1, 2026 is automatically repealed 5 years from the date of final adoption. An agency that has adopted or has jurisdiction over a rule subject to automatic repeal may submit to the Legislature a request that the rule be renewed and not be subject to repeal for an additional period of up to 5 years. For any rule subject to automatic repeal, the bill requires the Secretary of State to provide to the agency that adopted or has jurisdiction over the rule a notice regarding the date of the automatic repeal no later than 18 months prior to the date on which the rule will be repealed.</i> Note:	Rep. Smith Co-sponsored: Rep. Collins Rep. Haggan Rep. Mingo Rep. Morris Rep. Olsen Rep. Perkins	Monitor (per future experience monitoring agency Rule/Rulemaking)			

LD (numerical order by Committee)	Committee* (alphabetical order)	Summary	Sponsor(s)	ASM Action	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status/Outcome
		<p>The Bill text requires cost- analysis as part of any request to renew which reads as:</p> <p>A. <u>The request must describe the basis for renewing the rule and include a cost-benefit analysis of the rule. The agency must submit the request not earlier than 2 years and not later than one year prior to the date on which the rule is automatically repealed in accordance with this section and must publish the request on its publicly accessible website at the time the request is submitted.</u></p>					
<p>LD 145 (SP 81), An Act Pertaining to Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Durable Medical Equipment, Breast Pumps and Mobility- enhancing Equipment</p>	<p>Taxation</p>	<p><i>This bill provides a sales and use tax exemption on the sale of durable medical equipment and breast pumps for home use and on the sale of mobility-enhancing equipment for use in a home or motor vehicle. The provisions in the bill apply to sales occurring on or after January 1, 2026.</i></p> <p>Note: Along with corresponding definition and items updates, the Governor’s Biennial Budget – Language includes in the corresponding Summary that Part G:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provides a broader and simpler sales and use tax exemption for durable medical equipment (DME), breast pumps, and mobility enhancing equipment for home use or use in a motor vehicle. (p. 55)</i> <p>The associated updates correspond to the same effective date as the legislation.</p>	<p>Sen. Rotundo</p> <p>Co-sponsored: Rep. Cloutier Rep. Hasenful Rep. Abdi Sen. Libby</p>	<p>Monitor</p>	<p>February 4, 1:00 PM</p>		

LD (numerical order by Committee)	Committee* (alphabetical order)	Summary	Sponsor(s)	ASM Action	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status/Outcome
LD 38 (SP 61), An Act Requiring Photographic Identification for Voting	Veterans and Legal Affairs	<i>This bill requires the presentation of proof of identity in the form of a photograph identification document when voting in person. Acceptable forms of photograph identification are a current and valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued in this State, a United States passport, a military identification or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued in this State if that permit includes a photograph. An identification issued by a college or university may not be accepted for voter identification. The bill also allows a person who does not possess a photograph identification document to request a free special voter photograph identification card from the Secretary of State.</i>	Sen. Timberlake Co-sponsored: Sen. Farrin Sen Stewart Sen. Libby Rep. Lyman	? – w/respect to potential access issues, including meeting the requirements to obtain a “special voter photograph identification card” Co-tracking: DRM			

*Appropriations – Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Criminal Justice – Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Education – Education and Cultural Affairs, HHS – Health and Human Services, HED – Housing and Economic Development