

LOWER COSTS STRONGER COMMUNITIES



HEALTH CARE

LD 2129 *An Act to Strengthen Consumer Protections by Prohibiting Liens on Principal Residences and Wage Garnishments for Medical Debt* Sen. Donna Bailey, D-Saco

Builds on Maine's landmark new law to prohibit the reporting of medical debt on consumer credit reports by preventing collection agencies from placing a lien on a home or withholding wages of a person burdened by medical debt, further ensuring unforeseen medical emergencies don't ruin Mainers' financial lives.

LD 896 *An Act to Provide Young Children Stable Access to Health Care* Sen. Anne Carney, D-Cape Elizabeth

Requires that any child who is eligible for and enrolls in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) maintain their eligibility continuously until they turn six, preventing interruptions in health care access for young children.

LD TBD *An Act to Offset Federal Cuts to Health Insurance for Families and Seniors* Speaker Ryan Fecteau, D-Biddeford

Helps mitigate recent federal cuts to Medicaid that were enacted by Congress last summer as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA).

LD TBD *An Act to Lower Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to Care and Ensure Fair Prices* Rep. Drew Gattine, D-Westbrook

Makes health care more affordable and accessible for Mainers by setting a cap on the highest hospital prices, boosting investment in primary and behavioral health care, and restricting insurers' ability to deny coverage.

LD 2151 *An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Medication in Underserved Areas* Sen. Cameron Reny, D-Bristol

Establishes a grant program for community health centers seeking to increase pharmacy access in rural and underserved areas, reducing travel expenses and helping Mainers avoid costly emergency room visits when they're unable to access affordable medication locally.



ENERGY

LD 1949 *An Act Regarding Energy Fairness* Sen. Anne Carney, D-Cape Elizabeth

Protects vulnerable households — homes of infants, older Mainers and those who rely on electricity for treatment of medical conditions — from disconnection of their electric service. In pursuit of improving energy affordability, the sponsor, Sen. Carney, plans to further amend the bill to direct the Public Utilities Commission to integrate consideration of residential cost burdens into its rate decisions and duties more broadly.

LD 2112 *An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Form Community Choice Aggregation Programs to Procure Electricity* Rep. Gerry Runte, D-York

Lowers energy costs for Maine ratepayers by authorizing municipalities and groups of municipalities to establish community choice aggregation programs, which will allow them to negotiate for better electricity prices.



ENERGY Continued

LD 995 An Act to Provide Funding for Low-income Electric Ratepayer Assistance Rep. Melanie Sachs, D-Freeport

Helps more Maine families afford their electricity bills by providing an additional \$15 million in one-time funding over two years for the Low-Income Assistance Program (LIAP).

LD 2078 An Act to Establish the Electricity Cost Fairness Refundable Tax Credit Rep. Kilton Webb, D-Durham

Creates a new, refundable income tax credit of up to \$600 to help provide additional relief for Mainers struggling to afford their energy bills. The credit is phased out based on income and is indexed to inflation.



HOUSING

LD 2057 An Act to Support Rehabilitation and Development of Affordable Manufactured Housing Communities

Sen. Chip Curry, D-Belfast

Strengthens public and private partnerships in rehabilitating and expanding manufactured housing communities and mobile home parks, preserving existing communities and building new opportunities for affordable housing in Maine.

LD 2077 An Act to Reduce the Cost of Purchasing a Home by Providing Grants to Reduce Mortgage Rates

Rep. Wayne Farrin, D-Jefferson

Directs MaineHousing to create a program providing grants of up to \$15,000 for eligible Mainers to help decrease their mortgage loan rates when purchasing a home. It also creates a tax deduction for payments made to purchase private mortgage insurance for a primary residence in Maine.

LD 2116 An Act to Make Permanent the Affordable Housing Income Tax Credit Rep. Ambureen Rana, D-Bangor

Increases the development of affordable housing in Maine by making the tax credit permanent. The Legislature established the credit in 2019 to provide \$80 million (\$10 million over eight years) in state-level financing for affordable housing projects. Without action, the credit will sunset in 2028.



CHILD CARE

LD 1414 An Act to Support and Sustain Maine's Child Care Workforce President Mattie Daughtry, D-Brunswick

Addresses the shortage in the most difficult-to-access child care — including care for infants and care for children whose guardians work the second shift — by increasing salary supplements for educators working in programs that serve both infants and toddlers and by providing grants to programs seeking to expand to serve second shift workers.

LD 1555 An Act to Establish an Employer Tax Credit for Qualifying Child Care Costs

Rep. Tavis Hasenfus, D-Readfield

Increases the availability of child care by creating a tax credit for Maine businesses that offer this benefit to their employees. As amended, the bill would provide employers with a maximum credit of \$9,000 per participating employee and \$3,000 per child.



CHILD CARE *Continued*

LD 1859 *An Act to Improve Access to Child Care and Early Childhood Education by Establishing Regional Resource Hubs*

Sen. Henry Ingwersen, D-Arundel

Addresses Maine's child care crisis by creating a network of regional hubs to connect families, child care providers and employers with much-needed information and support in locating early childhood programs and similar resources in the state, including training opportunities for providers.



EVERYDAY COSTS

LD 1954 *An Act to Lower Household Costs by Establishing the Maine Affordability Tax Credit**

President Mattie Daughtry, D-Brunswick

This bill, as amended, will establish the Maine Affordability Tax Credit, replacing and expanding the existing sales tax fairness credit to provide eligible low-and middle-income households up to \$340 per year to help offset the cost of groceries, utility bills, and other everyday expenses.

**Officially, this bill is still titled "An Act to Lower Household Costs by Expanding the Sales Tax Exemption for Certain Grocery Staples Sold in Grocery Stores"; the proposed amended title and amendment have not yet been adopted by the committee.*

LD 2122 *An Act to Prevent Negative Impacts from Federal Funding Changes to and Fund Eligibility Determinations and Outreach for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*

Speaker Ryan Fecteau, D-Biddeford

Helps mitigate the recent federal cuts and eligibility changes to SNAP by creating an \$87 million contingency fund. It also authorizes DHHS to award grants to community-based organizations for SNAP.

LD 1099 *An Act to Exempt Diapers from Sales Tax*

Rep. Kelly Noonan Murphy, D-Scarborough

Lowers household costs by establishing a sales tax exemption for disposable and reusable diapers, including diaper covers, wraps and diaper fasteners.

LD 34 *An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers*

Sen. Teresa S. Pierce, D-Falmouth

Increases the minimum teacher salary to \$50,000, a long-overdue improvement that would make living and teaching in Maine more affordable and attractive for a struggling, vital educator workforce.

LD 599 *An Act to Raise the Salary Threshold for Overtime Pay*

Sen. Mike Tipping, D-Orono

Ensures thousands more middle-income Mainers struggling with high costs are compensated for time worked by expanding the overtime salary threshold.