*Summary of the*

**129th Maine Legislature**

**2nd Regular Session**

*Prepared for:*

**ACEC of Maine**

*All laws have an effective date of June 16, 2020, unless otherwise noted.*



***Bills that Passed***

## LD [153](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=SP0040&SessionID=13) An Act To Strengthen Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water

##  [PL 158](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0040&item=4&snum=129)

## This bill requires all schools to test water used for drinking or culinary purposes for lead using water testing kits or by submitting samples of water to an approved laboratory for lead testing. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish by major substantive rule water lead levels, testing protocols, appropriate abatement and mitigation methods and public notification requirements. It directs the department to provisionally adopt major substantive rules and submit them to the Legislature no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 10, 2020. It provides that the department has the authority to issue an order reducing exposure to lead until the elevated water lead levels are abated or mitigated. It provides that water lead abatement or mitigation efforts will receive Priority 1 status for receipt of funds from the School Revolving Renovation Fund in the custody of the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.

## LD [206](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070983) An Act To Raise the University of Maine Debt Ceiling

[PL 487](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0169&item=3&snum=129)

This bill increases the borrowing authority for the University of Maine System from $220M to $350M.

**LD** [**278**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=SP0090&SessionID=13) **An Act Regarding Pay Equality**

 [PL 35](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0090&item=3&snum=129)

This bill amends the Maine Human Rights Act to provide that evidence of discrimination with respect to compensation includes an employer seeking information about a prospective employee's prior wage history before an offer of employment, including all compensation, to the prospective employee has been made. It provides that this discrimination is also evidenced by an employer requiring that a prospective employee's prior compensation history meet certain criteria. The bill broadens a provision in the current equal pay law to prohibit an employer from preventing employees from discussing or disclosing other employees' wages and makes the practice a violation of the Maine Human Rights Act as well.

**LD** [**375**](https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070665) **An Act To Promote the Forest Products Industry in School Construction and Renovation Involving Heating Systems**

 [PL 53](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0284&item=3&snum=129)

This bill requires consideration of modern wood heating systems, with wood biomass fuels sourced locally and in a manner that benefits the State's economy, in the construction of new or substantially renovated schools or school buildings subject to State Board of Education approval.

**LD** [**398**](https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070665) **An Act To Allow for Greater Flexibility in Addressing Energy Efficiency Needs in the State**

 [PL 69](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0307&item=3&snum=129)

The bill removes the provision that requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to allocate 50% of the funds in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund for residential programs and 50% for commercial and industrial programs.

**LD** [**506**](https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070665) **An Act To Provide Architects, Engineers and Certain Other Professionals Immunity from Civil Liability When Volunteering for Evaluating Damage from Disasters**

 [PL 49](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0363&item=3&snum=129)

This bill provides civil immunity for architects, contractors, environmental professionals, land surveyors, landscape architects, planners and professional engineers who provide voluntary professional services during or within 90 days of a natural disaster or catastrophe when the services are provided under the applicable license or certification, are related to the natural disaster or catastrophe and are provided at the request of a federal, state or local public official, law enforcement official, public safety official or building inspection official. No immunity is provided for reckless or intentional misconduct.

The bill is based on a similar Massachusetts law.

**LD** [**658**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071631) **Resolve, To Direct a Plan for Energy Independence for Maine**

 [Resolve 30](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0479&item=3&snum=129)

This resolve directs the Governor's Energy Office to adopt a 10-year energy independence plan, including conservation and renewable energy strategies, for the State to become a net exporter of energy by 2030. It requires the office to develop the plan through a collaborative stakeholder process. The plan must be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by December 31, 2019 along with suggested legislation necessary to implement the plan. The resolve authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature related to the plan.

**LD** [**671**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071625) **An Act To Require Professional Licensure for Property Inspectors**

 [Resolve 61](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0492&item=3&snum=129)

This bill requires that all property inspectors be licensed by OFPR. This bill also directs the department to adopt rules to establish standards and procedures for licensure.

**LD** [**855**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071884) **An Act To Strengthen the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code**

 [PL 517](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0629&item=5&snum=129)

This bill requires that the Commissioner of Public Safety appoint a technical codes coordinator, an office specialist and a building codes trainer. It also requires that municipalities impose a $3 surcharge on building permits and remit those funds to the Department of Public Safety to fund the Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund.

**LD** [**994**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072062) **Resolve, To Require the Approval by the Public Utilities Commission of a Proposal for a Long-term Contract for Deep-water Offshore Wind Energy**

 [Resolve 87](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0284&item=4&snum=129)

This resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to approve the long-term contract for capacity and associated energy between Maine Aqua Ventus I, GP, LLC and Central Maine Power Company submitted to the commission in December 2017.

**LD** [**1283**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070660) **Resolve, To Advance College Affordability by Convening a Task Force To Recommend a Sustainable Funding Model for Maintaining Maine's Public Higher Education Infrastructure**

 [Resolve 65](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0925&item=3&snum=129)

This resolve directs the Chancellor of the University of Maine System to convene a task force, to be named the Task Force To Recommend a Sustainable Funding Model for Maintaining Maine's Public Higher Education Infrastructure, to study how to provide adequate supplemental funding to sustain the State's public higher education infrastructure without burdening students who are residents of the State with unreasonable tuition and fee increases. The task force is directed to consider, but is not limited to considering, infrastructure improvements, health and safety repairs, technology improvements, energy efficiency and equipment upgrades and, when necessary, new construction. The task force is directed to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 2, 2020. The joint standing committees are authorized to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

**LD** [**1509**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070660) **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code To Ensure It Is Consistent with Current Standards and Applies to Small Municipalities**

 [PL 391](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1101&item=3&snum=129)

This bill adds the executive director of the Efficiency Maine Trust to the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Technical Building Codes and Standards Board. The bill requires the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board to amend the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code so as to be consistent with the most recent edition of the International Energy Conservation Code published by the International Code Council, as well as the most recent edition of the International Mechanical Code published by the International Code Council. Beginning July 1, 2020, the bill also prohibits a municipality from adopting or enforcing a building or energy code other than the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and requires that any municipality that has adopted a building or energy code by July 1, 2020 adopt and enforce the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

**LD** [**1543**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1543) **An Act To Amend the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code**

 [PL 392](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0480&item=3&snum=129)

This bill amends provisions regarding the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code by requiring the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board to adopt and maintain an appendix to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code that contains energy conservation and efficiency requirements that exceed the requirements in the code, to make the appendix available for voluntary adoption by municipalities and to maintain a list of those municipalities on the board’s publicly accessible website.

**LD** [**1564**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1564) **An Act To Authorize Project Labor Agreements for Public Works Projects**

 [PL 278](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0499&item=3&snum=129)

This bill allows a public authority to require a project labor agreement for a public works project when that public authority determines that it is in the public's interest to require such an agreement.

**LD** [**1645**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070680) **An Act To Create Affordable Workforce and Senior Housing and Preserve Affordable Rural Housing**

 [PL 555](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1180&item=7&snum=129)

The purpose of this bill is to address Maine's shortage of safe, affordable housing by creating a state affordable housing tax credit. The tax credit is administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, which will allocate the state credit through a process similar to its current allocation of federal housing tax credits. Ten percent of the credit must be set aside for the preservation of affordable housing units that are constructed with financial assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Rural Development, Rural Housing Service and at risk of losing their affordable status. In addition, 30% of the credit allocated to new housing units is targeted for seniors and 20% is targeted for rural areas. The credit is subject to reporting requirements and a process for tax expenditure review by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability.

**LD** [**1658**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070680) **An Act To Clarify Prevailing Wage Rates on State Projects Using Federal Funds**

 [PL 473](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0535&item=3&snum=129)

This bill provides that for public works construction contracts that involve funding from the Federal Government the prevailing wage requirements in state law apply unless the prevailing wage requirements that would otherwise apply under the federal Davis Bacon Act would result in higher total wages under the contract. An exception is provided for funds received under the United States Housing Act of 1937 if the application of a state prevailing wage is expressly preempted by federal law.

**LD** [**1720**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1720) **An Act To Amend the So-called Dig Safe Law**

 [PL 322](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0569&item=3&snum=129)

This bill requires excavators to call 9-1-1 if contact with or damage to an underground pipe or another underground facility results in the escape of any natural gas or other hazardous substance or material regulated by the United States Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

**LD** [**1746**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1746) **An Act To Amend the Licensing Laws of Certain Professions and Occupations**

 [PL 503](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0580&item=8&snum=129)

The bill makes the following changes to the licensing laws of certain professions and occupations.

1. It provides authority for the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to reduce license fees by order.
2. It adds failure by a licensee to provide treatment records to a patient within a reasonable time when requested by the patient in writing as a new ground for discipline.
3. It increases from one to 2 the number of helper electricians that may be supervised by a master, journeyman or limited electrician at any one time and corrects an error in hours of work experience required for a journeyman-in-training to apply for a master electrician license.
4. It repeals current license requirements for real estate appraisers and replaces them with less stringent license requirements adopted by rule by the federally authorized appraiser qualifications board.
5. It authorizes the issuance of licenses to speech-language pathology assistant applicants who have a degree higher than an associate degree and exempts temporary licensees, speech-language pathology assistants and trainee licensees from continuing education requirements at the time of license renewal.

**LD** [**2126**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2126) **An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021**

 [Public Law 616](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1516&item=5&snum=129)

**PART A** makes appropriations and allocations.

**PART B** makes appropriations and allocations to provide funding for approved reclassifications and range changes.

**PART C** does the following.

1. It establishes the total cost of education from kindergarten to grade 12, the state contribution, the annual target state share percentage and the mill expectation for the local contribution for fiscal year 2020-21.
2. It establishes, beginning in fiscal year 2020-21, the per-pupil rate for education service center administration.
3. With respect to fiscal years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, it caps the total allocation for a career and technical education center or career and technical education region.
4. It provides that funding for incremental salary increases in fiscal year 2020-21 must be based on data submitted to the Department of Education and certified by school administrative units as of October 1, 2019.
5. It amends the laws governing the payment of targeted education funds to remove authorization for the annual education research contract and to authorize the payment of costs to provide musical instruments and professional development in rural schools.
6. It establishes for fiscal years 2023-24 through 2026-27 the debt service ceiling for capital projects, including major projects and integrated, consolidated secondary and postsecondary projects.

**PART D** increases the amount of financing agreements that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services may enter into in fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Central Fleet Management Division from $5,500,000 to $7,200,000. This Part also authorizes an increase in the principal cost limit of the financing agreements for State Police motor vehicles from $2,300,000 to $2,800,000.

**PART E** increases the amount of the death benefit payable for law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel who have died while in the line of duty from $50,000 to $100,000.

**PART F** authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue additional securities up to an amount of $22,300,000 to pay for the costs of capital repairs and improvements to and construction of state-owned facilities and hazardous waste cleanup on state-owned properties and of mechanical, electrical, plumbing and other building system upgrades and any associated hazardous waste cleanup for Curtis Hall at the Maine Maritime Academy.

**PART G** updates the mileage rate paid to employees and state officers and officials not subject to a bargaining agreement to either the rate included in the bargaining agreement representing the most employees or the federal rate of reimbursement, whichever is lower. This change takes effect July 1, 2020.

**PART H** authorizes the General Fund to receive up to $20,000,000 in undedicated revenues associated with profits from liquor operations and continues the transfers previously established.

**PART I** authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into financing agreements in fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21 for the acquisition of hardware, software and systems to support the operations of the Statewide Radio and Network System Reserve Fund.

**PART J** directs the State Controller to transfer $20,116,942 during fiscal year 2019-20 from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532.

**PART K** authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry to pay operating expenses from the Aerial Fire Suppression Fund.

**PART L** directs that any unexpended balance of the one-time funds appropriated for repairs and upgrades at armories in the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Military Training and Operations program, General Fund account be carried forward into the subsequent fiscal years for the purpose for which they were intended.

**PART M** changes the title of Director, Communications within the Department of Education to Director of Marketing and Communications and the title of Director of Special Projects within the Department of Education to Chief Innovation Officer and adds the Chief Innovation Officer as a major policy-influencing position in the department.

**PART N** increases flexibility with respect to when a secondary student may take an early college course. Currently a student is allowed 6 credits per semester for a total of 12 credits per year. This Part allows a student to take the maximum of 12 credits per academic year without a restriction on the number of credits per semester.

This Part also removes the requirement to limit the amount of funding available for summer courses.

**PART O** replaces the term "school nutrition" where it appears in the statutes with the term "child nutrition."

**PART P** requires the Education Research Institute under Title 20-A, section 10 to provide, and report annually on, education data requested by the Legislature.

**PART Q** adds the Chief of Staff and Operations position as a major policy-influencing position in the Department of Education.

**PART R** changes the title of Director, Legislative Affairs within the Department of Education to Director of Policy and Government Affairs.

**PART S** implements criminal history record checks for certain individuals with access to federal tax information and other federally protected data at the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology. The criminal history record checks apply to all new applicants and current employees and contractors or subcontractors of the office to ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations governing access to federally protected data, including, but not limited to, the Internal Revenue Service's criminal history record check requirements for all employees and contractors with access to federal tax information and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Criminal Justice Information Services Division.

**PART T** renames the Facilities, Safety and Transportation program within the Department of Education the Facilities and Transportation program.

**PART U** requires any unexpended balance of the one-time funds appropriated for investigation and remediation of uncontrolled sites in the Department of Environmental Protection, Remediation and Waste Management program, General Fund account to be carried forward into subsequent fiscal years for the purpose for which they were intended.

**PART V** requires any unexpended balance of the one-time funds appropriated for water treatment facilities in the Department of Environmental Protection, Water Quality program, General Fund account to carry forward into subsequent fiscal years for the purpose for which they were intended.

**PART W** authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to transfer available balances of Personal Services appropriations and allocations in the Disproportionate Share - Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center program, the Disproportionate Share - Riverview Psychiatric Center program, the Riverview Psychiatric Center program and the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center program after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met to the All Other line category.

**PART X** updates references to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 contained in Title 36 to refer to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, 2019, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019 and for any prior tax years as specifically provided by the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

**PART Y** clarifies that, with regard to each hospital in the State, the hospital’s fiscal year that ended during calendar year 2016 is intended to be the hospital’s taxable year for all state fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2019 for the purpose of taxes imposed by Title 36, section 2892.

**PART Z** establishes a senior legal advisor for the commissioner within the Department of Health and Human Services who is appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and serves at the pleasure of the commissioner.

**PART AA** establishes the Aging and Disability Mortality Review Panel to review deaths of and serious injuries to adults receiving home-based and community-based services under a waiver approved by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

**PART BB** requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend the Office of Elderly Services Policy Manual, 10-149 C.M.R. Chapter 5, Section 63 to increase the number of reimbursable medication passes per consumer per day from 3 to 6.

**PART CC** transfers $2,036,206 to the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services; this transfer is in addition to a transfer of $16,526,403 made in July 2019.

**PART DD** transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account to fund a Personal Services shortfall in fiscal year 2019-20.

**PART EE** reduces unemployment insurance trust fund contributions for employers by a percentage used to calculate the Unemployment Administrative Fund assessment except as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1221, subsection 4-A, paragraphs A and B pertaining to new employer rates and contribution rate category 20.

**PART FF** establishes the Unemployment Program Administrative Fund for the purpose of operating the Maine unemployment insurance program, including both personnel and nonpersonnel costs, and for the costs of administering the fund.

**PART GG** authorizes the use of unemployment insurance modernization funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and Section 903(f) of the federal Social Security Act for the purposes of operating the State's unemployment compensation and public employment systems.

**PART HH** authorizes any unexpended balances of the one-time funds appropriated in Part A for Department of Labor, Department of Economic and Community Development and Department of Education programs associated with apprenticeships, career exploration, adult education workforce development and preschool programs, toward the goal of enhancing Maine’s current and future workforce, to carry forward into the subsequent fiscal years for the purposes for which they were intended.

**PART II** authorizes General Fund appropriations in the Department of Transportation to carry forward into the subsequent fiscal years to be used for the same purposes.

**PART JJ** clarifies the job classifications in the Department of Public Safety that are eligible to elect to participate in the 1998 Special Plan of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. Under that plan, a person may retire at 55 years of age with 10 years of creditable service or may retire before 55 years of age with 25 years of creditable service.

**PART KK** authorizes any unexpended balances of the one-time funds appropriated in Part A for the Forest City dam engineering study and repair and restoration of the Forest City dam and several other dams in the Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program to carry forward into the subsequent fiscal years for the purposes for which they were intended.

**PART LL** amends the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program by:

1. For investments made on or after April 1, 2020:
2. Reducing from 50% to 40% of investment the maximum credit available to individual investors and private venture capital funds;
3. Reducing from $5,000,000 to $3,500,000 the total aggregate investment eligible for tax credits for any one business; and
4. Limiting to $2,000,000 the eligible total aggregate investment for any one business in any calendar year;
5. Increasing from $5,000,000 to $15,000,000 the overall annual limit on total authorized credits for calendar years 2020 through 2026;
6. Expanding the definition of "eligible business" to include businesses that provide a product that is sold predominantly outside the State; and
7. Providing a structure for the required reporting of data to facilitate an evaluation of the effectiveness of the credit by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability.

***Carry Over Bills***

**LD** [**16**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070615) **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise**

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $50,000,000, will be used to improve waterfront and coastal infrastructure in municipalities to address sea level rise.

**LD** [**149**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070853) **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Student Debt Forgiveness To Support Workforce Attraction and Retention**

Requires a General Fund bond obligation in the amount of $250,000,000 for program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine to provide funds for payment of student loan debt for individuals who agree to live and work in Maine for 5 years and to reimburse employers that make student loan debt payments on behalf of their employees who agree to live and work in Maine for 5 years; and 2. Establishes the Maine Student Loan Debt Relief Program and the Maine Student Loan Debt Relief Fund and requires the Finance Authority of Maine to adopt major substantive rules to implement the program and submit the rules to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

**LD** [**295**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071056) **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Increase Rural Maine's Access to Broadband Internet Service**

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $100M, will be used for the provision of broadband Internet service in the unserved and underserved areas through ConnectME Authority grants to partnerships between private, municipal and nongovernmental service providers.

**LD** [**299**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=HP0223&SessionID=13) **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Assist Schools, Municipalities and Counties in Using Emerging Technologies and Energy Alternatives to Fossil Fuels in Heating, Electrical and Other Utility Systems**

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $15,000,000, will be used to assist schools, municipalities and counties in using emerging technologies and energy alternatives to fossil fuels in heating, electrical and other utility systems. The Finance Authority of Maine is directed to establish an application process and requirements for distribution of the funds.

**LD** [**394**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071184) **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide for Student Loan Debt Relief**

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $50,000,000, will be used to provide funds to the Finance Authority of Maine for zero-interest student loans and loan consolidation or refinancing interest rate reductions for certain Maine residents who agree to live and work in Maine for at least 5 years. The bill creates the Maine Student Loan Debt Relief Program. Under the program, zero-interest loans up to $10,000 per year for a maximum of 5 years are available to certain Maine residents who study at qualified in-state institutions of higher education and agree to live and work in Maine for at least 5 years following graduation. Loans bearing an annual interest rate of the prime rate of interest plus 2% are available to those who do not live and work in the State upon graduation. The Finance Authority of Maine may provide interest rate reduction payments to residents who use the authority's existing loan consolidation and refinancing program. This option is available to individuals who studied in Maine or outside of Maine and agree to live and work in Maine for at least 5 years. The bill exempts from Maine income tax any benefits received under the program to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income and prohibits individuals who have received benefits under the program from receiving the Maine educational opportunity tax credit.

**LD** [**402**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=HP0311&SessionID=13) **An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers**

This bill annually raises the minimum salary that an employee who works in an executive, administrative or professional capacity must earn in order for that employee to be exempt from the laws governing the minimum wage and overtime pay until it is $55,224 on January 1, 2022. The bill provides for an annual adjustment, beginning January 1, 2023, based on the percentage annual increase in certain earnings as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**LD** [**602**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071498) **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support Research and Development in Maine**

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $50,000,000, will be used for investment in research, development and commercialization in the State's 7 targeted technology sectors to be used for infrastructure, equipment and technology upgrades that enable organizations to gain and hold market share, to increase revenues and to expand employment or preserve jobs, including in the biotechnical and biomedical sectors by attracting more research capacity and in the forest products sector by using Maine fiber to reduce carbon emissions. The funds must be awarded through a competitive process to Maine-based public and private entities, leveraging other funds in a one-to-one ratio.

**LD** [**814**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071839) **An Act To Strengthen Maine's Economy through Research and Innovation led by the University of Maine System**

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It would provide funding and enact measures based on recommendations of the President of the University of Maine at Machias in a strategic plan chartered by the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and due to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System in March 2019. The bill would strengthen research and economic development efforts across the University of Maine System to support Maine industries and workforce development and to foster business formation and expansion, specifically in the 7 research and development sectors designated in statute: advanced technology for agriculture and forestry; aquaculture and marine technology; biotechnology; composite materials technology; environmental technology; information technology; and precision manufacturing technology.

**LD** [**1164**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072311) **An Act To Improve the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit**

This bill makes the current income tax credit for educational opportunity inapplicable to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, and creates a new simplified tax credit for student loan repayment applicable to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020.

1. A qualified individual must be a full-year Maine resident who has obtained an associate, bachelor's or graduate degree from an accredited Maine or non-Maine community college, college or university after 2007 and who works at least part time in Maine or on a vessel at sea or is deployed for military service in the United States Armed Forces during the taxable year.
2. Loans obtained from related persons, such as family members and certain businesses, trusts and exempt organizations, do not qualify for the credit.
3. The credit may not reduce the tax due to less than zero.
4. The credit for qualified individuals is the lesser of the amount paid on eligible education loans during the taxable year and 15% of the outstanding eligible education loan debt on the date the first education loan payment is made after a degree is earned.
5. The credit for employers is the lesser of the amount paid by an employer on behalf of a qualified employee during the taxable year during the term of employment and 20% of the outstanding eligible education loan debt on the date the first education loan payment is made after December 31, 2019.
6. The credit is available to the spouse of an individual eligible for a credit even if the spouse is not employed.
7. Income tax deductions are provided for student loan payments made directly to a lender by an employer on behalf of a qualified employee and payments made directly to a lender on behalf of a taxpayer by a student loan repayment program funded by a nonprofit foundation and administered by the Finance Authority of Maine for residents of the State employed by a business located in the State.
8. The annual credit may include loan amounts paid in excess of the amount due during a taxable year. The amendment also provides that credits in excess of those that may be used during a taxable year may be carried over for the next succeeding 5 years.

**LD** [**1293**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072559) **An Act To Improve Investigative Efficiencies at the State Fire Marshal's Office**

Concept draft. This bill proposes to provide increased funding to the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, criminal investigative unit for additional supervisory and support staff. This bill would also establish a more stable source of funding for the Office of the State Fire Marshal going forward.

**LD** [**1410**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072759) **An Act To Create Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits**

This bill establishes a paid family and medical leave benefits program administered by the Department of Labor. The program provides up to 12 weeks of family leave and up to 20 weeks of medical leave to eligible covered individuals. No more than 20 weeks of family leave and medical leave in the aggregate may be taken in a 12-month period. An individual is eligible for leave under the program after working 26 weeks or more for any employer in the 12 months prior to submitting an application or if the individual is self-employed and has elected to be part of the program.

The maximum weekly benefit amount is capped at 100% of the state average weekly wage. The weekly benefit amount is 90% of the portion of the covered individual's average weekly wage that is equal to or less than 50% of the state average weekly wage and 67% of the portion of the covered individual's average weekly wage that is more than 50% of the state average weekly wage.

Covered individuals are required to file claims for benefits in accordance with rules adopted by the department and to provide certification that they qualify for family leave or medical leave.

This bill establishes the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund to support the program. The funds for administrative costs and payment of benefits will come from payroll contributions by employees.

The bill requires payroll contributions to begin January 1, 2021, and benefits will be paid out beginning January 1, 2022.

**LD** [**1458**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1458) **An Act To Protect Taxpayers in the Privatization of State Services**

This bill creates a process by which a state agency can enter a privatization contract with a nongovernmental entity to perform basic agency services for up to 5 years if a number of criteria are met, including:

1. Wages and benefits for employees of the contractor are comparable to state employees performing the same services;
2. The contractor endeavors to hire agency employees terminated due to the privatization;
3. The agency provides an estimate of its costs in providing the subject services in the most efficient manner;
4. The agency provides support and resources to allow agency employees to submit a competing bid to provide the privatized services;
5. The agency considers as a contract cost any income tax revenue lost to the State as a result of services to be performed out of state under the contract; and
6. The Attorney General performs a review to determine that all of the requirements of the bidding process and privatization contract have been met.

**LD** [**1604**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1604) **An Act To Authorize General Fund Bond Issues To Improve Highways, Bridges and Multimodal Facilities**

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $100,000,000 in both 2019 and 2020, will be used for reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities or equipment related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, matching an estimated $137,000,000 per year in federal and other funds.

**LD** [**1634**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1634) **An Act To Create the Maine Clean Energy Fund and To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Capitalize the Fund**

This bill creates the Maine Clean Energy Fund within and with oversight from the Efficiency Maine Trust to support the development of renewable and clean energy technologies and infrastructure through providing financing support including loans, loan guarantees and other financial and risk mitigation products. The fund is administered by a 9-member board of directors consisting of certain government officials and members of the public appointed by the Governor. This bill also provides for a bond issue in the amount of $100,000,000 to be used to capitalize the Maine Clean Energy Fund.

**LD** [**1639**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1639) **An Act To Require Comprehensive Responsible Contracting Practices for Public Construction Projects**

**Part A**, for the purpose of ensuring that the work on public construction contracts is performed by responsible, qualified contractors that maintain the capacity, expertise, personnel and other qualifications and resources necessary to successfully perform public contracts in a timely, reliable and cost-effective manner, establishes responsible contractor requirements for publicly funded construction projects that receive state funds. The Part outlines a responsible contractor certification process to be administered by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services.

Part A also clarifies that, for the purpose of the law requiring fair minimum rate of wages and benefits on public works contracts, "public works" includes any construction projects funded all or in part with state funds.

Part A also amends the method of determining the prevailing wage and benefits rate paid in the construction industry to require the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards to ascertain the applicable wage and benefits rates established in collective bargaining agreements in private construction and includes in benefits wages paid to apprentices in apprenticeship programs registered with the department.

**Part B** requires the Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Board or the executive director's designee to immediately issue a stop-work order to an employer who fails to procure workers' compensation insurance coverage. It requires the executive director or the executive director's designee to issue a stop-work order to an employer if the executive director or the executive director's designee finds after a hearing that the employer knowingly misrepresented employees as independent contractors or provided false, incomplete or misleading information to an insurance company on the numbers of employees the employer has for the purpose of paying a lower payment.

**Part C** encourages the State to use project labor agreements for large-scale state-funded construction projects of $10,000,000 or more. A project labor agreement is a prehire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor unions that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project.

**Part D** requires an employer with a public works contract with the State of $50,000 or more to provide to all employees who will be on the construction work site a safety training program that uses a curriculum approved by the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and that is at least 10 hours in duration. Flaggers, security workers and certain other employees not considered to be on the work site are exempt from this requirement. A contractor that violates this safety training program requirement may be assessed a fine of up to $2,500 and an additional fine of $100 per employee for each day of noncompliance.

**Part E** provides that for public works construction contracts that involve funding from the Federal Government the prevailing wage requirements in state law apply unless the prevailing wage requirements that would otherwise apply under the federal Davis-Bacon Act would result in higher total wages under the contract. An exception is provided for funds received under the United States Housing Act of 1937 if the application of a state prevailing wage is expressly preempted by federal law.

**LD** [**1719**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1719) **An Act To Improve Geographic Information System Data Acquisition and Maintenance**

This bill moves the Maine Library of Geographic Information, the Geolibrary, from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and establishes the Maine Library of Geographic Information Board in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to administer the Geolibrary. This bill adds a Geolibrarian and a GIS information officer, appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, to the staff of the Maine Library of Geographic Information, to collect, perserve and disseminate data, manage funds and direct the Geolibrary's activities. The bill repeals language allowing the administrator of the Office of Geographic Information Systems to enter into agreements with other agencies and to accept funds from public and private organizations, repeals language describing licensing agreement and fee requirements for geographic information system data and repeals language allowing the Maine Library of Geographic Information Board to hear and resolve disputes related to geographic information system data.

**LD** [**1750**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1750) **An Act To Establish Appliance Energy and Water Standards**

This bill enacts the Appliance Energy and Water Standards Act to be implemented, administered and enforced by the Department of Environmental Protection. The Act generally provides that, beginning January 1, 2021, a person is prohibited from selling or offering for sale in the State certain appliances and products unless they meet or exceed applicable energy and water standards adopted by rule by the department. Beginning January 1, 2022, a person is prohibited from installing for compensation in the State any of those appliances or products.

**LD** [**1836**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?ld=1836&PID=1456&snum=129) **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Infrastructure, Economic Development, Workforce Development and Energy and Environment Investment**

**PART A**

* Part A provides a bond issue in the amount of $105,000,000.
* Funds in the amount of $100,000,000 will be used for reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities or equipment related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, matching an estimated $137,000,000 per year in federal and other funds.
* Funds in the amount of $4,000,000 will be used for a competitive grant program that matches local funding for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings in order to improve fish and wildlife habitats and to allow communities to better prepare for extreme storms and floods.
* Funds in the amount of $1,000,000 will be used to complete the renovation of a wharf and bulkhead at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland to bring the wharf back into operation for a fishing vessel berthing resource to support marine research at sea, for commercial fishing access and for continued long-term marine job development.

**PART B**

* The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $50,000,000, will be used to invest in community broadband infrastructure, economic development and job creation.

**PART C**

* The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $19,000,000, will be used to invest in Maine Community College training, in child care services, in Maine Army National Guard readiness centers and support facilities and in career and technical education centers.

**PART D**

* The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $65,000,000, will be used to protect Maine's environment by investing in land conservation, water access, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, farmland and working waterfronts and by supporting environmental clean-up efforts and promotion of renewable energy projects.
* Funds provided in this Part for the Efficiency Maine Trust, in the amount of $15,000,000, will be used to purchase solar arrays, high-efficiency ductless heat pumps and high-efficiency modern wood heating systems for buildings and property owned by municipalities and school administrative units and will fund the Municipal Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program under Part E.

**PART E**

* Part E establishes the Municipal Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program within the Efficiency Maine Trust to support municipalities and municipally authorized citizen committees and school administrative units across the State in reducing energy costs, reducing carbon emissions, facilitating the development of renewable energy resources and creating local jobs related to the building of renewable energy facilities and the installation of energy-efficient equipment. It funds the program with the proceeds of bonds, including bonds issued pursuant to Part D, any other funds allocated by the trust and matching funds from participating municipalities.
* Part E takes effect only if the bond issue under Part D is approved by the voters of the State.

***Bills That Did Not Pass***

**LD** [**14**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070612) **An Act To Improve Science and Engineering Education for Maine's Students**

This bill requires the Department of Education to include the so-called Next Generation Science Standards for kindergarten to grade 12 in the State's system of learning results and assessment.

**LD** [**210**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=HP0173&SessionID=13) **An Act To Increase Technology and Engineering Education for Grades 7 to 12.**

**LD** [**226**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070980.) **An Act To Require the Use of Preapproved Subcontractors for Publicly Funded Construction Projects**

This bill requires the use of preapproved subcontractors for certain components of work included in the bids awarded to general contractors for public improvement construction projects subject to competitive bidding.

**LD** [**284**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071037) **Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Create a Statewide Economic Development Plan**

This resolve establishes the Commission To Create a Statewide Economic Development Plan to Study economic development issues and create a strategic, regionally focused economic development plan.

**LD** [**397**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071188) **Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation To Conduct a Sunrise Review Regarding the Proposal To License Building Contractors, Insulation Installers and Energy Auditors**

**LD** [**532**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071409) **Resolve, Directing Professional Licensing and Certification Boards To Study the To Obtaining Professional Licensure and Certification**

This resolve directs each professional licensing and certification board under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, in consultation with the Department of the Attorney General, to undertake a thorough review of its rules and procedures and survey its licensees and certificate holders and applicants for licensure or certification to research barriers to obtaining licensure and certification, including existing deficiencies in reciprocity provisions. Each board is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business by January 15, 2020 with its findings and any proposed changes to its rules and procedures. The joint standing committee is directed to review and suggest alterations to the licensing and certification boards, which may submit rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit legislation related to any report under this section to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

**LD** [**586**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=HP0430&SessionID=13) **An Act Regarding the Department of Transportation's Use of Sediment Erosion Systems**

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to specify whether a biodegradable or nonbiodegradable sediment erosion control system will be used for a project by the department and requires that nonbiodegradable sediment erosion control systems be removed with 90 days of a project's completion.

**LD** [**685**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071645) **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine School for Marne Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering**

Concept draft - This bill proposes to amend the laws governing the Maine School for Marine, Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering.

**LD** [**769**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071750) **Resolve, To Direct the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation To Create a Working Group To Study Credentialing Skilled Individuals with Foreign Credentials**

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to create a working group to study credentialing skilled individuals with foreign credentials in the State. The working group consists of 8 to 10 members representing licensing boards and professional organizations served by the licensing boards in professions for which there is a need for and an opportunity to credential skilled individuals with foreign credentials. The working group is required to submit its report along with any recommendations and suggested legislation to the Governor and the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation. The commissioner is required to submit the report with any recommendations and suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. The committee is permitted to report out a bill relating to the subject matter of the report to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

**LD** [**818**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071846) **An Act To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

This bill provides that by January 1, 2030 the State must reduce net annual greenhouse gas emissions to at least 80% below the 1990 net annual greenhouse gas emissions level. It directs the Department of Environmental Protection to establish interim net annual emissions levels and to monitor and report on gross and net annual greenhouse gas emissions. It directs the department to update the State's climate action plan and evaluate the State's progress toward meeting the reduction levels. It requires the Board of Environmental Protection to establish greenhouse gas emission standards for individual sources or categories of sources.

**LD** [**819**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071848http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071846) **An Act To Enhance the Predetermination of Independent Contractors**

This bill requires a worker who is requesting predetermination of independent contractor status from the Workers' Compensation Board to submit all of the miscellaneous income forms provided by the United States Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service received by the worker for the previous calendar year or, if the worker did not receive a miscellaneous income form for the previous year, an explanation as to why the worker did not receive a form.

**LD** [**862**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=HP0636&SessionID=13) **An Act To limit the Amount of Money That May Be Retained on Construction Contracts**

This bill limits the amount of money that may be retained under a construction contract, pending the completion of contractor or subcontractor performance, to 5% of the contract price. The limit applies only to private contracts and not to contracts entered into by governmental entities and only to contracts entered into on or after the effective date of the legislation.

**LD** [**883**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071928) **An Act To Establish the Opt-in Maine Paid Family Leave Insurance Program**

This bill creates the Maine Paid Family Leave Insurance Program to provide wage-replacement benefits to persons who qualify for family medical leave. The program is funded by employee contributions and provides 2/3 of a person's average weekly wage or 100% of the state average weekly wage, whichever is lower, for up to 6 weeks in any 12-month period. Employee contributions are collected on a sliding scale based on wages.

**LD** [**890**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=SP0256&SessionID=13) **An Act To Expand Workforce Access by Creating Apprenticeship Programs To Increase Access to Licensure in Certain Occupations**

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposes to enact the Expanded Workforce Access Act of 2019, which will authorize the use of apprenticeships as an alternative means of obtaining licenses to perform certain occupations. Occupations included under this Act may include, but are not limited to, barbering or limited barbering and nail technology.

This bill will expand access to the workforce by allowing individuals to fulfill licensing requirements through participation in apprenticeship programs, thus allowing participants to earn a paycheck at the same time as they acquire hands-on training and experience. Under this bill:

1. The licensing boards for the occupations that are included in this expanded apprenticeship program will grant licenses to applicants who meet criteria established by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation;
2. The criteria established may include, without limitation:
3. Successful completion of the 8th grade;
4. Completion of an apprenticeship that is approved by the Department of Labor or the United States Department of Labor or in accordance with any applicable state or federal law. For purposes of this bill, "apprenticeship" is defined as a program that meets the federal guidelines set out in 29 United States Code, Section 50 and 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 29; and
5. Successful completion of any necessary examination, as determined by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. The passing score on an examination for a participant in the expanded apprenticeship model may not exceed the passing score that is otherwise required under the rules adopted by the applicable licensing board. If the rules adopted by the applicable licensing board do not otherwise require successful completion of an examination, an examination may not be required for participation in the expanded apprenticeship program.

3. The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation will be required to adopt rules necessary to implement the expanded apprenticeship program, including limitations on the length of and the numbers of hours required by each authorized apprenticeship.

**LD** [**895**](http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071905) **An Act To Promote Economic Development through Research and Development**

This bill provides ongoing funds to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund within the University of Maine System to support research and development.

**LD 921 An Act To Allow Municipalities To Adopt Stricter Building and Energy Code Standers Than the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code**

This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt building and energy code requirements that are more strict than those contained in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

**LD** [**1439**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1439) **An Act To Ensure Quality, Safety and Accountability on Public Construction Projects**

This bill encourages the State to use project labor agreements for large-scale state funded construction projects of $10,000,000 or more. A project labor agreement is a prehire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor unions that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project.

**LD** [**1530**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1530) **An Act To Expand Incentives To Live and Work in Maine through a Tax Credit for Certain Student Loan**

This bill provides an income tax credit of up to $1,000 for individuals for certain student loan payments made during the tax year if the individuals were first employed in Maine on or after January 1, 2020. The credit is equal to the lesser of 50% of the loan payments actually made and 50% of income tax liability in the first year in which the credit is claimed declining to 10% of income tax liability in the 5th and final year in which the credit is claimed. The credit may not exceed 50% of the individual's outstanding student loan debt and may not be claimed if the individual claims the credit for educational opportunity.

**LD** [**1562**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1562) **An Act To Encourage the Use of Renewable Energy**

This bill:

1. Establishes the Renewable Energy Program to promote the achievement of the following goal: that, by January 1, 2050, 100% of the energy consumed in this State will be supplied by renewable resources;
2. Directs that, no later than January 1, 2030, all electricity purchased by state agencies must be supplied by renewable resources and that, no later than January 1, 2050, all heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems in state-owned or state-leased buildings must be electrical and the electricity must be supplied by renewable resources; and
3. Directs that, no later than January 1, 2050, all vehicles acquired for the state vehicle fleet must be electric vehicles.

**LD** [**1675**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1675) **An Act Regarding Building Codes**

This bill amends laws relating to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

1. It provides that beginning July 1, 2020, the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code must be enforced in all municipalities regardless of population.
2. It exempts a house constructed and occupied prior to January 1, 2007 or any modification of or addition to a house constructed and occupied prior to January 1, 2007 other than a complete demolition and rebuilding of the house from the requirements of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. A municipality is prohibited from requiring architectural plans to be filed for such a modification or addition.
3. It removes the option for municipalities to use 3rd-party inspectors contracted and paid for by building owners and requires municipalities that use 3rd-party inspectors to contract directly with these inspectors and to select them through a competitive bidding process. It allows 3rd-party inspectors to jointly bid on a competitive solicitation by a municipality.

**LD** [**1847**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=129&paper=&paperld=l&ld=1847) **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Protection and Enhancement of Water Quality, Support of Environmental Clean-up Efforts and Provision of Loans for the Residential Purchase of High-performance Air Source Heat Pumps**

This bill authorizes a General Fund bond issue of $15,000,000 to be used to provide (1) $5,000,000 for state match on federal superfund sites, uncontrolled hazardous substance site investigation and remediation and response actions at sites contaminated with emerging pollutants, such as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, at dry cleaner sites and at brownfield sites; (2) $5,000,000 for wastewater treatment facility planning, construction grants and hydrographic modeling, prioritizing areas with high-value shellfish resources; and (3) $5,000,000 to establish a revolving loan fund for the purchase and installation of high-performance air source heat pumps in Maine residences.