

130TH LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION – JANUARY 5, 2022 - APRIL 20, 2022

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2022 NEW BILLS

Color code: **Orange font = Budget bill**; **Black font = Homelessness related bill**; **Green font = Housing/Rental Assistance related**; **Blue font = Service related**; **Purple font = General Assistance related**;

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1995	Governor Mills	An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023	Public Hearing: 2/28 at 9:30 am (Executive and DHHS testimony) and 1pm in front of the Appropriations & Financial Affairs (AFA) Committee for DHHS portions Public Hearing: 3/3 at 1pm in front of the Labor & Housing Committee for Labor/Housing portions	This is the Governor’s Supplemental Budget Bill and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to raise rates to be sufficient to pay direct support professionals at 125 percent of minimum wage; • Funding for the Homeless Youth Program • Nearly \$12 million in unappropriated funding for the discretion of lawmakers
LD 1871	Rep. Talbot Ross	Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Extend Its Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues	Public Hearing: 1/25/22, Work Session: 2/2, Judiciary Committee Divided Report	This resolve extends by 2 years the 2-year Maine Human Rights Commission pilot program to receive, review and investigate incidents and complaints of harassment due to a person’s housing status and other reports of interference with a person’s access to public accommodations and extends the deadlines for its reports. The resolve is retroactive to June 16, 2020, the effective date of Resolve 2019, chapter 113.
LD 1968	Rep. Talbot Ross	An Act To Expand Access to Mental Health and Crisis Care for Individuals in Jails and Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	Update: Public Hearing: 3/1 at 1pm in front of the HHS Committee	This bill proposes to create pathways to alleviate the crisis of individuals experiencing homelessness and individuals languishing in the county jail system who are suffering from acute mental health crises and substance use disorder by implementing measures to improve their access to psychiatric treatment, wraparound services, supportive housing and other services that are part of the continuum of care. Measures include (but are not limited to):

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining and removing barriers to admission to crisis services, psychiatric facilities, detoxification services and recovery residences. • Immediately removing barriers to permanent supportive housing and creating pathways to its development. • Providing treatment for nonviolent individuals in the custody of jails when diversion is recommended by a prosecutor and approved by a judge. • Funding the hiring and training of 20 additional intensive case managers within the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health to provide outreach and support from the time individuals are homeless or incarcerated through when they are successfully housed. • Requiring real-time reporting to the Department of Health and Human Services of available treatment beds in psychiatric facilities and community-based residential treatment facilities in order to highlight and address the challenges of serving individuals in need of treatment.
LD 1822	Rep. Morales	An Act To Improve Access to Behavioral Health Services by Limiting Cost Sharing by Insurers	Public Hearing: 1/11/22, Work Session: 3/3, Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee	This bill prohibits insurance carriers offering a health plan that provides or covers any benefits with respect to behavioral health services from applying a copayment, deductible, coinsurance or other cost-sharing requirement to those behavioral health services.
LD 1848	Rep. Madigan	An Act To Increase the Availability of Assertive Community Treatment Services	Public Hearing: 1/18 Work Session: 2/2 in front of the HHS Committee Voted OTP/AM	This bill amends the behavioral and developmental services law regarding mental health hospitalization to add the definition of "prescriber," which is defined to mean a licensed health care provider with authority to prescribe, including a licensed physician, certified nurse practitioner or licensed physician assistant who has training or experience in psychopharmacology.
LD 1860	Sen. Moore	An Act To Address Maine's Suicide and Opioid Crises through the Construction of Affordable Recovery Facilities in Underserved Areas of the State	Referred to HHS Committee	Still a concept draft. This bill proposes to direct new federal money to construct affordable recovery facilities in underserved areas in order to better address the State's suicide and opioid crises.
LD 1910	Rep. Tepler	An Act To Improve Children's Mental Health by Requiring Insurance Coverage for Certain Mental Health Treatment	Public Hearing: 1/27; Work Session: 3/3 in front of the HHS Committee	This bill requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for mental health treatment services that use evidence-based practices that are recommended by a provider for a child 18 years of age or younger.
LD 1915	Rep. Berry	An Act To Improve Intensive Behavioral Health and Public Safety Case Management Services	Public Hearing: 2/3/22, Work Session: 2/22 in front of the HHS	This bill provides funding for the recruitment and retention of all Intensive Case Manager positions in the State via a \$5 per wage-hour stipend payment and a \$1 per wage hour stipend payment for employees in those positions holding or obtaining a relevant master's

			Committee – Divided report.	degree. These increases are commensurate with the increases given to the child welfare services program in Public Law 2017, chapter 471.
LD 1961	Sen. Hickman	An Act to Help Alleviate Maine’s Housing Shortage and Change the Membership of the Maine State Housing Authority	Referred to Labor & Housing Committee	This bill includes among the state goals for all state and municipal agencies affecting natural resource management, land use and development preserving the State’s tribal and cultural resources; addressing significant disparities in housing needs and access to educational, occupational and other opportunities; furthering the purposes of the federal Fair Housing Act; and promoting housing choice and economic diversity in housing, including housing for both low-income and moderate-income households. It also changes the membership of the Maine State Housing Authority and specifies that appointments to the Maine State Housing Authority and the appointment of the director of the authority are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters.
LD 2003	Speaker Fecteau	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions	Referred to Labor & Housing Committee	This bill makes changes to zoning and land use laws based upon the recommendations in the report of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. The bill: 1. Amends the fair housing provisions of the Maine Human Rights Act, and to prohibit municipalities & government entities from using these criteria to restrict the construction or development of housing accommodations in any area; 2. Establishes the Municipal Housing Development Permit Review Board, which is responsible for the review of municipal housing development permit decisions; 3. Prohibits municipalities from adopting any ordinance that caps the number of building or development permits each year for any kind of residential dwellings; 4. Requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to develop a program to provide technical assistance to municipalities for the purposes of developing and implementing zoning and land use ordinances; 5. Requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to implement a program to provide grants to municipalities for the purposes of contracting for services and hiring staff to help administer municipal responsibilities in developing and implementing zoning and land use ordinances and appropriates \$1,294,680 for that program in fiscal year 2022-23; 6. Requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to create an incentive program that a municipality may participate in for

				<p>up to 3 years and receive grants of up to \$25,000 per year for fulfilling certain requirements related to reviewing how its zoning and land use ordinances may impact the availability of housing;</p> <p>7. Defines "affordable housing development," requires municipalities to allow affordable housing developments to be built at certain densities and sets certain criteria to ensure that an affordable housing development remains affordable for at least 30 years;</p> <p>8. Requires, for any zone in which housing is permitted, that a municipality permit structures with up to 4 dwelling units and creates general requirements for municipal ordinances governing residential zones;</p> <p>9. Beginning April 20, 2023, requires municipalities to allow the construction of accessory dwelling units and sets out specific requirements for the permitting and construction of accessory dwelling units; and</p> <p>10. Requires that a municipality designate an area within the municipality as a priority development zone, which is defined as a zone in which multifamily housing is permitted at a greater density, and requires the priority development zone to be located in an area that has significant potential for housing development and is located near community resources. Municipalities are not required to designate a priority development zone until 2 years following adoption of rules by the Department of Economic and Community Development.</p>
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CARRIED OVER BILLS FROM 2021

Color code: **Black font = Homelessness related bill; Green font = Housing/Rental Assistance related; Blue font = Service related; Purple font = General Assistance related;**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 211	Rep. Cloutier	An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	As amended: Provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$3,000,000 per year to MaineHousing's Shelter Operating Subsidy program to support operations and capacity at all emergency homeless shelters across the State. Funding allocation would be based upon the Homeless Solutions Rule shelter funding formula.
LD 654	Rep. Arford	An Act To Create a 24-hour Shelter Capital Project Funding Program	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Establishes the 24-hour Shelter Capital Project program within MaineHousing to support new construction or expansion of emergency 24-hour shelters for persons experiencing homelessness. New construction and expansion projects funded by the program must address an increase in the need for shelter capacity in the region since the construction, or expansion, of an existing shelter or shelters in the region or since the start of the outbreak of COVID-19 or both. Includes a one-time supplemental General Fund appropriation of \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 to MaineHousing to fund the program.

LD 175	Rep. Cloutier	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters	Update: Work Session on 2/22 in front of the AFA Committee which voted ONTP	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to create and enhance regional homeless shelters.
LD 1300	Rep. Supica	An Act to Require County Governments to Coordinate with Municipalities to Create Plans to Address Homelessness	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Requires the county commissioners of each county, in consultation and coordination with the Statewide Homeless Council, regional homeless councils and the municipalities in the county, to develop and implement a plan with protocols to address homelessness within the county.
LD 773	Rep. Brennan	An Act To Assist Public School Students and Families Who Are Homeless	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Requires that MaineHousing give priority for temporary housing assistance to homeless students and their families who are identified and referred by a local educational agency liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness.
LD 473	Rep. Morales	An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	As amended: Establishes the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program within the Maine State Housing Authority. The program provides rental assistance to qualified tenants and provides housing navigation services and includes a guarantee program to encourage landlords to work with rental assistance programs. Creates the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund to carry out the program. Includes an ongoing non-lapsing General Fund appropriation of \$9,000,000 per year.
LD 50	Rep. Brennan	An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless	UPDATE: Work Session on 2/22 in front of the AFA Committee which voted ONTP	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$15,000,000, will be used for capital construction costs for housing for persons who are homeless
LD 1673	Rep. Talbot Ross	An Act To Create a Comprehensive Permit Process for the Construction of Affordable Housing	UPDATE: Public Hearing on 2/14 in front of the Labor and Housing Committee	This bill establishes a comprehensive permit process to streamline the building construction permitting system and promote the creation of additional affordable housing by public agencies, nonprofit organizations and limited dividend organizations.
LD 913	Rep. Hasenfus	An Act To Enact the Maine Data Collection Protection Act	UPDATE: Work Session on 1/6 in front of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee, reported out as Referred to Judiciary	This bill creates the Maine Data Collection Protection Act, which prohibits data collectors from collecting and aggregating, selling or using specific types of public documents or information from those documents for the purpose of determining a consumer's eligibility for consumer credit, employment or residential housing.

			Committee- ONTP ; Public hearing on 2/22 & Work Session on 3/2 in front of the Judiciary Committee	
LD 415	Rep. Stearns	Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Increase MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Targeted Case Management Services To Reflect Inflation	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Requires DHHS to amend its rules governing MaineCare reimbursement for targeted case management services to provide an increase reflecting cost increases from 2010 to 2020.
LD 582	Rep. Madigan	An Act To Support the Fidelity and Sustainability of Assertive Community Treatment	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Modifies the definition of ACT to better align the definition with an evidence-based treatment model. Adds definitions of "psychiatric provider" and "medical assistant" and changes the description of the composition of the multidisciplinary teams that provide assertive community treatment. Requires DHHS to increase the MaineCare reimbursement rates for ACT by 25% immediately to allow providers to continue to offer the service. Requires the department to amend its rules governing ACT to provide an initial authorization period of 6 months for clients meeting eligibility requirements for ACT and require reauthorization no more often than 6 months thereafter.
LD 1059	Rep. Morales	An Act To Provide Substance Use Disorder treatment to Adolescents	UPDATE: This bill is now dead.	Require DHHS to work with stakeholders to develop and fund a continuum of evidence-based treatment services for adolescents affected by substance use disorder.
LD 512	Rep. Dodge	An Act to Provide Intensive Case Managers to Counties That Do Not Have County Jails or Regional Jails	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	As amended: Provides funding for 4 additional ICM positions in DHHS. Directs the department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the geographic distribution and activities of the ICMs.
LD 910	Rep. Brennan	An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement	Placed on the Special Appropriations Table then Carried Over	Requires the State to provide 100% reimbursement for GA costs to Indian tribes. It provides that a municipality's most recent state valuation rather than the all state valuation is used for calculating when the municipality begins to be reimbursed 90% for GA costs and that the reimbursement is for gross costs rather than net costs. It establishes that the new reimbursement to municipalities begins July 1, 2022.