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**Common Acronyms:** AFA = Appropriations and Financial Affairs. HHS = Health and Human Services. OTP = Ought to Pass. OTP-AM = Ought to Pass as Amended. ONTP = Ought Not to Pass.

**Color code:** Orange font = Budget bill; Black font = Homelessness related bill; Blue font = Service related; Green font = Housing/Rental Assistance related; Purple font = General Assistance & Safety Net related bills; Pink font = Food security related bills; highlighted in yellow = passed the House and/or Senate; highlighted in green = signed by the Governor and will become Public Law; Red text = the bill is now dead.

| <b>BUDGET BILLS</b>       |                 |                            |  |  |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| Bill #                    | Sponsor         | Title                      | Status & Committee   | Notes  |
| <a href="#">LD 258</a>    | Governor’s Bill | Governor’s Biennial Budget | <p><b>Additional Public Hearing schedule for change package:</b></p> <p><b>Budget initiatives related to DHHS: 5/17</b></p> <p><b>Budget initiatives related to MaineHousing, Economic &amp; Community Development, DOL: 5/18</b></p> <p><b>Work Session: 5/23</b></p> | <p><b>NOTE from AFA: PART AAAA is a similar proposal to LD 2 and WILL NOT be soliciting testimony/public hearings.</b></p> <p>Governor’s Change Package – Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PART TT: Building More Housing:</b> Adds \$50 million to the Governor’s original \$30 million housing proposal for a new total of \$80 million to build more affordable housing in Maine for workers and their families through:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$35 million for the <a href="#">Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program</a>,</li> <li>○ \$35 million for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program,</li> <li>○ \$10 million to establish an Innovation Fund for Attainable Housing. The fund will support rental options for households with incomes up to 80% of AMI and homeownership options for households earning up to 120% AMI.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>PART AAAA: Establishing the Housing First Program:</b> This provision creates a Housing First Program within the DHHS. This program would facilitate services to residents of “housing first” properties, which are separately funded and developed to provide permanent housing to persons who have been chronically homeless. In addition, this provision would fund technical assistance for development of housing first properties, to be administered by MaineHousing.</li> <li>• <b>PART RRRR: Supporting Emergency Shelters to Address Homelessness:</b> Adds \$12 million in one-time funding to the Emergency Housing Relief Fund. Specifically, these funds will be used to extend housing supports to individuals and families now in transitional housing and expand support for shelters and other efforts to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The Housing Committee Report Back included an additional \$5-10 million for emergency shelters to be distributed in the same way that funding was allocated for LD 3.</li> </ul> <p>Also recommended including LD 1422 and LD 1609 in the change package.</p> |
| <b>HOMELESSNESS BILLS</b> |                 |                            |  |  |

| Bill #                  | Sponsor                    | Title  | Status & Committee  | Notes  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|--|
| <a href="#">LD 1949</a> | Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross | An Act to Establish an Affirmative Defense to the Crime of Criminal Trespass and Aggravated Criminal Trespass That the Person Was Unhoused and Seeking Shelter | <b>THIS BILL IS NOW DEAD.</b>   | This bill establishes an affirmative defense to prosecution for the crimes of criminal trespass and certain instances of aggravated criminal trespass when the person was at the time the person committed the act an unhoused person attempting to seek shelter in the dwelling place, structure, place, cemetery or burial ground the person entered or remained in. The bill defines "unhoused person" as a person who is without shelter or who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.   |
| <a href="#">LD 1133</a> | Rep. Jeffrey Adams         | An Act Regarding Emergency Management Funding for Municipal Shelters   | <b>Criminal Justice &amp; Public Safety Committee voted ONTP</b>  | This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would enact provisions regarding emergency management funding for municipal shelters.   |
| <a href="#">LD 1422</a> | Rep. Michael Brennan       | An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless by Establishing a Housing Voucher Program and Providing Site-based Housing Services            | <b>Passed to be Engrossed as Amended in the House on 5/30 and the Senate on 6/1. The bill now faces votes for enactment</b> | This bill establishes a housing voucher program for homeless students under the authority of the Maine State Housing Authority and appropriates one-time funding of \$2 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. The bill directs the Maine State Housing Authority to identify 3 sites in Maine to be used for a site-based housing program and appropriates one-time funding of \$3.5 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the Department of Health and Human Services to support the program.   |
| <a href="#">LD 1844</a> | Rep. Poppy Arford          | An Act to Support Emergency Housing Facility Construction, Renovation and Acquisition Statewide by Creating a Matching Grant Program                           | <b>Housing Committee Divided Report</b>   | This bill establishes the Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program to award grants at \$10,000 per emergency housing bed up to \$1,000,000 per recipient to program providers to construct, renovate or acquire new or existing buildings to house emergency housing or shelter programs, including emergency housing 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and housing navigation and case management services in the building after occupancy. Recipients must match the grants on a one-to-one basis from a source other than state funding. The bill also includes an appropriations and allocations section. – total amount each year for the Program is \$10,000,500 |

#### SERVICE BILLS

| Bill #                  | Sponsor           | Title  | Status & Committee                | Notes  |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| <a href="#">LD 1050</a> | Sen. Eric Brakey  | An Act to Request a Federal Waiver for Presumptive Work Eligibility for Asylum Seekers | <b>Signed by the Governor</b>     | This resolve directs the Commissioner of Labor to request a waiver from the US Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services to allow an asylum seeker who has applied for asylum and has not been denied, eligibility to work in the State for the 6-month period immediately after applying for asylum while awaiting a final determination and for the time period while an asylum seeker's work permit has expired and is pending renewal. |
| <a href="#">LD 1781</a> | Rep. Drew Gattine | An Act to Establish Permanent Funding for the Homeless Substance Use Disorder Program  | <b>HHS Committee voted OTP-AM</b> | This bill establishes the Homeless Substance Use Disorder Service Program to provide rapid access to low-barrier treatment for substance use disorder and stable housing to support recovery. The program is similar to the homeless opioid users service engagement pilot project established in Resolve 2019, chapter 105, but the program is not limited to   |

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|  |                         |                            |  | opioid use and provides additional services including transportation, community services and inpatient treatment services. The evaluation of the pilot project must be used to inform the rules implementing the program and the contractors and subcontractors of the pilot project must be included in developing the rules. |  |
| ★                                      | LR 459                  | Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross | An Act Regarding Housing Stability Workers   |  |  |
| <b>HOUSING/RENTAL ASSISTANCE BILLS</b> |                         |                            |  |  |  |
| ★                                      | <b>Bill #</b>           | <b>Sponsor</b>             | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Status &amp; Committee</b>  | <b>Notes</b>   |
|  | <a href="#">LD 2</a>    | Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross | An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis   | <b>Passed to be Enacted in the House on 6/1, the bill now goes to the Senate for concurrence</b>   | This bill has been amended:<br>This bill establishes the Housing First Program within the Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate the delivery of stabilization and support services to residents of properties established or developed to provide permanent housing to persons who have been chronically homeless and to fund technical assistance, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, for the development of housing consistent with the program. The bill requires the department to ensure that fund supplements existing and future services provided under programs like MaineCare and the Housing Outreach and Member Engagement Program is funded from the real estate transfer tax by depositing half of the funds that would otherwise be deposited into the General Fund into the Housing First Fund created by the bill. The bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine State Housing Authority to jointly adopt rules to administer the program and requires them to report annually to the Joint Standing or Joint Select Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the program. The bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to apply to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to align certain federal programs with the Housing First model. |
| ★                                      | <a href="#">LD 1074</a> | Sen. Matthea Daughtry      | An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-Income Households   | <b>Public Hearing on 4/25 - AFA Committee</b>  | \$100,000,000 bond issue to build new affordable housing for low-income households.  |
|  | <b>LR 2154</b>          | <b>Sen. Craig Hickman</b>  | <b>An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Construct Affordable Housing</b>   |  |  |
| ★                                      | <a href="#">LD 654</a>  | Sen. Matthew Pouliot       | Resolve, Directing the Finance Authority of Maine to Establish a Pilot Program to Encourage the Development of Affordable Accessory Dwelling Units | <b>Housing Committee voted OTP-AM</b>  | This resolve directs the Finance Authority of Maine to establish a 2-year pilot program to encourage the development of accessory dwelling units in the State. The program must buy down interest rates to levels below market rates for up to 100 community bank loans for accessory dwelling units until the program ends.   |



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| <a href="#">LD 1706</a> | Rep. Marc Malon      | An Act to Clarify Statewide Laws Regarding Affordable Housing and Accessory Dwelling Units   | <b>Housing Committee Divided Report</b>  | This bill makes changes to provisions of law regarding affordable housing and accessory dwelling units by: 1. Removing from the definition of "affordable housing development" that the developer designates the development as affordable; 2. Clarifying that municipal approval of an affordable housing development for purposes of timing of the execution of a restrictive covenant means granting final approval, including issuing an occupancy permit; 3. Clarifying that setback requirements are just one type of dimensional requirements; 4. Changing language stating where housing is allowed or permitted to refer to where residential uses, including as a conditional use, are allowed or permitted; 5. Allowing accessory dwelling units on nonconforming lots, including in shoreland zones, if the accessory dwelling units do not further increase the nonconformity; 6. Allowing accessory dwelling units built without municipal approval, including accessory dwelling units in shoreland zones, if the accessory dwelling units otherwise meet state and municipal requirements for accessory dwelling units; and 7. Allowing municipalities to approve accessory dwelling units through a permitting process that does not require planning board approval. |
| <a href="#">LD 226</a>  | Rep. Rebecca Millett | An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis  | <b>Housing Committee Divided Report</b>  | This bill provides one-time funds to MaineHousing in the amount of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and in fiscal year 2024-25 (only these FYs) to increase affordable housing stock in the State.   |
| <a href="#">LD 724</a>  | Sen. Cameron Reny    | An Act to Expand Workforce Housing in Rural Maine by Funding the Maine State Housing Authority's Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program | <b>Housing Committee Voted OTP-AM</b>  | This bill provides one-time funds in the amount of \$10M each years in fiscal year 2023-24 and fiscal year 2024-25 only to the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program within the Maine State Housing Authority for the development of smaller affordable rental housing projects.   |
| <a href="#">LD 1293</a> | Rep. Drew Gattine    | An Act to End Chronic Homelessness by Creating the Housing First Fund  | <b>Housing Committee Tabled at 5/5 Work Session; additional Work Session on 5/26</b> | This bill establishes the Housing First Program within the Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate the delivery of stabilization and support services to residents of properties established or developed to provide permanent housing to persons who have been chronically homeless and to fund technical assistance, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, for the development of housing consistent with the program. The program is funded from the real estate transfer tax by depositing half of the funds that would otherwise be deposited into the General Fund into the Housing First Fund created by the bill.   |
| <a href="#">LD 1540</a> | Rep. Rebecca Millett | An Act to Create the Stable Home Fund Program  | <b>Housing Committee Divided Report</b>  | This bill, which includes an emergency preamble and emergency clause, creates the Stable Home Fund and the Stable Home Fund Program within MaineHousing. The purpose of the program is to provide persons earning up to 60% of the median income for an area as defined by HUD with \$300 per month in rental assistance paid directly to the landlord for up to 24 months or until those persons secure housing by means of a housing voucher program administered by HUD under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, or secure a subsidized   |



|  |                       |   |  | housing unit. The bill directs MaineHousing to administer the program except that MaineHousing may delegate the administration of the program and provide appropriate funding from the fund to a municipal housing authority with respect to eligible persons located within the municipal housing authority's jurisdiction.  |
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| <b>GENERAL ASSISTANCE &amp; SAFETY NET BILLS</b> |                       |   |  |   |
| <b>Bill #</b>                                    | <b>Sponsor</b>        | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Status &amp; Committee</b>                      | <b>Notes</b>  |
| <a href="#">LD 182</a>                           | Sen. Eric Brakey      | An Act to Create a 9-month Time Limit on General Assistance Benefits for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents                      | <b>THIS BILL IN NOW DEAD</b>                       | This bill limits to a maximum of 275 days every 5 years the general assistance benefits a person who does not have any dependents and who is capable of working may receive.  |
| <a href="#">LD 183</a>                           | Sen. Eric Brakey      | An Act to Incorporate Time Limits on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program into Municipal General Assistance Programs | <b>THIS BILL IN NOW DEAD</b>                       | This bill provides that a person who has exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program benefits is ineligible to receive municipal general assistance program benefits, with some exceptions.  |
| <a href="#">LD 1426</a>                          | Rep. Kristi Mathieson | An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance        | <b>HHS Committee – Tabled at 5/22 Work Session</b> | <p>This bill:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requires an overseer, no later than the 120th day following appointment or election, to complete training on the requirements of the municipal general assistance program;</li> <li>2. Replaces, for determining the maximum level of assistance, the fair market value determination with setting the assistance at the equivalent amount of rental assistance provided for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 except that the benefit level may not be less than the difference between the applicant's income and 110% of the area's fair market rent;</li> <li>3. Provides that if general assistance is being used to pay rent for an applicant whose rent is subject to a lease an overseer may redetermine the applicant's eligibility annually;</li> <li>4. Increases from 70% to 90% the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by a municipality and each Indian tribe;</li> <li>5. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse each municipality for 5% of the direct costs of paying benefits incurred through its general assistance program;</li> <li>6. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and provide overseers with access to a statewide database for tracking applicants for the general assistance program and expenses relating to the program; and</li> <li>7. Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide assistance to municipalities with regard to processing applications for the general assistance program and directs the department to establish a hotline that is available 24 hours per day in order to provide consistent, accurate advice to overseers. It also requires the department to respond to requests for assistance within 24 hours</li> </ol> |
| <a href="#">LD 1664</a>                          | Sen. Marianne Moore   | An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program   | <b>HHS Committee voted OTP-AM</b>                  | This bill increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe.   |

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| <a href="#">LD 1675</a> | Rep. Michael Brennan | An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the General Assistance Program Regarding Eligibility, Housing Assistance and State Reimbursement and to Establish a Working Group | <b>HHS Committee – Tabled at 5/22 Work Session</b> | This bill amends the law governing the General Assistance (GA) program to provide that a municipality must calculate housing assistance equivalent to the amount of rental assistance provided for tenant-based housing choice vouchers under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937. The bill extends the period of eligibility from one month to 6 months. Beginning July 1, 2023, when a municipality incurs net general assistance costs in excess of 0.008% of that municipality's most recent state valuation relative to the state fiscal year for which reimbursement is being issued, DHHS must reimburse the municipality for 90% of the amount in excess of these expenditures. The bill also directs the department to establish a working group to study and make recommendations related to a uniform intake process and the conversion of the GA program into a housing assistance program.  |
| <a href="#">LD 1732</a> | Rep. Michele Meyer   | An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program  | <b>HHS Committee – Tabled at 5/22 Work Session</b> | This bill changes the municipal general assistance program in the following ways:<br>1. It requires overseers and designated or appointed municipal officials administering the program to complete training within 120 days of election or appointment;<br>2. It requires municipalities to accept applications for general assistance during regular business hours;<br>3. It amends provisions governing the municipality of responsibility to increase the provision of assistance from 30 days to 6 months when a municipality assists an applicant in relocating to another community and from 6 months to 12 months when an applicant is residing in a group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home or hospital or in a hotel, motel or other temporary housing;<br>4. It increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe. It also provides that, if a municipality elects to determine need without consideration of funds from a municipally controlled trust, the State is required to reimburse the municipality for 66 2/3% of the amount in excess of expenditures;<br>5. It provides state reimbursement for additional program costs, including emergency general assistance, temporary housing, interpreter services and administrative expenses; and<br>6. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide the services necessary to support municipalities, including education and training for certain state employees, 24-hour technical assistance, written decisions and a database. |

**FOOD SECURITY BILLS**

| Bill #                 | Sponsor              | Title  | Status & Committee  | Notes   |
|------------------------|----------------------|--|---|---|
| <a href="#">LD 568</a> | Rep. Matthew Pouliot | An Act to Provide Funding for the State Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives | <b>Passed to be Enacted in the House and Senate. Placed on the Special Appropriations Table</b> | This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$600,000 to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The bill also removes the \$50,000 limit on matching contributions from the fund criteria. |

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| <a href="#">LD 1612</a> | Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross | An Act to Address Food Insecurity and Support Local Agriculture | Passed to be Enacted in the House on 5/30 and on 6/1 in the Senate. The bill now goes to the Governor for signature. | This bill provides one-time funding for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to contract with the Preble Street Food Security Hub to help address food insecurity throughout the State. The department is required to report on the distribution of the funds by Preble Street. |
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