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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: **BOLD text = UPDATE;** 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.

BUDGET BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
	Governor’s Bill	Budget Change Package to the Supplemental Budget (LD 2214)	Public Hearing on 4/1/24 at 1:15pm - AFA Committee	Included in the budget change package: \$22 million in one-time funding to build more housing in Maine. The proposal dedicates \$11 million to the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program, created by the Governor and the Legislature, and \$11 million to leverage an additional \$11 million in Federal low-income housing tax credits. This increase in funding is estimated to create more than 150 new housing units. It also builds on the \$10 million the Governor has proposed in her supplemental budget for the Affordable Homeownership Program, which will allow for an estimated 130 new single-family homes in Maine.
LD 2214	Governor’s Bill	An Act Making Unified 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, 2024 and June 30, 2025 (aka Supplemental Budget)	Public Hearing 2/23/24 - Part GG and Part HH - AFA Committee Public Hearing 2/26/24 - Part OO Work Sessions 3/7/24 and week of 3/11/24, 3/18/24, 3/25/24, and 4/1/24	The Governor released her Supplemental Budget. Part A ; Part B ; General Fund Bill Language . • PART FF: establishes the Office of New Americans within the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and also establishes an advisory council to the Office of New Americans • PART GG: Transfers \$10,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority for new housing units through the Affordable Homeownership program • PART HH: \$16 million for the Emergency Housing Relief Fund (one-time funding): Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to supplement or establish programs addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness or facing other immediate housing needs, and support other uses that address housing emergencies in the State, such as through privately-operated low barrier shelter, winter warming shelters, legal services, and other wraparound settlement

				<p>supports intended to help individuals integrate into Maine's workforce and communities to ensure that winter warming shelters, lower barrier shelters, longer term shelters and transitional housing programs can remain open, operating, and supporting the emergency housing needs of Maine people. -Part A specifies this is one-time funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Part OO: This Part requires the transfer of \$5,000,000 on or before June 30, 2025 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, General Assistance – Reimbursement to Cities and Towns program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for funding General Assistance payments to cities and towns.
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HOMELESSNESS BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 2136 	Rep A Mastraccio	An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals	Passed to be Enacted in the House on 3/28/24 and the Senate on 4/1/24 and placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted	<p>This bill, as amended by the Committee:</p> <p>This amendment increases the ongoing appropriation to support emergency shelter operations in the bill from \$10,000,000 to \$12,500,000 and requires the Maine State Housing Authority to reserve \$2,500,000 annually exclusively for distribution to low barrier emergency shelters. The amendment requires the Statewide Homeless Council to convene a stakeholder group to develop a 10-year plan to address the root causes of homelessness. The stakeholder group is required to notify the Joint Select Committee on Housing of all meetings of the stakeholder group. The stakeholder group is required to hold at least 4 meetings prior to the council's submitting a report to the Joint Select Committee on Housing by November 6, 2024. The amendment also requires the Maine State Housing Authority to amend its rules to ensure that \$2,500,000, or an equivalent percentage of the funds appropriated for the shelter operation subsidy, is reserved exclusively for distribution to low-barrier shelters.</p>
LD 2146	Rep. G Lookner	An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters	House Passed to be Engrossed by Committee Amendment A on 2/22; the Senate accepted the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report - sent back to the House.	This bill prohibits municipalities with populations exceeding 30,000 people from adopting moratoria on the establishment of emergency shelters that provide temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness.


LD 1422	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	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – CARRIED OVER	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 DHHS to support the program.
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SERVICE BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 2237	Speaker R Talbot Ross	An Act to Strengthen Public Safety, Health and Well-being by Expanding Services and Coordinating Violence Prevention Resources	Passed to be Enacted, in the House and Senate on 3/21/24 and placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted	<p>This bill includes parts A-F. Click here for the full bill text. Relevant parts are below.</p> <p>This bill enacts provisions to improve mental health crisis response services and to reduce violence, including gun violence.</p> <p>Part A provides funding to strengthen and expand mental health crisis intervention mobile response services in order to provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide for the incorporation of specific types of mental health and crisis intervention experts into the existing crisis services response system. It also provides funding for ancillary services for mobile response services, including necessary travel and telephone conferences with clients. Part A also requires the Department of Health and Human Services, by January 30, 2025, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, to ensure the coordination of services under the State's E-9-1-1 system and the State's 9-8-8 mobile crisis services system. By January 30, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services must submit a status report related to the coordination of services, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, and the joint standing committee may submit a bill relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.</p> <p>Part B directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish crisis receiving centers across the State to support individuals dealing with behavioral health, mental health or substance use issues. At a minimum, a crisis receiving center must be established in Androscoggin, Aroostook, Oxford, Penobscot, Washington and York counties. Crisis receiving centers must provide culturally sensitive trauma-informed care. Part B also provides funding to establish 6 crisis receiving centers.</p> <p>Part D provides funding to reduce waiting lists for and expand access to medication management services, including telehealth services and employee recruitment and retention incentives, provided by the Office of Behavioral Health that are similar to the services provided under Department of Health and Human Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, to meet the timely access requirements under the consent</p>

				decree referenced in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 1217.
LD 1975	Rep. Lydia Crafts	An Act to Implement a Statewide Public Health Response to Substance Use and Amend the Laws Governing Scheduled Drugs	Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment A in the House on 4/9/24 and the Senate on 4/10/24 - the bill now faces votes for enactment	This bill establishes the Substance Use, Health and Safety Fund in the Department of Health and Human Services. Money deposited in the fund must be used by the department to oversee, approve and provide grants and funding to agencies, organizations and service providers, including the federally recognized Indian tribes in this State and service providers that are affiliated with federally recognized Indian tribes in this State, to increase voluntary access to community care for persons who need services related to substance use, as set forth in the bill. By June 30, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Legislature must appropriate to the fund an amount sufficient to fully fund the services as set forth in the bill. The bill repeals the laws that make possession of a schedule W, X, Y or Z drug and use of drug paraphernalia a crime. It also repeals the laws governing the civil violation of use of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia.

HOUSING/RENTAL ASSISTANCE BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1710	Rep. Cheryl Golek	An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program	Passed to be Enacted in the House on 3/19/24 and the Senate on 3/20/24 and Placed on the Special Study Table pending final Passage.	Sponsor Amendment amends the bill as follows: This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment requires the Maine State Housing Authority to establish and administer the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program. The program must include a rental assistance component to assist individuals with the cost of rent and a rental guarantee component to encourage landlords to work with the program and other rental assistance programs in the State. The amendment also creates the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund under the Maine State Housing Authority to carry out the program. The bill appropriates \$16,000,000 of ongoing funds annually. The amendment makes it an unfair trade practice for a landlord to refuse to participate in a federal, state or local tenant-based rental assistance program.
LD 2106 	Sen. M Rotundo	An Act to Accelerate the Production of Housing and Strengthen the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit	Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment A in the Senate on 3/12/24 and the House on 3/13/24 - the bill now faces votes for enactment	This bill increases the maximum tax credit allowed for certified historic property rehabilitation projects. It also allows nonprofit organizations that claim the historic preservation tax credit or the affordable housing tax credit to file their refund claims on a calendar year basis. The changes in the bill apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

LD 1074 ★	Sen. Matthea Daughtry	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-Income Households	Public Hearing on 4/25/23 - AFA Committee	\$100,000,000 bond issue to build new affordable housing for low-income households.
LD 226 ★	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over	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.
LD 1540	Rep. Rebecca Millett	An Act to Create the Stable Home Fund Program	Emergency bill requiring 2/3's majority vote – failed 2/3's majority vote in the House but Passed in the Senate to be Placed on the Special Appropriations Table on 6/21. Sent back to the House for concurrence where it failed 2/3's needed for final passage – Carried over	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.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE & SAFETY NET BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 1732	Rep. Michele Meyer	An Act to Expand the General Assistance Program	Became law without the Governor's signature on 3/27/24	<p>This bill as Amended by Committee Amendment A (adopted by the House and Senate:</p> <p>This amendment makes the following changes to the bill regarding municipal general assistance programs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It adds the delivery of trauma-informed services and culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the training requirements for overseers and municipal officials. 2. It requires municipalities to provide general assistance with trauma-informed services and culturally and linguistically appropriate services. 3. It removes the requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services to require annual training for certain state employees. 4. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that each municipality complies with its duty to provide trauma-informed services and culturally and linguistically appropriate services and requires the department to provide mandatory training to municipalities to ensure that a municipality is able to comply with the general assistance program requirements. 5. It removes the requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services provide in-person technical assistance to overseers 24 hours a day.

				<p>6. It removes the requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services issue written decisions within 24 hours of receiving an inquiry.</p> <p>7. It adds a reporting requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over general assistance matters.</p> <p>8. It removes the provision of the bill increasing state reimbursement for the costs of general assistance incurred by each municipality and each Indian tribe from 70% to 90%.</p> <p>9. It removes the requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse municipalities for 100% of certain medical care for certain general assistance recipients, for emergency general assistance that exceeds maximum levels of assistance, for temporary housing, for interpreter services and for 5% of direct costs incurred for general assistance granted by a municipality for administrative expenses.</p> <p>The amendment also removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause from the bill.</p> <p>Original Bill Summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It requires overseers and designated or appointed municipal officials administering the program to complete training within 120 days of election or appointment; 2. It requires municipalities to accept applications for general assistance during regular business hours; 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; 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; 5. It provides state reimbursement for additional program costs, including emergency general assistance, temporary housing, interpreter services and administrative expenses; and 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, the delivery of trauma-informed and culturally and linguistically appropriate services, written decisions and a database.
LD 1664	Sen. Marianne Moore	An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program	Passed to be Enacted, placed on the Special Appropriations Table	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.

pending Passage to be Enacted – Carried over

FOOD SECURITY BILLS

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Status & Committee	Notes
LD 568	Rep. Matthew Pouliot	An Act to Provide Funding for the State Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives	Passed to be Enacted in the House and Senate. Placed on the Special Appropriations Table – Carried over	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.