

Legislation of interest as of 5/26/2023

Prepared by OPEGA for the Government Oversight Committee

LD/ LR #	Title	Summary	Sponsor	Committee Public Hearing/Work Session
Non-TAX				
LD 50	An Act to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect by Developing a System to Ensure Child and Family Well-being	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill, as emergency legislation, proposes to ensure that a forthcoming statewide child abuse and neglect prevention plan is developed and funded in order to provide access to services, develop resources for family stabilization and require outcomes data on the provision of services and resources.	Rep Meyer	HHS 5/18/23 Tabled
LD 151	An Act Regarding Child Welfare	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would amend the laws regarding child welfare.	Sens. Stewart, Keim, Bennett, Timberlake	HHS Public Hearing 5/17/23 Wk Session 5/25/23
LD 474	An Act to Improve Collaboration Between Mandatory Reporters and Law Enforcement in the Investigation of Alleged Child Abuse and Neglect	This bill requires that a member of the staff of a public or private medical institution, agency or facility or person in charge of the institution, agency or facility or the designated agent who made a mandated report disclose the same information the member or person reported to DHHS to a law enforcement officer upon request of the law enforcement officer. The bill also provides immunity for a person who made a report of suspected abuse or neglect who is participating in good faith in a law enforcement investigation or criminal justice proceeding relating to suspected abuse or neglect.	Rep Meyer	HHS Public Hearing 3/15/2023 Wk Session 5/16/23 OTP
LD 500	An Act to Improve the Office of the Child Welfare Services Ombudsman	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would make changes to the program established to provide ombudsman services to the children and families of the State regarding child welfare services provided by the Department of Health and Human Services.	Sen Keim	HHS 5/18/23 Tabled
LD 546	An Act Regarding Child Abuse and Endangerment	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to amend the laws governing child abuse and endangerment. It may include recommendations of the Legislature's government oversight committee upon completion of the study of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services.	Rep Arata	HHS 5/3/23 LTW 5/9/23 Placed in Legislative Files (DEAD)
LD 715	An Act to Strengthen Child Protection	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would strengthen child protection.	Rep Nangle	HHS 5/18/23 Tabled
LD 779	An Act to Create a Separate Department of Child and Family Services	This bill creates a new Department of Child and Family Services and transfers the functions of the Department of Health and Human Services that relate to child and family services and child welfare to the new department. The Department of Child and Family Services will have a commissioner appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature as is the current Commissioner of Health and Human Services. The bill also establishes provisions for transferring functions to the new department.	Sen Timberlake	HHS 5/18/23 Tabled
LD 785	An Act to Create Accountability Within the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures that would create accountability within the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services.	Rep Moore (by request)	HHS Public Hearing 5/12/23 Wk Session 5/23/23 ONTP

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LD 857	An Act to Improve Family Team Meetings in Child Welfare Cases to Ensure Better Outcomes for Children by Providing Adequate Funding	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures to improve family team meetings in child welfare cases to ensure better outcomes for children by providing adequate funding to support the full implementation of family team meetings, including neutral facilitation at critical case points and training and coaching for all staff.	Sen Bailey	HHS 5/18/23 Tabled
LD 878	An Act to Improve Child Welfare	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would improve child welfare by making changes to the child welfare system.	Sen Keim	HHS 5/18/23 Tabled
LD 915	Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services	This resolve creates the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by DHHS to examine the organizational structure of the DHHS and the services provided by the department and review the organizational structure of and service delivery at similar agencies in other states and in nongovernmental organizations. OPEGA to staff.	Rep Shaguory	HHS Public Hearing 5/12/23 Wk Session 5/25/23
LD 1013	An Act to Provide Training, Professional Development and Wellness Supports for Child Protective Services Workers	This bill requires DHHS, OCFS to implement a training protocol for child protective services caseworkers that includes smaller caseloads and additional supervision for caseworkers in their first year of employment. It requires additional ongoing training for all caseworkers and supervisors that includes mentoring, professional development and wellness supports. It requires the DHHS to include in its case load report due on January 31, 2025, pursuant to Resolve 2019, chapter 34, an update on development and implementation of the training program.	Rep Madigan	HHS Public Hearing: 4/21/23 10:00am Work Session: 5/4/23 1:00pm 5/5/23 Divided Report
LD 1195	An Act to Provide That Documents Obtained by Subpoena by the Government Oversight Committee May Be Reviewed by Committee Members and Staff	This bill provides that the Government Oversight Committee has access to papers or records received as a result of a subpoena and that those papers or records are exempt from public disclosure.	Sen Timberlake	State and Local Public Hearing: 5/2/23 Wk Session 5/23/23 ONTP
LD 1240	An Act to Develop a Pilot Program to Provide Legal Representation to Families in the Child Protection System	This bill directs the MCILS to design and implement a 2-year pilot program to provide legal counsel and related advocacy services to indigent parents and custodians residing in Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties when DHHS commences an investigation of a report of suspected abuse or neglect to determine if a child is at risk of harm. It directs the commission to establish a "warmline" to provide information and referrals statewide to parents and custodians who are subject to child protection investigations and to screen parents and custodians for eligibility to receive pilot program services. It directs DHHS to coordinate with the MCILS to provide information to the public regarding the warmline and pilot program.	Rep Stover	Judiciary Public Hearing: 4/10/23 12:00pm Work Session 4/19/23 Divided Report
LD 1275	An Act to Clarify the Powers of the Government Oversight Committee and Enable Access to Department of Health and Human Services Documents in Investigations of Child Deaths	This bill provides that the Government Oversight Committee has access to documents in the possession of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to an investigation of the death of a child with previous department involvement, including any information regarding department contact or other involvement with the child, and that those documents are exempt from public disclosure.	Sen Nangle	State and Local Public Hearing: 5/2/23 Wk Session 5/2/23 ONTP 5/16/23 Placed in Legislative Files (DEAD)

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LD 1279	An Act to Strengthen Maine's Child Protection Laws by Limiting Contact with Violent Offenders	This bill amends the provisions of law allowing a court to appoint a guardian for a minor, amends the definitions of jeopardy and serious harm under the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act and establishes a presumption of jeopardy in a jeopardy proceeding for circumstances in which the parent of a child or a person in contact with the child has been convicted or adjudicated of a crime of violence of any classification and there is no documented record of successful completion of a certified domestic violence intervention program.	Sen Baldacci	Judiciary Public Hearing: 4/10/23 Wk Session 4/19/23 ONTP 4/27/23 Placed in Legislative Files (DEAD)
LD 1393	Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Examine Programs and Policies Regarding Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	This resolve establishes the Commission to Examine Programs and Policies Regarding Natural Resources and Environmental Protection to review natural resources programs and functions throughout State Government. The natural resources agencies include the DEP, ACF, IF&W and DMR Resources. Members of the commission include the commissioners of the natural resources agencies and the Director of OPEGA .	Sen Reny	ENR 5/4/23 Placed in Legislative Files (DEAD)
LD 1429	An Act to Establish a Navigator Position in DHHS for Families and Children Involved in the Foster Care System	This bill establishes a navigator position within the Department of Health and Human Services to provide assistance to resource families and foster families caring for children involved in the child welfare system.	Rep Fay	HHS 5/18/23 Placed in Legislative Files (DEAD)
LD 1725	An Act to Strengthen Legislative Oversight of Government Agencies and Programs by Providing the GOC Access to Confidential Records.	This bill provides that the Government Oversight Committee may receive information and records that are privileged and confidential and that that information and those records are exempt from public disclosure.	Sen Hickman	State and Local Public Hearing: 5/2/23 Wk Session 5/23/23 Tabled
LD 1788	An Act to Establish the Office of the Inspector General of Maine Child Protection	This bill establishes the Office of the Inspector General to investigate cases of death, serious injury and abuse or neglect of children in state custody or receiving child welfare or juvenile justice services.	Sen Baldacci	HHS 5/18/23 Tabled
		TAX		
LD 191	An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Certain Business Equipment Tax Benefits	This bill excludes from eligibility for the business equipment tax exemption and the business equipment tax reimbursement a person that, based on 3rd-party certifications, bans, boycotts or otherwise restricts or prevents the sale or distribution of any product that is legally produced, harvested or grown in the State.	Sen Stewart	Taxation Public Hearing: 2/14/23, 1:00pm
LD 643	An Act to Promote Research and Development in the State by Improving the Research Expense Tax Credit.	This bill increases the research expense tax credit by increasing the amount of expenditures eligible for the credit, doubling the rate by which the credit is calculated, doubling the maximum amount of the credit that may be claimed and halving the base amount used to determine the credit.	Rep Terry	Taxation Public Hearing 3/28/23 Work Sessions: 4/6/23 & 4/19/23 4/19/23 Tabled
LD 849	An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Working Group to Review the Process for Ongoing Review of Tax Expenditures by the Legislature	This bill implements the recommendations of the Working Group To Review the Process for Ongoing Review of Tax Expenditures by the Legislature established in 2021 31 by Joint Order 2021, S.P. 578. See Bill Summary for more detail. TERWG, Many requirements for OPEGA, changes the makeup of the GOC.	Rep Terry	Taxation Public Hearing 4/18/23 Work Session 5/4/23 & 5/16/23 5/16/23 Divided Report

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LD 1075	An Act to Promote Economic Growth Through Increased Film Incentives	This bill makes multiple changes to the tax credits available to visual media production companies operating in the State. The bill makes the available tax credits refundable and transferable, increases the credits for certain expenses incurred in Maine and for hiring residents of Maine and offers additional credits for visual media productions that are located in certain Maine counties, are set in Maine or have a lead cast member, writer or director who is a Maine resident. The bill also reduces the total expenditures needed to qualify for the credits, extends the time period for visual media production companies to certify with the DECD and sets a \$500,000 limit on the total value of the tax credits that increases to \$1,000,000 after January 1, 2027. The bill makes other changes necessary for these provisions.	Sen Daughtry	Taxation Public Hearing 4/13/23 1:00pm
LD 1281	An Act to Protect Economic Competitiveness in Maine by Extending the End Date for Pine Tree Development Zone Benefits	This bill changes the date after which a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business in a tier 1 location may not be certified from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2025. It also changes the date on which all Pine Tree Development Zone benefits are terminated from December 31, 2033 to December 31, 2035 and makes corresponding changes in several sections of law.	Sen Daughtry	IDEAB
LD 1313	An Act to Amend the Tax Credit for Major Business Headquarters Expansions Regarding Employees' Location and Time of Hire for Purposes of the Credit	This bill amends the credit for major business headquarters expansions to allow employees working anywhere in the State, not just at the applicant's headquarters, to be counted as employees for purposes of the credit. The bill also changes the time for determining the number of new employees added to January 1, 2018 or later; it is currently the first day of the first year for which the tax credit is claimed. The changes made in this bill are retroactive to January 1, 2021.	DECD Sen Grohoski	Taxation Public Hearing 4/13/23 Work Session 4/20/23 & 5/2/23 Divided Report OTP/ONTP
LD 1555	An Act to Amend the Pine Tree Development Zone Program	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to amend the laws governing Pine Tree Development Zones.	Sen Curry	IDEAB
LD 1810	An Act to Expand the Maine Historic Rehabilitation Credit and Establish a Weatherization Tax Credit	This bill amends the tax credit for historic properties..	Rep Terry	Taxation Public Hearing 5/9/23
LD 1918	An Act to Modernize Maine's Business Incentive Programs by Creating the Dirigo Business Incentives Program and Eliminating Certain Other Tax Incentive Programs	This bill creates the Dirigo business incentives program to provide a tax credit to qualified businesses. The bill provides an exemption from the requirement for confidentiality of tax records for information disclosed as part of certain reports to the DECD and legislative committees regarding the Dirigo business incentives program. The bill extends the end date of the Pine Tree Development Zone program by one year, eliminates the Pine Tree Recreation Zone program and eliminates the Maine capital investment credit as of January 1, 2025. The bill prohibits issuing a certificate of approval for employment tax increment financing after December 31, 2024 and eliminates the employment tax increment financing benefits as of December 31, 2034.	GOV Bill Sen Jackson	IDEAB Public Hearing 5/19/23 Wk Session 5/23/23 OTP-AM
LD 1974	An Act to Reauthorize Maine's New Markets Tax Credit Program	This bill amends the Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program and the new markets capital investment income tax credit to establish a new tax credit authority, referred to as "the program tax credit authority,"	Sen Stewart	Taxation

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	Legislative Requests (LR) available as Bill Titles only at this time.	TAX		
LR 707	An Act to Update the Business Equipment Tax Exemption Laws	Summary currently unavailable.	Rep Rudnicki	
LR 180	An Act to Promote Economic Development Through Increased Film Incentives	Summary currently unavailable.	Rep Gere	