

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair **Drew Gattine, House Chair**

Justin Purvis, Committee Clerk: 287-1635 afa@legislature.maine.gov

LD 210 "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027"

BIENNIAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE (Remainder as of 2/18/25)
REVISED 02-18-25 (Cancellation and Rescheduling of the Tuesday, February 25th Hearing Blocks)

The proposed budget initiatives and language may be viewed on the Revisor of Statute's website:

<https://legislature.maine.gov/12510>

IMPORTANT: ZOOM TESTIMONY SIGN UP AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL WILL BE BROKEN UP BY SCHEDULED START TIME OF DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY TESTIMONY SO PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP OR SUBMIT YOUR TESTIMONY FOR THE DAY AND TIME THAT INCLUDES THE PROGRAM OR LANGUAGE RELATED TO YOUR TESTIMONY

Testifying Over Zoom: Submit any written testimony and sign to get a Zoom link through the portal on the Legislative website using the link shown below. (If you are starting from the Legislative home page, click on the "Testimony Submission" box at the bottom of the page). You must register to testify at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing block to ensure that you will be called on by the Committee Chair. Once you have registered, you will receive additional information on acquiring a Zoom meeting link. If you do not receive those instructions or a link and have tried via multiple browsers, contact the webmaster at the email address shown below. During the hearing when it is approaching your turn to speak, the Chair will call your name and the Committee Clerk will move you from attendee to panelist. Please have your video on and make sure your name is correct so that the Chair knows you have been moved over and are ready to be called on. When you are done speaking, please exit the zoom meeting and watch the remainder of the hearing through the streaming portal (see below - just before the top of the schedule for how to access the stream).

Testifying in Person: Separate sign-up sheets for each hearing block shown in the detailed schedule below will be available either in the committee room (Statehouse Room 228) OR at a table just outside the committee room 1/2 hour before the hearing block. You may sign up only yourself or someone who requires accommodation (**please, no "block sign-ups"**). Bring 40 copies of any written testimony you have not submitted through the Legislative Website. Note: If the committee room is full, you will be asked to wait and listen to the hearing in a designated "overflow room" until you are about to be called to testify or when staff lets you know that seating became available.

[Zoom sign-up and Testimony Submittal https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/](https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/)
webmaster_lio@legislature.maine.gov

Persons with special needs wishing to participate in a Legislative hearing who require accommodations should notify the Legislative Information Office as soon as possible: 207-287-1692, FAX 207-287-1580, lio@legislature.maine.gov.

You may access the livestream (or archive) by going to the date of the committee meeting on the Legislature’s Calendar and clicking on the microphone

<https://legislature.maine.gov/Calendar/>

ACTUAL START TIMES MAY BE DELAYED DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES, PRIOR HEARING BLOCKS TAKING LONGER THAN PLANNED OR LONGER THAN PLANNED HOUSE OR SENATE SESSIONS

10:00 AM MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2025 (Rescheduled from 10am February 13th)
<i>(Note: Department testimony will be on both categories within this block before public testimony)</i>
CHILDREN’S SERVICES
Health and Human Services, Department of
Child Care Services
Child Support
Children's Health Insurance Program
Early Childhood Consultation Program
Head Start
Homeless Youth Program
IV-E Foster Care/Adoption Assistance
Maine Children's Cancer Research Fund
Medical Care – Payments to Providers Funding for final rates for Therapeutic Foster Care and New Therapeutic Intensive Homes (p. A-354)
Mental Health Services – Child Medicaid
Mental Health Services – Children
Office of Child and Family Services – Central
Office of Child and Family Services – District
State-Funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Health and Human Services, Department of
Crisis Outreach Program
Developmental Services – Community
Developmental Services Waiver - MaineCare
Developmental Services Waiver – Supports
Lifespan Waiver
Medicaid Services – Developmental Services

Medical Care – Payments to Providers: Funding for agency home supports in Section 21, Home and Community Benefits for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder (p. A-355)

Medical Care – Payments to Providers: Reduces funding for efficiencies achieved under the department's rule under Section 21 Home and Community Benefits for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder (p. A-356)

Residential Treatment Facilities Assessment

2:00 PM MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2025 (Rescheduled from 1pm February 13th)

(Note: Department testimony will be on both categories within this block before public testimony)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Health and Human Services, Department of

Community Services Block Grant

Multicultural Services

Purchased Social Services

PUBLIC HEALTH

Health and Human Services, Department of

Aids Lodging House

Breast Cancer Services Special Program Fund

Drinking Water Enforcement

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Maine School Oral Health Fund

Maine Water Well Drilling Program

Maternal and Child Health

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Match

Office of Violence Prevention

Plumbing – Control Over

Prescription Drug Academic Detailing

Private Well Safe Drinking Water Fund

Rape Crisis Control

Universal Childhood Immunization Program

Language Part "RR" Increases the per gallon fee, on manufacturers or wholesalers of paint sold in the State from \$0.25 to \$0.75 to support the Lead Poison Prevention Fund.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Health and Human Services, Department of

Additional Support for Persons in Retraining and Employment

Disability Determination - Division of

Food Supplement Administration

General Assistance – Reimbursement to Cities & Towns

Office for Family Independence

Office for Family Independence - District

State Supplement to Federal Supplemental Security Income

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Language Part "VV" Repeals the hardship exception that allows access to state-funded SNAP benefits and state-funded TANF benefits for individuals who have obtained proper work documentation but are unemployed.

1:00 PM Tuesday, February 25, 2025 Rescheduled to 3:00 PM Friday, February 28, 2025 (TRA)

(Testimony previously submitted through the Legislative website portal does not need to be resubmitted)

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

2:00 PM Tuesday, February 25, 2025 Rescheduled to 10:00 AM Thursday, February 27, 2025 (ACF)

(Testimony previously submitted through the Legislative website portal does not need to be resubmitted)

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

10:00 AM Wednesday, February 26, 2025 (MAR)

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources:

Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative

Lobster Promotion Fund

Marine Resources, Department of

Bureau of Marine Science

Bureau of Policy and Management

Bureau of Public Health

Lobster Innovation Fund

Lobster Legal Defense Fund

Marine Patrol – Bureau of

Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat

Language Part "SSS" Renames the Bureau of Health program to the Bureau of Public Health and Aquaculture program.

Language Part "GGGG" Transfers any unobligated balance at the close of fiscal year 2024-25 from the Aquaculture Research Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account and the Aquaculture Management Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Bureau of Policy and Management program to the accounts within the Bureau of Public Health program.

11:00 AM Wednesday, February 26, 2025 (HCIFS)

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committees on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Svcs:

Administrative and Financial Services, Department of

Accident – Sickness – Health Insurance

State Mandate Defrayal

Trade Adjustment Assistance Health Insurance

Language Part "O" Authorizes employees of the Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board to participate in the state health insurance plan.

Dirigo Health

Dirigo Health Fund

Health and Human Services, Department of

Maine Health Insurance Marketplace Trust Fund

Health Data Organization, Maine

Maine Health Data Organization

Language Part "OO" Authorizes the Maine Health Data Organization to transfer up to \$300,000 in each fiscal year, available balances of Personal Services allocations to the All Other line category in the Maine Health Data Organization, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Maine Retirement Savings Board

Maine Retirement Savings Program

Office of Affordable Health Care

Office of Affordable Health Care

Professional and Financial Regulation, Department of

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Homeowner Assistance Fund

Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection

Financial Institutions – Bureau of

Insurance – Bureau of

Licensure in Medicine – Board of

Nursing – Board of

Office of Securities

Optometry – Board of

Osteopathic Licensure – Board of

Securities Restitution Assistance Fund

Language Part "TTT" Establishes a career ladder for the Bank Examiner job classifications within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulations, Bureau of Financial Institutions.

1:00 PM Wednesday, February 26, 2025 (IFW)

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of

Administrative Services – IF&W

ATV Enforcement Fund

ATV Safety and Educational Program
Boating Access Sites
Camp North Woods Fund
Endangered Nongame Operations
Enforcement Operations – IF&W
Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations
Landowner Relations
Licensing Services – IF&W
Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund
Office of the Commissioner – IF&W
Public Information and Education, Division of
Resource Management Services – IF&W
Search and Rescue
Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Management
Whitewater Rafting – IF&W
Whitewater Rafting Fund
<i>Language Part "Y" Transfers \$2,500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to fund capital construction and repair of state dams.</i>
<i>Language Part "LLL" Postpones the application of the IFW fiscal stability program</i>
<i>Language Part "MMM" Transfers funds from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances – General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations program, General Fund account for the purchase of replacement aircraft engines and propellers, and boats/motor/trailer replacements and to the Administrative Services IFW, General Fund account for the upgrade of regional offices for ADA compliance and energy efficiency</i>
<i>Language Part "NNN" Increases fishing license fees, assessed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.</i>
10:00 AM Thursday, February 27, 2025 (Rescheduled from 2pm February 25th) (ACF)
(Testimony previously submitted through the Legislative website portal does not need to be resubmitted)
To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:
Baxter State Park Authority
Baxter State Park Authority
Blueberry Commission of Maine, Wild
Blueberry Commission
Finance Authority of Maine
Dairy Improvement Fund
Potato Board, Maine
Potato Board

University of Maine System, Board of Trustees of the
 Tick Laboratory and Pest Management Fund
 University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Department of

Animal Welfare Fund

Bureau of Agriculture

Certified Seed Fund

Conservation and Recreation Fund

Conservation Land Management Fund

DACF Administration

Division of Forest Protection

Emergency Food Assistance Program

Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program

Forest Resource Management

Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives

Geology and Resource Information

Harness Racing Commission

Land for Maine's Future

Land for Maine's Future-Community Conservation Projects

Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund

Land Management and Planning

Maine Agricultural Food and Forest Products Investment Fund

Maine Conservation Corps

Maine Farms for the Future Program

Maine Forestry Operations Cleanup and Response Fund

Maine Healthy Soils Fund

Maine Land Use Planning Commission

Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund

Milk Commission

Natural Areas Program

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program

Parks – General Operations

Pesticides Control, Board of

Statewide Hunger Relief Program

Submerged Lands and Island Registry

Language Part "S" Establishes an account administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to support public-private partnerships to carry out the purposes of the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program.

Language Part "T" Updates the fee for an original or renewal of an annual arborist license to no more than \$180.

Language Part "U" Establishes a dedicated account for the Maine Land Use Planning Commission to accept funds including surcharges for digital/online payments.

Language Part "V" Transfers in each year of the biennium of all funds in excess of \$550,000 from unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account.

Language Part "W" Transfers \$500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Other Special Revenue Funds Community-based greenhouse - Bureau of Agriculture for one-time funding for grants for durable greenhouse structures and associated siting and installation costs to schools, community centers, and other eligible public entities .

1:00 PM Thursday, February 27, 2025 (VLA)

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

Administrative and Financial Services, Department of

Alcoholic Beverages – General Operations

Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety Fund and Municipal Opt-In Fund

Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund

Lottery Operations

Medical Use of Cannabis Fund

Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Department of

Administration – Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management

Maine National Guard Postsecondary Fund

Maine Veterans Homes Stabilization Fund

Military Training & Operations

Veterans Services

Veterans Temporary Assistance Fund

Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund

Ethics and Elections Practices, Commission on Governmental

Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, Commission on

Public Safety, Department of

Gambling Control Board

Secretary of State, Department of

Elections and Commissions

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions

3:00 PM Thursday, February 27, 2025 (EUT)

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology:
ConnectMaine Authority
ConnectMaine Fund
Economic and Community Development, Department of
Energy Rate Relief Fund
Office of Broadband Development
Efficiency Maine Trust
Efficiency Maine Trust
Energy Resources, Department of
Department of Energy Resources
<i>Language Part "LL" Transitions the Governor's Energy Office from a program within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources.</i>
Executive Department
Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program
Governor's Energy Office
Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program
Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund
Public Advocate
Maine Connectivity Authority
Maine Connectivity Authority
Public Utilities Commission
Emergency Services Communication Bureau
Oversight and Evaluation Fund
PUC - Interconnection Ombudsman Fund
PUC - Unused NEB Credits for Low-Income Assistance
Public Utilities – Administrative Division
Telecommunications Relay Services Council
Telecommunications Relay Services Council Fund
<i>Note: Part "RRR" Which increases the level of funding provided to the Communications Equipment Fund through the State Universal Service Fund of the Public Utilities Commission may be discussed in this hearing block</i>
10:00 AM Friday, February 28, 2025 (SLG) Department and Agency Testimony Followed by Public Testimony at
To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY TESTIMONY ON ALL PROGRAMS AND LANGUAGE PARTS NOTED IN PUBLIC TESTIMONY LISTING SHOWN BELOW.

(1:00 PM Friday, February 28, 2025 (SLG) Public Testimony - this is a continuation of the 10am Hearing Block)

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

Attorney General, Office of
Road Commission Fund
Auditor, Office of the State
Audit Bureau
Unorganized Territory
Cemetery Preservation Commission, Maine State
Cemetery Preservation Fund
Executive Department
Administration – Executive – Governor’s Office
Blaine House
GOPIF - Community Resilience Partnership
Office of New Americans
Office of Policy Innovation and the Future
Municipal Bond Bank, Maine
Maine Municipal Bond Bank – Maine Rural Water Association
Perm Comm on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Pop
Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations
Secretary of State, Department of
Administration – Archives
Treasurer of the State, Office of
Administration – Treasury
Administrative and Financial Services, Department of (DAFS)
Administration – Human Resources
American Rescue Plan Audit, Controller and Program Management
Budget – Bureau of the
Buildings & Grounds Operations
Bureau of General Services – Capital Construction and Improvement Reserve Fund
Capital Construction/Repairs/Improvements – Administration
Central Administrative Applications
Central Fleet Management

Central Services – Purchases
Centralized Imaging Services
Debt Service – Government Facilities Authority
Financial and Personnel Services – Division of
Information Services
Lead by Example
Leased Space Reserve Fund Program
Office of the Commissioner – Administrative & Financial Services
Public Improvements - Planning/Construction - Administration
Purchases – Division of
Risk Management – Claims
State Controller – Office of the
Statewide Radio Network System
Workers’ Compensation Management Fund Program
<i>Language Part "J-1 & J-2" Authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue additional securities up to \$56,000,000 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.</i>
<i>Language Part "K" Authorizes DAFS to enter into financing arrangements for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Central Fleet Management System</i>
<i>Language Part "L" Authorizes the DAFS to enter into financing arrangements related to the support of the Statewide Radio Network</i>
<i>Language Part "M" Authorizes the DAFS to enter into financing arrangements for improvements to the State's technology infrastructure and data centers; purchase of enterprise software; modernization of databases, storage and other components; and improved security of confidential data.</i>
<i>Language Part "N" Allows remaining balances in the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority program in each year of the biennium to carry over to the following year</i>
<i>Language Part "BBBB" Directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to seek reimbursement for costs to repair the Mackworth Island causeway.</i>

3:00 PM Friday, February 28, 2025 (Rescheduled from 1pm Feb 25th) (TRA)

(Testimony previously submitted through the Legislative website portal does not need to be resubmitted)

To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

Public Safety, Department of
State Police
Traffic Safety-Commercial Vehicle Enforcement
Turnpike Enforcement

Language Part "WWW" Authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Department of Public Safety to enter into financial arrangements in each year of the biennium for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the State Police.

Secretary of State, Department of

Administration – Motor Vehicles

Municipal Excise Tax Reimbursement Fund