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| **New Bills 2024** | | | |
| **BILL** | **STATUS** | **SPONSOR** | **TITLE & SUMMARY** |
| [**LD 2009**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=131&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2009)  **HHS** | Passed and Signed by Governor March 6  Chapter Law [here](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0830&item=3&snum=131) | Bill Sponsor  Senator Stewart | [**LD 2009**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=131&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2009) ***An Act to Prevent Abandonment of Children and Adults with Disabilities in Hospitals*** ​​This bill requires a hospital to discharge a minor or an adult with a disability who is under guardianship to the care of a parent or guardian no later than 48 hours after the attending physician has determined the minor or the adult with disabilities is safe for discharge, and if a parent or guardian does not take custody of the discharged minor or the discharged adult with a disability within that period, the hospital is required to notify child protective services or adult protective services, as appropriate, which must then take custody of the minor or the adult with a disability.  **Committee ultimately passed an amended bill to convene stakeholder group to address long stays of children and adolescents in hospital emergency departments with a report back by November 6, 2024** |
| [**LD 2128**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=131&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2128)  **HHS** | Died in Committee | Bill Sponsor  Rep. Madigan | [**LD 2128**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=131&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2128) ***An Act Regarding Nonemergency Transportation for MaineCare Members***  This bill provides that a MaineCare member using MaineCare‑contracted nonemergency transportation services to travel to a MaineCare‑reimbursable appointment may elect to have one adult accompany the MaineCare member while traveling.  It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules to require MaineCare contracts with providers of nonemergency transportation to include provisions allowing one adult to accompany a MaineCare member to a MaineCare‑reimbursable appointment. |
| [**LD 2125**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=131&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2125)  **HHS** | **2024 Voted off the table but died on Veto Day** | Bill Sponsor  Rep. Craven | [**LD 2125**](https://legislature.maine.gov/backend/App/services/getDocument.aspx?documentId=104228)***An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Advisory Council Within the Department of Health and Human Services and to Require a State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias***  This bill establishes the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Advisory Council to examine the needs of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, the services available in the State for those individuals and the ability of health care providers and facilities to meet those individuals' current and future needs. It requires the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the Department of Health and Human Services to create the council. It also requires the council to develop a state plan to address Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and submit an annual report on implementation of the plan. |
| [**LD 2120**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=131&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2120)  **EDU** | **A similar bill language and funding was included in the final Budget.** | Bill Sponsor  Rep. Gattine | [**LD 2120**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=131&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2120) ***An Act to Fund the Delivery of Educational Services to Children with Special Needs as Required by State and Federal Law in Special Purpose Private Preschools*** This bill requires the Department of Education and the Child Development Services  System to assist in maintaining education programming at special purpose private preschools by providing payments for specially designed instruction provided by each special purpose private preschool at a rate of $125 per day, per child receiving medically necessary therapeutic services through the MaineCare program for scheduled school days in accordance with a child's individualized education plan until the daily tuition rate in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 7302, subsection 2, paragraph G is implemented. |
| [**LD 2166**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=131&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2166)  **EDU** | **Died on Approps Table** | Bill Sponsor  Rep. Millet | [**LD 2166**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=131&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2166) ***An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder*** This bill establishes a grant program in the Department of Education to increase postsecondary educational opportunities and support employability for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. Under the grant program, the department awards competitive grants to institutions of higher education to develop and implement pilot programs that offer students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder, to the greatest extent possible, the same rights, privileges, experiences, benefits, and outcomes in a postsecondary education as students without disabilities. The bill requires that, in order to receive funding under the grant program, pilot programs developed by institutions of higher education meet the requirements of a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program under the federal Higher Education Opportunity Act so that students enrolled in the pilot program may be eligible for certain federal grants and work-study programs. The bill requires institutions of higher education to use 25% of the funds received through the grant program for scholarships for students participating in the pilot program. Finally, the bill requires institutions of higher education to make periodic reports to the department concerning the progress and sustainability of its pilot program and requires the department to annually report to the Legislature the effectiveness of the grant program.  ***PPH Carrie Woodcock Letter to the Editor:*** [***Appropriations failed those with cognitive disabilities***](https://www.pressherald.com/2024/05/23/letter-appropriations-failed-those-with-cognitive-disabilities/) |
| [**LD 2167**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=131&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2167)  **State and Local Government** | **Bill language and funding was included in the final Budget.** | Governor’s Bill | [**LD 2167**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=131&paper=&paperld=l&ld=2167)***An Act to Develop Maine's Economy and Strengthen Its Workforce by Establishing an Office of New Americans***This bill 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. The Office of New Americans shall undertake and promote activities that improve the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities. |
| [**LD 345**](https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280085627)  **Education Committee** | **CDS Reform Bill language and funding was included in the final Budget.** |  | [**LD 345**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0219&item=2&snum=131) ***An Act to Transition the Responsibility for Child Find Activities and for Ensuring a Free, Appropriate Public Education for Eligible Children from the Child Development Services System to School Administrative Units***  *This bill outlines the reorganization of CDS and a 4-year plan to transition CDS responsibility of FAPE to school districts by 2028. This same language was adopted by the AFA committee to amend Part W of the Governor’s supplemental budget proposal and is waiting passage in the house and senate and approval by the Governor.*  ***See full amendment language*** [***here***](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0219&item=2&snum=131)***See fiscal note*** [***here***](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_131st/fiscalpdfs/FN034502.pdf)  ***See blog post by Maine Children’s Alliance***  [**Needed change is on the horizon for Maine’s Child Development Services**](https://mainechildrensalliance.wordpress.com/2024/03/21/needed-change-is-on-the-horizon-for-maines-child-development-services/) |
| **Carried over from 2023** | | | |
| [**LD 744**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0302&item=1&snum=131)  **HHS** | 2024 ONTP | Bill Sponsored by  Senator Baldacci | [**LD 744**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0302&item=1&snum=131) ***Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to Perform Rate Studies and Rate Determinations for Providers of Certain Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorde****r*  This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct rate studies and rate determinations for home and community benefits and support services for members of the MaineCare program with intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. The Office of Aging and Disability Services within the department is directed to convene a working group to advise the department on the development of a daily rate payment system for agency home support service providers to be incorporated into the rate determinations. The department is required to implement the rates determined no later than January 31, 2025.  Update:  In the fall of 2023, the Department began a rate determination process inclusive of a rate study for Section 21 and 29 and proposed Lifespan Waiver Services. These rates will be presented and open to a public comment period this summer with the final rates for Section 21 and 29 only available when the Lifespan Waiver launches in late 2025.  **Update 2:**  **Feb 2024: *Department announced rate study in Fall of 2023 for Sections 18, 20, 21 and 29. This rate study will also inform rates for Lifespan Waiver services.*** |
| [**LD 825**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?ld=825&PID=1456&snum=131)  **HHS** | ONTP | Bill Sponsor  Rep. Lemelin | [**LD 825**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?ld=825&PID=1456&snum=131) ***An Act Relating to Transportation Services for MaineCare Members with Multiple Disabilities***  This bill requires that transportation services provided to members of the MaineCare program who have multiple disabilities ensure that: a vehicle transporting the MaineCare member is equipped in a manner that accommodates the member's disabilities safely, ensure that the driver is physically capable of assisting the member in the event of an emergency and, to the extent possible, provide consistency in drivers. |
| [**LD 948**](https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=HP0595&SessionID=15)  **EDU** | ONTP | Bill Sponsor  Rep. Collamore | [**LD 948**](https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=HP0595&SessionID=15) ***An Act To Create A Liaison Position Between The Department Of Education And The Department Of Health And Human Services On Early Childhood Education Matters***  This bill creates the position of early childhood education specialist within the Department of Education to act as a liaison between that department and the Department of Health and Human Services on matters concerning early childhood education for children from birth to grade 5. |
| [**LD 473**](https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280085842)  **HHS** | **2024 Died on Approps Table** | Bill Sponsor  Rep. Craven | [**LD 473**](https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280085842) ***Resolve, to Expand the Eligibility for and Increase the Number of Hours of Applied Behavior Analysis Services Authorized by the MaineCare Program***   An amendment replaced the bill and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 21, Allowances for Home and Community Benefits for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder to increase to 120 the number of hours of consultation services for behavioral and psychological consultation for adults receiving services who have approved behavior plans. It requires the department to amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 29, Allowances for Support Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder to reimburse for up to 120 hours of consultation services for behavioral and psychological consultation for adults receiving services who have approved behavior plans. It requires the department to seek any necessary waiver amendments from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare, and Medicaid Services within 12 months of the effective date of the resolve. The amendment incorporates an appropriations and allocations section. |
| [**LD 1718**](https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280088822)  **IDEA** | **2024 Voted off the table but died on Veto Day** | Bill Sponsor  Rep. Meyer | [**LD 1718**](https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280088822) ***An Act to Encourage Participation in Maine's Essential Support Workforce Through Access to Higher Education*** This bill creates the Essential Support Worker Tuition Grant Program to provide up to 4 education vouchers equal to a year's tuition up to $4,000 at the University of Maine System, Maine Community College System or Maine Maritime Academy for an essential support worker employed in in-home or community support services reimbursed by the MaineCare program or another state program or a family member of the essential support worker. |
| [**LD 1666**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?ld=1666&PID=1456&snum=131&sec3)  **HHS** | **2024 Died on Approps Table** | Bill Sponsor  Senator Tipping | [**LD 1666**](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?ld=1666&PID=1456&snum=131&sec3) ***An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Updating the State Supplement and Removing Marriage Disincentives*** This bill would increase the state contribution to SSI payments. It would also eliminate the marriage penalty on state contributions to SSI.  **New York Times (May) Op-ed** [**Disabled Adults Shouldn’t Have to Pay This Price to Marry**](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/12/opinion/disabled-adults-ssi-marriage.html?unlocked_article_code=1.yk0.e123.GwxvQHDxjS7D&smid=url-share) |
| [**LD 539**](https://legislature.maine.gov/backend/App/services/getDocument.aspx?documentId=100189)  **HHS** | **Died on Approps Table**  **Spring 2024** | Bill Sponsor  Rep. Hepler | [**LD 539**](https://legislature.maine.gov/backend/App/services/getDocument.aspx?documentId=100189) ***An Act to Provide Substance Use Disorder Counseling for MaineCare Members with an Acquired Brain Injury***  This bill adds substance use disorder counseling to the comprehensive 35 neurorehabilitation service system administered by the Department of Health and Human 36 Services and directs the department to include counseling for substance use disorder in 37 rehabilitative services for MaineCare members who have sustained an acquired brain 38 injury. |
| [**LD 2007**](https://legislature.maine.gov/backend/App/services/getDocument.aspx?documentId=101057) | **Signed by Governor April 23, 2024** | Bill Sponsor Speaker Talbot Ross | [**LD 2007**](https://legislature.maine.gov/backend/App/services/getDocument.aspx?documentId=101057) ***An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations***  *Link to Chaptered Law* [*https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1287&item=4&snum=131*](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1287&item=4&snum=131) |
| **LD 1863**  **Criminal Justice** | **Signed by Governor April 22, 2024** |  | ***LD1863 An Act to Facilitate the Provision of Medically Appropriate Levels of Care for Clients of Correctional Facilities***  *Chapter Law:* [*https://legislature.maine.gov/backend/App/services/getDocument.aspx?documentId=107332*](https://legislature.maine.gov/backend/App/services/getDocument.aspx?documentId=107332) |
| [**LD 1412**](https://legislature.maine.gov/billtracker/#Paper/1412?legislature=131)  **Judiciary** | Died in House 2023 | Bill Sponsor Rep Reckitt | [**LD1412**](https://legislature.maine.gov/billtracker/#Paper/1412?legislature=131) ***RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law***  This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to prohibit the denial or abridgment by the State or any political subdivision of the State of equal rights based on the actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental disability, ancestry, or national origin of an individual. |