Maine State Chamber and Maine Development Foundation release “Making Maine Work: Investment in Young Children = Real Economic Development” —

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce and the Maine Development Foundation hosted a press conference on Thursday, January 5, 2012, to release “Making Maine Work: Investment in Young Children = Real Economic Development.” The most recent in the Making Maine Work series examines the proven benefits derived from investment in a child’s early development years, which have real potential for Maine.

“When our two organizations released Making Maine Work in July of 2010, we could never have predicted the overwhelmingly positive reviews it received,” said Dana Connors, president of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. “Our second report in December of 2010 explored the role of Maine’s public university system. Today, more than 300 title submissions, the council approved roughly 120 new proposals for the full legislature’s consideration. Lastly, it is expected the LePage administration will submit a package of legislation shortly. In some cases, these “Governor’s bills” have already appeared for reference to the proper committees. Clearly, the legislature is anxious to get down to business and complete its work.

Before they can truly deal with the various policy issues awaiting them, legislators will first need to deal with the Governor’s supplemental budget package. Introduced in mid-December 2011 by Governor Paul LePage, the proposal seeks to close a more than $200 million shortfall in this year’s state budget. The shortfall is located entirely in the budget of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. As such, the governor has indicated to lawmakers his intent to close the

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Impact begins weekly publication schedule

With the beginning of the Second Regular Session of the 125th Maine Legislature, the Maine State Chamber will resume its weekly publication schedule of Impact with this issue.

President’s Message...

(Continued from Page 1...)

shortfall using only savings derived from cuts and reductions in spending from DHHS. Not surprisingly, this has created a considerable amount of controversy. Even before this year’s session began, the halls of the Statehouse have been filled with protestors and DHHS clients arguing against the savings proposals.

The supplemental budget bill has been in the hands of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs for the past few weeks. In that time, they have conducted hours of public hearings and work sessions. Dealing with cuts in human services programs of the magnitude found in this proposal—particularly in light of state budget cuts totaling over a billion dollars made in the previous session—will not be easy. It is expected that the Appropriations committee will attempt to have a proposal to the full legislature by the end of this month or early February. In either case, the supplemental budget discussion will loom over all the other pieces of legislation until it is completed.

And make no mistake; there are significant issues to be discussed in the ensuing 90 days. These include the Governor’s stated policy priorities of energy, strengthening the economy, and education. Considerable debate will take place concerning energy costs here in Maine. Likewise, the legislature will wrestle with the issue of whether Maine will move forward with establishing a Maine-based health care exchange consistent with the requirements of the federal Affordable Care Act—or take a wait and see approach that could result in a federally-run exchange in Maine.

Workers’ compensation legislation initiated by the business community will also be considered, as will potential changes to our unemployment insurance laws. The Governor has indicated he will submit some type of tax reform package this session, likely focusing on pensions.

Lastly, as indicated above, education—in particular workforce preparedness and training—will be the topic of discussion in the Statehouse. Like those of us here at the Maine State Chamber, legislators and the Governor have heard considerable concern voiced from employers around the state about existing workforce skills shortages, and the problems our state faces replacing older skilled workers as they retire.

These are just a few of the issues on the horizon, but to be sure, there will be others. As the Legislature moves forward this session, the advocacy team at the Maine State Chamber will be following its actions and working with them on your behalf. We welcome the 125th Legislature back, wish them good luck, and look forward to working with them on behalf of Maine businesses.

For questions or additional information, please contact Peter Gore by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 107, or by emailing pgore@mainechamber.org, or Ben Gilman by calling (207) 623 4568, ext. 108, or by emailing bgilman@mainechamber.org.
Once again, guns in the workplace to be discussed

Proposal seeks to clarify state employee rights to bring guns to work

Legislation has been submitted this session to clarify a controversial law passed last session that allows employees with a concealed weapons permit to bring their gun to the workplace, despite any “no weapons” policy an employer may have in place. **LD 1603, An Act to Amend the Law Relating to Concealed Firearms Locked in Vehicles**, sponsored by Rep. Dale Crafts (R-Lisbon) seeks to amend Public Law 393, by clarifying that the law applies to any state employees.

Chamber members will remember the intense debate that took place around the original proposal that was **LD 35, An Act Relating to Concealed Firearms in Locked Vehicles**, sponsored by Rep. Rich Cebra (R-Naples). As enacted into law, the bill allows an employee with a valid carry permit to bring their handgun to the workplace and keep it locked in their vehicle, despite any “no weapons” policy the employer may have in place at their business. The new law also includes a “liability protection“ clause designed to shield the employer in the event a third party is injured or killed at the business resulting from an employee associated handgun incident.

Despite intense opposition from the Maine State Chamber and other business organizations, the bill won narrow passage in both the Maine House and Senate.

As noted above, much of the Maine business community opposed LD 35 because it interferes with their ability to manage their workplace and protect their employees in the way they think is best. For many, this translated into the establishment of “no weapons” policy at their place of business. Not everyone has adopted such a policy, but doing so is their choice. With the passage of LD 35, that choice is gone. “No weapons” policies in Maine, for all intent and purpose, have become a thing of the past.

With the passage of PL 393, all private employers have been forced to find some way to comply with its provisions. Despite what appeared to be rather concise wording, most legislators and followers of the bill thought it applied to the state as an employer as well. However, it appears that there are conflicts in the definition of “employer” that require putting a finer point of the law; thus the submission of LD 1603.

Certainly, if all private employers must bear the burden and liability associated with this new gun bill, it can be argued that the state as an employer should also be forced to comply. In meetings conducted by the Maine State Chamber’s advocacy staff with both members and non-member businesses throughout the summer and fall, all have strongly objected to the passage of this legislation. Employers are both outraged and concerned that they no longer control their private property and their employees, and there is little or nothing they can do about it. Should LD 1603 pass, the same issue will confront the state, not only in the Capitol complex, but at every state office location.

The Maine State Chamber will be testifying at the public hearing on LD 1603, and will be following the legislation at it moves through the process. For additional information or questions, please contact Peter Gore by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 107, or by emailing pgore@mainechamber.org.

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Product take-back program re-evaluation recommended by DEP report

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce has been very active over the years on many pieces of product take-back legislation that has been before the legislature. We were very pleased recently to receive the Maine Department of Environmental Protection’s report reviewing the state’s current product stewardship programs that have been put into place over the course of the past 10 years.

In the report, DEP analyzed the effectiveness of the state’s five statutory take-back programs created to keep compact fluorescent lights, vehicle switches and thermostats that contain mercury, electronic waste (televisions and computer monitors), and batteries out of the waste stream and ensure their proper handling and recycling or disposal. Based on the findings of the report, DEP is recommending that the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources reevaluate all of our current product take-back programs for efficiency with a goal of recycling more and decreasing overall costs. DEP is seeking to develop legislation to be submitted in 2013.

One of the more interesting aspects of the evaluation was found in our mercury product stewardship program, which concluded it has cost more than $2.5 million in the past decade to remove just over 400 pounds of mercury from the environment, working out to around $6,000 per pound for removal of mercury from Maine’s environment. A pound of mercury can be purchased on the market for around $10. This number also doesn’t account for the amounts spent by the State Planning Office for data management and report creation or by Efficiency Maine for outreach related expenses or by municipalities.

DEP is now seeking public input which will be submitted along with the report to the Maine Legislature’s Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on January 16. While the Maine State Chamber will be submitting comments, we also recommend that stakeholders who have dealt with this issue over the years let the DEP and the ENR committee know that this report is a great step in the right direction.

The report can be found online at http://maine.gov/dep/publications. Public comments can be submitted by January 15 to Ron Dyer, director of the Bureau of Remediation & Waste Management, at 17 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333-0017, or by emailing ron.dyer@maine.gov.

If you have any questions about the DEP report on product stewardship, please contact Ben Gilman by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 108, or by emailing bgilman@mainechamber.org.

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For the most current information, visit www.mainechamber.org
we continue the series with a look at our future workforce, our children, and the investments they need from birth to grade 12 for successful outcomes in our economy.”

Making Maine Work: Investment in Young Children = Real Economic Development focuses on the economic benefits of early investments in quality care and education for our youngest citizens. In addition, the report encourages thoughtful, evidence-based strategies for early childhood care and education, with an emphasis on high quality. With an anticipated high rate of return, these strategies and tangible recommendations should be a lead economic development strategy for the governor and the legislature to consider as Maine invests in the workforce of the very near future.

“Regardless of place, position or politics, one thing unites us – the desire to help young people achieve their highest potential,” Connors added. “High quality care and education early in life has proven results in unlocking that potential. We can increase job options, earnings potential, and even quality of life. Early investments in safe environments, effective health care, and other critical services ultimately generate a higher return than intervention and remediation services. Ultimately, we want to build a more robust and stable economy for Maine.”

In February 2010, MDF conducted a Maine business leaders’ survey, garnering more than 1,000 opinions and perspectives. When asked to rank the factors that supported investment and to specifically identify the supports and barriers to investment in Maine, nearly one-half of the business respondents mentioned a loyal and skilled workforce as a strong, positive factor for business investment.

Specifically, this report reviews evidence from both neurobiology and economics that clearly supports this approach. The report examines what is currently underway in Maine and offers recommendations and action strategies for how Maine can begin to realize the full scale of benefits this approach offers.

“At a press conference on Thursday, January 5, 2012, Maine State Chamber President Dana Connors (at podium) and Maine Development Foundation President and CEO Laurie Lachance present Making Maine Work: Investment in Young Children = Real Economic Development to the media and to stakeholders and business leaders.

Continued on Page 5...
THE FOUR FOUNDATIONS

FOUNDATION 1: EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY
The scope and size of this challenge requires public, private, and philanthropic resources working together. All sectors have something to gain and no one sector can tackle this challenge successfully in Maine on its own.

Action: Fully utilize groups – like the Maine Children’s Growth Council, the Maine Early Learning Investment Group (MELIG), and philanthropic efforts to connect all interested parties, share information, and collaborate on action.

FOUNDATION 2: A UNIFIED SYSTEM
The current early childhood “system” in Maine is a collection of programs and efforts – some coordinated and some not. The best outcomes for Maine children will occur when these programs and efforts work together and are managed collaboratively, efficiently, and sustainably at scale.

Action: Utilize the newly formed State Agencies Interdepartmental Early Learning Team to coordinate the efforts of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education in their work with children. Use the Maine Children’s Growth Council as a means of coordinating the efforts of philanthropy, non-profit community groups, and legislative action.

FOUNDATION 3: HEALTHY SYSTEMS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
Investment in early childhood alone is not enough. The investment can be lost if a child moves into dysfunctional systems later in life. Managing healthy education systems for all stages of life in conjunction with sound early investments is critical, particularly at points of transition.

Action: Improve the transition from early childhood into the K-12 system by instituting a common statewide kindergarten assessment given to every child upon entrance into kindergarten. This will provide consistent and reliable statewide data on need that can be used to prepare and improve curricula, school administration, and professional development.

Action: Include early childhood activity in the State’s overall education budget. Treat it as one education system with a global budget (as recommended in the original Making Maine Work report, July 2010).

FOUNDATION 4: SAFE ENVIRONMENTS ARE IMPERATIVE
Evidence is clear that toxic stress leads to bad outcomes. Without safe responsive environments and relationships, free from experiences that produce toxic stress such as exposure to domestic violence, we cannot expect our children to reach their full potential.

Action: Expand support of existing, evidence-based efforts (e.g., Home Visiting, Head Start, and Strengthening Family) that work directly with families in need of help to create safer environments for their children.

Action: Expand support of the Governor’s initiative, working with the Maine Department of Labor and the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, to provide employers with information and resources to address domestic violence issues that affect their employees.
THE FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION:

RECOMMENDATION 1: Provide options and access for all Maine families, particularly low income families, to a coordinated system of quality public and private early childhood services, early care and education, parent support, early physical, mental, and nutrition services, and early intervention.

ACTION: Bring best practices and evidenced-based programs to all communities in Maine.

- Export the knowledge and expertise of Educare Central Maine beyond Waterville by partnering with community organizations, like YMCAs, libraries, child care centers, etc., to provide quality care for infants and toddlers and their families, as well as training for child care providers and educators; and,

- Expand the Maine Children’s Alliance “shared service” approach, which would allow early child care and education organizations to be more accountable, financially stronger, and better equipped. (Refer to work by Kennebec Valley Community College, KVCAP, and Educare Central Maine, which offers quality training to child care professionals through on-line continuing education instruction as well as in-person mentoring.)

ACTION: Expand the current public preschool program to every school district in the state using a network of public schools and local community providers.

- The Lower Kennebec River Regional School Unit (RSU 1) already uses this approach successfully to educate more young children. The states of Virginia, North Carolina, and Minnesota also offer helpful examples of network development and administration.

ACTION: Continue the work to coordinate Home Visiting and home-based services across Maine so that more infants and toddlers and their families are served in a collaborative, efficient, and cost effective manner.

RECOMMENDATION 2: Require and provide a means for 100% of Maine child care providers to meet a high level of quality as defined by Maine’s Quality for ME program to support parent choice.

ACTION: Require a quality standard of at least a Step 2 in the Quality for ME program for a provider to receive state money, and continue to fund a tiered reimbursement system that gives providers the incentive to earn greater quality ratings.

ACTION: Use the Maine Roads to Quality program and the public and private higher education system to increase access to evidence-based training and education for child care providers and educators.

- A priority must be given to non-traditional students already in the workforce, and efforts must include options like distance learning, flexible hours, credit for work experience, and on-site instruction.

ACTION: Improve existing tax incentives by adopting the approach like those used in Louisiana (School Readiness Tax Credits – SRTC) and like those in the Military Childcare Act:

- Families can use subsidies for children in high quality child care, and the credit increases with the quality rating of the provider;

- Providers earn credits for serving target populations, and credit increases as the providers increase their quality rating;

- Teachers receive credit for teaching at high quality rated centers, and the credit increases as their education/training increases; and,

- Businesses receive credits for financially supporting high-quality, early learning and development programs, and the credit increases with the program’s quality rating.
RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE BENEFITS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT:

RECOMMENDATION 3: Increase public support for early childhood development through an organized and coordinated statewide communications plan, connecting high quality child care and education to economic growth.

ACTION: Support and expand upon the efforts of the Maine Children’s Growth Council, Mission Readiness, Fight Crime Invest in Kids, and America’s Edge to speak to the benefits of evidence-based early childhood investment.

RECOMMENDATION 5: Create a means for private funds to support and enhance improved access to quality services for Maine children.

ACTION: Establish a private endowment with private, philanthropic, and public dollars.

- The endowment would be privately managed and offer money to subsidize child care costs, to support services like home visiting and parent education, to provide tuition for providers pursuing quality training, and to support schools. Endowment money could be used in combination with other dollars as match/leverage for greater federal and philanthropic support/grants. This must be certified by the State to enable its use as matching funds. Investments are market driven and give parents and providers incentives and choices.

- Organize a core group of business leaders and economists willing to lend their expertise to help the public sector adapt proven market-based approaches to sustain investment in high-quality early childhood development.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE FUNDING AND RESOURCES FOR QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION:

RECOMMENDATION 4: Increase the public investment in early childhood development and align investment to outcomes throughout a person’s life with K-12, higher education, and other training opportunities.

ACTION: Increase the State’s investment, via General Fund dollars, in Maine’s early childhood system as a means of controlling rising K-12 remediation costs and to control public assistance expenses.

- This expenditure should be viewed as part of the complete public education funding of a person and be set to achieve the desired outcomes with a priority on low-income families.

- Engage the Maine Early Learning Investment Group (MELIG) for guidance; and,

- Engage regional business networks, such as chambers and leadership networks (Leadership Maine, Bangor Region Leadership Institute, Midcoast Leadership Academy, etc.) to provide guidance and support for Early Childhood initiatives in their regions and statewide.
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Maine State Chamber board chairs share vision and focus for 2012 initiatives

On Monday, November 28, 2011, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce confirmed its 2012 board of directors and elected its board officers during its annual Board Appreciation Dinner. At that time, the organization welcomed Frank McGinty of MaineHealth, as its board chairman. He takes the reins from outgoing board chair, Steve Culver of Hannaford.

During the Board Appreciation Dinner, Culver shared with the board a recap of the Maine State Chamber’s accomplishments during his two years of leadership. Once the gavel switched hands, McGinty offered his vision as well as a commitment to continuing current initiatives.

“The last two years have sped by,” Culver observed. “Sometimes we lose track of how fast things change. When I spoke to you two years ago, the iPad had not yet been introduced, a guy name LePage had just announced he was running for Governor and the debate on Federal health care reform had just begun. Each one of these changes has had an impact on the future of business in Maine.”

Culver asked the group to consider this King Whitney Jr. quote about change: “Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better.”

He then encouraged his fellow board members to remain confident as we affect change to the business climate in Maine.

“The Chamber has been busy working to meet the challenges that change has brought to make things better. Our involvement in Making Maine Work highlighted that the biggest obstacles for Maine businesses were health care costs, energy costs, burdensome state regulations and tax rates. I am happy to report that significant progress was made in improving Maine’s competitive standing in those areas. The Chamber was instrumental in supporting these changes which improved the business climate in Maine.”

Culver also discussed two significant undertakings, InternHelpME.com and The Maine Corner Store. InternHelpMe.com, which helps local students find internships with local businesses, has been warmly received by the educational and business community. Started two years ago, this program has assisted 77 businesses and 350 students. In December 2011, the Chamber embarked upon an effort to further address the needs of small businesses. The Maine Corner Store was started as a central repository for information and a place to exchange ideas.

Beyond that, he reflected on three of his favorite projects during his two years as board chair. A partnership between the Maine State Chamber and the Maine Development Foundation resulted in the creation of Making Maine Work, which ultimately provided the foundation for the determination of our priorities going forward.

The second project focused on the Maine State Chamber’s collaboration with Doug Hall and the University of Maine to deliver statewide innovation engineering institutes. “The future growth of this state is dependent upon innovation,” Culver attests. “Whether it is in our traditional industries, such as boat building, precision machining or agriculture, or in new industries such as renewable energy, innovation is vital to long term success.”

Lastly, the Chamber strengthened its alliance with the Maine Economic Research Institute (MERI) and continues that great work. The inclusion of other trade groups in the MERI process has created greater “buy in” from the business community and expanded the support for MERI’s work.

After the transference of the gavel, newly-appointed board chair Frank McGinty offered an optimistic perspective as we set our sights on 2012 and beyond.

“I am both honored and humbled by the opportunity you have given me,” he began. “I also am excited by the possibilities before us. Even as the nation, Maine, and many of our businesses struggle to emerge from the depths of recession, there are signs of better times ahead. Although it has come in fits and starts, the national economy is beginning to grow again.”

He expressed a continued commitment to the pillars of Making Maine Work as well, saying: “Making Maine Work set an agenda for the changes necessary to enable our state and our businesses to not only compete with others here and abroad but also prosper. Measured by any standard, our organization is stronger than it has been in many years. Our membership has continued to grow. Our financial condition continues to improve. Most importantly, our message has been clearer and more consistent.”

McGinty also indicated that the changes identified in energy, education, workforce development, regulatory and tax reform, connectivity, financial services, and health care are essential if Maine is truly going to exemplify “The Way Life Should Be.”
Maine Chamber staff have studied each of these recently printed bills to assess potential impact on business trends. If you have concerns regarding any bill, please communicate those concerns to a member of our government relations staff at (207) 623-4568.

**BOND ISSUES**

**LD 409, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development for Technology Advancement.** (Rep. Cain, D-Orono) Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $100,000,000, will be used to provide funds for research, development and commercialization funds for targeted technology sectors, awarded after a competitive process administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development, Maine Technology Institute, and will leverage at least $100,000,000 in other funds.

**LD 894, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Highway and Bridge Infrastructure To Meet the Needs of the Business Sector and To Create Jobs.** (Sen. Diamond, D-Cumberland) Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $62,000,000, will be used to repair and reconstruct highways and bridges that are considered vital to the expansion of business interests by the business and economic development sector and essential to public safety. It requires that the Department of Transportation consult with the business and economic development sector to determine projects of highest priority to the business and economic development sector and establish a stakeholder group, if the bond passes, consisting of municipal officials, highway safety officials and members of the general public to develop a list of highway and bridge projects by level of priority relating to the safety of the general public.

**LD 1187, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Revitalize Maine's Downtowns through Innovative Business Development and the Creative Economy.** (Sen. Sullivan, D-York) Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $5,000,000, will be used as seed money to capitalize the Downtown Revitalization Fund, a revolving loan and grant fund to encourage business development in downtown areas, targeting innovative businesses, light manufacturing, trades and small businesses and space for artists and artisans. The Downtown Revitalization Fund is administered by a board consisting of public and private members.

**BUSINESS REGULATION**

**LD 936, An Act To Conform Maine Menu Labeling Laws to Federal Standards.** (Rep. Strang-Burgess, R-Cumberland) Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. This bill repeals provisions of the Maine law regarding menu labeling that have been preempted by the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, Section 4205(2010), which creates a uniform national approach to nutrition labeling for restaurant menus with a primary focus on calorie content.


*Continued on Page 11...*
Public Hearings

Public hearings are open to everyone. This public hearing schedule is subject to change. Questions may be directed to the Secretary of the Senate’s Office at (207) 287-1540. For the most current schedule, please visit http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis loi/phSched.asp or contact the committee clerk.

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Energy, Utilities and Technology
10:00 a.m., Room 211, Cross Building
LD 1644 (SP 543), An Act To Expand the Availability of Natural Gas to Maine Residents (Sponsor: Sen. KATZ of Kennebec)

Environment and Natural Resources
9:00 a.m., Room 216, Cross Building
LD 1648 (SP 547), An Act To Clarify the Site Location of Development Laws Regarding Exemptions for Previously Developed Sites (Sponsor: Sen. SAVIELLO of Franklin)
LD 1686 (HP 1238), An Act To Amend the Process for Issuing State Water Quality Certificates to Hydropower Projects That Withdraw Water from Great Ponds (Sponsor: Rep. SARTY of Denmark)

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Energy and Natural Resources
9:00 a.m., Room 216, Cross Building
LD 1738 (HP 1283), An Act To Make Minor Adjustments to Laws Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (Sponsor: Rep. HAMPER of Oxford)
LD 1768 (HP 1302), An Act To Improve the Department of Environmental Protection’s Annual Waste Discharge License Fee System (Sponsor: Rep. KNAPP of Gorham)

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Insurance and Financial Services
10:00 a.m., Room 220 Cross Building
LD 1666 (SP 565), An Act To Guarantee Basic Preventive Dental Health Services for Children in Maine (Sponsor: Sen. KATZ of Kennebec)

Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development
1:00 p.m., Room 208 Cross Building
LD 1685 (HP 1237), An Act To Conform Maine Law to Federal Law Regarding Payment of Overtime to Truck Drivers and Driver’s Helpers (Sponsor: Rep. O’CONNOR of Berwick)

Thursday, January 19, 2012

Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development
1:00 p.m., Room 208 Cross Building
LD 1665 (SP 564), Resolve, To Direct the Department of Economic and Community Development To Convene a Task Force To Bolster and Expand Exports of Maine Products and Services (Sponsor: Sen. HOBBSINS of York)
LD 1675 (SP 574), Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Facilitate the Development of Unoccupied Mills (Sponsor: Sen. HOBBSINS of York)
LD 1695 (HP 1247), An Act To Provide Additional In-store Space for Maine’s Businesses by Removing License and Permit Posting Requirements (Sponsor: Rep. PRESCOTT of Topsham)

New Legislation...
(Continued from Page 10...)

passed in 2011, and provides that the State may not prohibit a state employee who has a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm from keeping a firearm in the employee’s vehicle on state property as long as the vehicle is locked and the firearm is not visible.

LD 1617, An Act To Ensure the Alignment of Truck Weight Limitations on the Interstate with Those Allowed under Federal Law. (Sen. Schneider, D-Penobscot) Emergency Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. This bill allows the Commissioner of Transportation to adopt rules to ensure that the federal exemption allowing trucks with a maximum gross vehicle weight of 100,000 pounds on Maine’s interstate system is implemented correctly.

LD 1619, An Act To Resolve Conflicts in the Implementation of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. (Sen. Saviello, R-Franklin) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. Under this bill, the requirement that a building official be certified in the enforcement of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, and the inspection of buildings and issuance of occupancy permits only upon compliance with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, applies only in those municipalities that have adopted or are enforcing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code or a portion of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. This bill also specifies that a municipality that adopts the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code or a portion of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code may do so by reference, as is allowed for other codes.

LD 1637, An Act To Permit Financial Institutions To Share Certain Information for the Purpose of Preventing Electronic Bank Card Losses and Other Fraud. (Rep. Richardson, R-Warren) Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services. Current law permits the sharing of financial records information under the exemptions in the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and its implementing regulations. Financial institutions can share information about individuals in order to protect against fraud, unauthorized transactions, claims and other liability. This bill allows financial institutions to share financial records information about business customers, other than individuals, for the same purposes.

New Legislation...
(Continued from Page 11...)

Development. This bill eliminates the administrative burden of publicly displaying certain permits and licenses and the use of space for the display of those licenses and permits that could be otherwise used, including sales tax registration certificates, retail tobacco licenses, including those required to be displayed on tobacco vending machines, retail food establishment licenses, licenses for the sale of liquor and any license or permit issued by a municipality. Instead of displaying the license or permit, a licensee or permittee must make the license or permit available on demand at the premises or at the licensee’s or permittee’s primary place of business.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
LD 225, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of $50,000,000 To Fund Research and Development. (Sen. Rector, R-Knox) Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of $50,000,000, will be used to provide funds for research and development for Maine-based public and private institutions for environmental and renewable energy technology, biomedical technology and biotechnology, aquaculture and marine technology, composite materials technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, information technology and precision manufacturing technology through a competitive process.

LD 323, An Act To Implement a Coordinated Strategy To Attract New Businesses, Expand Existing Businesses and Develop a Consistent and Recognizable Maine Brand. (Rep. Volk, R-Scarborough) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. A concept draft, this bill proposes to establish a public-private partnership at the state level with responsibility for the development and delivery of a comprehensive, coordinated and coherent strategy for economic development in Maine. This private-public partnership shall work with regional and local economic development councils and businesses to provide an array of services to companies seeking to locate or expand in Maine. In addition, the bill proposes the development of a “Maine brand” to consistently promote the quality of life in Maine, the quality of Maine recreation and vacation experiences and the quality of Maine-made products. Finally, the bill proposes to examine existing economic development programs and appropriations and allocations to each and to redirect funds to support a coherent strategy and maximize positive outcomes.

LD 384, An Act To Provide Incentives To Foster Economic Growth and Build Infrastructure in the State. (Rep. Picchiotti, R-Fairfield) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. This bill establishes the Tourism and Industry Film Production Cash Rebate Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism. The purpose of the program is to attract film production companies to Maine by providing cash rebates for certain expenses of the film production company. In order to qualify, the company must spend at least $50,000 for direct production costs in Maine and at least $250,000 in investment in infrastructure in this State and have ties to Maine, such as using a Maine bank and payroll processor. The amount of the available rebate ranges from 27% of the expenses related to infrastructure to 51% of the costs of training and employment of Maine residents.

LD 1451, An Act To Create Transparency and Accountability in Economic Development Subsidies. (Rep. Russell, D-Portland) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. This bill enacts new standards for state and local government expenditures for economic development and job creation by creating a procedure to collect, analyze and make publicly available information regarding those expenditures. It allows the governmental entity making a subsidy to recapture the subsidy if the recipient defaults on the employment, wages, health care or other benefits promised by the recipient in its application for the subsidy.

LD 1661, Resolve, To Allow Signs along Interstate 95 for the Town of Kittery and Its Businesses and Other Establishments. (Sen. Hill, D-York) Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to erect and maintain signs in Kittery on Interstate 95 that direct travelers to locations of businesses and other establishments in the town, since Memorial Bridge between Kittery and New Hampshire has closed.

LD 1665, Resolve, To Direct the Department of Economic and Community Development To Convene a Task Force To Bolster and Expand Exports of Maine Products and Services. (Sen. Hobbins, D-York) Emergency Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to convene a task force, that includes the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, to study ways to bolster and expand exports of Maine products and services.

Continued on Page 13...
New Legislation...  
(Continued from Page 12...)

and to submit a report to the 126th Legislature.

ENVIRONMENTAL
LD 879, An Act To Ensure Adequate Landfill Capacity in the State for Solid Waste. (Rep. Curtis, R-Madison) Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources. This bill amends the law regarding expansion of commercial solid waste disposal facilities and biomedical waste disposal or treatment facilities by authorizing a commercial landfill facility that is not under an order or agreement to close to expand if the proposed expansion is contiguous with the existing facility and is located on property owned by the person holding the commercial solid waste disposal facility license. It clarifies that an expanded facility may not receive a property tax exemption on real or personal property, and it provides that the department may not process or act upon any application until certain conditions are met.

LD 1278, An Act To Stabilize Solid Waste Management Funding. (Rep. Duchense, D-Hudson) Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources. This bill creates a 3rd subsidiary account in the Maine Solid Waste Management Fund for the purpose of purchasing additional landfill disposal capacity. The bill imposes fees on the disposal of construction and demolition debris and construction and demolition debris processing residue and imposes higher fees on certain wastes that are disposed of at a landfill granted a license to expand after October 15, 2011. The bill also provides that a disposal fee may not be imposed on construction and demolition debris and construction and demolition debris processing residue that is disposed of at a municipal, regional association or generator-owned landfill.

LD 1412, An Act To Promote the Proper Disposal of Used Medical Sharps. (Rep. Walsh-Innes, R-Yarmouth) Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources. This bill requires a manufacturer of medical sharps to participate in a program, individually or in conjunction with other manufacturers, for the collection, handling, transportation, treatment and disposal of unwanted medical sharps. It also provides that an entity that uses medical sharps is not required to dispose of them by shredding.

LD 1458, An Act To Transfer Recycling Technical Assistance and Solid Waste Policy Responsibilities from the State Planning Office to the Department of Environmental Protection. (Rep. Moulton, R-York) Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources. Gives recycling technical assistance and solid waste disposal policy responsibilities, which are currently the responsibilities of the Executive Department, State Planning Office, to the Department of Environmental Protection.

LD 1647, An Act To Define “Person Aggrieved” in Proceedings before the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission. (Sen. Saviello, R-Franklin) Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources. This bill provides a definition of “person aggrieved” in the laws governing the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection. It also provides that a person aggrieved, rather than an interested party, may seek to supplement the record in an appeal to the Board of Environmental Protection.

LD 1648, An Act To Clarify the Site Location of Development Laws Regarding Exemptions for Previously Developed Sites. (Sen. Saviello, R-Franklin) Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources. Current law provides that developments that are in existence, authorized, licensed or under construction prior to specified dates are exempted from the laws governing site location of development. This bill specifies that any modification, change in use or addition to such a development or to a development on a military base similarly exempt does not affect the exemption.

LD 1686, An Act To Amend the Process for Issuing State Water Quality Certificates to Hydropower Projects That Withdraw Water from Great Ponds. (Rep. Sarty, R-Denmark) Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources. This bill prohibits the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing a water quality certificate in connection with a hydropower project that withdraws water from a hydropower impoundment managed as a great pond unless the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Conservation agree that the project will not violate water quality standards applicable to the impoundment related to fishing, recreation and habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

LD 1738, An Act To Make Minor Adjustments to Laws Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. (Rep. Hamper, R-Oxford) Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources. This bill makes minor changes to the laws administered by the Department of Environmental Protection to remove inconsistencies and inefficiencies and make grammatical changes.

The bill makes two substantive changes. The term of an air emission license is changed from 5 years to 10 years, with certain exceptions, including a term of 5 years for a license for an air contaminant source subject to the provisions of 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 70 and no term for a license issued pursuant to the carbon dioxide cap-and-trade program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 580-B. The bill clarifies that the Commissioner of Environmental Protection need not provide notice and opportunity for hearing before recommending that the board modify or take corrective action. The board’s process, in Title 38, section 341-D, subsection 3, provides opportunity for hearing.

HEALTH CARE
LD 806, An Act To Provide Public Access to Price Lists of Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgical Facilities. (Rep. Berry, D-Bowdoinham) Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. This bill requires a licensed hospital to post in the hospital in an area used by the public a list of prices charged by the hospital for the 100 most commonly performed procedures in the hospital. The hospital shall also post a link or page on its publicly accessible website stating its pricing policy and current prices for the 100 most commonly performed procedures in the hospital. The bill requires ambulatory surgical facilities to post similar price lists.

LD 882, An Act To Limit Health Care Mandates. (Rep. Richardson, R-Warren) Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services. This bill prohibits carriers from offering a health plan in this State on or after January 1, 2014 that exceeds the minimum essential benefits package determined in accordance with federal law. It also requires the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to evaluate the minimum essential benefits package to be determined by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services in comparison to existing mandated health insurance benefits required by state law. The bill directs the bureau to determine which mandated benefits are not included in the federal minimum essential benefits package and develop proposed legislation to eliminate those mandated benefits in state law.

LD 1030, An Act To Reduce Costs for Small Businesses. (Rep. Eves, D-North Berwick) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. A concept draft, this bill proposes to establish subsidies, tax credits and other initiatives designed to lower the employer and employee costs of health insurance provided through small business owners to their employees. The bill would dedicate fees currently assessed on health insurers for funding affordable health care coverage to eligible small employers to fund the subsidies, tax credits and other initiatives proposed in the bill.

LD 1179, An Act To Require Advance Review and Approval of Certain Small Group Health Insurance Rate Increases and To Implement the Requirements of the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. (Rep. Goode, D-Bangor) Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services. The first part of this bill required
that if a filing proposes an increase in rates in a small group health plan, the Superintendent of Insurance shall hold a hearing on the proposed rate increase at the request of the Attorney General. This process is currently required in the individual market rate filings. It also makes it clear that in any hearings the burden of proving proposed rates are not excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory is on the insurer. The bill also repeals the optional rate review process that permits small group health insurers that meet a minimum 78% medical loss ratio to file rates with the Bureau of Insurance for informational purposes. The second portion of the bill amends the Maine Insurance Code to conform to the requirements of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

**LD 1364, An Act To Improve the Quality and Reduce the Cost of Health Care.** (Rep. Fitts, R-Pittsfield) Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate the purchase of prescription drugs for MaineCare members through certain organizations eligible for prescription drug discounts under the federal Public Health Service Act, referred to as “340B covered entities,” in order for the MaineCare program to negotiate the lowest possible prices and avoid retail markup beginning January 1, 2012.

**LD 1497, An Act To Comply with the Health Insurance Exchange Provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.** (Rep. McKane, R-Newcastle) Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services. This bill establishes the Maine Health Benefit Exchange pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The exchange is established as authorized by federal law to facilitate the purchase of health care coverage by individuals and small businesses. The bill requires coverage to be available through the exchange no later than January 1, 2014. The bill authorizes the use of an assessment or user fee on health insurance carriers to support the operations of the exchange.

**LD 1498, An Act To Phase Out Dirigo Health and Establish the Maine Health Benefit Exchange for Small Businesses and Individuals.** (Rep. Treat, D-Hallowell) Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services. This bill repeals Dirigo Health effective January 1, 2014 and, in its place, establishes the Maine Health Benefit Exchange. The exchange is established as authorized by federal law to facilitate the purchase of health care coverage by individuals and small businesses. The bill requires coverage to be available through the exchange no later than January 1, 2014. Coverage of individuals and small businesses under the current Dirigo Health program will end on January 1, 2014 as coverage will transition to the exchange. The bill requires health insurance carriers and third-party administrators to pay an access payment on paid claims to support the operations of the exchange. The bill makes changes to the Maine Insurance Code to preserve the authority of the Superintendent of Insurance to enforce the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The bill also clarifies that the Superintendent of Insurance has oversight over health insurance plans offered through the Maine Health Benefit Exchange.

The bill also requires the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to evaluate the minimum essential benefits package to be determined by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services in comparison to existing mandated health insurance benefits required by state law. The bill directs the Bureau of Insurance to determine the projected cost impact of maintaining mandated benefits not included in the essential benefits package in qualified health plans made available through the exchange. The bureau must submit its report within 3 months of the adoption of the minimum essential benefits package.

**LD 1666, An Act To Guarantee Basic Preventive Dental Health Services for Children in Maine.** (Sen. Katz, R-Kennebec) Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services. A mandate, This bill requires dental insurers and health insurers and health maintenance organizations that include coverage for dental services in their policies and contracts to provide coverage for preventive dental health services, defined as yearly fluoride treatments, for children. The bill applies to policies and contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2013.

**LD 1670, An Act To Extend the Scope of the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association.** (Sen. Courtney, R-York) Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services. This bill extends the provisions of the law governing the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association, established in PL 90 enacted last session, to insurers that offer small group health plans to groups of 10 or fewer members.

**LD 1691, An Act Related to Specialty Tiers in Prescription Medication Pricing.** (Rep. Fitts, R-Pittsfield) Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services. This bill provides that a health plan covering prescription drugs may not require cost sharing, deductibles or coinsurance obligations for prescription

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drugs that exceed the dollar amount for non-preferred brand drugs or for brand drugs if there is no nonpreferred brand drug category.

**LD 1702, An Act To Correct Inconsistencies and Ambiguities in the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association Act.** (Rep. Richardson, R-Warren) Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services. This bill makes technical corrections to address inconsistencies and ambiguities in the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association Act, passed as part of PL 90 last session.

**LD 1715, An Act To Allow for Timely Access to and Enhanced Administration of All Vaccines.** (Rep. Strang-Burgess, R-Cumberland) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. This bill makes two changes to the laws governing the administration of vaccines by licensed pharmacists; it broadens the scope of vaccines that a licensed pharmacist may administer to a person 18 years of age or older to allow for the administration of any vaccines licensed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration; and it requires one-time approval from the Maine Board of Pharmacy of a pharmacist’s or pharmacy’s plan of operation for vaccine administration clinics and requires the board to adopt by rule criteria for the approval of such clinics.

**LABOR**

**LD 1207, An Act To Amend the Labor Laws Relating to Certain Agricultural Employees.** (Rep. Crafts, R-Lisbon) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. This bill removes the provision that requires that individuals employed for or at an egg processing facility that has over 300,000 laying birds be paid overtime. It also repeals the laws that govern labor relations between agricultural workers and an agricultural employer that operates an egg processing facility that has over 500,000 laying birds and that employs more than 100 agricultural employees.

**LD 1314, An Act To Standardize the Definition of “Independent Contractor.”** (Rep. Tilton, R-Harrington) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. This bill standardizes the definition of “independent contractor” for employment security law and workers’ compensation law. It considers who directs or controls the means and manner of providing the contracted services; who furnishes the tools and equipment necessary to provide the services; whether the business is considered inseparable from the individual for purposes of taxes, profits and liabilities; who exercises control over the management and operations of the business; and who exercises the right and opportunity to perform the services of the business for multiple entities.

**LD 1383, An Act To Improve the Process by Which Logging Contractors Hire Legal Foreign Workers.** (Sen. Saviello, R-Franklin) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. The purpose of this bill is to simplify the process for employers in the logging industry who hire employees from another country who have been given permission to work in this country.

**LD 1685, An Act To Conform Maine Law to Federal Law Regarding Payment of Overtime to Truck Drivers and Driver’s Helpers.** (Rep. O’Connor, R-Berwick) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. This bill conforms Maine law to federal law as it pertains to payment of overtime to truck drivers and driver’s helpers.

**LD 1725, An Act To Strengthen the Unemployment Insurance Laws and Reduce Unemployment Fraud.** (Sen. Rector, R-Knox for the Maine Dept. of Labor) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. This bill amends the employment security laws pertaining to specific UI benefit eligibility. It provides that it is an individual’s responsibility to seek work and report work search efforts to the Maine Unemployment Insurance Commission and that failure to do so without good cause results in the loss of benefits; that participation in the reemployment eligibility assessment services is mandatory and failure to comply without good cause results in the loss of benefits; and that unemployment fraud for amounts exceeding $1,000 are either Class C or Class B crimes depending on the benefit amount involved. In addition, the bill increases the earnings requirement for requalifying for benefits after disqualification for refusing suitable work from 8 times the individual’s weekly benefit amount to 10 times; changes the requirement that the individual must broaden the individual’s work search after 6 weeks of unemployment rather than 12 weeks; increases the earnings requirement to requalify for benefits after a misconduct disqualification from 4 times the individual’s weekly benefit amount to 10 times; imposes an indefinite disqualification from receiving benefits upon a 3rd determination of unemployment fraud; and adds vacation pay to the types of remuneration for which unemployment benefits are offset.

**LD 1729, An Act To Clarify the Minimum Wage Law as It Relates to People with Disabilities.** (Rep. Volk, R-Scarborough for the Maine Dept. of Labor) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. The bill permits the issuance of a certificate to an employer for the hiring of one or more persons with disabilities at a rate commensurate with the ability of those persons to perform the duties required in comparison to the ability of a person who does not have a disability. It extends the length of time a certificate is valid from one year to 2 years. As in current law, a certificate may be renewed. This bill updates current law to parallel requirements relating to the federal minimum wage outlined in Section 14(c) of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**LD 287, An Act To Provide Savings to the State by Contracting Out Certain Services.** (Rep. Windsor, R-Novar) Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. This bill is a concept draft that proposes the identification of the types of services provided by state employees that could be provided more effectively and with reduced cost by privately contracted services. The bill proposes to explore the practices of other states and identify private contracting practices that are effective and the actions that would be necessary to achieve similar benefits in Maine.

**REGULATORY REFORM**

**LD 543, An Act To Protect Legislative Intent in Rulemaking.** (Rep. Prescott, R-Topsham) Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. A concept draft, this bill proposes the review of agency rule-making authority and establishes clearer distinctions between major substantive rules and routine technical rules to ensure that legislative grants of rule-making authority are clear and specific enough to not result in agency misunderstanding of legislative intent or overly broad construction of the grant of rule-making authority.

**LD 1658, An Act To Protect Gasoline Marketers from Liability for Selling Federally Mandated Gasoline.** (Sen. Hastings, R-Oxford) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. This bill provides that a distributor or retail dealer of motor fuel is not liable for damages caused by the use of motor fuel containing more than 10% ethanol sold, consigned or distributed by that distributor or retail dealer if the sale, consignment or distribution of that motor fuel is required by federal law.

**TAXATION**

**LD 234, An Act To Provide a Sales Tax Exemption to Commercial Horticulturists.** (Rep. Harvell, R-Farmington) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. This legislation creates a sales tax exemption for sales of certain products used in the commercial production of crops, sod, greenhouse products, nursery products, seed and the commercial production of livestock.

**LD 590, An Act To Require Review of Certain Changes to Sales Tax Policy Application or**

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Practice prior to Implementation. (Rep. Chase, R-Wells) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. Under this legislation, if the Bureau of Revenue Services adopts any change in a policy application or practice which will result in additional revenue, the assessor must submit the change for legislative review before it is implemented. The review would be conducted by the Legislature’s Taxation Committee. After review, the bill would authorize the committee to report out legislation either reversing or modifying the proposed change.

LD 849, An Act To Provide Tax Relief for Maine’s Citizens by Reducing Income Taxes. (Sen. Trahan, R-Lincoln) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. This bill requires that 30% of any revenues that exceed the so-called LD 1 limitation and 20% of the amount of any unappropriated surplus be transferred to a “Tax Relief Fund.” The fund would be used to increase income tax brackets by 20% and then to incrementally reduce the top marginal income tax rate until it reaches 6.5%.

LD 1138, An Act To Prevent Unnecessary Expulsion of Landowners from the Maine Tree Growth Law Program. (Rep. Knight, R-Livermore Falls) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. Under current law, a landowner may lose Tree Growth Tax Eligibility for failure to file the required forest management and harvest plan within certain prescribed deadlines. In general, a required plan must be filed every 10 years. In order to mitigate the seriousness of the penalty, this bill requires the state to impose a $100 penalty on noncompliant landowners and gives them one year from the applicable deadline to comply.

LD 1610, An Act To Amend the Law Regarding the Sale of Wood Pellets. (Rep. McKane, R-Newcastle) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. Currently, in order to qualify for a sales tax exemption on the purchase of wood pellets for residential use, customers purchasing more than 200 pounds of wood pellets for residential cooking or heating must sign an affidavit or a log. This bill increases the amount of wood pellets presumed to meet the requirement of residential use, and thus to qualify for the sales tax exemption, from 200 pounds to 2,000 pounds.

LD 1730, An Act To Require the Review of Proposed Tax Expenditures. (Sen. Hastings, R-Oxford) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. This bill creates a review process to be performed by the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation prior to the enactment of legislation or approval of a legislative initiative that would result in a new tax expenditure or a change that prolongs or expands an existing tax expenditure. The bill requires that committee to consider the groups and numbers of taxpayers affected, the public policy objectives that provide justification for the proposed tax expenditure, fiscal impact projections related to the proposed tax expenditure, effects the proposed tax expenditure may have on the economy, unintended benefits or negative consequences of the proposed tax expenditure, similar tax expenditures in other states, standards of accountability or reporting requirements related to the proposed tax expenditure, methods for evaluating the proposed tax expenditure and mechanisms for recapturing the proposed tax expenditure if objectives are not fulfilled. The bill requires proposals for a new tax expenditure or a change that prolongs or expands an existing tax expenditure to include a repeal date and a review process for the tax expenditure. The bill requires the any committee, when proposing a new tax expenditure or a change that prolongs or expands an existing tax expenditure to seek an advisory opinion from the taxation committee prior to enacting legislation or recommending a legislative initiative that would result in a new tax expenditure or a change that prolongs or expands an existing tax expenditure.


LD 1749, An Act To Amend the Tax Laws. (Rep. Knight, R-Livermore Falls for the Dept. of Administrative and Financial Services) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. This bill makes a variety of changes to Maine’s tax code.

LD 1750, An Act To Create the Maine Board of Tax Appeals. (Rep. Knight, R-Livermore Falls for the Dept. of Administrative and Financial Services) Emergency Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. This bill makes a variety of changes to the laws governing appeals of decisions of the State Tax Assessor, including:

- It provides the means for a taxpayer to consider that a petition for reconsideration has been denied if a decision has not been issued by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services within 90 days.
New Legislation...
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days of the receipt of the petition;
- It provides for a reconsidered decision on a small claim request at the bureau level, which may be appealed directly to the Superior Court, and defines a small claim request. It provides that all other reconsidered decisions may be appealed de novo to either the Superior Court or the Maine Board of Tax Appeals; and,
- It eliminates the Independent Appeals Office, as created in Public Law 2011, chapter 439, and instead creates the Maine Board of Tax Appeals, an independent, 3-member board appointed by the Governor. The members of the board serve 3-year terms. It provides for per diem compensation to the board members and outlines the powers and duties of the board, including adopting rules necessary to oversee formal appeals of decisions of the State Tax Assessor. It creates a special revenue account for appeals fees to be used for operating expenses of the board.

LD 1752, An Act Concerning Technical Changes to the Tax Laws. (Rep. Knight, R-Livermore Falls for the Dept. of Administrative and Financial Services) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. This bill makes a variety of technical changes to maine tax law, including correction to cross-referencing to correct changes, clarifications about tax credit eligibility, recapture provisions of the Maine capital investment credit, minimum taxability thresholds for nonresidents, the computation of the Maine fishery infrastructure investment tax credit, and other changes.

UTILITIES AND ENERGY
LD 425, An Act To Stimulate Demand for Renewable Resources. (Sen. Rosen, R-Hancock) Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy. Current law establishes as a policy of the State the encouragement of the generation of electricity from renewable and efficient resources by requiring that each competitive electricity provider in this State demonstrate that no less than 30% of its portfolio of supply sources for retail electricity sales in this State is accounted for by eligible resources. This bill implements that policy by stimulating demand for electricity from generators fueled by municipal solid waste in conjunction with recycling.

LD 1622, An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing Electric Industry Restructuring. (Sen. Sherman, R-Aroostook) Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy. This bill clarifies the laws governing electric industry restructuring by providing that affiliated interests of transmission and distribution utilities, as well as transmission and distribution utilities, are not permitted to own, have a financial interest in or otherwise control generation or generation-related assets located in Maine or used to provide electric service in Maine unless permitted by the Public Utilities Commission.

LD 1644, An Act To Expand the Availability of Natural Gas to Maine Residents. (Sen. Katz, R-Kennebec) Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy. This bill authorizes the Finance Authority of Maine to issue bonds for energy distribution system projects that expand the supply of natural gas in the State. The authority is authorized to issue a certificate of approval to an applicant for a natural gas project only if the applicant contributes at least 25% of the expected cost of the project. This bill also establishes in statute minimum and maximum capital reserve requirements for bonds that are issued for natural gas projects.

LD 1655, An Act To Create a Sales Tax Exemption for the Sale and Delivery of Off-peak Electricity for Electric Thermal Storage Devices. (Sen. Courtney, R-York) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. Current law exempts the sale of certain forms of energy, including heating oil, for residential heating, but taxes electricity used to charge electric thermal storage space and water heaters. This bill provides a sales tax exemption for off-peak residential electricity used for water and space heating similar to exemptions provided for other forms of energy.

LD 1676, An Act To Increase Energy Options. (Sen. Raye, R-Washington) Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy. This bill grants to communities not served by consumer-owned utilities the opportunity to manage their own standard-offer electricity supply in the same manner permitted for communities served by consumer-owned utilities.


WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
LD 1571, An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Workers’ Compensation. (Rep. Cushing, R-Hampden) Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development. This bill seeks to make comprehensive changes to Maines Workers’ Copensation laws, including changes to governance, systemic operations, agency operations and budget, and benefit structure.

For the most current information, visit www.mainechamber.org
Governor’s Awards for Environmental Excellence

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection is committed to improving our state’s regulatory climate and to creating a stronger culture of cooperation between government and Maine people and businesses. As part of that effort, the department invites you to participate in the new annual Governor’s Awards of Environmental Excellence. The awards program honors businesses, not-for-profit organizations and public entities for their extraordinary efforts to protect and improve Maine’s environment.

Through this awards program, Maine DEP will celebrate and spotlight those who serve as a model we can all learn from for new, innovative ways to shift a culture toward sustainability while investing in infrastructure and creating good jobs. DEP is looking to recognize applicants with projects and programs born from innovation and collaboration that have resulted in measureable environmental and economic benefits. Successful candidates will be those who are solving environmental challenges through constructive and creative solutions that go beyond standard techniques or regulatory compliance requirements.

Project applications will be subject to a thorough screening process that involves a review of technical merit; an evaluation of environmental benefits and sustainable use of Maine’s natural resources; and, a review of an applicant’s compliance record, if applicable. Eligible applications are reviewed and evaluated by a panel of senior departmental program managers.

The department encourages Maine companies to submit an application describing how the project has demonstrated environmental excellence and improved Maine’s environment, and thanks you for your commitment to protecting Maine’s environment and ensuring a sustainable economy for future generations.

The 2012 Application for Nomination can be found online at http://maine.gov/dep/assistance/MaineGovernor%27sAwardsforEnvironmentalExcellence.pdf. For more information, please contact Samantha DePoy-Warren by calling (207) 287-5842 or by emailing samantha.depoy-warren@maine.gov.

SAV E T H E DATE!

Don’t miss this opportunity to learn more about

Maine’s Untapped Workforce: How Hiring People with disAbilities Makes Good Business $ense

Tuesday, April 3 • 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport Maine
Registration: $50

OPTIONAL: Maine United States Business Leadership Meeting from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

One in five Americans has some type of disability. To paraphrase Walgreen’s executive Randy Lewis, diversifying your work team to include disabled workers is not “an act of charity;” it’s a solid business solution every Maine employer who wants to lower costs, expand, and increase profits should consider. Come hear more about opportunities for Maine businesses to learn from each other and share knowledge and resources about including people with disabilities in your workforce.

Are you a business owner or manager, wondering how you get started? Not sure if you’re ready to get started? Sign up to attend “Maine’s Untapped Workforce: How hiring people with disAbilities makes good business Sense,” a conference on diversity and inclusion in the workplace taking place on April 3 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Downtown Freeport. Deb Russell, corporate manager for Walgreen Co., will be the keynote speaker. Gov. Paul LePage has been invited to make introductory remarks, plus a Maine Business Panel will share their experiences of hiring people with disabilities, resources, and nuts-and-bolts answers to your questions.

The conference is presented through a partnership of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, and the Maine Department of Labor. For more information, please contact Amy Downing by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 104 or by emailing adowning@mainechamber.org. Register today!

NOTE: If you can’t make it to the April event, but you are interested in finding out more about offering employment opportunities to people with disabilities in Maine, please contact business consultant Valerie Oswald at the Maine Department of Labor’s Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (valerie.j.oswald@maine.gov) or visit the website (http://www.maine.gov/rehab/index.shtml). For more information about Walgreen’s inclusion journey, visit http://www.walgreens.com/topic/sr/disability_inclusion_workplace.jsp.

Did you know?

• 87 percent of Americans say they’d prefer to patronize businesses that hire people with disabilities.

• More than 70 percent of people with disabilities require no additional job accommodations.

• Safety records for employees with disabilities and for those without are almost identical.

• 98 percent of respondents to a University of Massachusetts survey who had been served by a worker with a disability reported being “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the service they had received.
Maine’s Untapped Workforce: How Hiring People with disAbilities Makes Good Business $ense

Tuesday, April 3 • 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport Maine
Registration: $50

This program is made possible through the partnership of
The Maine State Chamber of Commerce
The Maine Department of Health and Human Services
The Maine Department of Labor

Thank You to Our Premier Sponsor: Procter & Gamble

AGENDA
8:00 a.m. Registration
8:45 to 9:00 a.m. Welcome/Overview
9:00 a.m. Gov. Paul LePage
9:30 a.m. Keynote Speaker
10:30 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. Break-out sessions
12:00 noon Lunch/Awards
1:00 p.m. Resources Info
1:30 p.m. Evaluation/Wrap-up
1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Optional Maine United States Business Leadership Meeting

COMPANY INFORMATION

Company Name _________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ___________________________________________________
Phone (                           ) ____________________________________________
Email _________________________________________________________

$50/ person Please RSVP by Thursday, March 20, 2012

NAMES OF ATTENDEES Y / N

1. ___________________________ 2. ___________________________ 3. ___________________________
4. ___________________________ 5. ___________________________ 6. ___________________________

PAYMENT OPTIONS

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD: Please register electronically by visiting http://events.mainechamber.org

TO PAY BY CHECK: Submit your check (made payable to the Maine State Chamber of Commerce) and this completed registration form by mail to Amy Downing at 125 Community Dr., Suite 101, Augusta, Maine 04330.

For the most current information, visit www.mainechamber.org

University of Maine’s Career Center schedules annual Career Fair

The Career Center at the University of Maine in Orono will hold its annual Career Fair on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The UMaine Career Fair brings employers to campus to meet face-to-face with students of all majors and all classes (first year through graduate students) to educate them about careers. If you have internships or full-time jobs to fill, this is your opportunity to begin the hiring process on the spot.

To register for the UMaine Career Fair, please visit http://umaine.edu/career/upcoming-events/career-fair/. For more information, please contact Cathy Marquez, assistant director for Employer Relations, by calling (207) 581-1353 or by emailing cathy.marquez@umit.maine.edu, or Patty Counihan, career center director, by calling (207) 581-1355 or by emailing patty.counihan@umit.maine.edu.

While you are there, stop by and check out our InternHelpME.com booth! □

An exclusive offer for Chamber members and their families from the Portland Pirates

As a benefit to local/regional chamber members, the Portland Pirates has partnered the Maine State Chamber of Commerce with for an exclusive offer for Chamber members and their families to attend two selected Pirates games on Wed., January 18 and Wed., March 28.

To join other area chambers and their members, purchase your exclusive Portland Pirates tickets by visiting https://www.formstack.com/forms/portlandpirates-mainechambermembers. For details or more information, please contact Nick Dyer, account executive for the Portland Pirates Hockey Team, by calling (207) 828-4665 or by emailing ndyer@portlandpirates.com. □
Middle and high school students in Maine are getting an early start in business thanks to the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!), a groundbreaking new program that is making its way into the Pine Tree State through local/regional chambers of commerce.

Throughout this yearlong afterschool program, students in grades 6-12 are learning how to launch and run their own real businesses in a fun, hands-on, projects-based approach. Complete with exciting field trips to local businesses and dynamic guest speakers from the business community, the Young Entrepreneurs Academy is becoming a powerful tool for Chambers of Commerce to rally their members, their education community, and the public at large behind the spirit of enterprise.

From an exciting live Investor Panel Event, where students pitch for real funding for their businesses, to the Trade Show Event, where students unveil and market their new products and services to the public for the first time, The Young Entrepreneurs Academy is a unique approach to entrepreneurship education.

“We are replacing business simulation with real company launches and job creation,” says Gayle Jagel, founder and CEO of the Academy. The Academy was founded in 2004 at the University of Rochester with support from the Kauffman Foundation. In 2011, YEA! became a national partner of the United States Chamber of Commerce and Campaign for Free Enterprise.

“Following the media’s major coverage of these new teen CEOs, chambers of commerce quickly heard about the YEA! class and wanted to bring the impressive program to their communities,” says Eric Meyer, who oversees the Chamber joint venture. “Today, our phones are ringing off the hook as chambers are realizing the huge benefits of bringing the Young Entrepreneurs Academy to their communities,” says Meyer. “We couldn’t be happier.”

Some of those benefits include creating new opportunities for direct chamber member engagement with local youth, promoting the role of the chamber in the community, and even generating new revenue and a net profit for local chambers. And that’s why two chambers in Maine have already adopted the program and are having great success.

“The Young Entrepreneurs Academy has made a significant impact on our community and has unified our local business and education communities in a unique way,” says president of the Southern Midcoast Chamber of Commerce, Steve Wallace. “With YEA!, our chamber is helping to spread the spirit of enterprise among young people in Maine.”

“Our students just got back from their first of many dynamic field trips to a great local Maine business, ‘When Pigs Fly!,’ and we are excited about the students truly connecting in with our local business community, even at their young ages,” says Holly Roberts of the York Chamber of Commerce.

To find out how to bring this powerful program to your chamber, serve local students and launch new local businesses, please contact Eric Meyer at the Young Entrepreneurs Academy’s corporate office by calling (585) 272-3535 or by emailing emeyer@yeausa.org.
Every New Year comes with the dreaded New Year’s Resolution. We all make them with the best of intentions, but in the back of our minds, we’re really thinking, “how long will it take to fall off the band wagon?”

Eating right and getting in shape are among the top five most common New Year’s resolutions. The truth is we should already be doing these things because taking care of ourselves is so important. What do you think of when you hear the words “diet” or “healthy food?” Do you imagine raw celery or carrot sticks sitting coldly on a plate? Or a leafy green salad without a drop of dressing anywhere?

Eating well doesn’t have to be boring or unsavory. In fact, it should be one of the most pleasurable things we do. One of the reasons why our tongues have taste buds is so that we can enjoy food flavors. And because Mother Nature provides a bounty of grains, dairy products, meats, fruits and vegetables to choose from, we are intended to have variety – not monotony – as part of our daily eating plans.

We understand that our bodies are meant to have food so that we have energy to perform daily activities; and the types and quantity of foods we eat, how we prepare them, how often we eat them, and how active we are have a direct impact on our overall ability to fight disease and stay well. Yet, we sometimes deny ourselves the enjoyment and rewards of healthy eating because we may misinterpret “healthy” to mean “restrictive” or “tasteless.” We may also frequently skip meals because of busy schedules.

A national survey conducted by the American Dietetic Association shows that Americans rank taste, time and confusion as their most frequent barriers to nutritious eating. So when, and why, did eating well become so muddled up? Maybe if we reconsider some basic rules of good nutrition, we can see just how simple healthy eating really is. Remember to:

- Eat regularly;
- Choose wisely;
- Prepare healthfully;
- Portion sensibly;
- Enjoy treats occasionally; and,
- Exercise daily.

Still feeling like eating healthy is an overwhelming task to take on or that it is beyond your budget? Here are some links to websites and articles that have helpful resources:

- Healthy Eating on a Budget: http://www.choosemyplate.gov/healthyeating-on-budget.html

Fruits and vegetables are an important part of eating healthy as they provide so many of the vitamins and nutrients our bodies need. For information on how many servings of fruits and vegetables we should be eating a day and how to take in the recommended amounts, visit the CDC’s “Fruits and Veggies Matter” website at http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov/what/examples.html.

Get the whole family on board too! If everyone in the house is making healthy choices, including the kids, it’ll be easier to maintain and you’ll be surprised at how quickly it becomes the new “normal.” This link might be helpful when it comes to getting the kids on board: Ways to Enhance Children’s Activities and Nutrition, http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/wecan/index.htm.

When employees feel good, they tend to perform better. That’s why most Chamber BlueOptions’ plans come with employee discounts on health products and services, as well as an online health and fitness program. Just contact your Anthem-appointed insurance producer for more information, or visit the Chamber’s BlueOptions web page (www.mainechamber.org/blueoptions) to find a producer.

For more information on the Chamber BlueOptions health plan, please contact Joyce LaRoche, executive director of the Maine State Chamber Purchasing Alliance, by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 113, or by emailing jlaroche@mainechamber.org, or contact Amy Downing at ext. 104 or adowning@mainechamber.org.

*Resources provided by Anthem.com

For the most current information, visit www.mainechamber.org

01/12/2012
**Regional Business Breakfasts present your company with a unique, targeted sponsorship opportunity**

The Maine State Chamber is working to bring together business leaders on a regional level through our Regional Business Breakfast Meetings. At these events, you will have an opportunity to share your expertise and input for moving Maine’s economic future in a positive direction.

To take advantage of this effective opportunity to showcase your company, please contact Melody Rousseau by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 102, by emailing melodyr@mainechamber.org.

### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Below, please review the marketing opportunities you will receive as a sponsor of our Legislative Strictly Social or a Regional Business Breakfast Meeting.

**SERIES SPONSOR** (This level includes all seven events) .................. $2,000

Six premium benefits at five first-class events provide you with a maximum of 7 strategic marketing opportunities, for one low price!

- Company name printed on each invitation;
- Company name linked from our website;
- Complimentary one-column/half-page ad in our newsletter, IMPACT;
- Listing on promotional material for each event;
- Company name on sponsor sign of each event; and,
- Sponsors announced and thanked at each event.

**PREMIER SPONSOR** (Select the location of your choice) .................. $1,000

- Company name printed on the invitation of the selected event(s);
- Company name linked from our website for the selected event(s);
- Complimentary two-column/half-page ad in our newsletter, IMPACT;
- Listing on promotional material for the selected event(s);
- Company name on sponsor sign of the selected event(s); and,
- Sponsors announced and thanked at the selected event(s).

**PRESENTING SPONSOR** (Select the location of your choice) ................. $750

- Company name printed on the invitation of the selected event(s);
- Company name linked from our website for the selected event(s);
- Complimentary one-column/half-page ad in our newsletter, IMPACT;
- Listing on promotional material for the selected event(s);
- Company name on sponsor sign of the selected event(s); and,
- Sponsors announced and thanked at the selected event(s).

**SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT SPONSOR** (Two available per location; Select the location of your choice) .................. $650

- Company name printed on the invitation of the selected event(s);
- Skirted table (up to 6 ft) to display promotional materials (please plan to staff the table so that someone is available to converse with attendees);
- Registration table will display a sign directing attendees to the Social Spotlight table(s);
- Listing on promotional material for the selected event(s);
- Company name on sponsor sign of the selected event(s); and,
- Sponsors announced and thanked at the selected event(s).

**OFFICIAL SPONSOR** (Select the location of your choice) ................. $500

- Company name printed on the invitation of the selected event(s);
- Listing on promotional material for the selected event(s);
- Company name on sponsor sign of the selected event(s); and,
- Sponsors announced and thanked at the selected event(s).

### EVENT LOCATIONS

- **LEGISLATIVE STRICTLY SOCIAL:** Wed., February 15, 2012, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Senator Inn & Spa on Western Avenue in Augusta. Statewide event with many legislative leaders present!

The following Regional Business Breakfast Meetings will be scheduled between April 24 and May 3, 2012, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Discussion will focus on the outcomes of the legislative session. Details coming soon.

- **MAINE HIGHLANDS** Regional Business Breakfast Meeting in the Greater Bangor area.
- **CENTRAL MAINE** Regional Business Breakfast Meeting in the Lewiston/Auburn area.
- **NORTHERN MAINE** Regional Business Breakfast Meeting in the Presque Isle or Caribou area.
- **MID-COAST** Regional Business Breakfast Meeting in the Camden/Rockland area.
- **SOUTHERN MAINE** Regional Business Breakfast Meeting in the Sanford/Wells area.
- **WESTERN MAINE** Regional Business Breakfast Meeting in the Farmington area.
Alternative Manufacturing, Inc., Winthrop, Maine
AT&T Wireless, South Portland, Maine
Burns & McDonnell, New Gloucester, Maine
Charles C. Soltan, LLC, Augusta, Maine
CIGNA Healthcare of Maine, Inc., South Portland, Maine
Clark Insurance, Portland, Maine
Dingley Press, Lisbon, Maine
*Engineered Products Co., Inc., Portland, Maine
*EW Mailhot Sausage Co, Lewiston, Maine
Filler & Associates, PA, Portland, Maine
First Federal Savings, Bath, Maine
Flemish Master Weavers, Sanford, Maine
General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products, Saco, Maine
Hahnel Brothers Co., Lewiston, Maine
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Portland, Maine
Hydrograss Corporation, Pittsfield, Maine
J.S. McCarthy, Inc., Augusta, Maine
Jagger Brothers, Inc., Springvale, Maine
Johnson & Johnson, Stoneham, Massachusetts
Maine and Maritimes Corp., Presque Isle, Maine
Maine Small Business Development Centers, Portland, Maine
Maine Street Solutions, Augusta, Maine
Mitchell Tardy Government Affairs, Augusta, Maine
Reed & Reed, Woolwich, Maine
Saltwater Farm Campground, Thomaston, Maine
Securian Dental, Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Sevee & Maher Engineers, Inc., Cumberland, Maine
St. Germain Collins, Westbrook, Maine
Stateside Associates, Arlington, Virginia
Sugarloaf, Carrabassett Valley, Maine
Sure Winner Foods, Saco, Maine
TDM - Trask-Decrow Machinery, Inc., Scarborough, Maine
The Cliff House Resort and Spa, Ogunquit, Maine
The Maids, Portland, Maine
Tilson Technology Management, Portland, Maine
Verizon Wireless, Wilmington, Massachusetts
Wasco Products, Inc., Wells, Maine
Weymouth Pines L. L. C., Brewer, Maine
Winderosa Mfg. & Dist., Peru, Maine
Wright-Pierce, Topsham, Maine

Thanks, in part, to MEMIC’s 18-year focus on safety, Maine workers have fewer injuries, and we all pay less in workers’ comp. The result: last fall, Mel the Mailman delivered $12 million in workers’ comp dividend checks to MEMIC’s Maine-based policyholders. If you’d like to find out how much your MEMIC check could have been, visit MEMIC.com/dividend.

Or talk to your agent. And take the first step to getting on Mel’s route in the future!
The Maine State Chamber invites you to its annual Legislative Strictly Social networking reception. Our annual Legislative Strictly Social is an ideal way for you, the Maine business leader, to interact with legislators, business associates, new and prospective Maine State Chamber members, and government representatives in a relaxed setting.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2012 SPONSORS:

SERIES SPONSORS: Altria Client Services, Inc.; Burns & McDonnell; Casella Waste Systems, Eastern Region; IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.; MaineHealth; Poland Spring Water Company; Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.; Verizon Wireless; Volk Packaging Corporation

PREMIER SPONSOR: AT&T Wireless

PRESENTING SPONSORS: Bangor Hydro-Electric Company; Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership

SPOTLIGHT SPONSORS: GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.; The Jackson Laboratory

OFFICIAL SPONSORS: Backyard Farms, LLC; Maine Technology Institute; Plum Creek Timber Company; Telecommunications Association of Maine; Unitil Corp.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact Melody Rousseau for more information by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 102, or by emailing melodyr@mainechamber.org.