



ROLL CALL

An Economic Perspective on the 129th Maine Legislature
(2019-2020)

MAINE
STATE
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE





About Roll Call

ABOUT US

The Maine Economic Research Institute (MERI) is a nonpartisan, independent, not-for-profit organization formed to conduct research, analysis, and reporting on economic issues. MERI's methodology, a tested model operating in 23 states across the country – some for more than 25 years – is rooted in the basic business concepts of accountability and performance review. A particular focus for MERI is how state policies affect Maine's economy.

SELECTION PROCESS

Government affairs professionals representing Maine's most respected business and industry trade groups – including the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Association of Maine, the Associated Builders and Contractors, the Maine Restaurant Association, the Maine Auto Dealers Association, the Maine Aggregate Association and the Maine Beverage Association – meet regularly during the legislative session in order to identify legislative proposals that will impact the business community.

HOW DO WE GET THE FINAL SCORES?

The final rankings are based on a combination of recorded votes on selected bills, and a qualitative survey of government relations professionals that represent Maine's business community before the Maine Legislature.

Key To Our Ratings:

75-100	Very strong supporter of Maine's economy
55-75	Strong supporter of Maine's economy
35-54	Weak supporter of Maine's economy
0-34	Very weak supporter of Maine's economy
+	Voted in support of Maine's economy
-	Voted not in support of Maine's economy
A	Absent
E	Excused



A Look At The Bills

LD 289, An Act To Prohibit the Use of Certain Disposable Food Service Containers

(Rep. Zeigler, Montville)

Beginning January 1, 2020, this bill prohibits the sale or distribution in the State of disposable food service containers composed in whole or in part of polystyrene foam. The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules to implement these statutory provisions.

LD 906, An Act Concerning Pavement Sealing Products

(Rep. Daughtry, Brunswick)

This bill prohibits the sale of coal tar sealant products beginning October 1, 2020 and prohibits the application of coal tar sealant products on driveways or parking areas beginning October 1, 2021. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may grant an exemption from the prohibitions for research or development purposes.

LD 946, An Act To Protect the Privacy of Online Customer Information

(Sen. Bellows, Kennebec)

This bill prohibits a provider of broadband Internet access service from using, disclosing, selling or permitting access to customer personal information unless the customer expressly consents to that use, disclosure, sale or access. The bill provides other exceptions under which a provider may use, disclose, sell or permit access to customer personal information. The bill prohibits a provider from refusing to serve a customer, charging a customer a penalty or offering a customer a discount if the customer does or does not consent to the use, disclosure, sale or access. The bill requires providers to take reasonable measures to protect customer personal information from unauthorized use, disclosure, sale or access. The provisions of the bill apply to providers operating within the State when providing broadband Internet access service to customers that are billed for service received in the State and are physically located in the State.

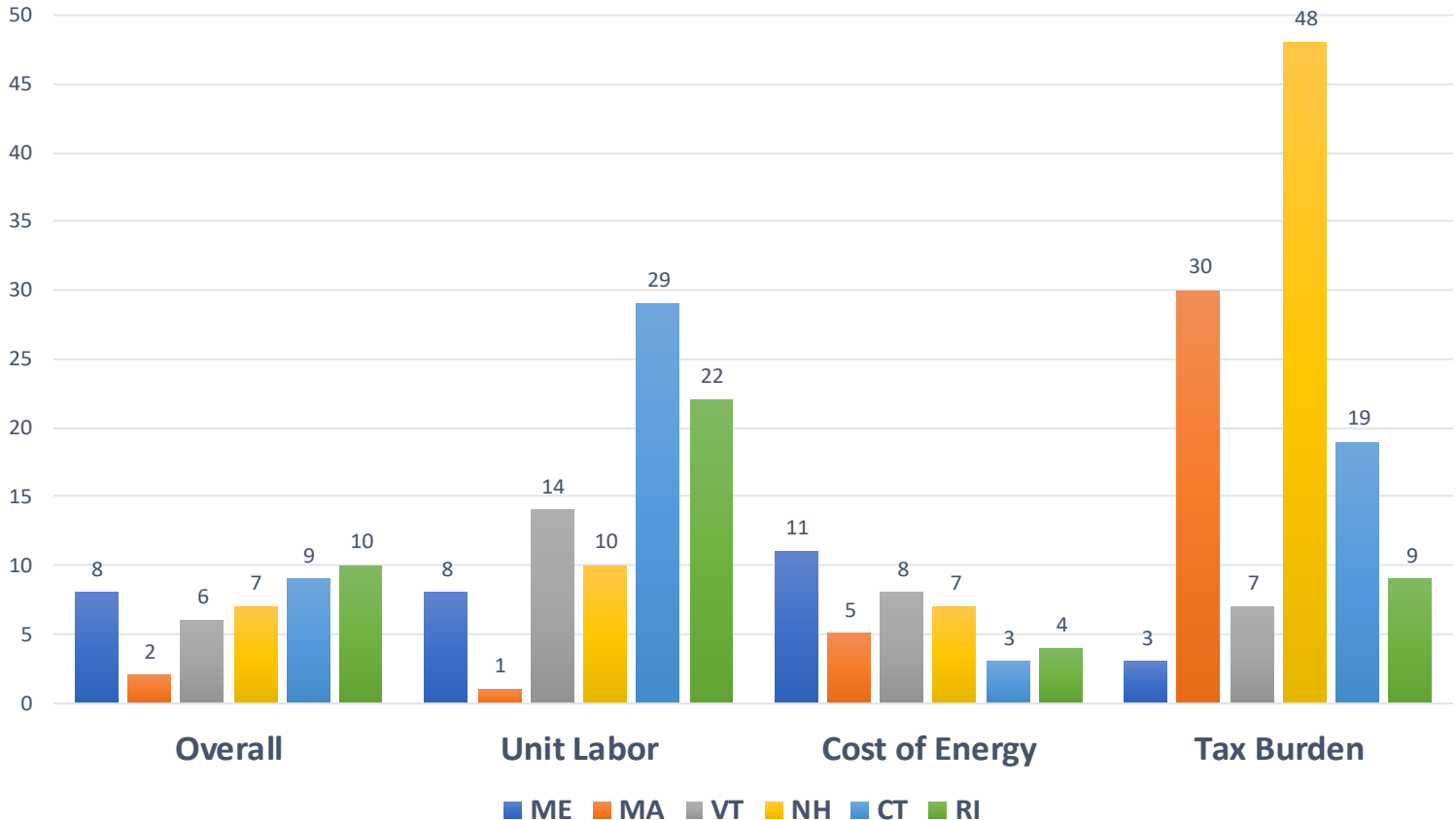
Snapshot of Maine's Economy

New England Rankings: Cost of Doing Business

(1 is the highest cost)

In 2017, Maine's cost of doing business index ranked 8th highest in the U.S. Of the three cost elements, Maine's tax burden ranks 3rd highest among the 50 states, labor costs rank 8th, and energy costs rank 11th highest. Maine's cost of doing business has been above the Northeast average for the past three years.

Source: Maine Economic Growth Council / Maine Development Foundation, *Measures of Growth 2019*



A Look At The Bills

LD 1074, An Act To Establish a Tax on Water Extracted for Bottling in Order To Secure the Economic Future of Rural Maine

(Rep. Gramlich, Old Orchard Beach)

This bill creates an excise tax of 12¢ per gallon on the extraction of groundwater or surface water for commercial bottling for sale. Revenue from the tax must be used to improve the economy of the State by supporting the expansion and improvement of high speed broadband access and by providing tuition grants for up to 2 years for post-secondary education.

LD 1098, An Act To Help Small Employers by Making the Minimum Wage Increase

More Gradual in Nonurban Areas (Sen. Keim, Oxford)

This bill creates an alternative minimum hourly wage that applies to certain designated nonurban areas starting on January 1, 2020. Under this bill the minimum hourly wage rate for those areas is \$11 per hour and increases by 50¢ each January 1st until it reaches \$12 per hour on January 1, 2022. The minimum hourly wage stays the same as in current law for Cumberland County, except for the towns of Baldwin, Bridgton, Harrison and Naples. The bill also freezes any scheduled increase in the current minimum wage or the new alternative minimum wage if there is in effect an extended benefit period for unemployment compensation benefits, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor. The scheduled increase or increases will resume once there is no longer an extended benefit period in effect as of January 1st of a given year. It also delays the cost-of-living adjustment for the current minimum wage to January 1, 2024, changes the calculation to be the average cost-of-living increase over the

prior 3 years and changes the timing of the cost-of-living adjustment to be every 3 years instead of every year. It also requires the Department of Labor to submit an annual report analyzing job creation and job loss trends in urban and non-urban areas since the initiation of minimum wage increases established by Initiated Bill 2015, chapter 2, section 1.

LD 1292, An Act To Lower Maine's

Individual Income Tax (Rep. O'Connor, Berwick)

This bill decreases over 3 years the rate of taxation imposed on individual income by:

1. Decreasing the lowest rate from 5.8% to 5.2% for tax years 2020 and 2021 and to 5% beginning in 2022;
2. Decreasing the middle rate from 6.75% to 6.3% for tax years 2020 and 2021 and to 6% beginning in 2022; and,
3. Decreasing the highest rate from 7.15% to 7.05% for tax years 2020 and 2021 and to 7% beginning in 2022.

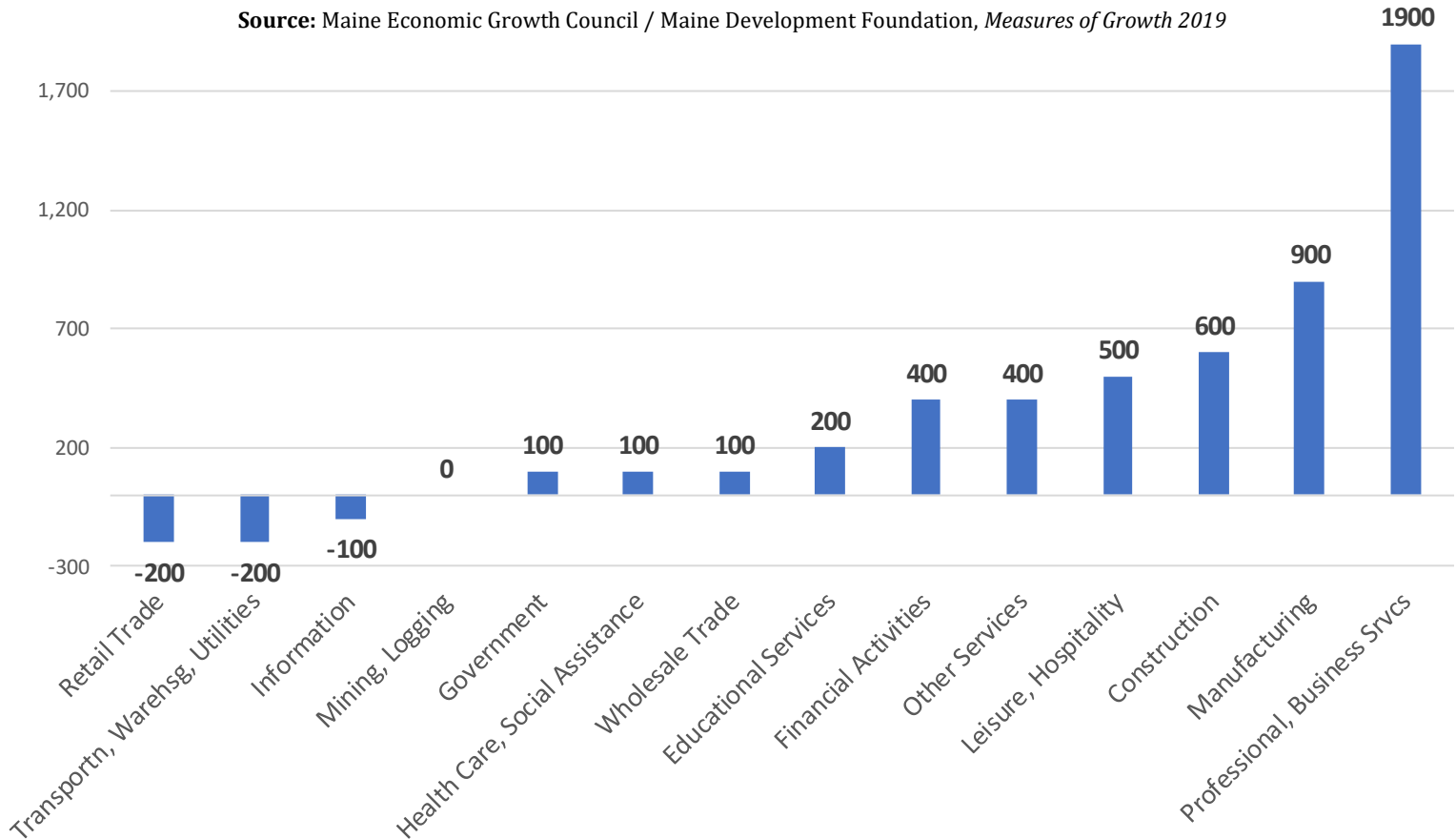
This bill also changes cross-references in the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and inflation adjustment statutes.

Snapshot of Maine's Economy

Employment Growth in Maine by Selected Sectors, 2017-2018

Maine total employment exceeded the pre-recession level for the first time in 2017, and another 4,500 jobs were added in 2018 for a total of 628,500 jobs. The sector with the largest employment increase in 2018 was professional and business services, followed by manufacturing, construction, and leisure and hospitality. Health care & social assistance (17%) and government (16%) are the sectors with the most jobs in Maine.

Source: Maine Economic Growth Council / Maine Development Foundation, *Measures of Growth 2019*



A Look At The Bills

LD 1524, An Act To Prevent Wage Theft and Promote Employer Accountability

(President Jackson, Aroostook)

This bill addresses wage theft by an employer by creating additional remedies, including injunctive relief, treble damages to be paid to affected employees and a stop-work order against an employer who is engaging in wage theft. These remedies are in addition to any existing penalties, and the actions may be combined. "Wage theft" is defined as a violation of specific statutes that include the requirements of timely and full payment of wages, payment of wages upon cessation of employment, payments defined as "unfair agreements" and fringe benefits.

LD 1532, An Act To Eliminate Single-use Plastic Carry-out Bags

(Rep. Stover, Boothbay)

This bill prohibits a retail establishment from using single-use carry-out bags to bag products at the point of sale or otherwise make single-use carry-out bags available to customers, with exemptions for certain types and uses of plastic and paper bags. Retail establishments may provide recyclable paper bags to bag products at the point of sale for at least 5¢ per bag, with exceptions to the fee requirement for certain types of retail establishments. The prohibition is effective April 22, 2020.

LD 1599, An Act To Allow Certain State Regulators To Lower Fees by Order

(Rep. Keschl, Belgrade)

This bill authorizes the Superintendent of Insurance, the Superintendent of Consumer Credit Protection, the Superintendent of Financial Institutions and the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation to lower or suspend certain fees specified in law by order.



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SPECIAL NOTE:

Rep. Stephen Moriarty and **Rep. Joseph Perry** were elected in special elections to complete the terms of deceased legislators. We are unable to determine how they would have voted or what their level of attendance would have been during the full legislative session; therefore, we have omitted them from Roll Call's scoring assessment.



How They Voted: Senate

Member (SENATE)	District #	Party	LD #									Score
			289	906	946	1074	1098	1292	1524	1532	1599	
Bellows, Shenna	14	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.00
Black, Russel	17	R	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	83.38
Breen, Catherine	25	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	15.00
Carpenter, Michael	2	D	E	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	E	14.00
Carson, Everett	24	D		-	-	-	-	E	-	-	-	6.00
Chenette, Mark	31	D	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.00
Chipman, Benjamin	27	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.00
Claxton, Ned	20	D	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	19.50
Cyrway, Scott	16	R	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	88.00
Davis Sr., Paul	4	R	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	79.56
Deschambault, Susan	32	D	-	E	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	24.28
Diamond, William	26	D	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	47.00

How They Voted: House of Representatives

Member (HOUSE)	District	Party	LD #									Score
			289	906	946	1074	1098	1292	1524	1532	1599	
Evangelos, Jeffrey	91	I	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.00
Farnsworth, Richard	37	D	-	-	+	A	-	-	-	-	-	19.88
Faulkingham, William	136	R	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.00
Fay, Jessica	66	D	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	21.84
Fecteau, Justin	86	R	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	86.38
Fecteau, Ryan	11	D	-	A	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	21.06
Foley, Victoria	12	D	A	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	22.43
Foster, Steven	104	R	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	85.13
Gattine, Andrew	34	D	-	-	+	-	-	-	A	-	-	22.72
Gideon, Sara	48	D	-	-	+	+	-	-	A	-	-	19.89
Gramlich, Lori	13	D	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.38
Griffin, Abigail	102	R	+	+	A	+	+	A	+	A	+	72.50
Grignon, Chad	118	R	+	A	A	A	A	A	+	A	A	49.57
Grohoski, Nicole	132	D	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.67
Haggan, David	101	R	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	A	77.34
Hall, Randall	114	R	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	90.34
Handy, James	58	D	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	23.86
Hanington, Sheldon	142	R	+	+	-	+	A	+	+	+	+	82.57
Hanley, Jeffery	87	R	+	+	A	+	+	A	+	A	+	80.38
Harnett, Thomas	83	D	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.00
Harrington, Matthew	19	R	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	95.72
Head, Frances	117	R	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	82.63
Hepler, Allison	53	D	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	19.34
Hickman, Craig	81	D	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	21.06
Higgins, Norman	120	I	-	-	+	+	-	-	A	-	+	45.07



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