Overtime bill scheduled for work session

Bill to change Maine’s overtime standard will be taken up on February 12

Legislation submitted last session and carried over to this session by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing will get its first initial work session in committee on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Sponsored by Rep. Ryan Tipping (D-Orono), LD 402, An Act to Restore Overtime Protections to Maine Workers, proposes to increase the overtime threshold by $22,224 over a four-year period, finally landing at $55,224 by 2022. The threshold would then be indexed each year thereafter by the second quartile of usual weekly earnings for employed full-time wage and salary workers as published by the United States Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce led a large contingency of business associations and individual employers in strongly opposing passage of the bill. In light of the other events that have taken place here during the past 12 months since the submission of LD 402 – including another $1 an hour increase in Maine’s minimum wage, bringing us to $12 an hour, and the added cost of providing up to 40 hours a year in Paid Time Off (PTO) for all full in part time employees in businesses with more than 10 workers starting in 2021 – the passage of LD 402 would be catastrophic for thousands of for-profit and non-profit businesses of all sizes across the state of Maine.

Referred to as the “overtime” threshold, or alternately as the “salaried” threshold, it is the monetary dividing line between employees who are considered salaried/exempt for the purposes of overtime pay, and those who are hourly workers and therefore eligible for overtime pay after working 40 hours in a week. As drafted, LD 402 would increase Maine’s threshold from its current level of $33,000 to $40,408 in 2020, then increase it again to $47,816 in 2021, and finally to $55,224 in 2022.

Historical Context...

Since 2009, Maine’s monetary dividing line separating hourly/non-exempt and salaried/exempt has been tied to changes in Maine’s minimum wage. At that time, Title 26 was amended to create a threshold that is 3,000 times the state’s minimum wage. While the federal threshold is currently set at the newly established threshold of $35,568, Maine’s threshold has climbed to its current level of $36,000 – again tied to the most recent increase in the minimum wage. It will continue to increase as Maine’s minimum wage is indexed by changes to the CPI here yearly.

In 2015 and 2016, the final two years of President Barack Obama’s tenure, he directed the U.S. Department of Labor to undertake rulemaking to adjust the threshold nationally. The process was a contentious one, with the U.S. Department of Labor ultimately deciding to keep the threshold as it was.

Maine’s Public Universities welcome Roux Institute at Northeastern University to Maine

On January 27, Maine native and entrepreneur David Roux joined Northeastern University President Joseph Aoun to announce the formation of the Roux Institute at Northeastern University in Portland. University of Maine System Trustee Gregory Johnson and University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy attended the announcement event of the Roux Institute at Northeastern University in Portland.

Academic leaders at the University of Maine have already begun collaboration discussions with colleagues at Northeastern University. University leaders offered the following statements welcoming the Roux Institute to Maine.

University of Maine System Board Chair James Erwin:

“David Roux’s vision and investment brings the promise of an entirely new and transformative economic sector for Maine. The concept for the Roux Institute at Northeastern University brilliantly anticipates the future confluence of digital science and health care, seeks to catalyze the research and commercialization necessary for Maine to participate in the digital economy, and supports the prepara-
Roux Institute at Northeastern University...
(Continued from Page 1...)

University of Maine President
Joan Ferrini-Mundy:

“The University of Maine welcomes the Roux Institute at Northeastern University and looks forward to developing strong and productive collaborations to benefit the people and economy of Maine. We appreciate the investment that David and Barbara Roux are making to attract Northeastern University and its partners to Maine. In particular, the focus on artificial intelligence will position Portland and the state to engage globally in exciting applications at the cutting edge.

“The University of Maine is looking forward to the opportunities that the Roux Institute at Northeastern University will provide for our students to pursue advanced degrees in fields that are growing and changing rapidly through AI, and for our faculty to collaborate in research and education. Pathways programs for UMaine students and faculty fellowships for UMaine and Northeastern faculty are being considered as the first steps in partnering.

“There will be opportunities for doctoral students to be involved in advancing our understanding of topics ranging from opioid and acetylcholine sensing technologies to photon modeling. The presence of the Roux Institute at Northeastern University will inspire and enable all of our institutions to continue in shaping the future.”

Please visit https://news.northeastern.edu/2020/01/27/northeastern-partners-with-entrepreneur-david-roux-to-launch-the-roux-institute-at-northeastern-in-portland-maine for more information about this exciting announcement. For more information, please contact Dan Demeritt, executive director of public affairs for the University of Maine System, by calling (207) 441-6962 or by emailing dan.demeritt@maine.edu.

For the most current information, visit www.mainechamber.org
Sen. Herbig introduces legislation to invest in high-speed reliable internet in rural Maine

LD 2021 provides funding to ConnectME to fund broadband infrastructure

On January 28, 2020, a bill from Sen. Erin Herbig, D-Belfast, to invest in high-speed reliable internet received a public hearing before the Legislature’s Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. The bill – LD 2021, “An Act To Provide Funding for Broadband Internet Infrastructure in Unserved and Underserved Areas” – would provide $15 million to ConnectME Authority.

“High-speed, reliable internet cannot and should not be a luxury in this day and age. It’s essential for Maine students to get a quality education and compete in the workforce, and for businesses to grow and fully compete in the market,” said Sen. Herbig. “The lack of high-speed internet in rural Maine continues to serve as an incredible barrier to our communities and economy. Maine students, families and business owners are counting on us to invest in broadband infrastructure. We cannot let them down or let them fall behind in today’s economy.”

In New England, Maine ranks last in the region in terms of access to high-speed internet, according to latest census data. This funding will allow ConnectME to provide competitive broadband infrastructure grants to underserved communities in Maine.

“Years ago, inventions like cars, phones, and electric lights revolutionized modern life, but they required investment in the infrastructure to make them work,” said Rep. Tina Riley, D-Jay, a cosponsor of the bill. “Because our parents and grandparents built roads and strung wires, our economy grew and our standard of living skyrocketed. The utility of today is broadband. If we do not invest in building its infrastructure, Maine will be left behind in the global economy, and our children will pay the price.”

ConnectME is the state agency charged with getting the entire state connected to high-speed, reliable internet. According to their 2020 Broadband

Bill addresses Maine’s child care crisis

EDITOR’S NOTE: We have reprinted a Letter to the Editor from Megan Diver, senior government relations specialist for the Maine State Chamber and a member of ReadyNation, from Sunday, January 26 for your review and consideration. It also appears online at www.centralmaine.com/2020/01/26/bill-addresses-maine’s-child-care-crisis.

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce is pleased to read that Economic and Community Development Commissioner Heather Johnson and Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce’s executive director Kim Lindlof identify Maine’s child care crisis as a barrier to workforce development. Lack of high-quality child care is a challenge we hear about often from businesses all across our state.

As so many of us work toward Maine’s educational attainment goal that 60 percent of adults have a credential of value by 2025, the economics of maximizing human potential is undeniable. It is essential to Maine’s future prosperity. Maine business leaders believe strongly that high-quality education, beginning with early care and education, is one of the most important investments we can make to ensure successful participation in a knowledge-based economy.

We now know that the brain development that occurs before children enter public school sets the foundation that supports all future learning. Thus, starting early is key to a healthy and capable workforce. Research is clear — skills developed through high-quality early childhood education last for a lifetime, and can help today’s children become the productive, stable adults of tomorrow.

The Chamber is pleased to see that there is a new proposal before the legislature, LD 1760, First4ME, that will help address the child care crisis and its negative impact on our collective economic future. I hope the legislature and the governor will act on this proposal this session, before Maine’s child care crisis gets worse.

For the most current information, visit www.mainechamber.org
Overtime Standards...  
(Continued from Page 1...)

Department of Labor receiving literally hundreds of thousands of comments on the subject from employers and labor groups alike. After an initial recommendation of roughly $52,000, the department issued threshold guidelines increasing the amount from $23,660 to $47,467, to take effect in 2016.

Not surprisingly, this represented a significant jump for many employers across the nation, and a particularly huge leap for many small businesses, who were paying salaried employees more than $23,660, but less than $47,467 (or $912 per week). Employers balked, both at the amount and the small timeframe given to adjust salaries – or demote workers to hourly status.

Again, not surprisingly, litigation ensued, and in August 2017, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas later invalidated this regulation on the basis that the $47,456 annual salary ($913 per week) was so high as to render the duties tests for exemption irrelevant.

This is extremely important – because who is considered exempt from overtime eligibility versus those who qualify for overtime pay is a two-pronged test – the aforementioned pay test and a duties test. In addition to the minimum salary level, employees must also perform certain duties to qualify for the Fair Labor Standards Act’s white collar (executive, administrative, and professional) exemption. The court found that the duties tests were the more appropriate representation of Congressional intent for exemption, and that the salary test was to serve merely as a proxy, or shorthand, for the duties test. The court ruled that the salary test was increased so much as to make the duties test irrelevant, and that the new salary test would render non-exempt those employees who should be exempt due to the duties they perform.

With the huge salary threshold leaps that LD 402 would require of Maine employers, the bill appears to make the same mistake. The ultimate level of more than $55,000 is even higher than the final

Continued on Page 8...
Maine’s public universities take historic step to unify their accreditations in the University of Maine System

Board unanimously endorses first-in-the-nation step to accredit all of Maine’s public universities together for how well they share public resources in service to students and the state

The University of Maine System Board of Trustees has unanimously approved a recommendation first brought forward by Chancellor Dannel Malloy last fall to transition the separate institutional accreditations of Maine’s public universities into a unified institutional accreditation for the University of Maine System through the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE). The transition to unified accreditation includes a commitment to maintaining Maine’s universities where they currently exist and offers expanded opportunities for them to share academic programs, resources, and practices to more effectively serve students in meeting the System’s public mission of teaching, research, and public service in Maine.

For the first time in the nation, all of a state’s public universities will be evaluated based on how well they share state resources in meeting standards of accreditation that establish criteria for institutional quality and higher education effectiveness.

“The University of Maine System Board of Trustees has taken an important step to ensure that the University of Maine System and its seven Universities can best serve the people of Maine individually and collectively,” said Dr. Barbara Brittingham, president of NECHE. “The Commission looks forward to working with the System and the Universities on unified accreditation.”

Moving to a unified accreditation is a reform that has been under consideration since the formation of the University of Maine System in 1968. The endorsement of the unified accreditation recommendation culminates many years of productive collaborations with NECHE focused on delivering high quality public education in a transitioning higher education industry and more than a year of focused strategic and leadership succession planning by the Board of Trustees. The Board approved a Declaration of Strategic Priorities in December 2018 to expedite and guide higher education reform in Maine.

“innovation and collaboration will determine Maine’s place in the world and its capacity to meet the needs of its citizens and communities,” said James Erwin, chair of the UMS Board of Trustees. “Public education has to lead the way, upskilling more Mainers with the tools and talent needed for success by providing flexible, life-long access to relevant, 21st Century learning. We must also bring new resources to bear for Maine through research that leads to discovery and attracts new investment to our state.

“Maine believes in and depends on its public universities. The Board commends the transparency, community-wide engagement, and trust that has been developed as we have considered how unifying our accreditation can support our key priorities.”

Guiding Principles and a Campaign of Participation...

In July the Board of Trustees charged Chancellor Malloy at his first Board meeting to report back on options for accreditation that would support significantly more multi-campus academic programs while adhering to NECHE standards. In September, the Board accepted the Chancellor’s report and further directed the Chancellor to develop a campus-engaged recommendation to unify accreditation for the University of Maine System.

The Chancellor and university presidents collaborated on a set of guiding principles to serve as a road map for

Continued on Page 9...

The Success for Rural Students and Communities Act aims to improve college access and post-secondary outcomes

Nationwide, rural students tend to graduate from high school at higher rates than their peers in urban districts, and at about the same rate as their suburban peers. Despite their relatively high graduation rates, rural high school students are less likely than their urban and suburban peers to pursue higher education. The majority of jobs that pay middle-class wages require an additional credential, but less than a third of rural adults hold an advanced degree. With the appropriate supports, more rural students can apply to, enroll in, and complete post-secondary education.

Introduced on January 8 by U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH), The Success for Rural Students and Communities Act would improve college access and success for rural students by spurring innovation and investment in new strategies to prepare them to complete their credentials and step into the high-demand jobs in their communities. The bill would create a demonstration program to encourage rural community stakeholders to partner together to help their students matriculate, graduate, and enter the workforce. These partnerships would draw on the talents of local school districts, institutions of higher education, regional economic development entities, and rural community-serving organizations.

The Success for Rural Students and Communities Act aims to improve post-secondary outcomes for rural students and advance economic and workforce development in their home communities by filling high-demand jobs. It would:

• Ensure rural students succeed beyond high school by improving post-secondary education enrollment and completion;

Continued on Page 7...

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

01/30/2020 III Impact III 5
The Maine State Chamber of Commerce takes pride in putting together this unique opportunity for our members. As we continue to find ourselves in the middle of important issues in Washington that have a significant impact on our members, such as health care, energy, taxes, regulations, etc., the Washington, D.C., Fly-In has proven to be extremely beneficial to our member attendees as well as to our Congressional Delegates.

In order to touch on several critical federal issues that impact our member businesses, this year’s trip will include a presentation by The National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to provide a Joint Policy Briefing in advance of the Capitol Hill visits. Appointments have been confirmed with each of our U.S. Congressional Delegates and their key staffers to provide you with an opportunity to share your business concerns, as well as discuss challenges and solutions.

The itinerary illustrates the value – the partnership with the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber, with individual meetings with our delegates and their staffs, access to a Joint Policy Briefing, dinner with our U.S. Congressional Delegates, and finally, an opportunity to schedule one-on-one visits to discuss policy issues specific to your industry.

Each year, we leave these meetings knowing we’ve been heard. And, knowing that Maine is fortunate to have congressional leaders who are caring, competent and accessible, we are certain that we have delivered an invaluable experience for our attendees. We do hope that you will join us!

Registration for this event is required, and all information for that can be found at this link: https://bit.ly/2uXtN5J.

**Important Member Registration Information...**

- **Event Registration:** $750 per attendee. Attendees are responsible for all travel arrangements. (If you are an employer with 10 employees or less, please contact Megan Diver by emailing mdiver@mainechamber.org for the small/individual business rate.)

- **Please register by Friday, April 10,** by emailing mdiver@mainechamber.org.

- **Hotel reservations** must be made directly to the Willard Intercontinental Hotel by Monday, April 10, by calling 1-202-628-9100. To receive the group rate, please indicate you are a member of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce’s group, or via this link: https://www.mainechamber.org/washington-dc-fly-in. The room rate is $479 per night plus applicable taxes; room cancellations are the responsibility of the attendee and must be made directly with the hotel.

For the most current information, visit www.mainechamber.org
Ensure rural communities benefit from their students’ success through economic revitalization and cultivation of a skilled local workforce; and,

Ensure additional rural areas benefit from these innovations by identifying and disseminating best practices.

Grants under this pilot program would be awarded to stakeholder partnerships to support activities that accomplish several objectives:

- Increase post-secondary enrollment and completion rates for rural students by providing early supports such as counseling, exposure to higher education programs, access to dual enrollment courses, pathways to regional employment opportunities, and help with transitions to and from high school and higher education.

- Increase post-secondary enrollment and completion rates for adult students, including through community outreach and programs focused on degree completion and persistence.

- Create or strengthen post-secondary programs and training opportunities in locally relevant fields, including by developing work-based learning and supporting associated costs, awarding prior-learning and competency-based credit, expanding career pathways to credentials, and engaging local employers and boards in developing programs and curricula.

- Generate local and regional development strategies that create employment opportunities for students with post-secondary degrees, including by connecting local talent with local employers and addressing barriers to success.

Cost...

The bill would authorize $60 million beginning in FY 2021. Grantees would be required to match 20 percent of their grant total, which will encourage investment in rural areas by state, private sector, and philanthropic partners. Up to 10 percent of funds would be reserved for data collection and research, to identify effective and innovative practices, and to disseminate findings.

Cancellations for the event must be made by contacting Megan Diver at the Maine State Chamber by phone at (207) 623-4568, ext. 108.

The Washington, D.C., Fly-In 2020 Agenda:

**Tuesday, April 28, 2020:**

- Early Check-in Requested, The Willard Intercontinental, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20004
- Late afternoon (3:30 p.m.) Joint Policy Briefing with the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, hosted at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC 20062
- Reception then dinner on your own

**Wednesday, April 29, 2020:**

- Maine Member Breakfast at the Occidental Grill & Seafood at The Willard Intercontinental, 1475 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004
- Meeting with Maine’s Members of the United States Senate, Capitol Hill
- Lunch and Briefing TBD
- Meetings with Maine’s Members of the United States Congress, Capitol Hill
- Meeting with Maine’s Members of the United States Senate, Capitol Hill
- Reception / Dinner with Maine’s Congressional Delegates, Sazerac

**Thursday, April 30, 2020:**

- Additional Hill visits: Our staff will assist with requests for individual meetings. Please email mdiver@mainechamber.org with your request, issue areas of interest, and with which of our U.S. congressional delegates’ staffs or offices you would like to meet.

Any agenda revisions will be provided in advance of travel time. If you have additional questions, please contact Megan Diver by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 108, or emailing mdiver@mainechamber.org.
Overtime Standards...
(Continued from Page 4...)

Obama threshold level of more than $47,000, and higher than California’s threshold level of $49,000 – thereby making Maine the highest threshold in the nation. In addition, the indexing provision of the bill links it to a national income level which will, by definition, not be in sync with Maine’s.

Unintended Consequences...
There was considerable concern expressed by employers with respect to the 2016 federal regulations that would certainly apply to LD 402 beyond cost. Many workers currently considered salaried or management employees would likely see their position converted to hourly. Employers would just not be able to keep pace with the salary adjustments necessary to maintain exempt status, which leads to several unintended consequences.

First, it created considerable morale issues in the workplace. Previously salaried workers felt demoted and that their career trajectory had been stunted due to the change. Second, employers had to retool their workforce, while trying to maintain productivity. Employees who found themselves moving from salaried to hourly were asked to turn in cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc., and instructed to conduct no work after hours – even if their work ethic motivated them to continue to do so, and thereby negatively impacting productivity.

In the non-profit world, if LD 402 becomes law, the impact could be equally destructive – particularly for charitable non-profits. These groups survive on contributions, and in some cases, contracts with local governments to provide services. So, they are not necessarily able to go out and raise more revenue to cover these increased labor costs, particularly the amount necessary to cover the increases envisioned by LD 402. People working for these groups generally do so because they believe in the mission of helping others; they understand that they will not be making as much as other employees. In many cases, jacking up the salary thresholds for exempt employees means they will no longer be able to work the longer and irregular hours providing these services demands. The same holds true for local governments, whose only method of raising revenues to cover LD 402’s increases would be to raise property taxes on their citizenry.

LD 402 will significantly increase to cost of doing business for nearly every employer – for profit or non-profit, large or small – operating in Maine. Furthermore, it will make Maine an outlier compared to the other 49 states who have not imposed such standards on their employers. This bill will certainly hurt Maine’s ability to attract new businesses, new jobs, and new opportunities for our citizens. The Maine State Chamber will continue to strongly oppose LD 402 at work session on February 12, particularly in light of the other recent cost increases that have hit our small businesses so hard. For additional information or questions, please contact Peter Gore by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 107, or by emailing pgore@mainechamber.org.
High-Speed Internet...
(Continued from Page 3...)

Action Plan, an estimated 50 percent of roadways or 17,660 miles are considered underserved. ConnectME’s 2020 Broadband Action Plan is available online at www.maine.gov/connectme.

“Every single day of our life, the internet is tied to our farm. The speed and service that we experience on our farm is extremely lacking. Most days we’re struggling to get online at appropriate hours to be doing this billing, to be doing this research,” said Jim Buckle, owner of the Buckle Farm in Unity. “We work long days as it is, and spending late nights waiting for the speed to come up just isn’t acceptable anymore. It’s expensive; farms are on tight budgets. For the speed we’re getting and the amount of money we’re paying, it’s just not equal.”

This state funding would help leverage private and federal funds to facilitate the construction of broadband infrastructure projects. The state funding essentially serves as seed money to help communities get their projects off the ground. Currently, there are more than 100 communities that have done the planning and are waiting for a broadband infrastructure grant.

“The City of Belfast has clearly realized the need for better internet speed for the entire city. They recognize that it affects so many aspects of daily life from both a community and economic development perspective. They’ve endorsed a vision to provide affordable, high-speed internet and make it available to everyone in Belfast, both businesses and residents,” said Thomas Kitteridge, Economic Development Director for the City of Belfast. “While the City of Belfast is likely prepared to spend considerable property tax dollars on broadband infrastructure, we’re hoping we can partner with the state of Maine on a funding source that would be provided through the legislation that is proposed today.

The bill drew support from a wide variety of organizations from the Maine Municipal Association and the Maine Chamber of Commerce, to the Maine Farmland Trust, the University of Maine System, and the Community College System.

LD 2021 will undergo additional work sessions in the committee.

UMaine Accreditations...
(Continued from Page 5...)

engagement, plan development, and the transition from separate institutional accreditations to a unified institutional accreditation for the University of Maine System. Principles include a commitment to keeping universities where they currently exist, adhering to collective bargaining agreements, and the assurance that faculty will continue their shared governance role in academic policy and curriculum development at the System level.

With the guiding principles in place the Chancellor kicked off a “campaign of participation” that included 46 town halls and discussions with the university community. He also established a Unified Accreditation website to post historic documentation on accreditation issues, to communicate openly with stakeholders, and to respond directly to questions.

“Our recommendation to unify our accreditations was developed through participation rather than persuasion,” said Chancellor Malloy. “We visited each campus at least three times, held hundreds of conversations, and, when questions were asked, we responded the very next day.

“We have a lot more work to do, but we already know what matters most. The

Continued on Page 11...
A total of 93 business-related bills have been tracked to date since the session began on January 8, 2020!

**Labor**


Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. This bill prohibits an employer from requesting criminal history record information on an initial employee application form, subject to certain exceptions. An employer may inquire about a prospective employee’s criminal history record information during an interview or once the prospective employee has been determined otherwise qualified for the position. The bill prohibits an employer from stating on an initial employee application form or advertisement or otherwise asserting that a person with a criminal history may not apply or will not be considered for a position, subject to certain exceptions. The bill provides that if an employer inquires about a prospective employee’s criminal history record information, the prospective employee, if still eligible for the position under applicable federal or state law, must be afforded an opportunity to explain the information and circumstances regarding any convictions, including post-conviction rehabilitation.

**Taxation**


Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. The bill makes technical changes to Maine tax laws. The bill among other things clarifies that information regarding the tax credit for major food processing and manufacturing is exempt from the confidentiality statute. It also delays the State Tax Assessor’s reporting requirement for the Maine Shippable Building Credit and the tax credit for major food processing and manufacturing.


Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. The bill affects the States income tax laws and update references to the US Internal Revenue Code of 1986 contained in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36 to refer to the US IRS Code of 1986 as amended through December 31, 2019 for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019 and for any prior tax years as specifically provided by the US IRS of 1986 as amended.
A new sponsorship opportunity from the Maine State Chamber of Commerce: The Bottom Line Podcast

Airing live the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m., “The Bottom Line” builds upon our previous television program with the same name. The Bottom Line features a variety of guests and highlights the various priority areas of the Chamber and issues of importance to Maine’s business community and economy.

“The Bottom Line” podcast can be heard on iTunes, iHeart Radio, Soundcloud, Stitcher Radio, Spotify and radio.com.

1-Month Sponsorship | $600.00
- Two commercial spots;
- Four live mentions (at the introduction and the end of each show);
- Shows archived on the “Bottom Line” web page; and,

3-Month Sponsorship | $1,400.00
- Six commercial spots;
- Twelve live mentions (at the introduction and the end of each show);
- Sponsor logo on “The Bottom Line” web page;
- Shows archived on the “Bottom Line” web page; and,

6-Month Sponsorship | $2,500.00
- 12 commercial spots;
- 24 live mentions (at the introduction and the end of each show);
- One in-studio appearance as Partnering Sponsor;
- Sponsor logo on “The Bottom Line” web page;
- Shows archived on the “Bottom Line” web page; and,

12-Month Sponsorship | $4,000.00
- 24 commercial spots;
- 48 live mentions (at the introduction and the end of each show);
- Two in-studio appearances as Partnering Sponsor;
- Sponsor logo on “The Bottom Line” web page;
- Shows archived on the “Bottom Line” web page; and,

Sponsorships are limited so book your spot today! For current analytics, more information, or to secure your spot, please email aarno@mainechamber.org.

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

UMaine Accreditations...
(Continued from Page 9...)

Guiding Principles developed by the presidents and I commit us to our existing agreements, our campus locations, and the critical role faculty must play in academic governance and curriculum development. Over the next two years we will work with our colleagues at NECHE and together and transparently across our proud universities to unify our accreditations in pursuit of academic excellence and student opportunity and success.”

A Two-Year Transition...

The resolution adopted by the Board directs the Chancellor and the UMS University Presidents to prepare and submit a substantive change application to NECHE to transition the current separate UMS university institutional accreditations to a unified accreditation for the System, covering all of its universities, by June 30, 2020.

Upon approving the substantive change request NECHE will determine further steps to evaluate the System’s quality and effectiveness in its transition to unified accreditation. These steps could include a confirming visit within six months and a comprehensive evaluation within two years.

Chancellor Malloy has established an Academic and Student Affairs / Advising Committee and Finance, Administration, and Student Support Services Committee to oversee this work. The panels will be headed by University and System leadership and include representation from all seven universities, The Chancellor will also co-convene a Unified Accreditation Coordinating Council along with Chief of Staff and General Counsel Jim Thelen. Finally, faculty senate and assembly leaders will work to develop System-wide academic governance policies.

For more information, please contact Dan Demeritt, executive director of public affairs for the University of Maine System, by calling (207) 441-6962 or by emailing dan.demeritt@maine.edu.
2020 Business Day at the Statehouse

Thursday, March 12 | 8:00 am to Noon | Hall of Flags, Second Floor, Maine Statehouse, Augusta

Employers and employees welcome ... PLEASE JOIN US!

You are invited to the Maine State Chamber of Commerce’s annual Business Day at the Statehouse on Thursday, March 12, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Hall of Flags (Statehouse, Second Floor).

Business Day at the Statehouse provides a prime opportunity for our members, and their employees, to discuss business issues and priorities with legislators and state government officials, as we work together to strengthen Maine’s economy and keep Maine competitive. Participants have the unique opportunity to connect face-to-face with legislators. Employers often use this time to emphasize the importance of preserving and retaining existing jobs, strengthening Maine’s economy through the creation of new opportunities, and keeping Maine businesses competitive in today’s economy.

With your participation, the “Voice of Maine Business” will resonate throughout Augusta! We anticipate another great turnout this year! If you have additional questions, please register online at www.mainechamber.org or email aarno@mainechamber.org.