February 13, 2020

Maine State Chamber’s 2020 Leadership Summit focuses on long-term economic goals and success

The 21st annual Leadership Summit prioritizes talent, innovation, and critical support

For the past 21 years, the Maine State Chamber’s annual Leadership Summit has provided board members and business leaders an opportunity to discuss critical public policy issues with key public officials from both sides of the aisle, as well as with administrators and representatives of the executive branch. Again this year, the Chamber’s board of directors and key business leaders gathered with legislative leaders and members of the Mills administration on Thursday and Friday, February 6 and 7, at Sunday River with the shared goal of finding ways to attracting and building talent, fostering innovation, and the building the critical support tools necessary to achieve the goals laid out in Governor Mills’ recently-released 10-year Economic Development Strategy for Maine.

The Leadership Summit is very popular each year, and despite the challenging weather on both Thursday and Friday, this year’s event was especially so. Nearly 125 hardy participants gathered to discuss policy ideas and cooperative strategies to achieve the three main goals of the 10-year plan: increasing the

Continued on Page 4...

Tax committee defeats corporate income tax bill

In addition to voting “ought-not-to-pass” on LD 1647 (see page 3), the Taxation committee also gave the same disposition on another carryover bill, LD 903, An Act to Improve Corporate Tax Fairness by Amending the Rates Imposed on Corporate Income, which was sponsored by Rep. Scott Cuddy (D-Winterport). The Maine State Chamber opposed the bill last session.

LD 903 would have established two new tax brackets and three new rates for corporate income tax. The bill would have increased the tax on corporate income between $2 to $3 million from 8.33% to 8.5% and on corporate income between $3 to $3.5 million from 8.33% to 8.75%. In addition, raising the top rate to 9% from 8.93% on income of $3.5 million or above. It would have made Maine one of only seven states in the nation to have corporate income tax rates 9% or above. According to the Tax Foundation, Maine’s current top corporate income tax is already higher than the top rate in our neighboring states of Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

Caprara testified that raising the corporate income tax would make Maine less attractive, less competitive, and would impact future investments here. Paying higher taxes can impact the amount the business owner chooses to reinvest in

Continued on Page 7...
A message from the president...

“Leadership Summit celebrates 21 years of building relationships and increasing understanding...”

by Dana Connors

Last week, we hosted our 21st annual Leadership Summit, and despite some icy winter weather, it didn’t disappoint! You can read all about it starting on page 1. Each year, once the dust settles a bit, I take some time to reflect on this event. And each year, I’m grateful for the willingness of legislators and business leaders to come together for frank, open dialog to the public policy issues facing our state.

Since 2000, we have invited business leaders and Statehouse leaders to our annual Leadership Summit to begin and encourage ongoing conversations beyond the event. Hosting the Leadership Summit at Sunday River means that for more than 24 hours we are not going anywhere, and more significantly, it affords us the opportunity to focus on the reasons we are there – collaboration, education, information, and understanding.

The diverse group of attendees includes business owners and leaders from Portland to MDI to Madawaska, legislative leadership and key committee members, the chancellors and presidents from educational institutions, economic development leaders, and representatives from local/regional chambers of commerce.

Our primary intent is plain and simple – to build communication and encourage conversations. This year, we used the three goals within the state’s Strategic Economic Plan as the basis for our discussions, pulling from the themes of Innovation, Talent, and Critical Supports needed to meet those goals. The conversations were open, informative, and sometimes lively, as the business community shared their thoughts, insights and concerns with our representatives from both sides of the aisle who represent both large and small communities in Maine. This led to an understanding of the challenges faced by businesses and the challenges faced by those who represent us in Augusta.

As we move through this session, let us remember that there will often be differing opinions on some of these topics, agreement on others, and more questions than answers on others. But by the end of our Summit, we hope that increased understanding has begun. Understanding the impact of legislation is the first step to finding the answers, and that is why these conversations are so vital.

On behalf of the board and staff of the Maine State Chamber, I’d also like to thank the 125 attendees and our generous sponsors of this very unique event – one envied by my peers across the nation. Without their willing participation and support, we would not have the opportunity to build statewide collaboration and understanding for the many issues affecting our employers, their employees, and their communities. We look forward to working together throughout the session, to continuing the conversations we began at the 21st Leadership Summit, and to providing a higher quality of life, place and people for this great state.
Onerous income tax increase bill defeated in Taxation committee

On Tuesday, the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation held a work session on several bills. The committee voted unanimously 11-0 ought-not-to-pass on LD 1647, An Act to Provide Tax Fairness to Maine’s Middle Class and Working Families, which was sponsored by Rep. Seth Berry (D-Bowdoinham).

The Maine State Chamber testified in opposition to the bill last session on the basis that it was nothing more than an income tax increase on Maine’s high earners. The bill proposed a payment of a tax equalization assessment levied on Maine’s high earners ($250,000 for single, $325,000 for head of household, and $400,000 for married filing jointly) and would have redistributed revenue realized to increase Maine’s homestead exemption and earned income tax credit.

The tax equalization assessment would have been calculated by taking the difference in the average effective tax rate on state and local taxes paid, calculated by decile, and tax a family’s individual effective tax rate on state and local taxes paid, the sum of which is multiplied by a tax family’s expanded income. How this would ever possibly be calculated by Maine Revenue Services is unknown.

The bottom line is that it would have penalized folks who are working hard to get ahead – driving hardworking people and job creators out of our state and discouraging businesses from locating in Maine – and would have made Maine one of the least attractive states to live and work in the country.

During the past several years, first in 2011 and then again in 2015, the Legislature has lowered the top income tax rate in an effort to attract and retain businesses and employees. Linda Caprara testified on behalf of the Maine State Chamber that this was a step in the right direction, and the bill would have dismantled those efforts. She said an unstable and unreliable tax climate harms Maine’s reputation nationally and is problematic for obvious reasons, especially at a time when Maine is making great strides to attract and retain employers and workers. She added the new tax would devastate our economy and drive away professionals and employers at a time when Maine is making significant efforts to retain and attract them.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Caprara by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 106, or by emailing lcaprara@mainechamber.org.

Maine State Grant Program ensures that Mainers succeed, regardless of income

Editor’s Note: The following testimony was delivered by Megan Diver, senior government relations specialist, on behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce in support of LD 2014, An Act To Amend The Laws Governing The Maine State Grant Program, at a public hearing held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. We have reprinted it here for your review.

Megan Diver can be reached directly by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 108, or by emailing mdiver@mainechamber.org.

Senator Millet, Representative Kornfield, distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Megan Diver, senior government relations specialist at the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, a statewide business association representing both large and small businesses across the state. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce is also proud to be a co-leader of the MaineSpark Coalition that is dedicated to achieving the state goal that 60 percent of Maine adults have a credential of value by 2025.

I am pleased to be here before you today to talk about the Chamber’s support for LD 2014. The Chamber and our business members believe strongly that education is the most important investment that can be made to ensure successful participation in the new, knowledge-based economy. Post-secondary education and training is critical for creating a strong economy and to ensure success in the workforce. Education is the best means for individuals to create a better future for themselves or their families, and an educated workforce benefits all of us by making the economy more productive and making Maine a place that families want to live and for businesses to thrive, expand and be successful.

College affordability and student

Continued on Page 7...
Leadership Summit...
(Continued from Page 1...)

average annual wage by 10%, increasing
the value of what we sell by 10%, and
attracting 75,000 new workers to Maine.

After the opening reception and dinner on Thursday evening, representatives
of each of the four caucuses – House
Majority Leader Matt Moonen (D-
Portland), Senate Minority Leader Dana
Dow (R-Lincoln), Sen. Shenna Bellows
(D-Kennebec) and Rep. Bruce Bickford
(R-Auburn) – discussed how the legislature could find commonalities in achieving
the plan’s goals. From that spirited discussion, it was clear that each caucus
had a different set of priorities and yardsticks with which to measure the plan’s
success and outcomes.

The long-standing tradition of roundtable breakout sessions continued Friday
morning. Three breakout sessions were convened to focus the themes of how to
build talent, how to encourage and foster innovation, and the necessity to provide
critical support for all businesses at all stages of their life cycles. Each of the 45-
minute sessions resulted in thoughtful and meaningful dialogue between business
leaders and policymakers that hopefully will help shape the discussions in the
Statehouse this session and beyond, as the public and private sectors partner to
achieve the goals of the 10-year plan.

Breakout Sessions: Building Talent...

Facilitated by Clifton Greim of Harriman Associates and Megan Diver of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, the "talent" session discussed the Governor’s Economic Plan envisioning a robust economy with strong economic growth, dependent upon the State’s talent and the skills of Maine’s workforce. It was discussed in great depth during this breakout that Maine must attract, build, and retain local talent and recruit those who don’t live here the desire to live here. Many companies in attendance spoke to the different employer programs that their companies participate in locally, ranging from on-the-job training to internships and apprenticeships. Many Maine businesses partner with Maine colleges as well.

It was determined that one of the most useful tools to Maine’s emerging talent and
for employers may be a connected online platform. Employers present expressed the concern that there are so many different workforce programs happening throughout the State, combined with individual employers doing a variety of their own things, that Maine’s talent and workforce pool needs a place to find access to all of these things in one place. In other words, an online connection platform that brings stakeholders together: student and adult talent, technical programs, universities, small businesses, large businesses, organizations and government agencies.

Immigration was also discussed – and the fact that Maine needs to create an easier pathway into the workforce for those coming to Maine from other countries. Unfortunately, much of this is controlled at the federal level, but there are some things that Maine can do, such as additional ESL funding, especially in communities experiencing high immigrant populations.

Breakout Sessions: Providing Critical Support for all Businesses at all Stages...

Facilitated by Larry Wold of TD Bank and Linda Caprara of the Maine State Chamber, the critical support session focused on three areas – broadband, the Maine Opportunity Tax Credit, and infrastructure. Not surprisingly, the broadband discussion centered around the lack of coverage in rural parts of the state. The group acknowledged that this problem has been around for quite some...
time, without resolution. It appears that the infrastructure and mechanics to expand coverage is in place; however, the return on capital to do the so-called “last mile” continues to haunt the solution. Attendees believe this needs to be addressed, as the lack of connectivity prevents small business expansion into rural areas of the state. The group discussed the new nano satellites that are coming to market now, and how they may hold some hope to assist with the issue. However, in the end, the group agreed that there needs to be more focus on getting something done to solve the problem, rather than continuing to just talk about it.

The various groups discussed using the Maine Opportunity Tax Credit as a means of attracting more talent to the state, which ties into the overall strategic plan. Employers acknowledged that Maine’s credit is difficult to navigate and needs to be simplified, as well as expanded (funding increased) and re-worked. The credit also needs to be marketed properly so more companies will take advantage of it and more young graduates will move to Maine to find work, using the credit as a way to help pay down student debt.

Lastly, attendees discussed the need for infrastructure – primarily roads and bridges – to be addressed throughout Maine, particularly northern Maine. Getting products to market is a continual problem. Everyone agreed that the state’s bridges, roads, and infrastructure are all in desperate need of repair, and there is never enough funding to complete these tasks. One of the solutions talked about was increasing the gas tax to pay for infrastructure improvements. They agreed that, while not politically palatable, it should be considered because it spreads the burden around.

**Breakout Sessions: Encouraging and Fostering Innovation...**

Facilitated by LuAnn Ballesteros of The Jackson Laboratory and Ben Gilman of the Maine State Chamber, the innovation breakouts discussed a wide range of topics focusing on how innovation can

*Continued on Page 6...*
move Maine’s economy forward to help achieve the goals within the strategic plan. More than 50% of Maine’s economic growth comes from innovation through R&D investment (public and private), technological advancements in manufacturing, the digital economy, and progress in specific industries such as aquaculture and forest products. One of the key thoughts that recurred during these sessions was that innovation means change in our economy, and since change can be difficult at times, it can bring out opposition to innovation. There needs to be a better understanding of what innovation is and what it truly means for economic growth among the citizens of Maine. There was significant discussion surrounding the need for the state to invest more via R&D bonding and the Maine Technology Institute. The discussion was productive and well-received by everyone in attendance.

The success of the 2020 Leadership Summit is centered on the highly-engaged participation of legislators, cabinet officials, and leadership. In addition to those on Thursday’s legislative leadership panel, legislators from key joint standing committees and administrators from critical departments were also in attendance, including:

- Sen. Shenna Bellows (D-Kennebec), chair, Labor and Housing;
- Sen. Dana Dow (R-Lincoln), Senate Republican Leader;
- Sen. Robert Foley (R-York), Environment and Natural Resources;
- Sen. Lisa Keim (R-Oxford), Judiciary;
- Sen. Jeffrey Timberlake, (R-Androscoggin), Assistant Senate Republican Leader;
- Rep. Bruce Bickford, (R-Auburn), Taxation;
- Rep. Richard Bradstreet (R-Vassalboro), Labor and Housing;
- Rep. Drew Gattine (D-Westbrook), chair, Appropriations and Financial Affairs;
- Rep. Matt Moonen (D-Portland), House Democratic Leader;
- Hon. Barry Hobbins, Maine Office of the Public Advocate;
- Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew, Maine Department of Health and Human Services;
- Commissioner Pender Makin, Maine Department of Education;
- Commissioner Bruce Van Note, Maine Department of Transportation;
- Commissioner Kirsten Figueroa, Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services;
- Commissioner Heather Johnson, Maine Department of Economic and Community Development;
- Deputy Commissioner Joan Cohen, Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation; and,
- Eric Cioppa, superintendent of the Bureau of Insurance at the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time, and braved the weather, to travel to Sunday River for our 21st annual Leadership Summit and participate in the event. We especially wish to thank legislative leaders, administrators, legislators, and our board members for their participation. Without their willingness to engage in a constructive and frank dialogue, this event would not be the success it is each year. We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude for the generosity of our sponsors:

- Exclusive Sponsor (Thursday): Pierce Atwood LLP
- Principal Sponsors (Friday): Verrill
- Networking Sponsors: Boston Brands of Maine / Charter Communications
- Registration Sponsor: Enmax
- Breakfast & Coffee Break Sponsor: Spectrum Healthcare Partners
- Supporting Sponsors: Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield; AT&T; Bangor Savings Bank; Bernstein Shur; Brookfield Renewable Energy; Central Maine Power Company; CIANBRO; Consolidated Communications, Inc.; Eaton Peabody; Emera Maine; Hannaford Supermarkets; Harvard Pilgrim Health Care; Headlight Audio Visual; IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.; The Jackson Laboratory; Live and Work in Maine; Maine Credit Union League; Maine Renewable Energy Association; MaineHealth; MEMIC; Poland Spring Water Company; Serlin Haley, LLP; Summit Natural Gas of Maine, Inc.; Unitil Corp.; VHB; and, Woodard & Curran Inc.
2020 Human Resource Issues Update

Wednesday, February 26, 2020
8:30 Refreshments | Program 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Bangor Savings Bank Conference Facility
(5 Senator Way, Augusta)

As a small business owner and an employer, you may have legal responsibilities under the federal employment anti-discrimination laws enforced by the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and Maine Human Rights Commission (MHRC). This workshop is designed with the intent to educate small businesses and help owners and managers focus on running a successful business by maintaining a strong EEO policy. Whether you are dealing with a complaint filed with the EEOC/MHRC or a lawsuit filed by the EEOC/MHRC, the results can be a drain to your mental and financial resources. Studies show that complaints of employment discrimination have been known to lead to moral issues at the workplace and negatively impact creativity and productivity. This workshop will cover relevant topics and business owners are encouraged to come with questions about their internal EEO policy. We are presenting this in three sections:

- Amy Sneirson of the Maine Human Rights Commission will lead off with a review of the changes in the Maine Human Rights Act that went into effect recently.
- Following that, Elizabeth Marcus of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission will present on the EEOC’s mediation program.
- Elizabeth will then be joined by Feng (Ken) An, also of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, to do an interactive presentation on retaliation issues.
- A question & answers session will round out our time together.

Register today!

Online registration is available at www.mainechamber.org/hcr. Questions can be directed to Angela Arno, director of programs and events by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 104, or by emailing aarno@mainechamber.org.

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

Maine State Grant Program...
(Continued from Page 3...)
We’ve got big plans for small businesses
Eight of them! And they can save you a bundle.

We come to a better health care solution. With Chamber BlueOptions®, small businesses can now offer employees a choice of eight plans with different levels of coverage! And the best part — the savings are through the roof. Here's how it works:

Chamber BlueOptions is our portfolio of small business health plans created just for Maine's state, regional and local chamber members. So if your business has 2 - 50 employees, this one's for you.

More plan choices
Employees can choose from eight different plans that include a PPO, an HMO with tiered options or either one paired with a health savings account.

New found savings
Anthem's HMO tiered plans offer you savings of about 13% compared to the same in-network benefits on a PPO plan. And, employees can save 10 to 15% on their premiums and get added discounts on medical care.

Get the health plan you've been waiting for!
Contact your broker or go to anthem.com/mainechamberblueoptions.
High quality early learning helps Maine’s youngest learners build the social, emotional, and cognitive foundations

**LD 1760 is an important first step and merits state investments**

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** The following testimony was delivered by Megan Diver, senior government relations specialist, on behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce in support of LD 1760. An Act To Support Children’s Healthy Development And School Readiness, at a public hearing held on Thursday, February 13, 2020, before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. We have reprinted it here for your review. Megan Diver can be reached directly by calling (207) 623-4658, ext. 108, or by emailing mdiver@mainechamber.org.

Senator Gratwick, Representative Hymanson, distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, I am Megan Diver, senior government relations specialist at the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and a member of the business organization, ReadyNation. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce is also proud to be a co-leader of the MaineSpark Coalition that is dedicated to achieving the state’s education attainment goal that 60 percent of Maine adults have a credential of value by 2025.

I offer the Chamber’s continued support for high-quality early learning programs and the importance of supporting proposals like LD 1760 as a tool to build and strengthen Maine’s future workforce. Maine business leaders believe strongly that education is the single most important investment that can be made to ensure successful participation in the new, knowledge-based economy, earnings growth and improved health status. Post-secondary education and training are critical building block to ensure success in the work force. High-quality early education and K-12 are imperative building blocks to ensure post-secondary success. Moving each and every Mainers along the educational continuum to their highest educational potential is imperative. We have all seen the charts and know that there is a huge different in lifetime earnings between a college graduate and someone who drops out of high school: $1.5 million per drop out. These staggering earning losses translate into less spending power, fewer contributions to the tax base, and less productivity.

Education is a critical investment in Maine people and in our economy and should be treated as such, through a coordinated approach starting with our youngest children. High quality early learning, like that proposed here in LD 1760, helps Maine’s youngest learners build the social, emotional, and cognitive foundations they need to arrive at Kindergarten ready to succeed. This proposal is an important first step and merits state investments. A 2013 research report by ReadyNation shows that children who participate in high-quality early learning programs have greater success; are 44% more likely to graduate from high school; are 74% more likely to hold a skilled job; and, make 26% more in earnings as adults. These numbers translate into an unbeatable long-term rate of return - up to $13 for every $1 invested.

As stated in our joint Making Maine Work report, “Investment in Young Children = Real Economic Development,” for Maine people to truly reach their potential, it all starts at birth. Waiting to invest in Maine’s most precious assets, our children, until they enter our K-12 system is, for many, too late. To attain our vision of a high quality of

**Continued on Page 11...**

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

---

**Governor Mills signs affordable housing bill into law**

Governor Janet Mills signed into law a bipartisan bill sponsored by House Assistant Majority Leader Ryan Fecteau that will expand the amount of affordable housing in Maine. The Governor signed the bill during a ceremony in the Cabinet Room where she was joined by Rep. Fecteau, Sen. Matt Pouliot (R-Kennebec), and other Republican and Democrat legislators, as well as housing advocates.

**LD 1645. An Act To Create Affordable Workforce and Senior Housing and Preserve Affordable Rural Housing**, as amended by the legislature’s Appropriations and Financial Affairs committee, doubles the current rate of new affordable housing production by creating the Maine Affordable Housing Tax Credit program. The refundable credit, which would be administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, would be available to individuals or corporations who invest in affordable housing. The program would be capped at $10 million per year for eight years, with portions earmarked for senior housing and rural housing. It would also leverage an equal amount of federal low-income housing tax credit dollars.

Rep. Fecteau worked with a bipartisan coalition of housing advocates, contractors, engineers, and local officials to develop the proposal. It draws on the existing state Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, as well as similar laws in more than a dozen other states, including Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. According to the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition, only about 52 available affordable housing units exist for every 100 Maine families earning 30 percent or less of the median income.
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 www.mainechamber.org/washington-dc-fly-in.

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.

Register today to attend the Maine State Chamber’s eighth annual Washington, D.C., Fly-In

**Washington, D.C., Fly-In**

**Tuesday, April 28 through Thursday, April 30, 2020**

Judith Borelli, Director of Public Affairs, Texas Instruments, South Portland

Geoff Baur, Vice President, Finance, IDEXX

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

(Continued from Page 9...)

life for all Maine people, we must ensure that each and every Maine child has access to high quality care and education from birth. Investment in early education is real economic development. It’s not just a social and moral imperative, it is an economic imperative.

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce also hears from businesses all across the state that the lack of high-quality child care is a barrier to work for too many people. We know that 73% of all Maine children under age 6 have all parents in the workforce. We know that working parents want their children enrolled in high-quality early learning programs and that full-day programs, especially those that include wrap-around care before and after school, are what is most needed for working parents’ schedules. Such continuity of care provides young students with the ability to create attachments to the same caregiver – which is one component of quality.

That’s the kind of programming embraced by LD 1760, which seeks to transform community service coordination by using all of the assets of a local community and breaking down the silos between services to reduce fragmentation in services to children and families. LD 1760 is designed as a community-based approach. It is comprehensive, multi-generational, and also supports the much-needed training and technical assistance to those working in the childcare field.

Without question, child care is a key piece of Maine’s future workforce development, and the Chamber is pleased to see that the Administration has recognized that fact and has made increasing access to child care part of Maine’s new 10-year economic plan. LD 1760 is the first step in achieving this goal.

I urge the committee to support LD 1760. Thank you.

For the most current information, visit www.mainechamber.org
CASELLA, YOUR MAINE RESOURCE

We offer sustainable programs to our customers that not only provide sound economic and environmental return but also build jobs and careers. We view waste as a valuable resource as well as an opportunity for positive change.

Learn how we’re giving resources new life at casella.com and fb.com/ZeroSort or call us at 800-CASELLA.

The end of multiple choice recycling! Just toss all your recyclables into one bin, we take care of the rest. It’s simple, convenient and effective.

Casella Organics® transforms traditional organic waste streams, including short paper fiber, ash, wood wastes, food wastes and biosolids into compost and other renewable products.

Waste collection, responsible disposal, e-waste recycling and LEED certification services for material diversion and reporting.

CASELLA RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

ZERO-SORT® RECYCLING · COLLECTION · ORGANICS · ENERGY · LANDFILLS
The Department of Labor’s HIRE Vets Medallion Award is the only federal-level veteran’s employment award that recognizes employers for their investments in recruiting, employing, and retaining our nation’s veterans. This award is an opportunity to highlight your organization’s work to support America’s veterans.

The award is based on a number of criteria, ranging from veteran hiring and retention to providing veteran-specific resources, leadership programming, dedicated human resources, and compensation and tuition assistance programs – with requirements varying for large, medium, and small employers.

Applications are now open and will run through April 30, 2020. Job creators of all sizes can apply online and learn more about the application process at HireVets.gov.

Maine launches innovative Bicentennial Curriculum Initiative, an opportunity 200 years in the making

The Maine Department of Education (DOE), in collaboration with the Maine Bicentennial Commission (maine200.org) and the Maine Historical Society (http://www.mainehistory.org/) has launched an online resource designed to help Maine teachers integrate Maine’s Bicentennial into their classrooms. The Bicentennial Curriculum Initiative enables educators to share their own lesson plans, download lesson plans created by other Maine teachers, and access new curriculum resources and primary documents related to Maine, its history, and culture. This initiative is supported by funding from Jane’s Trust and the Maine Bicentennial Commission.

Available through the Maine Memory Network (http://www.mainememory.net/), the statewide digital museum created by the Maine Historical Society features historical items, online exhibits, and stories contributed by 270 organizations across Maine, the Bicentennial Curriculum Initiative (http://www.mainememory.net/bicentennial-ed) is a resource designed to encourage and support Maine’s pre-k through adult educators in sharing ideas and best

Continued on Page 14...
The Department of Economic & Community Development
is pleased to announce the new
Office of Business Development

Director
Please reach out to her with any questions or concerns you have about how DECD will serve Maine’s businesses and communities.
Email: Charlotte.Мace@maine.gov
Phone: 207-624-7446

Business Development Specialist
Please contact her regarding events, sponsorship opportunities, and other inquiries.
Email: Guendolyn.Perry@maine.gov
Phone: 207-624-9847

Manager of Small Business & Entrepreneurial Development
Martha has extensive experience in small business development, as well as with entrepreneurship, startups, innovation, and in the non-profit sector.
Email: Martha.m.Bentley@maine.gov
Phone: 207-624-9844.

Business Answers Manager
The Office of Business Development’s Business Answers program can provide resources and support for businesses of all sizes, as well as those seeking to get their business up and running.
Email: Terry.J.Gray@maine.gov
Phone: 207-624-9812.

---

The Office of Business Development is committed to improving Maine’s business climate by working individually with companies to ensure they have access to the resources they need to succeed.
- Workforce Training Assistance
- Access to Financing, Loans, Grants
- Tax Increment Financing
- Pine Tree Development Zones
- Opportunity Zones
- Technology & Research Tax Credits
- Equipment Tax Exemption
- Streamlined Permits Assistance
- And other assistance

---

Bicentennial Curriculum...
(Continued from Page 13...)

practices for implementing engaging and effective lessons to commemorate Maine’s Bicentennial with Maine students. Educators are invited to visit the Bicentennial Education Initiative web page (https://www.mainememory.net/bicentennial/lessonplans.shtml) to search by grade level, topic, content area, standard, and other fields for incredible ideas on how to commemorate our State’s Bicentennial with students of all ages.

The launch of the Bicentennial Curriculum Initiative opens the site for your contributions. Please consider uploading a lesson plan, browse the initial lesson plans that have been added to the site, and explore extensive Maine history content. Check back frequently: the site will grow throughout the year and become a permanent resource for teachers.

To submit a lesson plan, educators can visit mainememory.net/lessons/submit to complete a simple submission template, and then upload additional resources. Once uploaded, lesson submissions will be reviewed for completeness and then placed on the Bicentennial Curriculum Initiative web page, where other educators from across the state can access them.

Educators who participate by sharing resources will have their names entered into a random monthly drawing (February 2020 through December 2020) for $400 in cash for use in their classrooms. Participants for this program are intended to be public and private school educators for grades pre-k to 12, Career and Technical Educators, Adult Education Instructors, and Post-Secondary Instructors.

By participating in this unique collaboration, not only are you setting the stage for present and future Mainers to learn more about our great state, you can also share and learn from the collective brain of educators around Maine. For more information or to ask questions about the process, please contact Kathleen Neumann by emailing kneumann@mainehistory.org.

---

For the most current information, visit www.mainechamber.org
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://legislature.maine.gov/committee/#Committees or contact the committee clerk.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020

Education and Cultural Affairs
1:00 p.m.; Cross Building, Room 208
LD 1857, An Act To Protect Teachers from Punitive or Retaliatory Transfers (Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield)
LD 2071 (Work Session), Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 125: Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education (Rep. Kornfield of Bangor)

Judiciary
1:00 p.m.; State House, Room 438
LD 1897, An Act To Authorize the Expungement of Records of Nonviolent Crimes (Sen. Dill of Penobscot)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020

Education and Cultural Affairs
10:00 a.m.; Cross Building, Room 208
LD 1916 (Work Session), An Act To Increase High School Graduation Rates for Students Experiencing Homelessness or in Foster Care (Sen. Libby of Androscoggin)
LD 2014 (Work Session), An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine State Grant Program (Rep. Daughtry of Brunswick)

Labor and Housing
10:00 a.m.; Cross Building, Room 202

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Education and Cultural Affairs
1:00 p.m.; Cross Building, Room 208
LD 1584 (Work Session), An Act To Attract, Build and Retain an Early Childhood Education Workforce through Increased Training, Education and Career Pathways (Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford)
LD 1690 (Work Session), An Act To Certify and Promote Products That Are Made in Maine (Pres. Jackson of Aroostook)

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
1:00 p.m.; Cross Building, Room 202
LD 1584 (Work Session), An Act To Attract, Build and Retain an Early Childhood Education Workforce through Increased Training, Education and Career Pathways (Rep. Fecteau of Biddeford)

Taxation
1:00 p.m.; State House, Room 127
LD 731, An Act To Amend the Maine Tax Laws (Rep. Tipping of Orono)

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://legislature.maine.gov/committee/#Committees or contact the committee clerk.

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.
**Idea Developed:** A legislator decides to sponsor a bill, sometimes at the suggestion of a constituent, interest group, public official, or the governor. The legislator may ask other legislators in either chamber to join as co-sponsors.

**Bill Introduced:** The legislator gives the bill to the Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate. The bill is numbered, a suggested committee recommendation is made and the bill is printed. The bill is placed on the respective body’s calendar.

**Committee Reference:** The bill is referred to one of the Joint Standing or Joint Select committees in the originating branch and then sent to the other body for concurrence.

**Report Bills from Committee:** Committee reports shall include one of the following recommendations:
- Ought to Pass;
- Ought to Pass as Amended;
- Ought to Pass in New Draft;
- Ought Not to Pass;
- Refer to Another Committee; or,
- Unanimous Ought Not to Pass.
With the exception of Unanimous Ought Not to Pass, a plurality of the committee may vote to make one of the other recommendations. When this occurs, a minority report or reports are required.

**General Order:** When the bill is reported to the floor it receives its first reading and any committee amendments are adopted at this time. The committee reports the bill to the originating body as is, with amendment, with a divided report, or with a unanimous recommendation of Ought Not to Pass.

**Second Reading:** The next legislative day the bill is given its second reading and floor amendments may be offered. When one chamber has passed the bill to be engrossed, it is sent to the other body for its consideration. The House has a consent calendar for unanimous “Ought to Pass” or “Ought to Pass as Amended” bills which takes the place of First and Second readings.

**Law:** A bill becomes law 90 days after the end of the legislative session in which it was passed. A bill can become law immediately if the Legislature, by a two-thirds vote of each chamber, declares that an emergency exists. An emergency law takes effect on the date the governor signs it unless otherwise specified in its text. If a bill is vetoed, it will become law if the Legislature overrides the veto by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting of both chambers.

**Committee Action:** When scheduled by the chairs, the committee conducts a public hearing where it accepts testimony supporting and opposing the proposed legislation from any interested party. Notices of public hearings are printed in newspapers with statewide distribution.

**Bill Drafted:** At the legislator’s direction, the Revisor’s Office, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, and Office of Fiscal and Program Review staff provides research and drafting assistance and prepares the bill in proper technical form.

**Second Chamber:** The bill goes through a similar process. If the second chamber amends the bill, it is returned to the first chamber for a vote on the changes. It may then be sent to a conference committee to work out a compromise agreeable to both chambers. A bill receives final legislative approval when it passes both chambers in identical form.

**Governor:** After final passage (enactment) the bill is sent to the governor. The governor has 10 days in which to sign or veto the bill. If the governor does not sign the bill and the legislature is still in session, the bill after 10 days becomes law as if the governor signed it. If the legislature has adjourned for the year the bill does not become law. This is called a “pocket veto.” If the legislature comes back into special session, the governor on the fourth day must deliver a veto message to the chamber of origin or the bill becomes law.
HEALTH CARE

**LD 2095, An Act To Require Appropriate Coverage of and Cost-sharing for Generic Drugs and Biosimilars.** (President Jackson, D-Aroostook) Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. This bill establishes requirements for the coverage of and cost-sharing for generic drugs, biosimilars and branded pharmaceuticals when dispensed by pharmacies as outpatient prescription drugs under health plans offered by carriers that provide coverage for prescription drugs.

**LD 2096, An Act To Save Lives by Capping the Out-of-pocket Cost of Certain Medications.** (Speaker Gideon, D-Freeport) Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. This bill amends the law providing consumer protection for surprise medical bills to include surprise bills for emergency services. In the event of a dispute with respect to a surprise medical bill, the bill directs the Superintendent of Insurance to develop an independent dispute resolution process to determine a reasonable payment for health care services.

**LD 2105, An Act To Protect Consumers from Surprise Emergency Medical Bills.** (Speaker Gideon, D-Freeport) Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. This bill amends the law providing consumer protection for surprise medical bills to include surprise bills for emergency services. In the event of a dispute with respect to a surprise medical bill, the bill directs the Superintendent of Insurance to develop an independent dispute resolution process to determine a reasonable payment for health care services.

**LD 2106, An Act Regarding Prior Authorizations for Prescription Drugs.** (Sen. Gratwick, D-Penobscot) Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. This bill makes the following changes.
1. It adds a definition of “prior authorization” and clarifies the definitions of “medically necessary health care” and “participating provider” used in the Maine Insurance Code, chapter 56-A.
2. It sets forth additional requirements for carriers to facilitate the processing of prior authorization requests for prescription drugs by providers.

---

*For the most current information, visit [www.mainechamber.org](http://www.mainechamber.org)*
Heart Disease: It Can Happen at Any Age

Heart disease doesn’t happen just to older adults. It is happening to younger adults more and more often. This is partly because the conditions that lead to heart disease are happening at younger ages. February is Heart Month, the perfect time to learn about your risk for heart disease and the steps you need to take now to help your heart.

Heart disease—and the conditions that lead to it—can happen at any age. High rates of obesity and high blood pressure among younger people (ages 35-64) are putting them at risk for heart disease earlier in life. Half of all Americans have at least one of the top three risk factors for heart disease (high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and smoking).

You Could Be at Risk...

Many of the conditions and behaviors that put people at risk for heart disease are appearing at younger ages:

- **High blood pressure.** Millions of Americans of all ages have high blood pressure, including millions of people in their 40s and 50s. About half of people with high blood pressure don’t have it under control. Having uncontrolled high blood pressure is one of the biggest risks for heart disease and other harmful conditions, such as stroke.

- **High blood cholesterol.** High cholesterol can increase the risk for heart disease. Having diabetes and obesity, smoking, eating unhealthy foods, and not getting enough physical activity can all contribute to unhealthy cholesterol levels.

- **Smoking.** More than 37 million U.S. adults are current smokers, and thousands of young people start smoking each day. Smoking damages the blood vessels and can cause heart disease.

Other conditions and behaviors that affect your risk for heart disease include:

- **Obesity.** Carrying extra weight puts stress on the heart. More than 1 in 3 Americans—and nearly 1 in 6 children ages 2 to 19—has obesity.

- **Diabetes.** Diabetes causes sugar to build up in the blood. This can damage blood vessels and nerves that help control the heart muscle. Nearly 1 in 10 people in the United States has diabetes.

- **Physical inactivity.** Staying physically active helps keep the heart and blood vessels healthy. Only 1 in 5...
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,

12-MONTH SPONSORSHIP | $4,000.00
- One in-studio appearance as Partnering Sponsor;
- Sponsor logo on “The Bottom Line” web page;
- 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);
- 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

Workplace Wellness...
(Continued from Page 18...)

adults meets the physical activity guidelines of getting 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity.

- Unhealthy eating patterns. Most Americans, including children, eat too much sodium (salt), which increases blood pressure. Replacing foods high in sodium with fresh fruits and vegetables can help lower blood pressure. But only 1 in 10 adults is getting enough fruits and vegetables each day. Diet high in trans-fat, saturated fat, and added sugar increases the risk factor for heart disease.

4 Ways to Take Control of Your Heart Health...

You’re in the driver’s seat when it comes to your heart. Learn how to be heart healthy at any age.

- Don’t smoke. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. If you don’t smoke, don’t start. If you do smoke, learn how to quit.

- Manage conditions. Work with your health care team to manage conditions such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol. This includes taking any medicines you have been prescribed. Learn more about preventing and managing high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

- Make heart-healthy eating changes. Eat food low in trans-fat, saturated fat, added sugar and sodium. Try to fill at least half your plate with vegetables and fruits and aim for low sodium options. Learn more about how to reduce sodium.

- Stay active. Get moving for at least 150 minutes per week. You can even break up the 30 minutes into 10-minute blocks. Learn more about how to get enough physical activity.
LEGISLATIVE STRICTLY SOCIAL

Tuesday, March 31, 2020
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Senator Inn & Spa, Augusta

- Light hors d’oeuvres and cash bar
- Please register online at www.mainechamber.org.
  Questions? Please email aarno@mainechamber.org.