

## About the Maine Economic Research Institute

The Maine Economic Research Institute's (MERI) mission is to improve Maine's business environment by providing objective information to enhance economic policy making. MERI is an independent, private, not-for-profit corporation governed by a board of directors who are business owners, CEOs, and senior staff representing a diverse group of Maine companies.

MERI's Board and staff are focused on creating a healthy Maine economy, strong businesses, and quality jobs.

MERI is the only researched-based business organization tasked with the specific purpose of holding legislators accountable for how they vote on business issues.

The **MERI Watch List** is the first step in letting legislators know that employers are paying attention.

Voting records and MERI's ratings are published in the **MERI Roll Call** and are the only objective rating system based on how policy in Augusta impacts our economy.



Maine State Chamber of Commerce  
c/o Simon West, MERI Administrator  
128 State Street, Suite 101  
Augusta, ME 04330-5630  
Phone: (207) 623-4568, ext. 117  
Email: [swest@mainechamber.org](mailto:swest@mainechamber.org)

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# 2021 Watch List

Legislation from the  
130th Maine Legislature

# MERI's 2021 Watch List

## EDUCATION

**LD 1188**, *An Act To Include Librarians and Career and Technical Education Teachers in the Minimum \$40,000 Salary Initiative Emergency* (Rep. Millett, D-Cape Elizabeth) Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

**LD 1252**, *An Act To Improve Family Day Care Providers by Increasing the Number of Children Allowed To Be Cared For without Obtaining Certification* (Rep. Sampson, R-Alfred) Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

**LD 489**, *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment* (Sen. Maxmin, D-Lincoln) Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

**LD 602**, *An Act To Prevent Pollution from Single-use Plastic Straws, Splash Sticks and Beverage Lid Plugs* (Sen. Miramont, D-Knox) Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

**LD 640**, *An Act To Ban Single-serving, Disposable Plastic Water Bottles* (Rep. Gramlich, D-Old Orchard Beach) Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

**LD 1541**, *An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money* (Rep. Grohoski, D-Ellsworth) Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

## HEALTH CARE

**LD 1045**, *An Act To Support Universal Health Care* (Rep. Brooks, D-Lewiston) Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services.

## HOSPITALITY

**LD 205**, *An Act To Extend the Ability of Restaurants and Bars To Serve Alcohol To Go Emergency* (Sen. Luchini, D-Hancock) Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

## LABOR

**LD 225**, *An Act Regarding the Treatment of Vacation Time upon the Cessation of Employment* (Rep. Roeder, D-Bangor) Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

**LD 553**, *An Act To End At-will Employment* (Rep. Sylvester, D-Portland) Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

**LD 607**, *An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers* (Rep. Talbot Ross, D-Portland) Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

**LD 616**, *An Act To Increase Accountability for Wage Violations* (Rep. Collings, D-Portland) Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

**LD 938**, *An Act To Ensure Maine Workers' Right To Request a Schedule Change at Their Places of Employment* (Rep. Wood, D-Portland) Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

**LD 965**, *An Act Concerning Nondisclosure Agreements in Employment* (Rep. Harnett, D-Gardiner) Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

**LD 1338**, *An Act To Protect Employees' Exercise of Workplace Rights* (Rep. Millett, D-Cape Elizabeth) Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

**LD 1711**, *An Act To Enhance Enforcement of Employment Laws* (Sen. Jackson, D-Aroostook) Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

## MINIMUM WAGE

**LD 1279**, *An Act To Increase the Minimum Wage* (Rep. Collings, D-Portland) Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

## TAXATION

**LD 229**, *An Act To Increase Investment Caps in the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program* (Sen. Farrin, R-Somerset) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

**LD 495**, *An Act to Improve Tax Progressivity by Establishing New Top Individual Income Tax Rates* (Rep. Osher, D-Orono) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

**LD 498**, *An Act to Reauthorize a 3 Percent Tax on Income over \$200,000 to Lift all Maine Workers out of Poverty* (Rep. Sylvester, D-Lewiston) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

**LD 501**, *An Act to Amend Maine's Corporate Income Tax by Increasing the Top Rate from 8.93% to 12.4%* (Rep. Brooks, D-Lewiston) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

**LD 532**, *An Act To Lower Income Taxes for Middle-income Families in Maine* (Sen. Baldacci, D-Penobscot) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

**LD 570**, *An Act to Provide for Fairness in the Taxation of Extraordinary and Unearned Income by Establishing a 3% Percent Surcharge on Net Capital gains and Dividends Income over \$250,000 for Taxpayers Filing Single or Married Filing Separate Returns and over \$500,000 for Taxpayers Filing Joint Returns* (Rep. Berry, D-Bowdoinham) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

**LD 730**, *An Act to Protect Economic Competitiveness in Maine by Extending the End Date for Pine Tree Development Zone Benefits* (Sen. Daughtry, D-Brunswick) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

**LD 966**, *Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study Fair, Equitable and Competitive Tax Policy for Maine's Working Families and Small Businesses Emergency* (Rep. Tepler, D-Topsham) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

**LD 1342**, *An Act to Authorize a Local Opion Sales Tax on Lodging and Other Goods and Provide Funding for Tax Abatement and Rental Relief* (Rep. Sylvester, D-Lewiston) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

**LD 1403**, *An Act To Protect Maine Businesses, Nonprofits, Educational Institutions and Municipalities during the COVID-19 Pandemic* (Rep. Dillingham, R-Oxford) Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

**LD 1524**, *An Act To Amend the Maine Exclusion Amount in the Estate Tax* (Rep. Collings, D-Portland) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

**LD 1713**, *An Act To Increase Workforce Skills for the Revitalization of Maine's Paper Industry through the Establishment of an Income Tax Credit for Paper Manufacturing Workforce Training* (Pres. Jackson, D-Aroostook) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

**LD 1564**, *An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Unemployment Compensation* (Sen. Vitelli, D-Sagadahoc, for the Maine Department of Labor) Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

## UTILITIES AND ENERGY

**LD 920**, *An Act To Promote Oversight of and Competitive Parity among Video Service Providers* (Rep. Kessler, D-South Portland) Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

**LD 1708**, *An Act To Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit Utility, To Deliver Lower Rates, Reliability and Local Control for Maine Energy Independence* (Rep. Berry, D-Bowdoinham) Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**LD 149**, *An Act To Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions* (Rep. Cloutier, D-Lewiston) Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Commerce.

**LD 612**, *An Act To Recognize Occupational Licenses and Certifications from Other States To Attract New Residents and Businesses to Maine Emergency* (Rep. Andrews, R-Paris) Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Commerce.

**LD 1131**, *An Act To Allow Reciprocity for Licensed Workers from Out of State Emergency* (Rep. Hutchings, R-Penobscot) Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Commerce.

**LD 1304**, *An Act To Create the Career and Technical Education Workforce Fund* (Rep. Fecteau, D-Biddeford) Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.