



WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 2, 2026

ADVOCACY | ACCESS | AWARENESS

MEETING AGENDA

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Chamber President &
CEO

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Upcoming Events

WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE CHAMBER PRESIDENT

PATRICK WOODCOCK
PRESIDENT & CEO
MAINE STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACTION ALERT

TAKE ACTION ON THIS LEGISLATION

LD 1822: AN ACT TO ENACT THE MAINE CONSUMER DATA PRIVACY ACT

Sponsor: Amy KUHN of Falmouth

Position: Oppose

Current Legislative Action: On Senate Calendar

Previous Legislative Action: Passed to Be Engrossed in House – 71-68

The bill would create new data processing rules for data collected by companies online. It would strictly limit the processing and sale of sensitive data, and limit data collection to “reasonably necessary and proportionate to provide or maintain a specific product or service...”

Implications: The bill would make Maine an outlier in the utilization of data by businesses to pursue targeted marketing online.



ACTION ALERT

TAKE ACTION ON THIS LEGISLATION

Upcoming House Vote: Tues 3/3 @ SH

LD 1587 – AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS’ INVESTIGATORY AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; LHHI

Advocate Assignments: Amanda Johnson

Position: Oppose

The original bill imposed criminal penalties for intentional labor law violations and involved the Attorney General. The amended bill replaces this with expanded civil enforcement, giving the Department of Labor broad authority to investigate, issue penalties, and require public posting and employee notification.

Implications: The amended LD 1587 could strengthen enforcement and speed recovery of unpaid wages by giving the Department of Labor broader civil authority. However, this bill gives one agency the power to investigate, penalize, and seize assets without traditional court oversight, raising due process concerns. Its escalating daily fines and public posting requirements could cause serious financial and reputational harm to businesses.



ADVOCATE: LINDA CAPRARA



TAXATION

L.D. 2212, AN ACT MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND ALLOCATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDS FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND CHANGING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LAW NECESSARY TO THE PROPER OPERATIONS OF STATE GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 2026 AND JUNE 30, 2027.

Sponsor: Drew GATTINE of Westbrook

Policy Committee: AFA

Advocate: Linda Caprara

Position: Oppose

This is the Governor's Supplemental Budget bill for FY 26-27. MSCC opposes this bill for three reasons: it eliminates the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program (BETR) in Part O retroactively from 2025; Second, the bill does not fully conform to immediate expensing for research and development (Part K) for all businesses regardless of size. The provision in the budget limits immediate R & D expensing to small businesses with gross receipts under \$31 million while it requires larger businesses with gross receipts over \$31 million to amortize R&D costs over several years Third, we believe the utilization of the State's Budget Stabilization Fund (Part T) should be done with extreme caution given economic uncertainty. The Joint Standing Committee on Taxation will hold a work session Thursday on the tax portions of LD 2212 and report back to AFA.

Implications: Elimination of the BETR Program will result in a huge tax increase on Maine businesses that are recipients of BETR, risking future investments because the State is not living up to its commitments. Second, we feel very strongly that if Maine is going to encourage innovation, it shouldn't draw an arbitrary line where small companies are innovators but large employers somehow aren't. Utilization of the Budget Stabilization Fund for purposes that not related to emergencies leaves the State exposed in the event of an economic downturn potentially forcing the Legislature to turn to tax increases to provide funds for essential services.

TAXATION

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Work Session: Tue 3/3 @ State House Room 127

L.D. 191, AN ACT TO SUPPORT MAINE BUSINESSES BY ESTABLISHING A PASS-THROUGH ENTITY TAX AND TAX CREDIT

Policy Committee: Tax

Advocate: Linda Caprara

Position: Support

The bill would create a Pass-through Entity Tax Credit (PTET) for pass-through entities such as LLC's, partnerships, S-Corps and allow them to pay income taxes at the entity level instead of the individual level, reducing federal income tax burden. The PTET would be on an elective basis.

Implications: The PTET would be on an elective basis and would reduce federal tax liability for Pass through businesses in Maine. The bill also generates revenue for the State and aligns Maine with 36 other states that have adopted a PTET.

ADVOCATE: AMANDA JOHNSON



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LOOKING FORWARD

Upcoming Public Hearings: Thu 3/5 1:00 PM @ Cross, Room 209

LD 2196 – AN ACT TO LOWER HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS, REDUCE BARRIERS TO HEALTH CARE AND ENSURE FAIR PRICES FOR HEALTH CARE

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; EET

Advocate Assignments: Amanda Johnson

Position: Oppose

The bill caps hospital prices at 200 percent of Medicare rates, keeps chronic condition prior authorizations valid for one year, protects coverage recently approved under prior plans, and requires insurers to report cost and utilization data.

Implications: The bill could slow healthcare cost growth and improve coverage continuity for patients with chronic conditions. However, it will put financial pressure on hospitals, especially smaller ones, and create administrative challenges or potential limits on services.

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Public Hearings: Thu 3/5 1:00 PM @ Cross, Room 209

LD 663 – AN ACT REGARDING HEALTH CARE

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; LHHI

Advocate Assignments: Amanda Johnson

Position: Monitor

This is currently a concept draft..

Implications: Unknown Currently

JUDICIARY

PREVIOUS WORK SESSIONS

LD 1911 – AN ACT TO AUTOMATICALLY SEAL CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION FOR CERTAIN CRIMES

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; EET

Advocate Assignments: Amanda Johnson

Position: Opposed original, now monitoring

This bill would create a statewide system to automatically seal certain criminal records after setting waiting periods, including eligible non-convictions and older, qualifying convictions, without requiring court petitions.

Implications: This bill would automatically seal certain non-convictions and older, qualifying criminal records, which could improve access to jobs and housing for rehabilitated individuals and streamline the court process. However, it would also limit employers' access to criminal history information, raise concerns about workplace safety, hiring transparency, and added administrative complexity for state agencies.

LABOR

Upcoming Work Session: Tue 3/3 1:00 PM @ Cross, Room 202

LD 669 – AN ACT REGARDING LABOR

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; LHHI

Advocate Assignments: Amanda Johnson

Position: Monitor

This amendment adds DOT highway maintenance workers to Maine's line-of-duty death benefit program, keeps the \$100,000 inflation-indexed payment for surviving family members, allows consideration of job-related suicides, permits limited interim payments, and requires benefits to be paid from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund.

Implications: This amended draft expands eligibility for Maine's line-of-duty death benefit to include DOT highway maintenance workers and allows job-related suicides to qualify, broadening the circumstances under which benefits may be paid.

LABOR

Upcoming House Vote: Tues 3/3 @ SH

LD 1587 – AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS’ INVESTIGATORY AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; LHHI

Advocate Assignments: Amanda Johnson

Position: Oppose

The original bill imposed criminal penalties for intentional labor law violations and involved the Attorney General. The amended bill replaces this with expanded civil enforcement, giving the Department of Labor broad authority to investigate, issue penalties, and require public posting and employee notification.

Implications: The amended LD 1587 could strengthen enforcement and speed recovery of unpaid wages by giving the Department of Labor broader civil authority. However, this bill gives one agency the power to investigate, penalize, and seize assets without traditional court oversight, raising due process concerns. Its escalating daily fines and public posting requirements could cause serious financial and reputational harm to businesses.

LABOR

Upcoming Work Session: Tue 3/3 1:30 PM @ Cross, Room 202

LD 2018 – AN ACT TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING SELF-INSURANCE PLANS IN THE PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE BENEFITS PROGRAM

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; LHHI

Advocate Assignments: Amanda Johnson

Position: Oppose

This bill clarifies that private self-insured plans under the paid family and medical leave program may not pool risk, financial resources, or administration among multiple employers.

Implications: The amended LD 1587 could strengthen enforcement and speed recovery of unpaid wages by giving the Department of Labor broader civil authority. However, this bill gives one agency the power to investigate, penalize, and seize assets without traditional court oversight, raising due process concerns. Its escalating daily fines and public posting requirements could cause serious financial and reputational harm to businesses.

LABOR

Upcoming Work Session: Tue 3/3 1:30 PM @ Cross, Room 202

LD 2110 – AN ACT TO UPDATE EMPLOYER SUBSTANCE USE TESTING POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; LHHI

Advocate Assignments: Amanda Johnson

Position: Oppose

This bill clarifies that private self-insured plans under the paid family and medical leave program may not pool risk, financial resources, or administration among multiple employers. This provision also applies retroactively to April 1, 2025.

Implications: The bill bars self-insured private plans under Maine’s Paid Family and Medical Leave program from pooling risk or administration, including retroactively. While it adds clarity, it reduces flexibility for employers, especially small and mid-sized ones—and may disrupt existing arrangements or create compliance challenges.

ADVOCATE: ASHLEY LUSZCZKI



ENERGY, UTILITIES, & TECHNOLOGY

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Public Hearings: Wed 3/4 10:00 AM @ Cross, Room 211

LD 897 – AN ACT REGARDING THE CALCULATION OF ELECTRIC RATE CONTRACTING COSTS. NEW TITLE: AN ACT REGARDING REQUIRED NEGATIVE PRICING PROVISIONS IN CONTRACTS FOR ENERGY RESULTING FROM COMPETITIVE SOLICITATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Policy Chamber; EET

Advocate: Ashley Luszczki

Position: Monitor

This bill was a concept draft. The amendment would change the requirement for contract provisions governing negative pricing in contracts for energy resulting from competitive solicitations conducted by the Public Utilities Commission.

ENERGY, UTILITIES, & TECHNOLOGY

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Work Sessions: Wed 3/4 10:00 AM @ Cross, Room 211

LD 838 – AN ACT TO EXPLORE PUBLIC FINANCING AND OWNERSHIP OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE

Policy Committee: EEPIC

Advocate: Ashley Luszczki

Position: Started as concept draft, opposed original amendment.

As amended (a second time), the bill would set up a council to study public financing of electric transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Implications: It could lead to a shift away from investor-owned utility models toward greater state involvement in energy infrastructure. While public financing could potentially lower borrowing costs, it would also shift long-term financial risk to ratepayers and introduce uncertainty into existing utility planning and cost-recovery frameworks. This could raise questions about the future of infrastructure investments.

ENERGY, UTILITIES, & TECHNOLOGY

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Work Session: Wed 3/4 1:00 PM @ Cross, Room 211

LD 307 – AN ACT REGARDING ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; EET

Advocate: Ashley Luszczki

Position: Originally NFNA, Opposed to Sponsor's 2.12 Amendment.

As amended, the bill establishes a council to review the impacts of data centers and includes a moratorium on data centers 20mw or larger until July 2028.

Implications: Without greater representation from the business community, it risks missing important real-world information in its review and recommendations. The moratorium would also send a signal to the business community that Maine is not welcoming data center development, despite having not yet had a thorough understanding of the energy, environmental, and economic impacts of data centers.

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Public Hearing: Thu 3/5 1:00 PM @ Cross, Room 211

LD 897 – AN ACT REGARDING THE CALCULATION OF ELECTRIC RATE CONTRACTING COSTS. NEW TITLE: AN ACT REGARDING REQUIRED NEGATIVE PRICING PROVISIONS IN CONTRACTS FOR ENERGY RESULTING FROM COMPETITIVE SOLICITATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; EET

Advocate: Ashley Luszczki

Position: Monitor

This bill was a concept draft. The amendment would change the requirement for contract provisions governing negative pricing in contracts for energy resulting from competitive solicitations conducted by the Public Utilities Commission.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Work Session: Tue 3/3 1:30 PM @ Cross, Room 216

LD 2171 – RESOLVE, REGARDING LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 305: NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT – PERMIT BY RULE STANDARDS AND PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 335: SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE HABITAT, MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE RULES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; EET

Advocate: Ashley Luszczki

Position: Monitor

Upcoming Work Session: Wed 3/4 10:00 AM @ Cross, Room 216

LD 474 – AN ACT TO IMPROVE MAINE'S ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES. NEW TITLE: AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY AND RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

Policy Committee Assignments: Chamber; EET

Advocate: Ashley Luszczki

Position: Neither for Nor Against

This bill was a concept draft. As amended, it establishes a statewide battery stewardship program in Maine. It requires producers of primary and rechargeable batteries — and products containing those batteries — to finance and operate (individually or collectively) a Department of Environmental Protection–approved stewardship program for collecting, transporting, and recycling covered batteries sold in the state.

It shifts end-of-life management costs from municipalities to battery producers. It will increase compliance, reporting, and infrastructure costs for manufacturers and importers, which may be passed through the supply chain. The bill creates market access conditions tied to program participation and sets detailed geographic collection mandates, introducing long-term operational and regulatory obligations for companies selling batteries or battery-containing products in Maine. It will reduce the number of batteries ending in landfills and could prevent the number of fires at waste management facilities.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Work Session: Wed 3/4 10:00 AM @ Cross, Room 216

LD 2036 – AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR AND THE OPERATION OF THE COMMINGLING PROGRAM FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Policy Committee: EET,

Advocate : Ashley Luszczki

Position: Support

The bill requires industry participants to form a cooperative and submit a detailed operating plan to the Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval, outlining how beverage containers will be managed, financed, collected, and reported. The legislation clarifies the Department's authority, sets out planning and reporting requirements, and creates a structured pathway to transition the redemption system toward material-based sorting rather than brand-based sorting.

Implications: The bill shifts Maine's bottle redemption system toward a more modern, system-managed model by moving operational complexity away from redemption centers and into a coordinated, data-driven program overseen by the Department. If implemented successfully, it could improve efficiency for redemption centers and transporters, create more predictable cost allocation using verified sales data, and reduce administrative burdens tied to brand sorting.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Work Session: Wed 3/4 10:00 AM @ Cross, Room 216

LD 2070 – AN ACT TO PROHIBIT LANDFILL EXPANSION INTO WETLANDS

Policy Committee: EET,

Advocate : Ashley Luszczki

Position: Oppose

It prohibits the DEP from issuing a permit under the Natural Resources Protection Act or a license under the solid waste management laws for the altering of freshwater wetlands in connection with the expansion of a solid waste landfill.

Implications: This would significantly change how landfill expansion into wetlands is permitted and licensed, potentially impacting all landfill development.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Work Session: Wed 3/4 10:00 AM @ Cross, Room 216

LD 2141 – AN ACT TO DIRECT A PORTION OF UNCLAIMED BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSITS TO THE LAKE WATER QUALITY RESTORATION AND PROTECTION FUND, THE MAINE WORKING FARMLAND ACCESS AND PROTECTION PROGRAM AND PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE STAFFING

Policy Committee: EET,

Advocate : Ashley Luszczki

Position: Oppose

This bill directs a portion of unclaimed beverage container deposits toward investment in the Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund and the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program beginning October 1, 2026 and toward the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to support regional public defender office staffing beginning August 1, 2026.

Implications: By shifting money from the unclaimed beverage container deposits, it will minimize what can be reinvested into Maine beverage redemption program. However, it will also add revenue to other funds aimed at protecting Maine’s natural resources.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Work Session: Wed 3/4 10:00 AM @ Cross, Room 216

LD 2174 – AN ACT TO REPLACE THE MAINE WATERWAY DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT WITH THE MAINE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT. NEW TITLE: AN ACT TO STREAMLINE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Policy Committee: EET,

Advocate : Ashley Luszczki

Position: Support

The bill establishes firm processing deadlines for state permits related to solar, wind, energy storage, and certain transmission projects. If the relevant state agency fails to issue a decision within the required timeframe, the application is automatically deemed approved. The bill also limits municipalities from enforcing local ordinances that are more stringent than state standards for these developments and directs the creation of a permit-by-rule process for certain smaller solar projects (up to 100 acres).

Implications: The bill will provide certainty and increased permitting times for certain energy projects. It shifts more authority to the state by preempting local standards. For developers and investors, this lowers regulatory risk and could accelerate project deployment; for municipalities and local stakeholders, it could impact home rule.

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Work Sessions: Wed 3/4 10:00 AM @ Cross, Room 220

LD 2082 – AN ACT TO REGULATE THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PROVIDING CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Policy Committee TPC

Advocate : Ashley Luszczki

Position: Monitor

LD 2082 establishes requirements governing the use of artificial intelligence in the delivery of therapy and psychotherapy services in Maine. The amendment allows licensed mental health professionals to use AI for administrative and certain supplementary support functions, provided the professional maintains oversight, obtains informed client consent, and complies with confidentiality requirements. The bill prohibits AI from independently providing therapy, engaging in therapeutic communication with clients, or making treatment decisions without review by a licensed professional, and restricts unlicensed entities from offering AI-based therapy services to the public.

Implications: The proposal seeks to ensure patient protection and professional accountability as AI tools are introduced into behavioral health care. However, the definitions are broad and the restrictions and liability framework may limit adoption of emerging digital health care technologies, increase compliance obligations for providers, and create uncertainty for companies developing AI-enabled health tools operating in Maine. The bill could shape how quickly AI-supported care models expand in the state, with potential impacts on innovation, provider efficiency, and access to health services.

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Work Sessions: Wed 3/4 10:00 AM @ Cross, Room 220

LD 2162 – AN ACT TO REGULATE AND PREVENT CHILDREN’S ACCESS TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHATBOTS WITH HUMAN-LIKE FEATURES AND SOCIAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPANIONS

Policy Committee: TPC

Advocate : Ashley Luszczki

Position: Oppose

Establishes restrictions on artificial intelligence chatbots and “social AI” systems, particularly those accessible to minors. The bill prohibits certain human-like or socially interactive AI features for users under age 18 and requires companies deploying covered AI systems to implement safeguards, including age verification and data use limitations. It also creates enforcement authority and allows private legal action on behalf of minors for alleged violations.

Implications: The legislation would require businesses developing or deploying AI tools to implement age-verification systems and reassess how AI products are designed, offered, and accessed in Maine. As drafted, the bill could apply broadly beyond consumer-facing AI companions, potentially affecting productivity tools, customer service platforms, and research technologies. It may increase compliance costs, data privacy risks associated with collecting sensitive identification information, and legal exposure due to the creation of a private right of action.

ADVOCATE:
PATRICK WOODCOCK



HOUSING

LOOKING AHEAD

Public Hearing Tues 3/3 1PM @ Cross, Room 206

LD 364: AN ACT TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MAINE

Advocate: Patrick Woodcock

Position: Support

The bill is a resolve to direct the Maine Office of Community Affairs to work with Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and the Office of the Revisor of Statutes to overhaul the statute governing manufactured housing. The idea is to update the statute so the Maine Office of Community Affairs manages mobile home parks and the oversight of the construction of manufactured housing.

Implications: The bill attempts to make progress on improving the oversight of manufactured housing. However, the industry was hoping to streamline building code standards and facilitate the construction of factory-built housing.

HOUSING

LOOKING AHEAD

Public Hearing Tues 3/5 1:15PM @ Cross, Room 206

LD 2216: AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MAINE BLUE ECONOMY CENTER

Advocate: Patrick Woodcock

Position: Support

The bill would create a Blue Economy Center at the Maine Technology Institute and be overseen by a 15 person board to make investments into the Blue Economy sector. Blue Economy is defined as “economic activity relating to aquaculture and marine vegetation, marine biotechnology, ocean data and marine research, resilient coastal infrastructure, sustainable boat building or marine propulsion for the purpose of improving human, animal and environmental health, including business, manufacturing, research, education and other activities.” The bill has a fiscal note of \$1 million.

Implications: The bill attempts to organize investments in Maine’s marine economy and foster innovation in what has been a cornerstone of Maine’s economy for generations.

HOUSING

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Work Session: Tues 3/5 1:15PM @ Cross, Room 206

LD 2224: AN ACT TO REDUCE CERTAIN COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

Advocate: Patrick Woodcock

Position: Support

The bill implements the consensus recommendations of the working group that worked to make recommendations to lower the costs of housing production. These recommendations including eliminating a requirement for smoke curtains to be a part of elevator installation, video cameras in elevators, studies fire sprinkler requirements, include wireless technology for emergency communication.

Implications: The bill would reduce some compliance costs for residential construction in the state. There were many other recommendations from the working group and housing advocates are pushing for additional changes in the legislation to build on the current draft of LD 2224. These recommendations include:

- **Allow up to 6 stories of single-stair residential construction**
- **Expand municipal subdivision review thresholds from 3 lots to up to 5 lots**
- **Increase the residential sprinkler threshold from 3 units to 5 units**
- **Prohibit municipal requirements for sprinklers in single-family housing**
- **Add a MUBEC board member with affordable housing experience to ensure cost impacts of code decisions are fully considered**
- **Allow smaller, readily available elevators in buildings up to 3 stories where elevators are not otherwise required**

HOUSING

LOOKING AHEAD

Work Sessions: Tues 3/3 1:30PM @ Cross, Room 206

LD 2164 – AN ACT TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES WITH CONVERTING VACANT SCHOOL BUILDINGS INTO HOUSING

Advocate: Patrick Woodcock

Position: Support

[Chamber Testimony](#)

The bill proposes to create a program at the newly developed State Redevelopment Land Bank for converting vacant school buildings into housing development. The bill would have a fiscal cost of \$5 million. The funds would be used to reduce the barriers for conversion rather than directly fund conversions.

Implications: The bill would accelerate the transition of municipal schools into housing projects and potentially increase supply of housing units.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Next Weekly Legislative Update:
Monday, March 9, 2026

Weekly Legislative Update

Join us weekly during the legislative session from 8:30 - 9 a.m. on the first day of the week


**MAINE
STATE
CHAMBER
COMMERCE**



**MAINE
STATE
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2026 LEGISLATIVE STRICTLY SOCIAL

GIN MILL, 302 WATER ST, AUGUSTA
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



**MAINE
STATE
CHAMBER
COMMERCE**

2026 BUSINESS DAY AT THE STATE HOUSE

HALL OF FLAGS, MAINE STATE HOUSE
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026
8:30 AM - 12 NOON

MAINE

S T A T E

CHAMBER
of

COMMERCE