



## **First Regular Session--129th Maine Legislature Maine Energy Marketers Legislative Report**

[LD.43](#)

### **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Dedicate All Sales Taxes from All Vehicle Sales and Vehicle-related Sales to the Highway Fund for Roads and Bridge Capital Improvements**

Summary: This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to dedicate all sales and use tax revenue from sales of motor vehicles and sales related to motor vehicles to the Highway Fund for roads and bridge capital improvements.

[LD.61](#)

### **An Act To Improve the Maine Bottle Redemption Process**

Summary: This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to simplify and improve the efficiency of the bottle redemption process.

[LD.65](#)

### **An Act To Allow Municipalities To Impose a Seasonal or Year round Local Option Sales Tax**

Summary: This bill allows a municipality to impose a local option sales tax, which may be seasonal, if approved by referendum of the voters in that municipality. The referendum question must identify the rate of the local option sales tax, specify the months during which it will be imposed if not year-round and identify the purposes for which the revenue will be used. The local option sales tax would be collected and administered by the State in the same manner as the sales and use tax. Revenue from the local option sales tax is distributed to the municipality imposing the local option sales tax. Revenue received by a municipality may not be used to reduce or eliminate funding otherwise due the municipality under other provisions of law.

[LD.69](#)

### **An Act To Provide Economic Security to Maine Families through the Creation of a Paid Family Medical Leave System**

Summary: This bill creates a paid family medical leave program, patterned after the unpaid family medical leave program existing in current law but requiring a contribution from an eligible employee, or a self-employed person on a voluntary basis, of no more than 0.5% of the employee's or self-employed person's wages or earnings. The program requires employers to deduct the contributions from employee paychecks and requires the employers and self-employed persons to submit contributions to the Department of Labor, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, which is charged with administering the program. The program pays benefits of up to 66% of an employee's wages or self-employed person's earnings, capped at the same maximum amount as unemployment benefits for leave taken by the employee or self-employed person for various family-related medical issues. The bill makes participation optional for employers that employ fewer than 15 employees. The bill also directs the Department of Labor to develop an implementation plan dealing with staffing, technology, start-up expenses, rulemaking and scheduling to begin the program on its effective date of October 1, 2020.

[LD 88](#)

**An Act To Require the Truthful Display of Gasoline Prices**

Summary: This bill requires posted gasoline prices on pumps or on roadside signs of a retail seller to be the full price of the fuel and prohibits posting a price reduced due to factors such as method of payment, participation in a rewards program or a discount for the purchase of other goods or services from the retail seller.

[LD 191](#)

**An Act To Protect Heating Fuel Customers Who Close Their Accounts  
DEAD**

Summary: This bill requires dealers of heating fuel to reimburse customers within 30 days for any fuel recovered following the closing of their accounts and makes failure to do so a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

[LD 274](#)

**An Act To Allow the Sale of Ethanol-free Gasoline Statewide**

Summary: Since June 1, 2015, retailers who sell gasoline in York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Androscoggin, Kennebec, Knox or Lincoln County have been required to sell only reformulated gasoline in those counties. This bill repeals that sales requirement effective November 1, 2020.

[LD 281](#)

**An Act To Allow the Sale of Ethanol-free Gasoline Statewide**

Summary: This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 692: Siting of Oil Storage Facilities, a major substantive rule of the Department of Environmental Protection.

[LD 289](#)

**An Act To Prohibit the Use of Certain Disposable Food Service Containers**

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

[LD 327](#)

**An Act To Revise Maine's Environmental Laws**

Summary: This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to revise laws governing environmental protection.

[LD 398](#)

**An Act To Allow for Greater Flexibility in Addressing Energy Efficiency  
Needs in the State**

Summary: This bill removes the provision that requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to allocate 50% of the funds in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund for residential programs and 50% for commercial and industrial programs.

[LD 434](#)

**An Act To Price Carbon Pollution in Maine**

Summary: This bill requires an assessment on the carbon content of fuels sold by a distributor in the State. The bill defines "distributor" and requires a distributor to submit on a monthly basis the required assessment to the Public Utilities Commission. The commission is required to transfer any

assessment it receives to the Carbon Content Assessment Fund, which the bill establishes. The bill requires the commission at the end of each fiscal year to transfer funds from the fund to transmission and distribution utilities in the State. The funds are to be used to reduce the rates of those utilities' customers in a manner that is equitable and that provides maximum benefit to the economy of the State. The bill gives the commission the authority to review the books and records of a distributor and to impose an administrative penalty if necessary. It requires the commission to adopt routine technical rules.

[LD 505](#)

**An Act To Require the Use of Reusable Food Ware at Eating Establishments**

Summary: This bill requires that a prepared food vendor may sell or provide prepared food to a customer for consumption on the vendor's premises only if the prepared food is served to the customer using reusable food ware. The bill also requires that a prepared food vendor may sell or provide prepared food to a customer for consumption off the vendor's premises using single-use disposable food ware only if the prepared food is served to the customer using single-use disposable food ware approved by the Department of Environmental Protection as recyclable or compostable.

The bill also requires that a prepared food vendor selling take-out food to a customer for consumption off the vendor's premises must require payment by the customer of a fee, retained by the prepared food vendor, of 25¢ for certain items of single-use disposable food ware in which the customer's take-out food is served or for each take-out meal served to the customer, whichever is less. The provisions of this bill also apply to a prepared food vendor or other food server providing or serving prepared food to customers at a state facility or state function.

[LD 551](#)

**An Act To Ban Nicotine Liquid Containers**

Summary: This bill prohibits, beginning January 1, 2020, a person from selling, furnishing or giving away a nicotine liquid container.

[LD 563](#)

**An Act To Help Municipalities Prepare for Sea Level Rise**

Summary: This bill amends the State's growth planning and land use laws to reflect that addressing the effects of sea level rise is a state planning and regulatory goal. The bill amends the laws regarding the State's coastal management policies to direct state, local and certain federal agencies responsible for regulating, planning, developing or managing coastal resources to conduct their activities affecting the coastal area consistent with the policy of encouraging the assessment of and planning for the effects of the rise in sea level. The bill provides that a coastal municipality or multimunicipal region that includes a coastal municipality, if the municipality or region adopts a growth management program under the State's growth planning and land use laws, may include in its comprehensive plan projections regarding sea level changes and the potential effects of the rise in sea level and may develop a coordinated plan for addressing the effects of the rise in sea level. The bill also provides that "coastal municipality" means a municipality or township in the coastal zone as identified by a coastal program administered by the Department of Marine Resources.

[LD 604](#)

**An Act To Create an Electric Vehicle Tax Credit**

Summary: This bill provides an income tax credit for the purchase of a new plug-in electric-drive motor vehicle that is eligible for a federal income tax credit. The credit is \$300 plus \$50 for each kilowatt-hour of battery capacity in excess of 5 kilowatt-hours up to a maximum credit of \$1,500.

[LD 614](#)

**An Act To Provide Purchase Rebates for Battery Electric Vehicles**

Summary: This bill establishes an electric vehicle rebate program to be administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust that, beginning July 1, 2020, allows a person who purchases or leases an eligible battery electric vehicle to apply for and, as resources allow, receive a direct rebate of \$2,500 if the person meets certain eligibility criteria. The bill also provides a General Fund appropriation of \$500,000 to support the direct rebates to be made available under the program.

[LD 621](#)

**An Act To Provide Purchase Rebates for Battery Electric Vehicles**

Summary: This bill establishes an electric vehicle rebate program to be administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust that, beginning July 1, 2020, allows a person who purchases or leases an eligible battery electric vehicle to apply for and, as resources allow, receive a direct rebate of \$2,500 if the person meets certain eligibility criteria. The bill also provides a General Fund appropriation of \$500,000 to support the direct rebates to be made available under the program.

[LD 658](#)

**Resolve, To Direct a Plan for Energy Independence for Maine**

Summary: This resolve directs the Governor's Energy Office to adopt a 10-year energy independence plan, including conservation and renewable energy strategies, for the State to become a net exporter of energy by 2030. It requires the office to develop the plan through a collaborative stakeholder process. The plan must be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by December 31, 2019 along with suggested legislation necessary to implement the plan. The resolve authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature related to the plan.

[LD 754](#)

**An Act To Ensure the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund Continues To Promote Energy Efficiency and Benefit Maine Ratepayers**

Summary: This bill reestablishes a ceiling that was repealed in 2013 on energy efficiency spending from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund; provides for transfers from the trust fund to Maine-based energy-intensive businesses, in addition to transfers to affected customers; requires that funds over a certain amount be distributed to ratepayers; and authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to adopt implementing rules.

[LD 797](#)

**An Act To Limit Greenhouse Gas Pollution and Effectively Use Maine's Natural Resources**

Summary: This bill provides that by January 1, 2050 the State must reduce net annual greenhouse gas emissions to at least 80% below the 1990 net annual greenhouse gas emissions level. It directs the Department of Environmental Protection to establish interim net annual emissions levels and to monitor and report on gross and net annual greenhouse gas

emissions. It directs the department to update the State's climate action plan and evaluate the State's progress toward meeting the reduction levels.

[LD 818](#)

**An Act To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Summary: This bill provides that by January 1, 2030 the State must reduce net annual greenhouse gas emissions to at least 80% below the 1990 net annual greenhouse gas emissions level. It directs the Department of Environmental Protection to establish interim net annual emissions levels and to monitor and report on gross and net annual greenhouse gas emissions. It directs the department to update the State's climate action plan and evaluate the State's progress toward meeting the reduction levels. It requires the Board of Environmental Protection to establish greenhouse gas emission standards for individual sources or categories of sources.

[LD 822](#)

**An Act To Prohibit the Sale of Motor Fuel Containing More than 10% Ethanol**

Summary: This bill prohibits a distributor, blender or retail dealer from selling, consigning or distributing motor fuel containing more than 10% ethanol by volume unless the motor fuel is sold, consigned or distributed in a sealed container that contains one quart or less of the motor fuel. It also repeals a contingent prohibition on the sale of motor fuel containing more than 10% ethanol by volume.

[LD 859](#)

**An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Equipment for Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions**

Summary: The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$40,000,000, will be used to provide funds to make capital improvements to and purchase equipment for career and technical education centers and regions for high school students.

[LD 893](#)

**An Act To Create an Updated Unified Maine Climate Action Plan**

Summary: This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection, working with the Maine Interagency Climate Adaptation Work Group, or MICA Work Group, and the University of Maine, to update the Maine Climate Action Plan developed in 2004 by the department. It requires the updated plan to address both mitigation and adaptation strategies. It requires the department and the MICA Work Group to convene a group of stakeholders to evaluate the mitigation and adaptation strategies in order to update the plan and it provides for internships for University of Maine students to work on the development and implementation of the updated plan. It authorizes the department to hire consultants. It requires the University of Maine System to develop and implement procedures for providing climate data to residents of the State. It also includes an appropriations and allocations section.

[LD.912](#)

**An Act To Establish the Wood Energy Investment Program**

Summary: This bill establishes the wood energy investment fund and creates the Wood Energy Investment Program within the Efficiency Maine Trust. The bill specifies that, if the Public Utilities Commission finds that an entity awarded a contract for biomass resources pursuant to Public Law 2015, chapter 483 is not meeting contract requirements and therefore is not qualified to receive the full contract payment or any contract payment, those funds that would have been paid had contract requirements been met must be transferred to the wood energy investment fund. It also specifies that any funds remaining in the cost recovery fund established in Public Law 2015, chapter 483, section 1, subsection 5 that are not needed to pay above-market costs for biomass resources must also be transferred by the Public Utilities Commission to the wood energy investment fund. It requires the trust to use funds from the fund, if there are any, to provide incentives and low-interest or no-interest loans for new wood-derived thermal energy or cogeneration projects. It requires that the trust consult with the Finance Authority of Maine, when appropriate, in the development of any Wood Energy Investment Program incentives and the distribution of money from the wood energy investment fund. It prohibits the use of funds for incentives or loans for the refurbishment or maintenance of existing facilities.

[LD.938](#)

**An Act To Provide for Sustainable Transportation in Maine**

Summary: This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to provide a means of sustainable transportation funding for the State.