

*Preble Street Legislative Priorities  
130<sup>th</sup> Maine State Legislature*

**Housing & Homelessness Legislation**

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Committee &amp; Status</b>	<b>Bill Text</b>
<b>LD 211</b> <b>An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Maine</b>	Rep. Kristen Cloutier (Lewiston)	This bill adds \$3,000,000 in funds to support shelter operations at all emergency homeless shelters in Maine.  <i>Status: Awaiting floor vote</i>	Committee on Labor and Housing  <b>HEARING:</b> Wednesday, 2/17/2021, 10am  <b>WORK SESSION:</b> Wednesday, 3/17/2021, 10am	<a href="#">getPDF.asp (mainelegisla ture.org)</a>
<b>LD 175</b> <b>An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters</b>	Rep. Kristen Cloutier (Lewiston)	Funds provided by this bond issue in the amount of \$50,000,000 will be used to create and enhance regional homeless shelters.	Appropriations & Financial Affairs  <b>HEARING:</b> Wednesday, 4/21/21, 1pm  <b>WORK SESSION:</b>	<a href="#">getPDF.asp (mainelegisla ture.org)</a>
<b>LD 50</b> <b>An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless</b>	Rep. Michael Brennan (Portland)	Funds provided by this bond issue in the amount of \$15,000,000 will be used for capital construction costs for housing for persons who are homeless.	Appropriations & Financial Affairs  <b>HEARING:</b>	<a href="http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/">http://www. mainelegisla ture.org/legis/ bills/</a>

			Wednesday, 4/21/21, 1pm  <b>WORK SESSION:</b>	
<b>LD 1478 An Act To Decriminalize Homelessness</b>	Rep. Victoria Morales (South Portland)	This bill provides a response other than traditional arrest for a person who lacks a home who commits certain listed low-level violations of law. The bill requires the Attorney General to adopt a homelessness crisis protocol to be adopted by law enforcement agencies. The protocol must provide mental health and substance use disorder professionals who are trained in crisis response to respond to the encounter between the law enforcement officer and the person who lacks a home and provide appropriate information and referrals to resources in the community, including, but not limited to, crisis services, emergency and transitional housing and case management services.	Criminal Justice & Public Safety  <b>HEARING:</b>  <b>WORK SESSION:</b>	<a href="#">getPDF.asp (maine.gov)</a>
<b>LR 1419 An Act To Improve Housing Security by Improving Access to General Assistance</b>	Rep. Victoria Morales (South Portland)	Would help more Mainers get and maintain stable housing by: Ensuring shelter is available to people who need it by giving consistent General Assistance financial support to shelters that provide emergency housing; Connecting Mainers accessing General Assistance to other kinds of rental assistance as their incomes increase instead of suddenly cutting them off from General Assistance.	Health and Human Services  <b>HEARING:</b>  <b>WORK SESSION:</b>	
<b>LD 473 An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program</b>	Rep. Victoria Morales (South Portland)	This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to establish and administer the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program. The program must include a rental assistance component to assist individuals with the cost of rent and a rental voucher guarantee component to encourage landlords to work with the program and other rental assistance programs in the State. The bill also creates the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program	Committee on Labor and Housing  <b>HEARING:</b> Wednesday, 3/3/2021, 10am  <b>WORK SESSION:</b>	<a href="#">getPDF.asp (mainelegislature.org)</a>

		Fund under the Maine State Housing Authority to carry out the program. The bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$8,500,000 to the fund in fiscal year 2021-22 and fiscal year 2022-23.  <i>Status: Awaiting floor vote</i>	Monday, 4/5/2021, 1pm	
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### Youth Homelessness

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Committee & Status	Bill Text
<b>LD 1076 An Act to Support the Operation of Youth Shelters in Maine</b>	Senator Nate Libby (Androscoggin)	This bill amends the definitions of “emergency children’s shelter” and “shelter for homeless children” to extend from 30 consecutive days or overnights to 90 consecutive days or overnights. This bill also required the Department of Health and Human Services to allow clients of youth shelters to be admitted for up to 30 days without first notifying the child’s guardian.	Health and Human Services  <b>HEARING:</b> Thursday, 4/8/2021, 10am  <b>WORK SESSION:</b> Friday, 4/16/2021, 9am	<a href="#">getPDF.asp (maine.gov)</a>

### Food Security & Nutrition Legislation

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Committee & Status	Bill Text
<b>LD 174 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Ending Hunger by 2030 Advisory Group</b>	Rep. William Pluecker (Warren)	This bill would implement the recommendations of the advisory group assembled pursuant to Resolve 2019, chapter 32 to end hunger in Maine by 2030.	Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry  <b>HEARING:</b>	<a href="#">getPDF.asp (maine.gov)</a>

			<b>WORK SESSION:</b>	
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### Legislation to Change Systems that Cause Racial Inequity

Bill	Sponsors	Summary	Committee	Bill Text
<b>LD 2</b> <b>An Act To Require the Inclusion of Racial Impact Statements in the Legislative Process</b>	Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross (Portland)	Would add racial impact statements into the legislative process for bills that could have a potential impact on historically disadvantaged racial groups. The Legislative Council would conduct a study to decide the best method to move forward with racial impact statements for the 2022 legislative session.  <b>Outcome: PASSED!</b>	State and Local Government <b>HEARING:</b> Wednesday, 2/3/2021, 10:00 AM <b>WORK SESSION:</b> Wednesday, 2/17/2021 at 1:00 PM <b>FLOOR VOTE:</b> Thursday, 3/11/2021	<a href="#">getPDF.asp (mainelegislature.org)</a>
<b>LD 1034</b> <b>An Act To Provide Funding To Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations</b>	The Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations	This bill will provide the Permanent Commission with the funding necessary to secure dedicated staffing and administrative support to continue this work and fulfill its imperative mission.	Appropriations & Financial Affairs  <b>HEARING:</b> Wednesday, 4/14/2021 at 10:01 AM  <b>WORK SESSION:</b>	<a href="#">getPDF.asp (maine.gov)</a>

### Opposed Legislation

**\*Preble Street does not support the following bills that actively contradict the organizational mission and create barriers to services for clients**

Bill	Sponsors	Summary	Committee	Bill Text
<b>LD 287</b> <b>An Act To Require Electronic Benefits Transfer Cards and Other General Assistance Cards To Be Printed with the Beneficiary's Photograph</b>	Rep. Jon Connor (Lewiston)	<p>This act would require that all Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Cards and other General Assistance cards be printed with the photo of the cardholder.</p> <p><i>Why oppose?</i>            This bill would create additional barriers for people who utilize EBT cards for various services. For example, it would create barriers for caregivers who assist people receiving public benefits, making it difficult, if not impossible, for them to shop on their behalf. Further, many benefits are allocated per household, not per person, which means that more than one person may use the EBT card to shop for their family. Finally, putting photos on EBT cards is not shown to deter fraud, which is the argument often used to pass legislation such as LD 287.<sup>1</sup></p>	Health and Human Services  <b>HEARING:</b> Tuesday, 3/23/2021 at 9am  <b>WORK SESSION:</b> Thursday, 4/22/2021 at 10am	<a href="#">getPDF.asp</a> <a href="#">(mainelegislature.org)</a>
<b>LD 1238</b> <b>An Act To Protect Women's Single-sex Shelters</b>	Sen. Lisa Keim (Oxford)	<p>This bill would allow shelters that serve women to refuse access to persons who are transgender.</p> <p><i>Why oppose?</i>            Shelter is a human right, and no one should experience discrimination and exclusion due to their gender identity. The LGBTQ+ community, including transgender and non-binary individuals, faces higher rates of homelessness than the general population. Shelters must be inclusive for all individuals experiencing homelessness.</p>	Health and Human Services  <b>HEARING:</b>  <b>WORK SESSION:</b>	<a href="#">getPDF.asp</a> <a href="#">(maine.gov)</a>

<sup>1</sup> Source: [4 Reasons why SNAP Photo ID Cards Are Bad for Massachusetts \(aarp.org\)](#).