



## A Review of Maine's 132nd, 131st, and 130th Legislative Sessions

### Passed and Enacted in Maine's 132nd First Legislative Session

- **LD 110: An Act to Require Reporting on the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds by Certain Municipalities and County Governments** (Sponsored by Rep. Brennan) - **In Support**
  - Cities and counties that directly receive opioid settlement funds must submit a yearly report to the state Attorney General starting in 2026. This report must show:
    - How much money they received, and
    - How they spent that money during the previous year.
  - The Attorney General will gather all of these local reports and send a combined summary to the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee each year, starting in February 2026.
- **LD 215: An Act Regarding Large Recovery Residences** (Sponsored by Rep. Hasenfus) - **In Support**
  - As amended, this bill establishes maximum levels of housing assistance provided to or on behalf of a person residing in a certified recovery residence with occupancy of 26 or more beds, in an amount equal to 70% of the maximum levels of assistance for recovery residences with occupancy of 25 or fewer beds.
  - It directs DHHS to convene a stakeholder group to review options for managing the costs of general assistance provided for recovery residences. DHHS must report its findings by February 1, 2026 to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, and the committee has the authority to report out legislation related to the report.
- **LD 503: An Act Regarding the Substance Use Disorder Services Commission** (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci)
  - The bill makes a number of changes to the membership and duties of the SUDS Commission. Notably, it adds a member who is a SUD harm reduction practitioner and a member representing federally recognized tribal nations. It requires the Commission to make recommendations relating to SUD to the legislature.
- **LD 710: An Act to Expand Access and Reduce Barriers to Access to Naloxone Hydrochloride and Other Opioid Overdose-reversing Medications** (Sponsored by Rep. Zager)
  - This bill removes naloxone training requirements for community-based drug overdose prevention programs and recovery residences and expands access by allowing municipalities to provide vending machines for use by the public in response to an opioid-related drug overdose. It provides additional immunity protections for all persons who may administer naloxone to another individual when they believe the other individual is experiencing an opioid related drug overdose. Further, it clarifies that healthcare professionals can dispense naloxone over the counter with or without a prescription.
- **LD 1078: An Act to Support Maine's Public Health Objectives by Increasing Access to Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs** (Sponsored by Rep. Rana) - **In Support**
  - Authorizes Mobile Sites- Certified SSPs will be able to operate mobile service sites—such as vans, pop-up tents, or temporary locations—within the municipality where the program is already certified. These mobile operations must comply with pre-approved parameters from the CDC.
  - Allows Delivery Services- Certified SSPs will be able to deliver sterile syringes, pick up syringe waste, and related harm reduction supplies within their approved service area.
- **LD 1366: An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of the Drug Laws Related to Cocaine Base** (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken) - **In Support**



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- This bill removed the remaining disparities in Maine statute regarding the treatment of cocaine and cocaine base (also known as crack cocaine).
- **LD 1946: An Act to Clarify the Eligibility of Certified Recovery Residences for Bridging Rental Assistance Program Housing Vouchers** (Sponsored by Rep. Warren) **In Support**
  - Individuals residing in certified recovery residences will now be eligible for Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) housing vouchers. The law specifies that BRAP vouchers may not be used to subsidize the costs of residing at a recovery residence.

### **Bills Enacted and Funded in Maine's 132nd First Legislative Session**

- **LD 779: An Act to Fund the Aroostook County Drug Treatment Court** (Sponsored by Sen. Carney) - **In Support**
  - Appropriates one-time funds to establish one limited-period Assistant District Attorney position to facilitate the creation of a drug treatment court in Aroostook County.
- **LD 1738: An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State** (Sponsored by Rep. Rana) - **In Support**
  - This bill establishes the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program within the Maine CDC. Municipalities, community organizations, and SSPs will be able to apply for funding for evidence-based strategies to reduce improperly discarded syringes in communities.

### **Bills Opposed & Defeated in Maine's 132nd First Legislative Session**

- **LD 59: An Act to Ban the Drug Tianeptine** (Sponsored by Rep. Lemelin) **In Opposition**
  - This bill sought to add Tianeptine to the list of Schedule W drugs, which would have opened up the door for criminal penalties.
- **LD 219: An Act to Limit Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs to a One-for-one Exchange** (Sponsored by Rep. Mastraccio) **In Opposition**
  - This bill would have required all certified syringe service programs (SSPs) to operate using a one-for-one syringe exchange model, which goes against evidence-based best practices.
  - Had this bill passed, PWUD would be at higher risk of transmitting diseases and developing costly to treat infections.
- **LD 717: An Act to Amend the Maine Criminal Code Governing Restitution to Include the Costs of All Analyses of Suspected Illegal Drugs** (Sponsored by Rep. Bishop) **In Opposition**
  - This bill aimed to remove a rule in Maine's Criminal Code that indicated drug analysis costs could only be included in restitution during sentencing if the defendant was motivated by profit.
  - People with SUD facing low level drug crimes need treatment and resources, not additional court fees and fines that create more barriers to recovery.
- **LD 771: An Act to Include Possession of Compounds, Mixtures or Substances Containing a Detectable Amount of Certain Scheduled Drugs to Prove the Offense of Unlawful Trafficking of Scheduled Drugs** (Sponsored by Sen. Baldacci) - **In Opposition**
  - This bill would have redefined "amphetamine" to mean any compound, mixture or preparation containing amphetamine in any quantity and "methamphetamine" to mean any compound, mixture or preparation containing methamphetamine in any quantity.



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- Had this bill been enacted, it would have been easier to prosecute individuals with SUD for drug trafficking based on the amount of drugs - rather than actual intent to distribute or make a profit.
- **LD 1024: An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance** (Sponsored by Sen. Haggan) - **In Opposition**
  - This bill sought to roll back the protections of the expanded Good Samaritan Law passed during the 130th Legislative Session by the #ExpandGoodSamCampaign. If it had passed, less people would feel safe calling 9-1-1, and more Mainers would die from preventable overdose deaths.
- **LD 1263: An Act Regarding Penalties for Fentanyl Trafficking When That Trafficking Results in an Overdose Causing Serious Bodily Injury of a Person** (Sponsored by Rep. Poirier) - **In Opposition**
  - This bill sought to create a new Class A Crime when trafficking fentanyl results in serious bodily injury. This is already a Class B Crime in Maine.
- **LD 1288: An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Drug Laws Regarding Heroin, Fentanyl and Cocaine** (Sponsored by Sen. Haggan) - **In Opposition**
  - This bill sought to decrease the threshold amounts needed to charge someone with unlawful trafficking and unlawful furnishing of heroin and fentanyl powder. This bill also sought to create disparities between the treatment of Cocaine and Cocaine base for a variety of drug crimes.
  - Had this bill been enacted, Maine would see more people with SUD facing serious drug trafficking charges despite using drugs for personal use, which is a symptom of their disease.

### **Bills Carried Over in Maine's 132nd First Legislative Session**

- **LD 604: An Act to Ensure Access to Concurrent Methadone Treatment and Intensive Outpatient Programs** (Sponsored by Rep. Supica) - **In Support**
  - This bill prohibits DHHS from restricting coverage for individuals enrolled in MaineCare from receiving methadone treatment and enrolling in an intensive outpatient program concurrently.
  - **Status**: On Special Appropriations Table
- **LD 755: An Act to Prevent Opioid Overdose Deaths by Allowing Municipalities to Approve the Establishment of Overdose Prevention Centers** (Sponsored by Sen. Bennett) - **In Support**
  - This bill authorizes municipalities to approve overdose prevention centers (OPCs) at which clients may receive health screening, disease prevention and recovery support services and may self-administer previously obtained controlled substances on the premises. The bill also provides immunity from arrest, prosecution, revocation proceedings or termination proceedings for persons using, employed by or otherwise associated with an OPC when acting in accordance with the bill.
  - **Status**: Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee
- **LD 1646: An Act to Amend Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Regarding Suspected Drug-related Overdoses** (Sponsored by Sen. Talbot Ross) - **In Support**
  - This bill clarifies what triggers the Good Samaritan Law immunity provisions when 9-1-1 is called at the scene of a drug-related overdose.
  - This bill responds to a recent Maine Supreme Court decision to ensure that lives are saved and the original intent of the law is upheld.
  - **Status**: Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee
- **LD 1911: An Act to Automatically Seal Criminal History Record Information for Certain Crimes** (Sen. Talbot Ross) - **In Support**
  - If enacted, this bill seeks to establish an automatic process for sealing criminal records for eligible crimes. This bill balances public safety with creating a pathway to remove some of the barriers that many individuals with criminal records face when seeking out opportunities.



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- **Status:** Judiciary Committee
- **[LD 1922](#): An Act to Support Workforce Development for Families That Were Involved in Child Protective Activities by Requiring the Sealing of Certain Records** (Sponsored by Rep. Meyer) - **In Support**
  - This bill requires DHHS to seal certain child protection records, subject to certain exceptions. Sealing means the records are rendered inaccessible to the public but are retained by the department for internal use, such as compliance with legal obligations, future child protective investigations or other legitimate governmental purposes.
  - **Status:** Health & Human Service Committee

### **Bills Enacted & Vetoed in Maine's 132nd First Legislative Session**

- **[LD 1328](#): An Act to Create Culturally Appropriate and Trauma-informed Housing and Recovery Services** (Sponsored by Rep. Osher) - **In Support**
  - **[Governor's Veto Letter](#)**
  - The bill, as amended, required the Maine State Housing Authority to conduct a competitive bid process to distribute funds in the newly established Culturally Appropriate and Trauma-informed Recovery Residence Fund. The funds had to be used to acquire or operate 2 recovery residences led by individuals educated and trained to provide culturally appropriate and trauma-informed services to underserved or disparately impacted individuals in recovery from SUD.

### **Enacted and Funded in the 131st Legislative Budget(s)**

#### **Crisis Receiving Centers**

- **[LD 2214](#) - An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 (Governor's Bill)**
  - Included in the budget, there is one-time and ongoing funding to establish a 24/7 behavioral health crisis receiving center in Lewiston to support the long-term behavioral health needs of the community.
  - The budget includes ongoing funding to establish crisis receiving centers in Aroostook and Penobscot counties beginning April 1, 2025.
  - The budget also includes funding and language to update [LD 1719](#) An Act to Establish Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center, a priority bill of ME-RAP in 2023. The new language creates a Crisis Receiving Center in Kennebec County that specializes in substance use disorder treatment, building on our previous work.

#### **Medication Assisted Treatment**

- **[LD 2214](#) (Governor's Bill)**
  - The enacted budget provides one-time funding of \$4,000,000 to county jails for medication-assisted treatment and medical care.

#### **Low Barrier Shelters**

**Updated in June 2025**



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- **LD [2136](#) An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals and Establish a Stakeholder Group to Develop a 10-year Plan to Address the Root Causes of Homelessness (Rep. Mastraccio - Enacted by the Senate and House)**
  - The enacted budget includes \$7,500,000 in funding to support privately operated low-barrier shelters. Our network supported LD 2136 and LD 2138 (sponsored by Rep. Madigan and amended into LD 2136), both of which called for increasing funding for emergency and low barrier shelters serving our unhoused community members.

### **Study of Overdose Prevention Centers**

- **LD [1364](#) Resolve to Study Methods of Preventing Opioid Overdose Deaths by Authorizing Harm Reduction Health Centers (Rep. Lookner - Signed by the Governor)**
  - This bill mandates the Governor's Office to form a group, including various stakeholders, to explore ways of preventing opioid overdose deaths through harm reduction health centers. The group will assess options, identify barriers, and provide recommendations. Additionally, the office must submit a report, findings, recommendations, and potential legislation to the Legislature's committee on criminal justice and public safety by February 15, 2025, for potential legislative action in the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

### **Passed and Enacted in Maine 131st Legislative Session**

#### **LD [1714](#) An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue (Rep. Rana - Enacted by the Senate and House)**

- Beginning July 1, 2025 and annually thereafter, \$2,000,000 will be transferred to the Recovery Community Centers Fund to fund recovery community centers.

#### **LD [1596](#) An Act to Expand Access to Drug Treatment Courts (Senate President Jackson - Signed by the Governor)**

- This bill, as amended, provides that the goals of the SUD programs established in the Superior Courts and District Courts include ensuring that such programs are available statewide and accessible to residents in rural areas of the State.

#### **LD [2089](#) An Act Regarding Drug Awareness Instruction in Secondary Schools (Senator Farrin - Signed by the Governor)**

- This bill requires that health education in a secondary school must include reference to the effects of dangerous drugs such as fentanyl in addition to alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics. It also allows a secondary school to supplement substance use instruction by observing a drug awareness week during the month of October each year.

#### **LD [2054](#) An Act to Exclude Certain Operating Under the Influence Crimes from the Immunity Provisions**



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### **That Are Triggered When Law Enforcement Is Called for a Suspected Overdose (Rep. Hasenfus - Signed by the Governor)**

- This bill adds operating under the influence (OUI) and operating or attempting to operate a watercraft, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle, or ATV, under the influence to the list of crimes that do not qualify for immunity from arrest, prosecution and certain revocation and termination proceedings when assistance has been requested for a suspected drug-related overdose.

### **LD [1315](#) An Act To Require Instruction in Schools on Substance Use Prevention and Administration of Naloxone (Senator Pouliot - Signed By the Governor)**

- This bill requires that all public highschools in Maine provide an extracurricular instruction on the administration of nasal Naloxone, commonly known as Narcan.

### **LD [597](#) An Act to Improve Conditions for People Living in Recovery Residences by Requiring Approved Discharge and Transfer Policies (Rep. Madigan - Signed by the Governor) Unanimous**

- This bill mandates certified recovery residences to have an approved discharge and transfer policy by the Department of Health and Human Services. Despite landlord and tenant rights under Maine Revised Statutes, Title 14, chapter 709, a residence with an approved policy can promptly discharge or transfer a resident if necessary for their welfare, if their needs can't be met, or if the health and safety of others are at risk. The Department is required to establish routine technical rules outlining the policy requirements.

### **LD [1036](#) An Act to Require All Uniformed Patrol Officers to Carry Naloxone Hydrochloride When on Duty (Rep. Milliken - Signed by the Governor) Unanimous**

- This bill mandates the Commissioner of Public Safety to implement standard technical regulations necessitating training for uniformed patrol officers in the use and administration of naloxone hydrochloride. Additionally, it compels these officers to carry naloxone hydrochloride while actively on duty.

### **LD [1745](#) An Act to Support Public Health by Protecting Certain Activities Conducted Under Comprehensive Community Drug Checking Initiatives (Rep. LaRochelle - Signed by the Governor)**

- This bill removes criminal liability for people possessing small amounts of prescription drugs, scheduled drugs, or imitation scheduled drugs in sample collection instruments or drug paraphernalia for the purpose of delivering items to a drug checking and analysis program authorized by the Department of Health and Human Services or for conducting analysis within such a program.

### **LD [1229](#) An Act to Support Peer Mentors for Parents Involved in the Child Protective Services System (Rep. Meyer)**

- The bill requires that the Health and Human Services Department engage a provider for free real-time virtual classes, led by experienced parents from the child protective services system. These classes will offer information, resources, and support to eligible parents.

### **LD [1439](#) An Act to Promote Family-centered Interventions for Substance Use Disorder Treatment (Rep. Madigan)**

- The bill requires that starting July 1, 2024, a hospital licensed under chapter 405 must display information



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about how individuals with substance use disorder can access treatment and must be in a publicly accessible area of its emergency department.

### **LD [1116](#) An Act to Provide Rural Sober Living Housing for Mothers (Rep. Supica)**

- The bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to allocate funds for acquiring land or real property to facilitate the establishment of rural recovery residences for families.

### **LD [556](#) An Act to Address BMV Fees, Fines, and Reinstatement (Rep. Rana)**

- The bill ends the practice of “stacking” reinstatement fines and fees at the Department of Motor Vehicles, making it easier to get your license back.

### **LD [81](#) An Act to Address Recovery Residence Participation in the Municipal General Assistance Program (Rep. Meyer)**

- The bill clarifies that recovery residences operators are eligible for general assistance for their tenants, building on a previous law passed by ME-RAP to set GA rates for recovery residences.

### **LD [600](#) An Act to Expand Availability of Naloxone Hydrochloride (Rep. Craven)**

- This legislation permits an overdose prevention initiative, subject to explicit approval from a municipality, to furnish and upkeep naloxone hydrochloride within a conspicuous and publicly accessible wall-mounted box or alternative container within municipal spaces. Additionally, the legislation grants immunity from both criminal and civil liability to municipalities and overdose prevention programs for their involvement in providing or maintaining naloxone hydrochloride containers.

### **LD [1052](#) An Act to Expand Good Samaritan Protections for Naloxone Hydrochloride Administration (Sen. Brakey)**

- This legislation provides immunity to anyone, including organizations, to carry, obtain, and use Naloxone.

## **Bills Opposed & Defeated in Maine's 131st Legislative Session**

### **LD [714](#) An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug Related Medical Assistance**

- This bill sought to roll back key provisions of Maine's Good Samaritan Law, which our network fought to pass. It was defeated handily in the House and Senate.

### **LD [109](#) An Act to Improve Safety for Individuals Living in Recovery Residences**

- This bill sought to roll back key protections for recovery residences, which our network fought to pass. It was defeated handily in the House and Senate.

### **LD [1215](#): An Act to End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products**

- This bill prohibits the sale and distribution of flavored tobacco products, including flavored cigars and electronic smoking devices. Our network strongly opposes this ban.





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### **LD [1975](#): Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study Changes to the Legal Status of Scheduled Drugs**

- The amended version of this changes the bill title to Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study Changes to the Legal Status of Scheduled Drugs. The bill establishes a task force to study decriminalization and changing scheduled drug laws.

You can learn more about legislation worked on and tracked this session [here](#).

### **Passed and Enacted in Maine 130th Legislative Session**

### **LD [1175](#): An Act To Prohibit Excessive Telephone, Video and Commissary Charges in Maine Jails and Prisons (Rep. Kinney) Signed by the Governor.**

- This bill lowers the cost of phone calls in Maine County jails by capping the cost that service providers can charge per minute to 21c. This bill also provides 30 minutes a week to call family members and 30 minutes a week to call lawyers for people who have less than \$10 in their account and are housed in a State Prison.

### **LD [1722](#): An Act To Ensure Access to All Paths to Recovery for Persons Affected by Opioids Using Money Obtained through Litigation against Opioid Manufacturers (Rep. C. Warren) Signed by the Governor.**

- This law builds on the Opioid Settlement language to protect opioid settlement funds and create a designed fund that will be directed to treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and prevention services in Maine. This law adds four people to the Maine Recovery Council, who will be responsible for overseeing and directing the opioid settlement monies.

### **LD [1862](#): An Act To Strengthen Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance (Senator Maxmin) Signed by the Governor.**

- This bill builds on the 2019 Good Sam Law by expanding the legal protection of people at the scene of an overdose to include anyone who is rendering aid or who is overdosing from being charged with non-violent crimes, including bail and probation violations to help ensure that people feel safe to call 9-1-1 and get the help that they need. The full fact sheet is available [here](#).

### **LD [1909](#): An Act To Amend Syringe Service Programs (Rep. McDonald) Signed by the Governor.**

- This bill allows the Department of Health and Human Services to create rules for syringe service programs. These rules could expand the number of syringes that a program can provide to people who use drugs.

### **LD [488](#): Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine (Sen. Maxmin) Signed by the Governor.**

- Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to give preference in awarding contracts that establish or develop new recovery community centers in counties that have no state-funded recovery community centers or no other recovery community centers until every county has a center.
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### **LD [2008](#): Resolve, To Establish the Committee To Study Court-ordered Treatment for Substance Use Disorder (Rep. Madigan) Became law without the Governor's signature.**

- The resolve establishes the 16-member Committee To Study Court-ordered Treatment for Substance Use Disorder. The study committee is directed to explore the legal issues and best medical practices and related





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issues concerning substance use disorder treatment that is involuntary or includes some form of leverage to ensure adherence to treatment. The study committee shall submit a report that includes a summary of its activities and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary for presentation to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

**LD [964](#): An Act To Expand Access to Certified Substance Use Disorder Recovery Residence Services (Hon. J. Fecteau) Became law without the Governor's signature.**

- This law requires that recovery residences must be certified to the National Standards of Recovery Residences to receive state or federal housing assistance. It also requires that by July 1st, 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services establish appropriate maximum housing assistance levels for eligible persons residing in recovery residences - including general assistance support.

**LD [663](#): Resolve, Establishing a Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Treatment Pilot Program for Maine's Incarcerated Population (Rep. C. Warren) Became law without the Governor's signature.**

- That the Commissioner of Corrections shall establish and maintain a comprehensive substance use disorder treatment pilot program, referred to in this resolution as "the program," in all state correctional facilities.
  - The program must include, but is not limited to, screening, assessment, and treatment of persons residing in state correctional facilities for substance use disorder, including alcohol use disorder.
  - The program must include screening, assessment, and treatment, including, but not limited to, screening during the intake process, medically managed withdrawal, medication-assisted treatment, individual and group counseling, and other behavioral treatment options.
  - Medication-assisted treatment must use medications approved or authorized by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of substance use disorder including alcohol use disorder, including at least one of each formulation of all United States Food and Drug Administration-approved medication-assisted treatments for substance use disorder including alcohol use disorder and opioid use disorder.
  - The program must provide initial and ongoing training and technical assistance for correctional facility staff and health care practitioners in each correctional facility.
  - The program must include coordination with community-based treatment and recovery organizations to facilitate supportive reentry and continuity of care after release

**LD [858](#): An Act To Limit Reincarceration for Persons on Probation (Rep. McCreight) Signed by the Governor.**

- As the law was enacted, people on probation cannot be incarcerated for the use of alcohol. If someone resumes use of any substance, legal or otherwise, while on probation, they are subject to graduated sanctions that cannot involve incarceration, except if they are a danger to someone else or the officer determines that they cannot be managed outside of custody.

**LD [1333](#): An Act Concerning the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program and the Dispensing of Naloxone Hydrochloride by Emergency Medical Services Providers (Rep. Zager) Signed by the Governor.**



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- an emergency medical services person, ambulance service or non transporting emergency medical service may dispense naloxone hydrochloride (Narcan) to an individual of any age at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose or to a member of the individual's immediate family, a friend of the individual or another person in a position to assist the individual if the individual is at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.

### **LD [994](#): An Act To Promote Public Health by Eliminating Criminal Penalties for Possession of Hypodermic Apparatuses (Rep. McDonald) Signed by the Governor.**

- Previously, it was illegal to possess more than 10 hypodermic apparatuses and other safe use supplies.
- Under this new law, people may possess all harm reduction supplies without fear of being prosecuted and unlawful possession of a scheduled drug does not include possession of a residual amount of any scheduled drug that is contained in one or more hypodermic apparatuses.

### **LD [1675](#): An Act To Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Drug Laws (Rep. Talbot-Ross) Became law without the Governor's signature.**

- Previously, the law stated that anyone who possessed 200mg-2g of heroin or fentanyl was guilty of furnishing drugs, and anyone who possessed more than 2g of those substances was guilty of trafficking them, regardless of whether there was an intent to furnish or traffick
- Under this new law, a jury may--but does not have to--find that someone possessing more than 2g of heroin or fentanyl is furnishing, and someone possessing more than 4g of heroin or fentanyl is trafficking. This allows people who possess for personal use to present arguments that they were not trafficking/furnishing in order to avoid the more serious convictions.

### **LD [1703](#): An Act To Amend the Bail Code (Rep. Talbot-Ross) Became law without the Governor's signature.**

- This law eliminates cash bail for most Class E offenses, the least serious offense in our criminal laws. (Criminal trespass, theft of less than \$500, drinking in public are examples.)
- The law also eliminates the ability of judges to order random searches for drugs and alcohol while a person is out on bail, except if a person is participating in a specialty court (veterans, drugs, etc.).
- Finally, in setting bail conditions, the judicial officer must now take into account whether a person is a primary caretaker, whether they could lose their job if they do not get out of jail, and whether they have health care needs that would be better met in the community than in jail.

### **LD [1167](#): An Act Relating to Fair Chance in Employment (Rep. Talbot-Ross) sometimes called "Ban the Box" Signed by the Governor.**

- With some narrow exceptions, this law prohibits private and public employers to request criminal history record information on the employer's initial employee application form; or to state on an initial employee application form or advertisement or specify prior to determining a person is otherwise qualified for the position that a person with a criminal history may not apply or will not be considered for a position.

### **LD [1593](#): An Act To Provide Pathways to Rehabilitation, Reentry and Reintegration (Rep. Talbot-Ross) Became law without the Governor's signature.**



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- Modifies the Supervised Community Confinement Program to allow prisoners in the custody of the Maine Department of Corrections to participate in community confinement 24 to 30 months before the end of their imprisonment sentence and to clarify and make more transparent the criteria and process for application and acceptance into the program.

### **Died during the 130th Legislative Session**

#### **LD [967](#): An Act To Make Possession of Scheduled Drugs for Personal Use a Civil Penalty (Rep. Anne Perry)**

- Passed the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, Received a 77-62 Vote in the House, and came very close in the Senate 14-18.
- Would have changed personal possession of drugs (less than .2 grams) from a criminal offense to a civil offense and saved the state of Maine a million dollars over two years.
- Learn more [here](#)