

# MAINE EPISCOPAL PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK

## REPORT TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION

(UPDATED September 16, 2025)

It's hard to categorize the first session of the 132nd legislature. To be sure, faith-based advocates were very effective on many levels (transgender rights) and unsuccessful on others (gun safety). Our partnership and commitment to the **Maine Council of Churches** remain strong, and my co-leadership of the [Public Policy Committee](#) has helped keep the group focused on issues where we can make a difference. The [Moral Agenda](#), which guides our decision-making process, remains the foundation of our work.

Late in February, as the new legislature was getting underway, a legislator from Auburn created a national incident by posting the image of a transgender student athlete. I'm not going to relitigate that here, but include the reference as it set the tone for the whole session. Coincidentally, a bill was submitted earlier in the process, before the social media posting, **LD 537 - An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action**. The Council [testified](#) in support of this bill, as did many other faith-based advocates. Last week, the House and Senate passed this bill.

This report is a summary of the legislative session grouped by category. The designations behind each bill are: **DEFEATED** or **PASSED** (a legislative victory), **LOST** (a defeat), and **CARRY OVER**, meaning it will be heard in the second session in January 2026.

### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH BILLS

LD 253 - An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services (Presented by Representative Javner, R-Chester) **[DEFEATED]**

LD 335 - An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights (Presented by Representative Kuhn, D-Falmouth) **[CARRY OVER]**

LD 886 - An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions (Presented by Representative Griffin, R-Levant) **[DEFEATED]**

LD 887 - An Act to Make Manufacturers Responsible for Proper Disposal of Abortion Drugs and Require a Health Care Provider to be Physically Present During a Chemical Abortion (Presented by Representative Paul, R - Winterport) **[DEFEATED]**

LD 975 - An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion (Presented by Representative Griffin, R - Levant) **[DEFEATED]**

LD 1007 - An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion (Presented by Representative Paul, R - Winterport) **[DEFEATED]**

LD 1119 - An Act Regarding Reproductive Health Care (Presented by Representative Moonen, D - Portland) **[CARRY OVER]**

LD 1154 - An Act to Require That Informed Consent for Abortion Include Information on Perinatal Hospice (Presented by Representative Paul, R - Winterport) **[DEFEATED]**

## **GUN BILLS**

LD 208 - An Act to Eliminate the 72-Hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases (Presented by Representative Faulkingham, R - Winter Harbor) **[CARRY OVER]**

LD 677 - An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of "Machine Gun" and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device (Presented by Senator Carney, D- Cumberland) **[LOST]**

LD 829 - An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns in State Parks (Presented by Senator Haggan, R-Penobscot) **[DEFEATED]**

LD 953 - An Act to Change the Definition of "Machine Gun" in the Maine Criminal Code (Presented by Senator Haggan, R-Penobscot) **[LOST]**

LD 1009 - An Act to Restore Full Civil Rights to Possess Firearms to Persons Previously Convicted of Certain Nonviolent Felony Crimes (Presented by Representative Perkins, R-Dover Foxcroft) **[CARRYOVER]**

LD 1049 - An Act to Eliminate the Duty to Inform a Law Enforcement Officer When Carrying a Concealed Handgun Without a Permit (Presented by Representative Poirier, R - Skowhegan) **[DEFEATED]**

LD 1062 - An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms (Presented by Representative Poirier, R - Skowhegan) **[DEFEATED]**

LD 1104 - An Act to Limit the Liability of Persons Who Provide Firearm Hold Agreement (Presented by Representative Doudera, D-Camden) **[LOST]**

LD 1109 - An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices (Presented by Representative Beck, D-South Portland) **[LOST]**

LD 1120 - An Act to Promote the Secure Storage of Firearms (Presented by Representative Sayre, D - Kennebunk) **[LOST]**

LD 1126 - An Act Requiring Serial Numbers of Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms (Presented by Representative Zager, D-Portland) **[PASSED]**

LD 1174 - An Act to Allow Gun Shops to Hold Firearms for Veterans of the US Armed Forces and First Respondents (Presented by Representative Wood, R - Greene) **[PASSED]**

LD 1230 - An Act to Abolish the 72-Hour Waiting Period for a Gun Purchase (Presented by Representative Chapman, R - Auburn) **[CARRY OVER]**

LD 1299 - An Act to Prohibit the Unsecured Storage of Handguns in Motor Vehicles (Presented by Senator Talbot Ross, D-Cumberland) **[LOST]**

### **VACCINE BILLS**

LD 174 - An Act to Restore Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements (Presented by Representative Drinkwater, R-Milford) **[DEFEATED]**

LD436 - An Act to Prohibit State Agencies from Promoting the COVID-19 Vaccination to Children (Presented by Representative Eder, R-Waterboro) **[DEFEATED]**

LD 727 - An Act to Repeal Certain Immunization Requirements for Schools (Presented by Representative Quint, R-Hodgdon) **[DEFEATED]**

### **TRANSGENDER BILLS**

L.D. 233, H.P. 156 An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School (Presented by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington) **[DEFEATED]**

L.D. 380, S.P. 145 An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services (Presented by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot) **[DEFEATED]**

L.D. 868, H.P. 554 An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools (Presented by Representative CARUSO of Caratunk) **[DEFEATED]**

L.D. 1002, H.P. 649 An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate (Presented by Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls) **[DEFEATED]**

L.D. 1134, S.P. 461 An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities (Presented by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook) **[DEFEATED]**

L.D. 1337, H.P. 872 An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters (Presented by Representative CARUSO of Caratunk) **[DEFEATED]**

L.D. 1432, H.P. 941 An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act (Presented by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips) [DEFEATED]

L.D. 1704, H.P. 1139 An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex (Presented by Representative SMITH of Palermo) [DEFEATED]

### CREATION CARE BILLS

LD 222 - An Act to Establish a Take-back and Disposal Program for Firefighting and Fire-suppressing Foam to Which Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Have Been Added [PASSED]

LD 1138 - An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan [LOST]

LD 1868 - An Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy by Updating Renewable and Clean Resource Procurement Laws [PASSED]

LD 1870 - An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters [CARRY OVER]

LD 1940 - An Act to Revise the Growth Management Program Laws [LOST]

LD 1949 - An Act Regarding Energy Fairness [CARRY OVER]

### INDIGENOUS BILLS

LD14 - An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks [CARRY OVER]

LD 391 - An Act to Advance Recognition of the Inherent Rights of the Wabanaki Nations [CARRY OVER]

LD 395 - An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations [CARRY OVER]

LD 785 - An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act [CARRY OVER]

LD 812 - An Act to Provide State Recognition of the Kineo St. John Tribe [DEFEATED]

LD 813 - An Act Regarding State Recognition of Native American Tribes [DEFEATED]

LD 958 - An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands [PASSED]

LD 1054 - An Act to Authorize the Penobscot Nation to Use Wild Game Harvested on the Penobscot Indian Territory at Food Venues Located Within the Penobscot Indian Territory  
[CARRY OVER]

LD 1474 - An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools [CARRY OVER]

HOMELESS SHELTER BILL

LD 698 - An Act to Sustain Emergency Homeless Shelters in Maine [PASSED]

Respectfully submitted by  
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