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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

◆ **125TH LEGISLATURE 2ND SESSION CONVENES**

The second, short session of the 125th Legislature promises to be full of issues that affect K-12 education. Chief among them is whether General Purpose Aid to schools will be cut in order to balance the state budget.

There are two supplemental budgets up for review. One deals with the Department of Health and Human Services to fill an estimated \$220 million shortfall. That budget is currently being reviewed by the Appropriations Committee. The second supplemental budget had not been released at the time this newsletter was published and no details were available. MSMA will update you on any pending cuts to K-12 education when and if they are announced.

The Education Committee through most of January dealt with bills carried over from the last session. Those bills, dealing with everything from standards-based graduation requirements to bullying policy, had to be voted out of committee by the end of January. Look for a bulletin sent out at the end of the month giving a wrap-up of committee action on those bills.

The Education Committee also has started work on new legislation dealing with charter schools. One bill makes amendments to the charter school law passed last session and the other adopts rules to clarify the charter law.

There are several bills that deal with the school budget approval process; a proposal to encourage parental involvement in education; and, the adoption of other rules, including those dealing with major capital construction and a new fund for the efficient delivery of educational services.

Gov. Paul LePage also is expected to release bills dealing with K-12 education that will address teacher evaluations and school choice. Again, those bills were not available at the time this newsletter was being put together.

Please watch your email for legislative bulletins on the budget, bill hearings and calls for action on bills where your help will be needed to inform local legislators about how a given proposal will affect their local school districts. Bill descriptions and public hearing dates also are available on the MSMA website: www.msmaweb.com under the Legislative tab.

◆ **HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR**

If you have not already met your local legislators, you can find their hometown contact information at:

Senate: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/senators/email/125SenatorsList.xls>

House: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/125house.xls>

You can also phone them at the state house during session at the following numbers:

Senators: (207) 287-1540; Fax (207) 287-1900

Representatives: (207) 287-1400; Fax (207) 287-1456

TOLL FREE MESSAGE

If you call one of the toll free numbers listed below, a member of the Legislature's staff will transcribe your message within the hour and place it in your legislator's mailbox.

After the beep: State which legislator you wish to reach, then leave your name, organiza-

(continued on page 3)

◆ SENATE LEADERSHIP

President of the Senate—Kevin Raye (R-Washington County), office telephone: 287-1540/email: senator@kevinraye.com

Senate Republican Leader—Jonathan T.E. Courtney (R-York County), office telephone: 287-1505/email: joncourtney@metroscast.net

Assistant Senate Republican Leader—Debra D. Plowman (R-Penobscot County), office telephone: 287-1505/email: [sendebra.plowman@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:sendeбра.plowman@legislature.maine.gov)

Senate Democratic Leader—Barry J. Hobbins (D-York County), office telephone: 287-1515/email: senbarry.hobbins@legislature.maine.gov

Assistant Senate Democratic Leader—Justin Alfond (D-Cumberland County), office telephone: 287-1515/email: senjustin.alfond@legislature.maine.gov

◆ HOUSE LEADERSHIP

Speaker of the House—Robert W. Nutting (R-Oakland), office telephone: 287-1400/email: bob@bobnutting.com

House Majority Leader—Philip A. Curtis (R-Madison), office telephone: 287-1440/ email: pdcurtis2@hotmail.com

Assistant House Majority Leader—Andre E. Cushing, III (R-Hampden), office telephone 287-1440/email: andre@andrescushing.com

House Minority Leader—Emily Ann Cain (D-Orono), office telephone: 287-1430/email: repemily.cain@legislature.maine.gov

Assistant House Minority Leader—Teresa Hayes (D-Buckfield), office telephone: 287-1430/email: repterry.hayes@legislature.maine.gov

◆ COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

There are four Joint Standing Committees that will play an important part in the shaping of education-related legislation during the year. They are:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs (AFA)

Senate: Richard W. Rosen, Chair (R-Hancock)
Roger J. Katz (R-Kennebec)
Dawn Hill (D-York)

House: Patrick S. A. Flood, Chair (R-Winthrop)
Tom J. Winsor (R-Norway)
Kathleen D. Chase (R-Wells)
Tyler Clark (R-Easton)
Kenneth Wade Fredette (R-Newport)
Dennis L. Keschl (R-Belgrade)
Margaret R. Rotundo (D-Lewiston)*
John L. Martin (D-Eagle Lake)
David C. Webster (D-Freeport)
Sara R. Stevens (D-Bangor)

Education and Cultural Affairs (EDU)

Senate: Brian D. Langley, Chair (R-Hancock)
Garrett Paul Mason (R-Androscoggin)
Justin L. Alfond (D-Cumberland)

House: David E. Richardson, Chair (R-Carmel)
Peter E. Edgecomb (R-Caribou)
Howard E. McFadden (R-Dennysville)
Peter B. Johnson (R-Greenville)
Joyce A. Maker (R-Calais)
Michael D. McClellan (R-Raymond)
Richard V. Wagner (D-Lewiston)*
Mary Pennell Nelson (D-Falmouth)
Stephen D. Lovejoy (D-Portland)
Helen Rankin (D-Hiram)

Madonna M. Soctomah (Passamaquoddy Tribe)

State and Local Government (SLG)

Senate: Douglas A. Thomas (R-Somerset), Chair
Ronald F. Collins (R-York)
Nancy B. Sullivan (D-York)

House: H. David Cotta (R-China), Chair
Lance Evans Harvell (R-Farmington)
Bradley S. Moulton (R-York)
Michael Celli (R-Brewer)
Beth P. Turner (R-Burlington)
Andrea M. Boland (D-Sanford)*
Bryan T. Kaenrath (D-South Portland)
Brian D. Bolduc (D-Auburn)
Alan M. Casavant (D-Biddeford)
Anne P. Graham (D-North Yarmouth)

Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development (LCRED)

Senate: Christopher W. Rector, Chair (R-Knox)
Thomas H. Martin, Jr. (R-Kennebec)
Troy Dale Jackson (D-Aroostook)

House: Kerri L. Prescott, Chair (R-Topsham)
Dana L. Dow (R-Waldoboro)
Melvin Newendyke (R-Litchfield)
Amy Fern Volk (R-Scarborough)
Raymond A. Wallace (R-Dexter)
John L. Tuttle, Jr. (D-Sanford)*
Timothy E. Driscoll (D-Westbrook)
Paul E. Gilbert (D-Jay)
Robert B. Hunt (D-Buxton)
Erin D. Herbig (D-Belfast)
David Slagger (Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians)

*Ranking Democratic Member

How to Contact Your Legislator*(continued from page 1)*

tion, phone number, and message. Make your message brief and to the point. Be sure to specify the bill by L.D. number. Legislators tell us they check these messages frequently.

Senators: 1-800-423-6900

Representatives: 1-800-423-2900

EMAIL

The most straightforward way to contact your legislator when they are in Augusta is via email. You need to keep your message short and to the point and give an example of how the proposed legislation would impact local schools. To find your legislator's email address go to:

Senate: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/email-listings.html>

House: http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/e_mail.htm

LETTERS

If you wish to write a legislator at the Statehouse:

Senator:

Write: The Honorable _____
Senate Chamber
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Senator _____ :

Representative:

Write: The Honorable _____
House of Representatives
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Representative _____ :

◆ NEW LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The following legislative proposals of interest to school systems have been referred to various committees for review and recommendation.

L.D. #1592—An Act To Update the Laws Concerning the Maine School of Science and Mathematics

This bill updates the laws concerning the Maine School of Science and Mathematics to change the designation of the school from a chartered school to a magnet school and changes the title of "superintendent" of the school to "executive director" to avoid confusion with other statutory terms.

L.D. #1603—An Act To Amend the Law Relating to Concealed Firearms Locked in Vehicles

This bill provides that the State may not prohibit a state employee who has a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm from keeping a firearm in the employee's vehicle on state property as long as the vehicle is locked and the firearm is not visible. EMERGENCY

L.D. #1632—An Act To Amend Provisions Limiting the Return to Work after Retirement by Teachers, School Employees and State Employees

This bill provides that limitations on conditions of resto-

ration to service after retirement enacted in 2011 apply only to school superintendents and principals, not to state employees or teachers.

L.D. #1645—An Act To Require the Maine Community College System, the University of Maine System and the Maine Maritime Academy To Report the Number of Students Enrolled in Remedial Courses

This bill requires the Maine Community College System, the University of Maine System and the Maine Maritime Academy to report annually on the number of traditional students who attended high school in the State and who are enrolled in remedial courses at each campus within their respective systems.

L.D. #1651—An Act To Clarify Health Insurance Benefits for Disabled Participants in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

This bill corrects unanticipated consequences of changes made during the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature regarding payment for state retiree health insurance. This bill clarifies that disabled retirees who are automatically converted to a regular retirement benefit before normal retirement age are not required to pay 100% of the individual premium for health insurance coverage. EMERGENCY

L.D. #1668—An Act To Improve the Regional School Unit Budget Approval and Validation Process

This bill changes the form of the question for a regional school unit budget validation referendum. It also provides that if a budget for the operation of a regional school unit is not approved prior to July 1st, the latest budget approved at a budget validation referendum is automatically considered the budget for operational expenses for the ensuing year until a final budget is approved.

L.D. #1696—An Act To Modify the Alternative Organizational Structure Budget Approval Process

This bill allows the budget of an alternative organizational structure formed pursuant to the laws governing the consolidation of school units to be approved by the governing body of the alternative organizational structure rather than at a meeting of the voters of all of the member entities of the alternative organizational structure if such a budget approval process is approved by the governing body of the alternative organizational structure and at a referendum by the voters of all of the member entities of the alternative organizational structure.

L.D. #1705—Resolve, To Create the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children

This resolve establishes the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children, which is directed to research issues regarding child sexual abuse in Maine and to adopt policies to address those issues. The policies may include age-appropriate curricula for schoolchildren from prekindergarten to grade 5 and methods to increase teacher, student and parent awareness of the issues regarding child sexual abuse. The task force is also directed to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, and the joint standing committee is authorized to submit legislation to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature based on that report. EMERGENCY

L.D. #1723—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 122: Grant Application and Award Procedure: Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

This resolve provides for legislative review of Chapter 122: Grant Application and Award Procedure: Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education. EMERGENCY

L.D. #1724—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education. EMERGENCY

L.D. #1742—An Act To Amend Education Laws

Part A amends and clarifies audit requirements in order for the State and school administrative units to be in compliance with federal regulations.

Part A also enacts statutory language requiring the audit of state-funded school construction projects and repeals language that is no longer necessary.

Part B requires that the regional school unit budget meeting occur within 30 days after the failure of the budget validation referendum.

Part C repeals the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 109, which establishes the union school governance structure, and fixes cross-references to that chapter. There are no longer any school administrative units using this governance structure. It also repeals statutory language that applies to school construction projects approved prior to July 1, 1985 and clarifies statutory language that applies to current school construction projects.

Part D revises school construction language to be in compliance with the current funding requirements.

Part E clarifies the treatment of foreign exchange students and students who do not reside in the State for the purposes of counting students for state subsidy.

Part F repeals the addition of targeted funds to the elementary tuition rate for students who are residents of the unorganized territory to be consistent with the repeal of the addition of targeted funds to the secondary tuition rate by Public Law 2009, chapter 213.

Part G refines state requirements for summer school tuition rates for the first year of operation.

Part H reinstates the statutory requirement for school administrative units to operate education programs for gifted and talented students. It repeals outdated language related to funding and clarifies that approved gifted and talented education program costs are subsidizable costs under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act.

Part I corrects a reference in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 7001, subsection 2-C from Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 1414(d)(1)(B) to Part B.

FYI: The website www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_125th/billtexts/ will give you a list by LD number and title of the bills printed to date. Click on the LD number to read the full text of the bill. You can also print out a copy if you want one.

L.D. #1762—An Act To Amend and Clarify the Public Charter School Law

This bill amends the law authorizing creation of public charter schools. The bill makes the following changes with regard to authorizers of public charter schools. It allows the Commissioner of Education to suspend an authorizer's authority to enter into new charter contracts if the commissioner finds that the authorizer is deficient in performing its functions. It clarifies the functioning of local school boards that join together to form a regional charter school. It clarifies membership and operations of the State Charter School Commission, including specifying that members who are appointed because of their membership on the State Board of Education continue to serve on the commission only as long as they are members of the State Board of Education. It provides that the transitional 10-school limit on public charter schools in current law applies only to schools approved by the commission. It requires a public charter school authorizer to give a public charter school written notice of deficiencies in the school and to provide written notice of the authorizer's charter revocation procedures and criteria.

The bill makes the following changes with regard to public charter schools. It provides that governing boards of public charter schools are subject to the same conflict of interest provisions as noncharter public school boards. It clarifies when public charter schools take over responsibility for special education services for a student transferring from a noncharter public school and clarifies special education funding. The bill changes the law regarding payment of special education funds to a public charter school authorized by a local school board by requiring that the payments be made to the local school board, not to the public charter school. The bill ensures that a public charter school student has the same access to career and technical education programs as students in the noncharter public school in the student's resident school administrative unit.

Under current laws, if a school administrative unit fails to make payment to a public charter school, the Treasurer of State is directed to withhold payments to that school administrative unit. This bill provides that the Treasurer of State may withhold those funds from the municipalities that are members of the school administrative unit. Finally, the bill provides that public charter schools have access to high-risk pools and emergency funds operated by the State or by the school's authorizer, but do not have access to local high-risk or emergency funds. EMERGENCY.

L.D. #1766—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 61: Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education and the State Board of Education

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 61: Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education and the State Board of Education. EMERGENCY

L.D. #1767—An Act To Authorize the Commissioner of Education To Allow Access to Criminal History Record Information to Entities Providing Document Management and To Remove Applicants' Fingerprints from the Fingerprint File

This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education to allow access to criminal history record information to entities providing document management to the Department of Education.

It authorizes the Commissioner of Education to remove electronic and physical fingerprint records in the fingerprint file maintained by the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification when the applicant for a department credential has not had an active credential for a period of 5 years.

L.D. #1770—An Act To Encourage Parental Involvement in Education

This bill requires school administrative units and public charter schools, in consultation with parents, teachers and administrators, to develop a parental involvement plan that promotes student achievement. Each school board and governing board is required to annually approve a parental involvement plan for the school administrative unit and the public charter school and to submit the plan to the Commissioner of Education. The bill also requires the Commissioner of Education to post on the Department of Education's publicly accessible website the names of all schools and public charter schools that do not develop a parental involvement plan.

L.D. #1772—An Act To Enforce Prompt Payment to Career and Technical Education Regions

The purpose of this bill is to enforce prompt payment from school administrative units to career and technical education regions. This bill establishes a process, similar to the process established in statute for school administrative unit assessments and regional school unit assessments, that authorizes the imposition of interest on unpaid installments of the amounts owed by school administrative units for their shares of the applicable career and technical education region assessment.

L.D. #1775—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115: Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel, Parts I and II, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education and the State Board of Education

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of

Chapter 115: Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel, Parts I and II, affecting Speech-Language Pathologists and School Psychologists, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education and the State Board of Education. EMERGENCY

L.D. #1779—An Act To Update the Career and Technical Education Laws

This bill provides an update in language for the career and technical education laws to reflect current terminology, including changing all statutory references to “vocational” education to “career and technical” education. It requires all career and technical education programs to be based on national industry standards, or state-level standards if national industry standards are not available or applicable. This bill also clarifies references to school units other than those school units composed of single towns in an effort to reduce confusion resulting from school reorganization. EMERGENCY

L.D. #1780—An Act To Enhance Career Pathways for Adult Learners

This bill revises the definition of “adult education” by describing what services must be offered in order to receive state subsidy. It establishes career pathways services as part of adult education, removes provisions concerning adult career and technical education classes that are outside the scope of adult education funding and removes obsolete provisions regarding adult education subsidy reimbursement. This bill also confirms the State’s commitment to serving adult learners with disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

L.D. #1781—An Act To Restructure the National Board Certification Program for Teachers

This bill restructures the incentive established for teachers who attain certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The bill provides that, beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the payment of the \$3,000 annual salary supplement awarded to national board-certified teachers must be provided with funds from the Department of Education and the state subsidy allocated to the school administrative unit that employs the teacher. The bill also establishes an incentive to encourage teachers to apply for national board certification. The bill provides that, beginning with school year 2012-2013, up to 10% of the per-pupil amount for professional development allocated to a school administrative unit must be awarded to provide payment of the application fees for teachers employed by the school administrative unit who apply for national board certification during the year of allocation. If a school administrative unit fails to use the full 10% of the per-pupil amount to pay for application fees, the Commissioner of Education

may withhold from the next year’s allocation the unused amount.

L.D. #1782—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, Including Certain Sections and the Appendix, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty, Including Certain Sections and the Appendix, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education. EMERGENCY

L.D. #1783—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 140: Public Charter Schools, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

This resolve provides for legislative review of Chapter 140: Public Charter Schools, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education. EMERGENCY

L.D. #1788—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 64: Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 64: Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. EMERGENCY

**125TH LEGISLATIVE
INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON
THE MSMA WEBSITE**

MSMA has updated its website to include a list of Maine legislative bills that MSMA is following during the Second Session of the 125th Legislature. The bill number, sponsor, and a brief summary of the bill can be found on our web page.

For information regarding the Legislative Hearing Schedule, a link is available to the Maine Legislature Home Page. MSMA will regularly update the legislative page as new bills are printed.

Also included are links to the Maine House of Representatives and Maine Senate, as well as to the National School Boards Association Advocacy website and the American Association of School Administrators Advocacy website.

The address of the MSMA website is

www.msmaweb.com



◆ FUNDAMENTALS FOR EFFECTIVE LOBBYING

What exactly is lobbying? Simply put, it is an attempt to influence someone else's opinion or activities. Lobbying in the governmental process is making information available to public officials who cannot be expected to know how every law or regulation will affect all of their constituents.

Good lobbying? This is your ability to make your point of view both interesting and relevant—to focus on your topic, argument, and strategy in such a way as to make that person you are attempting to influence to stop short and listen!

Lobbying actually gained its name from people standing in the lobbies of the capitols waiting to speak with legislators and/or their aides. Today, there are several ways to reach your legislator—via email, letter, telephone, and personal visits. The key to all your approaches is “Common Sense”...

- Be fair and reasonable.
- Kill them with kindness.
- Be realistic and willing to compromise.
- Never leave in anger. Today's opponent may be tomorrow's ally.
- Contact with regularity, not just for votes.
- Be actual and factual. Never lie, never guess. “I don't know, but I'll get back to you.”
- Give credit where credit is due.
- Support your legislator.
- Ask your legislator how he/she stands. Will he/she support your position?
- Don't get too emotional.

LOBBYING BY TELEPHONE

- Identify yourself by name, address, and home town.
- Briefly state your position on the bill and how you would like your legislator to vote.
- Ask for their position or view of the bill. Volunteer to forward further information.
- Be prepared to speak with their secretary or aide and have your position relayed. Cultivate ongoing relationships with these staff people.

LOBBYING BY VISIT

Outside of visits with legislators in their home districts, the effort demonstrated by a constituent to pay a personal visit at the capitol pays off with the legislator making every effort to meet with you.

- Drop them a note or call before your visit. If you are a constituent, say so. Indicate your primary interest in meeting with them. Try for a personal appointment, offering two or three alternative times you are available.
- Address legislators as “Representative” or “Senator.”
- Be prepared when you arrive. Have a concise one-page fact sheet on an issue or bill to present and leave behind.
- Offer a solution to your problem.
- Educate—let your legislator know if you are working with others on the issue, if you are active in the community, or if you are representing members of your organization. Let him/her know of other home district support.
- Never end in harsh words or personal remarks. You will damage your credibility and sever further communications.
- If your legislator is on the floor, write a note on your business card or paper identifying yourself and your issues. The doorkeeper can forward it to your legislator and he/she will generally try to come out and meet you.

LOBBYING BY EMAIL/LETTER

Legislators are most sensitive to grass-roots opinion—the voters in the district. Write thoughtful, sincere emails or letters on issues that directly affect you—they will get the most attention.

- Be specific. One issue per email or letter.
- Address legislators properly, write legibly or preferably, type one page. Include your address.
- Clearly state your view for or against a proposal and present your reasons.
- Base your position on your personal experiences/ observations, and effect on home district.
- Do not use postcards, form letters, or extracts of other letters. Each legislator should receive an original.
- Timing is critical. If an email/letter arrives too early, it is forgotten. Emails/letters should generally arrive a few days before the vote, whether in committee or on the full chamber floor. Members of the Senate should not be contacted while the bill is in the House and vice versa.
- Write the chair or members of a committee holding hearings if you want to. Remember, you have more influence with legislators from your own district than with any others.

◆ TIPS FOR WORKING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR IF . . .

THEY AGREE STRONGLY WITH YOUR POSITION

- Thank them.
- Ask them to take a leading/active role on this issue (a) in the legislature among their colleagues, (b) in the media, and (c) in the community.
- Ask for advice on who else you should talk to, what supporting arguments they think are effective, any special legislative/p.r. strategy they think you should use.
- Ask if they will “lobby” undecided legislators.
- Thank them again.

THEY AGREE WITH YOUR POSITION

- Thank them.
- Assure them of your continued interest in the issue and your continued support of their position.
- Ask if they would be willing to help in any way beyond their vote (if so, follow the tips above).

THEY ARE UNDECIDED

- Inform them of your interest.
- Present your argument as concisely and clearly as possible.
- Ask what their reservations are. Determine if they are political, personal, or due to a lack of information or any combination. Alter your lobbying strategy accordingly.
- Offer to get any information they would like.
- Ask them if there are other individuals/organizations they would like to hear from.
- Get back to them. Keep in touch until they have made up their minds.

THEY ARE AGAINST YOUR POSITION

- Determine how strongly they are opposed. If not too strongly, try and persuade them to change their mind.
- If not “swayable” but not strongly opposed, ask them not to lobby their colleagues.
- In RARE cases on a very close vote, when you absolutely will not win unless they cooperate, ask them to “walk,” be absent when the vote is taken.
- If they strongly disagree, write and let them know of your opposition to their position, but don’t waste your time and energy trying to move an immovable object.

◆ STATE WEBSITES

State of Maine Legislature—<http://www.maine.gov/legis/>

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis (includes committee information, executive summaries of legislative study reports and the Legislators’ Handbook)—
www.maine.gov/legis/opla/

Secretary of State (for voting and election information)—
www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/index.html

State Agencies—http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/agency_dir/agency_directory.pl

State of Maine Legislative Records, House and Senate—
125th House: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/records/125hrecindx.htm>

125th Senate: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Records/record125th.htm>

124th House: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/records/124hrecindx.htm>

124th Senate: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Records/record124th.htm>

123rd House: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/records/123hrecindx.htm>

123rd Senate: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Records/record123rd.htm>

122nd House: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/records/122hrecindx.htm>

122nd Senate: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Records/record122nd.htm>

121st House: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/records/121hrecindx.htm>

121st Senate: http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Records/121/121st_Frame.htm

120th House: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/records/120hrecindx.htm>

120th Senate: http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Records/120/120th_Frame.htm

119th House: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/records/119hrecindx.htm>

119th Senate: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Records/record119th.htm>

118th House: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/records/118hrecindx.htm>

118th Senate: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Records/record118th.htm>

Weekly Legislative Report (a list of the bills introduced and those measures signed into law each week)—http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/wlr_list.htm

Bill Status Information—www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/search.asp

Documents Online—www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/