

LEPAGE RESEARCH MEMO



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LEPAGE PRIORITIZED CORPORATE SPECIAL INTERESTS OVER WORKING MAINERS

LePage Oversaw Sluggish Economic Growth and Rapid Decline of Key Maine Industries While the State Remained Among the Worst in the Country for Businesses. Maine experienced year after year of sluggish economic growth under Governor Paul LePage, trailing its regional New England peers and national averages, and in 2016 was rated as one of the states with the slowest growing economies by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.¹ The state remained at the bottom of national rankings for the best states for business and suffered one of the slowest recoveries in the country from the Great Recession under LePage's leadership.² In 2016, years after the official end of the Great Recession, Maine was one of only ten states that had not recovered all jobs lost during the recession and it ultimately took "four times longer than usual" under LePage's leadership to fully recover from the recession.³

- **During LePage's Tenure, Maine's Legacy Paper Industry Continued to Decline Rapidly as the State "Was Devastated by Mill Closures."**⁴ LePage oversaw a decline in Maine's paper and manufacturing industries – from 2011 to 2014, Maine lost roughly 1,400 manufacturing jobs.⁵ During his first five years in office, five of Maine's paper mills shut down, costing thousands of good-paying mill jobs, especially in more rural parts of the state and resulting in a "ripple effect" throughout the industry, impacting logging and biomass energy production as well.⁶ Even with the struggles facing Maine's historic industry, LePage refused to sign bipartisan legislation creating a commission tasked with recommending how to maintain a sustainable future for the industry and opposed a \$45 million subsidy for Maine's struggling biomass industry.⁷ Additionally, LePage refused to seek nearly \$2 million in federal funding for Maine's Forest Legacy Program, which helped preserve 6,400 acres of working forest land.⁸
- **LePage Blocked Renewable Energy Investments and Scuttled a Deal That Would Have Provided a \$120 Million Investment in Renewable Energy in Maine.**⁹ Despite the downward trend in Maine's forest products industry under his leadership, LePage took "few steps" to help the Maine economy and workers transition away from natural

¹ [Portland Press Herald](#), 4/25/17; [Bangor Daily News](#), 6/18/16; [Associated Press](#), 5/11/17; [Portland Press Herald](#), 7/26/18

² [Portland Press Herald](#), 4/25/17; [Bangor Daily News](#), 3/13/17; [CNBC](#), 2011; [CNBC](#), 2018; [Bangor Daily News](#), 10/23/15

³ [Bangor Daily News](#), 6/18/16; [Bangor Daily News](#), 3/13/17

⁴ [Bangor Daily News](#), 12/31/18; [Bangor Daily News](#), 12/17/18; [Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel](#), Editorial, 10/4/15

⁵ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Maine, Manufacturing, Accessed [5/2/21](#)

⁶ [Natural Resources Council of Maine](#), 2016; [Bangor Daily News](#), 6/18/16; [Portland Press Herald](#), 1/11/18

⁷ Maine State Legislature, LD 1693, [4/28/16](#); [Biomass Magazine](#), [4/19/16](#)

⁸ [Bangor Daily News](#), 11/9/15; [Maine Center for Economic Policy](#), 3/21/17

⁹ [WBUR](#), 1/2/19; [Associated Press](#), 6/16/18; [Bangor Daily News](#), Editorial, 8/8/18

resource extraction.¹⁰ He was criticized by the *Kennebec Journal* editorial board for “overlook[ing] the value in attracting investment [to Maine] that will build an industry here to replace some of the jobs lost when the paper companies downsized their workforce.”¹¹ Thanks to LePage’s opposition to wind energy, other New England and Atlantic seaboard states benefited from “billions of dollars in global investment” and the jobs created from those investments, while Maine’s economy struggled.¹² LePage’s “ambivalence” towards solar energy also negatively impacted Maine – while nearby Massachusetts ranked second nationally in solar power-related jobs, Maine ranked 43rd under LePage.¹³

LePage Delivered Millions in Tax Benefits for the Wealthy While Giving Working Class Mainers the Shaft. LePage delivered for Maine’s wealthiest with reforms aimed to benefit the rich, including slashing the top income tax rate and nearly tripling the estate tax exemption – costing the state nearly \$900 million in revenue.¹⁴ That nearly \$900 million would be enough to fully fund K-12 education, Medicaid expansion, and revenue-sharing in Maine.¹⁵ LePage even proposed eliminating the state income tax entirely.¹⁶ When LePage left office, the wealthiest Maine households paid a lower effective tax rate than any other income bracket in Maine, including the poorest 20% of Mainers.¹⁷

- **LePage’s Tax and Revenue-Sharing Cuts Drove Up Local Property Taxes by Tens of Millions of Dollars.** LePage’s tax cuts meant local Maine taxes had to go up to fund schools, infrastructure, and other vital services – low- and middle-class Mainers collectively paid an average of \$30 million more per year in local property taxes from 2011 to 2016.¹⁸ In 2013, LePage eliminated a popular property tax refund program and replaced it with a less-generous property tax credit program, amounting to an effective \$20 to \$25 million tax increase on property tax-paying Mainers.¹⁹ An additional stressor to local property taxes under LePage came from his dedicated attacks and cuts to revenue-sharing and education; from 2011 to 2017, Maine towns had to raise over \$1 billion in property taxes to pay for the state underfunding its share of education costs.²⁰ By the middle of LePage’s tenure, Maine collected the tenth-highest amount of state and local property taxes out of all 50 states, at \$2,105 per capita.²¹ Even with Mainers paying higher property taxes under LePage, the amount of total resources available to the state to invest in helping Mainers and their communities went down by about one-third of \$1 billion per year under LePage.²² The *Bangor Daily News* editorialized that LePage could

¹⁰ [Bangor Daily News, 6/16/16](#)

¹¹ [Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 6/13/18](#)

¹² [Portland Press Herald, 6/13/18](#)

¹³ [Kennebec Journal, 6/28/15](#)

¹⁴ [Portland Press Herald, 12/30/18; Portland Press Herald, 5/9/19; Maine Center For Economic Policy, 2/27/20](#)

¹⁵ [Maine Center for Economic Policy, August 2018](#)

¹⁶ [Americans For Tax Reform, 2/10/15](#)

¹⁷ [Maine Center for Economic Policy, 9/4/19](#)

¹⁸ [Maine Beacon, 9/13/18](#)

¹⁹ [Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 2/17/18; Morning Sentinel, 8/9/13](#)

²⁰ [Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)

²¹ [Tax Foundation, 3/13/19](#)

²² [Maine Center for Economic Policy, August 2018](#)

have focused on keeping property taxes low, but “he’s stood in the way of those efforts” by cutting revenue-sharing to localities.²³

- **As He Delivered Tax Breaks to the Wealthy, LePage Fiercely Opposed Policies That Would Help Working Mainers and the Maine Middle Class.** LePage fiercely opposed raising the minimum wage in Maine, even called for jailing supporters of a voter-passed minimum wage increase that helped raise the incomes of 181,000 Maine residents, including one in three working seniors.²⁴ During his time in office, Maine workers’ wages fell farther behind the national average.²⁵ LePage also actively opposed opportunities to help expand opportunities for Maine workers, vetoing a bipartisan bill that helped low-income individuals pay for education or job training, refusing to sign bipartisan legislation expanding job training programs, and vetoing a bipartisan bill creating job training programs in high-demand fields like logging, health care, and precision manufacturing at Maine’s community colleges.²⁶ LePage even made a “meddlesome and uninformed” decision to reject \$8 million in federal funding for job training programs that provided services to thousands of unemployed Mainers.²⁷ The *Bangor Daily News* editorial board wrote that that decision “cost Maine workers”, and that “Maine’s job seekers will keep losing out” under LePage should he get his way on workforce issues.²⁸

LePage Prioritized His Personal Friends and Special Interests in Choosing His Appointees Rather Than Experience or Qualifications to do the Job. Over his two terms as governor, LePage appointed a number of questionable individuals with conflicts of interest or inadequate experience to work in his administration, with sometimes disastrous results. Immediately upon winning election in 2010, LePage hired his “recent college graduate” daughter to a “high-level administration job,” where she was paid about \$10,000 more annually than Maine workers who passed teacher and police officer exams.²⁹ Two years later, LePage gave his brother-in-law a job in his administration that paid nearly \$70,000 per year.³⁰ Beyond his tendencies towards nepotism, LePage has hired and appointed individuals with histories of tax liens and unpaid debts, property tax dodgers, corporate lobbyists, and even an individual accused of hiding accusations of pedophilia.³¹ Politicos in Maine noted that LePage’s appointees had “precious little idea how [their agencies] actually function. [And] what’s worse, second-tier managers who could help accelerate that learning curve have either resigned or been fired.”³²

²³ *Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 3/28/18;

²⁴ [Governing](#), 10/17/16; [Bangor Daily News](#), 12/19/18; *Sun Journal*, 10/13/16

²⁵ [Bangor Daily News](#), 12/31/18; [Bangor Daily News](#), 12/19/18; [Governing](#), 10/17/16

²⁶ State of Maine Legislature, Actions of LD 1774, 4/15/18; *Portland Press Herald*, 4/17/18; Editorial, *Portland Press Herald*, 2/28/18; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1019 Text, 2015

²⁷ [Bangor Daily News](#), 9/8/17; [Bangor Daily News](#), Editorial, 10/25/17

²⁸ [Bangor Daily News](#), Editorial, 3/26/18

²⁹ *Lewiston Sun Journal*, 4/5/11; [Seacoastonline.com](#), 3/17/12

³⁰ *Lewiston Sun Journal*, 4/5/11; [Seacoastonline.com](#), 3/17/12

³¹ *Kennebec Journal*, 4/15/11; *Lewiston Sun Journal*, 4/5/11; *Lewiston Sun Journal*, 3/14/12; *Portland Press Herald*, 8/30/12

³² *Portland Press Herald*, 4/29/11

LePage Cozied Up to Corporate Lobbyists, Allowed His Policies to be Dictated by Special Interests. In 2011, the Portland Press Herald wrote that big business “comes first” in LePage’s administration, going on to say that LePage governed like “a friend of corporations.”³³ Despite campaigning like a man of the people and receiving strong backing from Tea Party protesters, LePage moved to quickly appoint members of corporate boards to positions within his administration, opting to allow corporate special interest to call the shots in Maine.³⁴ LePage appointed a hospital lobbyist to head up the Department of Health and Human Services, and a land developer to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.³⁵ LePage’s coziness with special interest doesn’t end at appointments, he also allowed lobbying interest to essentially author his policies. The Portland Phoenix reported that LePage essentially copy and pasted passages from memos his staff received from lobbyist to craft policy that served as a list of giveaways for corporations.³⁶ LePage moved to weaken Maine’s wage and tip haring laws down to federal standards at the behest of lawyers representing Maine restaurant owners and sought to rollback child labor laws based on the recommendation of Maine Innkeepers Association’s lobbyists.³⁷

- **LePage Earned \$7,500 Lobbying For Central Maine Power Company Immediately After Leaving Office.** In 2019, LePage was paid \$7,500³⁸ by high powered lobbying firm, Mitchell Tardy Jackson, to lobby in support of a 145-mile transmission line to deliver Hydro-Quebec power.³⁹ LePage insisted that he wasn’t required to register as a lobbyist under Maine law for the services he provided to Mitchell Tardy Jackson.⁴⁰

LEPAGE’S DISASTROUS TENURE LEFT MAINE’S MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS BEHIND

LePage Presided Over Worsening Public Health Crises in Maine as Governor, and Actively Blocked Efforts to Improve the Health and Well-Being of Mainers. Under LePage’s leadership, Maine fell from the 8th healthiest state in the country to the 16th healthiest state, and from 2015 to 2018, the percentage of Maine adults who avoided health care due to cost increased by 31%, from 9.4% to 12.3%.⁴¹ These statistics worsened as LePage blocked Medicaid expansion at every turn, which would have helped thousands of Mainers afford preventive and lifesaving health care. The *Portland Press Herald* wrote that LePage left Maine’s public health system “decimated” upon leaving office, after halving the number of public health nurses who helped contain disease outbreaks, visited new mothers and babies, and conducted immunization clinics.⁴² Under LePage, Maine was the only state that as of 2015 had not experienced an

³³ *Portland Press Herald*, 2/2/11

³⁴ *Portland Press Herald*, 2/2/11

³⁵ *Portland Press Herald*, 2/2/11

³⁶ *The Portland Phoenix*, 7/20/11

³⁷ *The Portland Phoenix*, 7/20/11

³⁸ [WGME, 2/25/20](#)

³⁹ [WGME, 2/25/20](#)

⁴⁰ [AP, 2/25/20](#)

⁴¹ [United Health Foundation, America’s Health Rankings, 2020](#); [United Health Foundation, America’s Health Rankings, 2018](#)

⁴² *Portland Press Herald*, 3/18/20; Editorial, *Bangor Daily News*, 8/5/17

increase in the percentage of people with health insurance since the passage of the ACA, falling from 10th to 24th nationally in terms of percentage of people with health coverage.⁴³

- **LePage Failed to Address the Raging Opioid Epidemic and Even Stood in the Way of Lifesaving Bipartisan Reforms.** Under LePage, Maine’s opioid crisis rapidly escalated and the state set records for drug overdose deaths three years in a row peaking at 418 deaths in 2017 as LePage “continue[d] a pattern of slow response to the crisis” and vetoed bipartisan legislation to address the worsening crisis.⁴⁴ Near the end of LePage’s tenure, Maine was still one of the top states in the country in number of opioid overdose deaths, while other New England states were seeing decreases in annual overdose deaths.⁴⁵ Under LePage’s leadership, Maine was one of only two states nationally that reduced its spending on anti-addiction medications like naloxone and while Medicaid spending dropped by 24%, the number of opioid overdose deaths increased by 300%.⁴⁶ Despite the death rate, LePage insisted on attacking drug users, vetoing bipartisan bills that made it cheaper to be prescribed abuse-deterrent painkillers, expanded access to opioid treatment, and funded a \$6.6 million program to help more people access recovery and treatment services.⁴⁷ Despite other Republican governors embracing expanding access to the opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone and Maine being a national outlier on not allowing naloxone to be dispensed without a prescription, LePage “absurd[ly]” opposed it repeatedly as governor.⁴⁸ He refused to sign or vetoed bipartisan bills to expand access to the lifesaving drug by making it more widely available without a prescription, and then fought implementation of the bipartisan-backed legislation for years while Mainers died of potentially preventable overdose had they had better access to naloxone.⁴⁹ Maine’s editorial boards took LePage to task for his inaction on the opioid epidemic, saying he “undermine[d]” the state’s response, and “[put] lives in danger.”⁵⁰
- **LePage Blocked Medicaid Expansion Throughout His Eight Years in Office, Denying 70,000 Mainers Access to Affordable Health Care.** LePage vetoed Medicaid expansion five times as governor, and called those vetoes “among the most important acts of [his] governorship.”⁵¹ Even after Maine voters overwhelmingly passed Medicaid expansion in 2017, LePage blocked implementation at every turn, even when ordered to implement the law by Maine judges.⁵² Medicaid expansion in Maine was expected to cover 70,000 Mainers, concentrated in the older, rural population, help fight the opioid

⁴³ [Maine Center for Economic Policy, Press Release, 9/16/15](#); [Maine Center for Economic Policy, Press Release, 9/16/15](#)

⁴⁴ [Bangor Daily News, 2/22/18](#); [Bangor Daily News, 3/7/16](#); [Bangor Daily News, 2/2/17](#)

⁴⁵ National Institute on Drug Abuse, accessed [9/5/19](#); [Bangor Daily News, 8/21/18](#)

⁴⁶ [Maine Center for Economic Policy, 7/13/17](#)

⁴⁷ [Portland Press Herald, 5/11/15](#); Maine State Legislature, LD 1771, Roll Call #658, [5/2/18](#); [Portland Press Herald, 7/16/18](#)

⁴⁸ [Portland Press Herald, 1/28/18](#); Editorial, [Portland Press Herald, 7/18/16](#); [Portland Press Herald, 3/23/18](#)

⁴⁹ Editorial, [Bangor Daily News, 4/27/18](#)

⁵⁰ [Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 1/15/18](#); Editorial, [Portland Press Herald, 8/7/16](#)

⁵¹ [Associated Press, 7/3/18](#); [Bangor Daily News, 9/8/18](#)

⁵² [Bangor Daily News, 11/7/17](#); [New York Times, 7/24/18](#); [Bangor Daily News, 11/21/18](#)

epidemic in Maine, provided a “much-needed” boost to rural hospitals, create 6,000 new jobs across the state, and have a \$684 million economic impact.⁵³

- **LePage Cut Maine Families Out of Assistance Programs Designed to the Most Vulnerable Mainers and Maine Families.** When LePage took office in 2011 Maine had 25,000 children in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, by 2017 that number was cut to 7,600.⁵⁴ LePage accomplished this slash in participation by tightening eligibility restrictions for the program, including a five year lifetime cap on eligibility for assistance from the program.⁵⁵ LePage additionally tried to bar people convicted of a felony from being eligible for the TANF program.⁵⁶ In 2017, LePage even vetoed a bipartisan bill that sought to provide a \$400 incentive to TANF recipients that entered and retained employment for four months, the veto was overridden by the legislature.⁵⁷ LePage’s moves to decrease the number of children in the TANF program did little to alleviate poverty, as families that were removed from the program due to new eligibility restrictions remained in poverty, the result was that Maine ended up with \$200 million in unspent TANF funds in 2017 while poverty rates maintained their same level.⁵⁸
- **LePage’s Attempt at Welfare Reform Actually Added to Child Poverty Levels and Left Maine’s Neediest More Vulnerable.** LePage campaigned hard on reining in welfare and even called it the “greatest thing” he had ever done. Despite LePage’s insistence to reform welfare, child poverty actually increased in Maine during his tenure according to reporting from the *Bangor Daily News*.⁵⁹ LePage’s administration was even cited in 2016 for misspending over \$13 million in federal welfare funds on programs that didn’t help low-income families.⁶⁰

LePage Would Threaten and Undermine the Seniors of the “Oldest State in the Nation.”⁶¹

The former Governor has shown outright contempt for programs seniors have earned after paying into their whole working lives, calling Social Security and Medicare “welfare” programs.⁶² In 2012, he used his line-item veto to cut part of a bill that created a pilot program to “maximize” the award of Supplemental Social Security benefits and to help veterans access benefits from the VA.⁶³ LePage’s attitude towards Maine’s seniors was such that the *Portland Press Herald* editorial board criticized him for offering “no leadership” on Maine’s aging crisis during his time in office, “creating unnecessary suffering for today’s seniors and guaranteeing more of the same for tomorrow’s.”⁶⁴ Under LePage, the number of seniors who suffered from

⁵³ [Maine Center for Economic Policy, Medicaid Expansion Fact Sheets, 2017](#); [Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 4/1/21](#); [Portland Press Herald, 8/21/19](#); [Portland Press Herald, 9/17/19](#); Editorial, *Portland Press Herald*, [11/12/19](#)

⁵⁴ *Bangor Daily News*, 12/31/18

⁵⁵ *Maine Sunday Telegram*, 12/30/18

⁵⁶ *Bangor Daily News*, 5/3/13

⁵⁷ [Summaries of Bills, LD481, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD481, 2017](#)

⁵⁸ [Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)

⁵⁹ *Bangor Daily News*, 12/31/18

⁶⁰ *Bangor Daily News*, 10/18/16]

⁶¹ *Bangor Daily News*, 9/14/18

⁶² *Portland Press Herald*, 6/25/14

⁶³ Paul LePage’s Veto Message on LD 1903, 04/14/12

⁶⁴ *Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 9/16/18

food insecurity increased from 12.2% to 15.6%, which the *PPH* editorial board called “appalling,” even as legislators dropped a proposal in 2018 to fund Meals on Wheels at \$500,000 because they didn’t believe they could pass it over LePage’s veto.⁶⁵ LePage “inexplicabl[y]” failed to apply for \$300,000 in federal money to help the 28,000 Mainers with Alzheimer’s, \$1 million in federal funding for dementia programming, and refused \$2.5 million in federal funding to promote colonoscopies among older Mainers.⁶⁶ He repeatedly opposed legislation increasing reimbursement rates for direct caregivers of older Mainers and vetoed a bipartisan bill requiring his DHHS to report on its efforts to reach elderly or disabled Mainers living in rural parts of Maine.⁶⁷ And despite there being an affordable housing shortage for Maine seniors, LePage withheld for years \$15 million in voter-passed funding to build new affordable homes for Maine seniors.⁶⁸

LePage Proved to be an “Enemy of Public Education” and Pre-K as Governor and Left Maine Kids Behind. In 2013, the *Maine Sunday Telegram* editorial board called LePage “an enemy of public education” and his record backs this characterization up.⁶⁹ As governor, LePage backed cuts to Head Start and in his first term, slashed funding for Head Start by \$2 million, or more than 50%.⁷⁰ In 2012, LePage ordered a \$12.5 million cut to education aid but by the end of his second term, the state share of school funding had been cut by \$1.3 billion.⁷¹ By the 2015-2016 school year, education funding per pupil in Maine had dropped by \$1,200 per pupil.⁷² Throughout his two terms, he failed to get Maine’s share of education funding to 55% as mandated by law, dropping the state share from 52.8% by 2009 to only 47% under his tenure.⁷³ He even ridiculed Maine’s public school system, saying “if you want a good education, go to private schools.”⁷⁴ His threats to public education didn’t end when students graduated high school – he repeatedly proposed massive cuts to Maine’s community colleges and University of Maine System.⁷⁵ Under LePage, the percentage of high school graduates who go on to attend college remained flat, and statewide test scores have “shown little improvement.”⁷⁶

LePage’s Budgets Slashed Funding for Victims of Domestic Abuse as Maine Ranked Highest in the Country for Domestic Violence Deaths. LePage claimed in 2013 that he was an advocate for domestic violence prevention, but that didn’t mesh with his proposed budgets that sought to slash funding for domestic violence victims.⁷⁷ In 2015, a bipartisan majority of Maine lawmakers were forced to override LePage’s veto of a legislation prohibited landlords from

⁶⁵ [Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 9/16/18](#)

⁶⁶ [Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 9/16/18](#); [Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)

⁶⁷ [Summary of Benefits, LD525, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD525, 2015](#); [Morning Sentinel, 5/18/15](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD 886, 4/27/16](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD 1350, 7/12/15](#); [Portland Press Herald, 6/30/18](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD 925, Roll Call #702, 7/9/18](#)

⁶⁸ Bangor Daily News, 6/8/17

⁶⁹ Maine Sunday Telegram, 1/6/13

⁷⁰ Lewiston Sun Journal, 5/14/12; Kennebec Journal, 12/16/11; Bangor Daily News, 9/11/12

⁷¹ Bangor Daily News, 12/27/12; Maine Center for Economic Policy, [August 2018](#)

⁷² [American Federation of Teachers, 2018](#)

⁷³ [Maine Beacon, 2/23/17](#)

⁷⁴ [New York Times, 8/13/18](#)

⁷⁵ Bangor Daily News, 12/17/12; Bangor Daily News, 5/6/15; Kennebec Journal, 3/14/12

⁷⁶ [New York Times, 8/13/18](#)

⁷⁷ Kennebec Journal, [2/3/13](#)

evicting a tenant that was a victim of domestic violence.⁷⁸ In 2018, LePage refused to sign a bill that appropriated \$150,000 to establish a batterer intervention program.⁷⁹ As LePage resisted efforts to curb domestic violence in Maine, deaths due to domestic violence accounted for half of all homicides in Maine, making the state the highest in the country for such deaths.⁸⁰

- **LePage Frequently Opposed Measures Meant to Curtail Sexual Violence.** LePage repeatedly opposed measures meant to curtail sexual violence. In 2016, the Maine Legislature was forced to override his veto of a bill that lifted the 17-years or younger cap on unlawful sexual conduct towards students by someone that had authority over them, therefore making sexual advances by teachers or principals towards students that were 18 a felony.⁸¹ In 2018, bipartisan majorities in the Maine legislature overrode LePage's veto of a bill to strengthen protections for victims of sexual assault and stalking.⁸² In 2017, LePage refused to sign legislation that made new class of gross sexual assault a crime when one party had not expressly consented, no matter if that person voluntarily consumed drugs.⁸³ LePage even refused to sign legislation into law in 2015 that allowed victims of sexual assault to still receive benefits from their workplace after taking leave.⁸⁴ Finally, LePage refused to sign legislation that expanded the scope of the crime of stalking.⁸⁵

Another Term Under LePage Would Threaten to Roll Back the Pro-LGBTQ and Pro-Women Equality Gains Made Under Governor Mills. As governor, LePage vetoed a bill that would have banned conversion therapy, a practice that was finally successfully banned under Governor Mills.⁸⁶ He also joined a lawsuit that called for allowing employers to fire their workers based on their sexual orientation.⁸⁷ “Staunchly anti-abortion,” a return to LePage could threaten the numerous strides forward on abortion access achieved under Governor Mills.⁸⁸ LePage refused to sign bipartisan legislation requiring health insurance plans to cover contraceptives dispensed for a 12-month period and even said that if Supreme Court justices could make a case to “get rid of” *Roe v. Wade*, “let’s do it.”⁸⁹

LEPAGE IS DISDAINFUL TOWARD MAINE AND ITS PEOPLE

⁷⁸ Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, Summaries of Bills, LD 861, [August 2015](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 861, Roll Call #445, [6/30/15](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 861, [6/30/15](#)

⁷⁹ [Summaries of Bills, LD525, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD525, 2018](#)

⁸⁰ [Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)

⁸¹ [Sun Journal, 4/29/16](#); [Morning Sentinel, 4/30/16](#); [Summaries of Bills, LD1540, 2016](#); Maine State Legislature, LD1540, 2016

⁸² State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 1788, [7/9/18](#); Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, Summaries of Bills, LD 1788, [October 2018](#)

⁸³ Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Summaries of Bills, LD 654, [August 2017](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 654, Roll Call #227, [6/5/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 654, [8/2/17](#)

⁸⁴ Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, Summaries of Bills, LD 921, [August 2015](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 921, [7/12/15](#); Bangor Daily News, 10/15/15

⁸⁵ [Summaries of Bills, LD431, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD431, 2015](#)

⁸⁶ [Bangor Daily News, 7/7/18](#)

⁸⁷ [Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 10/30/18](#)

⁸⁸ [Kennebec Journal, 5/17/13](#)

⁸⁹ Maine State Legislature, LD1237 Bill Text as Amended, [2017](#); [Bangor Daily News, 7/8/18](#)

LePage is Out for Himself and His Own Bottom Line, Not the State of Maine and Maine People. LePage prioritizes his own bottom line over a commitment to the people of Maine and the state he wants to serve again as governor. While he was campaigning to become governor of Maine the first time in 2010, he and his wife Ann defrauded the state of Maine by claiming a homestead property tax exemption worth nearly \$200 on their home in Maine while concurrently claiming the same exemption on their home in Florida.⁹⁰ To claim this exemption, property owners have to “affirm they are a resident” of that state, which LePage’s wife did in Florida, even while LePage was running for governor of Maine.⁹¹

- **Immediately After Leaving Office in 2018, LePage Moved to Florida Because He Didn’t Want to Pay Taxes in Maine, Which to Contribute Road and School Funding – Yet He Accepted a Maine Taxpayer-Funded \$26,000 Annual Pension.** Mere days after the 2018 election, LePage announced he’d be moving to Florida because he didn’t want to pay taxes in Maine, saying “I will pay no income tax [in Florida] and the house in Florida’s property taxes are \$2,000 less.”⁹² After leaving office in 2019, LePage accepted his state-funded retirement benefits, totaling \$2,187 per month for an annual pension of \$26,250, despite having moved to Florida in order to avoid paying taxes in Maine.⁹³
- **As Governor, LePage at Least Twice Proposed Doubling the Maine Governor’s Salary as He Complained About His Salary, Which Was Nearly \$20,000 More Than Maine’s Median Income.** In 2016 and 2018, LePage proposed legislation to more than double the Maine governor’s salary, from \$70,000 to \$150,000.⁹⁴ He went so far as to complain that his \$70,000 annual salary “made him feel like a priest or a nun,” despite the fact that he made about \$17,000 above Maine’s median income of \$53,000.⁹⁵ In addition to his higher-than-median income salary, as governor LePage benefited from rent-free and utility-free housing at the Blaine House, free food while at the mansion, and a \$35,000 per year “personal expense account,” making his total compensation package well over \$100,000 annually.⁹⁶ That \$100,000 doesn’t even include the thousands of dollars in state-covered health insurance plan, retirement, and dental and life insurance plans, at a time when many Mainers were going without insurance due to its cost and LePage was blocking Medicaid expansion expected to benefit 70,000 uninsured Mainers.⁹⁷
- **LePage Couldn’t Even Wait a Single Day to Become a Full-Fledged Floridian, Established Residency There the Same Day He Left Office.** The same day that Janet Mills was inaugurated as the 75th Governor of Maine, LePage registered to vote in Flagler County, Florida.⁹⁸ LePage couldn’t wait to become a Floridian, especially since he and his wife, Ann, claimed homestead exemptions on their property in Ormond Beach,

⁹⁰ *Kennebec Journal*, 9/18/10

⁹¹ *Kennebec Journal*, 9/18/10

⁹² *Morning Sentinel*, 11/6/18

⁹³ Freedom of Access Act request filed with the Maine Public Employees Retirement System, April 2021

⁹⁴ [Bangor Daily News](#), 3/21/18; [Maine State Legislature](#), LD1679, 2016

⁹⁵ *Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18

⁹⁶ *Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18

⁹⁷ *Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18; *Bangor Daily News*, 9/8/18

⁹⁸ [Florida Department of State](#), Accessed 4/27/21; [NBC News Center Maine](#), 1/2/19

Florida in their 2020 and 2019 tax assessments.⁹⁹ By claiming the homestead exemption in Florida, LePage and his wife Ann considered their Ormond Beach home their primary residence.¹⁰⁰ The thought of being in Maine was so unappealing to Ann LePage that in February of 2021 she took to Facebook to tell friends about the cold weather she would have to put up with to visit Maine for one week.¹⁰¹

As Governor, LePage Abandoned Maine for Vacation and Personal Travel, Often at Taxpayer Expense. Between 2017 and 2019, LePage ran up \$22,000 in taxpayer expenses at Trump properties.¹⁰² This was part of \$170,000 in taxpayer-funded travel and lodging just in LePage's last two years as governor.¹⁰³ LePage's trips to Trump's hotel in Washington were so frequent they were cited by a judge as a possible violation of the emolument clause by Trump, claiming LePage's visits constituted financial benefit from another government official.¹⁰⁴ LePage's prolific trips away from Maine were not limited to visiting Trump. LePage also took regular trips to tropical locales as Maine's legislature made crucial budget decisions. In 2011, 2012, and 2013, LePage jetted off to Jamaica as the legislature was in its final weeks and working on key budget and appropriations bills.¹⁰⁵ LePage criticized lawmakers upon his return from his island getaway in 2012, saying Republicans and Democrats hadn't done a "damn thing." LePage also skipped out on a bipartisan group that traveled to the White House to discuss budget cuts in 2013 to holiday in Florida.¹⁰⁶

- **LePage's Travels Weren't Limited to Luxurious Vacations, He Also Visited Foreign Countries Hoping to Peddle Influence.** LePage has traveled abroad under the guise of advancing Maine's economic interests by getting foreign companies from China to invest in the state.¹⁰⁷ LePage made a habit of jet setting across the world at the beck and call of wealthy foreign interests in Spain, Iceland, Canada, and Montenegro.¹⁰⁸ LePage has also attempted to make taxpayer-funded trips to Russia, while he ultimately canceled the trip, the state of Maine was still left on the hook for \$2,000 of the trip's total estimated cost despite the cancellation.¹⁰⁹

LePage Frequently Prioritized Canadian Interests Over Maine's. When LePage was elected in 2010, he became Maine's first Franco-American governor since 1879.¹¹⁰ Unfortunately, LePage's fondness for Canada has seeped into his tenure as Governor of Maine. In 2017, LePage lobbied the Trump administration to exempt New Brunswick and Quebec from softwood lumber tariffs.¹¹¹ As profits for Maine lumber producers took off thanks to the tariffs, LePage opposed the tariffs, saying that lumber prices were too high. Maine lumber producers went so far as to

⁹⁹ Flagler County Tax Collector's Office, [2019](#), [2020](#) Tax Bill, Parcel 03-13-31-5120

¹⁰⁰ Florida Department of Revenue, Accessed [4/20/21](#)

¹⁰¹ Facebook, Ann LePage, [2/2/21](#)

¹⁰² *Press Herald*, [2/17/19](#)

¹⁰³ *Press Herald*, [2/17/19](#)

¹⁰⁴ *Portland Press Herald*, 3/29/18

¹⁰⁵ *Lewiston Sun Journal*, 4/14/11; *Lewiston Sun Journal*, 1/2/1; *Bangor Daily News*, 3/22/13

¹⁰⁶ *Portland Press Herald*, 05/02/13

¹⁰⁷ *Portland Press Herald*, 5/25/18

¹⁰⁸ *Press Herald*, [10/22/18](#); *Sun Journal*, 10/23/18

¹⁰⁹ *Press Herald*, [2/17/19](#)

¹¹⁰ *Press Herald*, 7/20/14

¹¹¹ *Associated Press*, [8/31/17](#)

accuse LePage of a “Canada First” Trade policy.¹¹² In 2017, LePage attempted to veto a bipartisan bill to ban open pit mining in Maine; a year prior to his veto, Canadian-based Irving Corporation pushed to weaken mining regulations in Maine and open a 400-acre open-pit mine in Aroostook County.¹¹³

LEPAGE’S REFUSAL AND INABILITY TO MAKE DEALS BROUGHT MAINE’S GOVERNMENT TO A GRINDING HALT

LePage Abused His Power as Maine’s Governor and Governed Through Obstruction Rather Than Compromise. LePage left office in 2018 as Maine’s “all-time veto leader,” having vetoed a record 642 bills across his 8 years in office – 173 more vetoes than the past 23 governors combined.¹¹⁴ Rather than use his veto pen as an outlet of his executive power, LePage used it for “political punishment” and to obstruct progress on bipartisan issues when he felt he wasn’t getting his way.¹¹⁵ Many of his vetoes were overridden unanimously, or at least with overwhelming majorities of legislative Republicans voting to override, “unprecedented for a sitting governor of a major political party in Maine.”¹¹⁶

- **LePage Ignored the Law as Governor and Was Repeatedly Ordered to Follow the Law by Maine Courts.** LePage was responsible for five separate vetoes of bills to expand Medicaid in Maine, but even after Mainers voted to expand MaineCare, which would have provided health care coverage for 70,000 people in Maine, LePage resisted implementation.¹¹⁷ LePage missed an April 2018 deadline to submit a plan to the federal government for Maine’s Medicaid expansion, and labeled the expansion “a budget-busting form of welfare.”¹¹⁸ LePage was resultingly sued for refusing to take the necessary steps to follow the referendum approved by voters and by June, 2018 a Maine superior court ordered LePage to implement Medicaid expansion,¹¹⁹ but LePage resisted still, vetoing a bill that would’ve funded expansion.¹²⁰ Maine ordered LePage to implement Medicaid expansion again in November after LePage had urged the federal government to reject MaineCare expansion.¹²¹ Maine ultimately didn’t expand Medicaid until after LePage left office.¹²² LePage had run afoul of the law before, in attempting to veto bills after the deadline to do had passed. LePage argued that he had longer than was mandated to veto legislation sent to his desk.¹²³ LePage’s willingness to skirt laws he didn’t like also threatened Maine’s elections when LePage sought to cut \$4 million from the Clean Election Fund which provided public funding for Maine state-level

¹¹² [Associated Press, 3/21/18](#)

¹¹³ [Natural Resources Council of Maine, 2016](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 820, [6/7/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 820, Roll Call #269, [6/7/17](#); [Bangor Daily News, 5/9/17](#)

¹¹⁴ [Bangor Daily News, 6/6/19](#); [Bangor Daily News, 12/30/18](#)

¹¹⁵ [Sun Journal, Editorial, 4/29/14](#)

¹¹⁶ [Morning Sentinel, Alan Caron Column, 9/19/15](#)

¹¹⁷ [Bangor Daily News, 11/7/17](#)

[New York Times, 7/24/18](#)

¹¹⁹ Press Release, Maine House Democrats, 6/4/18

¹²⁰ State of Maine Legislature, LD 837, Roll Call #698, [7/9/18](#); Associated Press, 7/3/18

¹²¹ Portland Press Herald, 9/5/18

¹²² [Bangor Daily News, 12/6/20](#)

¹²³ [Sun Journal, 7/10/15](#)

candidates.¹²⁴ The *Bangor Daily News* criticized LePage’s abuses of power as governor, saying it was a “sad state of affairs” that the Maine public couldn’t trust in its governor to uphold and execute the law and that even after eight years, LePage still “doesn’t understand his job. He is the governor, not the king.”¹²⁵

- **LePage Was an Obstructionist Governor, Who Vetoed Hundreds of Overwhelmingly Bipartisan Bills, and Was Overridden.** LePage has the most prolific veto record of any Maine governor, in fact, LePage vetoed 642 bills during his tenure which was more than his 23 predecessors combined.¹²⁶ LePage’s vetoes weren’t used just to block Democratic bills either, his veto of a bipartisan state budget bill in 2017 led to a government shutdown.¹²⁷ *Morning Sentinel* columnist Alan Cron noted as early as 2015 that “nearly all of LePage’s vetoes were overturned” by votes that included “every Republican in the legislature.”¹²⁸
- **LePage Refused to Sign Dozens of Overwhelmingly Bipartisan Bills Into Law.** LePage was an historically-obstructive governor, refusing to sign widely popular, uncontroversial, bipartisan bills. In July, 2018, LePage vetoed a bill to establish a lead abatement program to protect Maine’s children, the bill passed with overwhelming support.¹²⁹ In 2017, LePage vetoed a bill to ban open pit mining, a practice that has been deemed the most “polluting form of mining.”¹³⁰ The Maine legislature voted to override LePage’s veto in a near unanimous vote.¹³¹ In 2014, the legislature was again required to override a LePage veto when he rejected a bill to provide \$12 million in bonds to support small businesses in rural Maine.¹³²
- **LePage’s Stubbornness and Inability to Lead Caused the First Government Shutdown in Maine Since 1991.** After Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon and Republican Senate President Michael Thibodeau negotiated a deal to avoid a government shutdown, LePage still refused to sign the deal.¹³³ Despite the budget deal containing several Democratic concessions on education funding and taxes on top earners¹³⁴ LePage still opposed the deal because it didn’t cut income tax.¹³⁵ LePage whipped the necessary amount of Republicans in the Maine House to keep the budget from surviving his veto, resulting in Maine’s first government shutdown since 1991.¹³⁶ After the shutdown, LePage continued his petulance by refusing to physically cross the street to negotiate a

¹²⁴ *Morning Sentinel*, Editorial, 8/5/18

¹²⁵ *Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 8/3/18; *Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 7/15/18

¹²⁶ *Bangor Daily News*, 12/30/18

¹²⁷ *Bangor Daily News*, 9/13/18

¹²⁸ *Morning Sentinel*, Alan Caron Column, 9/19/15

¹²⁹ *Sun Journal*, 7/2/18

¹³⁰ *Bangor Daily News*, 5/9/17

¹³¹ State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 820, [6/7/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 820, Roll Call #269, [6/9/17](#); *Bangor Daily News*, 5/9/17

¹³² Maine State Legislature, LD1827, Roll Call #787, [5/1/14](#); Maine State Legislature, LD1827 Bill Text, [2014](#)

¹³³ *Bangor Daily News*, 6/30/17

¹³⁴ *Kennebec Journal*, 7/1/17; *Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 7/1/17

¹³⁵ *Bangor Daily News*, 6/30/17

¹³⁶ *Bangor Daily News*, 7/1/17

deal to reopen the government with legislative leaders.¹³⁷ Eventually, LePage negotiated a deal with House Speaker Sara Gideon to reopen the government with rumors swirling he planned to take a vacation amid the negotiations.¹³⁸

LePage’s Disastrous Leadership Alienated Members Of His Own Party. LePage’s tumultuous tenure as governor of Maine led to other Maine Republicans growing tired of him and opting to publicly oppose his policies. As early as 2011, a block of Maine Republican Senators wrote a letter condemning LePage for making disparaging comments about political rivals.¹³⁹ In 2015, a Republican strategist for Susan Collins and Kelly Ayotte, Lance Dutson, went so far as to say Republicans were “done” with LePage due to his flurry of vetoes.¹⁴⁰ By 2016, GOP Maine Senator Amy Volk publicly blasted LePage after he left a threatening voicemail for a Democratic member of the Maine Legislature, Senator Volk suggested LePage was suffering from mental health or substance abuse issues as potential rationale for his behavior.¹⁴¹ GOP Maine Senators, Tom Saviello and Roger Katz said LePage took partisan politics to “a new, dark level,” and labeled LePage “angry and vindictive.”¹⁴² LePage’s resistance to problem solving even caused members of his own party to seek out Democrats as allies so as to pass legislation.¹⁴³

- **LePage Campaigned Against Fellow Republicans.** After Republicans were resistant to LePage’s tax plans, LePage decided to turn on the members of his own party that sided with Democrats to pass a state budget and other important bills, including running ads against GOP Senate president, Michael Thibodeau.¹⁴⁴ LePage was labeled “the great divider” by Morning Sentinel Columnist, Alan Caron in 2015, due to his threats to oppose republicans in the next election cycle.¹⁴⁵ LePage ended his tenure as the figurehead of the Maine GOP in 2018 by saying he hoped Republicans were “destroyed” in the next election.¹⁴⁶

LePage Attempted to Circumvent Oversight from Lawmakers to Build New Mental Health Facility in Augusta. In 2016, Maine lawmakers were forced to override LePage’s veto of a bill to increase wages of workers at Maine’s mental health institutions.¹⁴⁷ Just three years prior to this veto, LePage saw the Riverview psychiatric facility lose its federal certification and \$20 million in federal funding due to the facility’s volume of safety violations.¹⁴⁸ In 2015, LePage’s administration attempted to pass a new Riverview project through the legislature, but it failed

¹³⁷ *Boston Globe*, 7/2/17

¹³⁸ *Kennebec Journal*, 7/4/17; *Bangor Daily News*, 7/3/17

¹³⁹ *Kennebec Journal*, 4/2/11; *Portland Press Herald*, 4/5/11; *Bangor Daily News*, 4/2/11

¹⁴⁰ *Sun Journal*, Editorial, 6/27/15

¹⁴¹ Facebook, Honorable Amy Volk, [8/30/16](#); Facebook, Honorable Amy Volk, [8/28/16](#)

¹⁴² *Sun Journal*, Editorial, 6/27/15

¹⁴³ *Bangor Daily News*, 9/13/18

¹⁴⁴ *Morning Sentinel*, Alan Caron Column, 6/5/15

¹⁴⁵ *Morning Sentinel*, Alan Caron Column, 6/5/15

¹⁴⁶ *Bangor Daily News*, 9/13/18

¹⁴⁷ State of Maine Legislature, LD 1645, Roll Call #654, [4/29/16](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1645, [4/29/16](#); Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Summaries of Bills, LD1645, [May 2016](#)

¹⁴⁸ Maine Public Radio, [1/2/15](#)

due to concerns from mental health advocates.¹⁴⁹ LePage then decided to circumvent the legislature and the city of Augusta using internal funds to build a new Riverview facility.¹⁵⁰ LePage's planned new facility lacked necessary review was called "shoehorned" by the Portland Press Herald.¹⁵¹ While using the Riverview as a political football with Maine's legislators, LePage also contracted a Florida company to run the new facility, and sealed the proposal so independent parties couldn't see the details of the negotiations.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁹ Sun Journal, 11/30/16

¹⁵⁰ Bangor Daily News, 9/30/16

¹⁵¹ [Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 8/15/18](#)

¹⁵² [Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 8/15/18](#)

CAMPAIGNS

2010 – MAINE GOVERNOR

TRANSITION TEAM

Paul LePage Appointed To His Gubernatorial Transition Advisory Team “A Tea Party Activist” Who Posted On The Internet, “‘Liberals Are Like Slinkies...They’re Really Good For Nothing...But They Still Bring A Smile To Your Face When You Push Them Down The Stairs.’” Paul LePage, in 2010, made “Pete ‘The Carpenter’ Harring, a tea party activist and founder of tea party website www.mainerefounders.org,” a part of his transition advisory team. “Soon after the transition announcement, Harring was criticized by a progressive advocacy group, the Maine People’s Alliance, for comments he made online about liberals. ‘Liberals are like Slinkies...they’re really good for nothing...but they still bring a smile to your face when you push them down the stairs,’ stated a graphic Harring posted on his website in February 2009.” Paul LePage stood “by Harring. ‘Pete Harring is on the Transition Advisory Team because thousands of Mainers share his frustrations with the direction we have been heading,’ said Dan Demeritt, LePage’s spokesman. ‘Gov.-elect LePage does not always agree with everything Pete has to say, but he believes Pete has a viewpoint that should be heard.’” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 11/24/10)

2022 – SPECULATION

LePage in Nov. 2018: “I Am Done With Politics. I Have Done My Eight Years. It’s Time for Somebody Else.” According to the *Morning Sentinel*, “‘I’ll also be in Florida if Shawn Moody wins because I am going to retire and go to Florida,’ he [LePage] said. ‘I am done with politics. I have done my eight years. It’s time for somebody else.’” [*Morning Sentinel*, 11/6/18]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERVIEW

Federal Campaign Finance History				
Year	Total Receipts	Total Disbursements	Ending COH	Ending Debt
2014	\$1,990,954.70	\$1,986,840.96	-\$336.26	\$0
2010	\$1,385,476.31	\$1,385,662.75	\$88.56	\$0

[Maine Campaign Finance, Paul R LePage, 2010, Filed [12/14/10](#)]

LEPAGE'S CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY INDUSTRY

Career Contributions To LePage's Gubernatorial Campaigns By Sector	
Sector	Total
Candidate Contributions	\$324,391
Government Agencies/Education	\$286,855
General Business	\$214,345
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$203,117
Health	\$126,908
Transportation	\$120,759
Construction	\$113,258
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$97,412
Agribusiness	\$60,732
Energy & Natural Resources	\$50,300
Communications	\$37,255
Ideology	\$23,079
Party	\$18,155
Labor	\$1,000
Defense	\$150

[Follow The Money, "Paul LePage," Accessed [4/18/21](#)]

Contributions From Other Candidates

Lepage Has Taken Over \$324,000 From Campaign Committees, Including His Own, During His Gubernatorial Campaigns. According to campaign finance data compiled by Follow the Money, LePage took \$324,391 from candidates' campaign committees, including his own, during his two gubernatorial campaigns. The amounts are detailed below: [Follow The Money, "Paul LePage," Accessed [4/19/21](#)]

Contributions From Lawyers & Lobbyists

Lepage Has Taken Over \$97,000 From Lobbyists & Lawyers During His Gubernatorial Campaigns. According to campaign finance data compiled by Follow the Money, LePage took \$97,412 from lobbyists and lawyers during his two gubernatorial campaigns. The amounts are detailed below: [Follow The Money, "Paul LePage," Accessed [4/19/21](#)]

Contributions From Energy & Natural Resources Industry

Lepage Has Taken Over \$50,000 From Lobbyists & Lawyers During His Gubernatorial Campaigns. According to campaign finance data compiled by Follow the Money, LePage took \$97,412 from lobbyists and lawyers during his two gubernatorial campaigns. The amounts are detailed below: [Follow The Money, “Paul LePage,” Accessed [4/19/21](#)]

- **2015-2018: LePage Chaired Coalition Of Governors That Sought To Open Most Federal Waters To Oil And Gas Exploration; Was Only Governor On Eastern Seaboard To Support Offshore Drilling.** “A coalition of governors headed by Gov. Paul LePage that seeks to open most federal waters to oil and gas exploration is staffed by employees of an oil industry lobbying firm, according to records obtained by the Maine Sunday Telegram. [...] While LePage supports exploration – a position that puts him at odds with all the other Atlantic Seaboard governors and coastal New England’s entire congressional delegation.” [Press Herald, [10/28/18](#)]
- **Headline: “Energy Industry Consultants Staff a Multi-State Governors’ Coalition That Promotes Opening Most Federal Waters to Drilling.”** [*Portland Press Herald*, 10/28/18]
- **Press Herald: Coalition Of Governors Pushing Offshore Drilling Chaired By LePage Was Staffed By Oil Industry Lobbyists.** “A coalition of governors headed by Gov. Paul LePage that seeks to open most federal waters to oil and gas exploration is staffed by employees of an oil industry lobbying firm, according to records obtained by the Maine Sunday Telegram. The Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition, which LePage joined in 2015 and has chaired for the past two years, outsources all of its day-to-day staffing, research and communications tasks to an advocacy group purporting to represent energy consumers. But a closer look at the group – the Consumer Energy Alliance – reveals that it is funded by energy producers and staffed and run by senior officials of HBW Resources, a Houston energy-focused lobbying and consulting firm.” [Press Herald, [10/28/18](#)]
- **LePage’s Openness To Offshore Drilling “Puts Him At Odds” With Coastal New England’s “Entire Congressional Delegation.”** “A coalition of governors headed by Gov. Paul LePage that seeks to open most federal waters to oil and gas exploration is staffed by employees of an oil industry lobbying firm, according to records obtained by the Maine Sunday Telegram. [...] While LePage supports exploration – a position that puts him at odds with all the other Atlantic Seaboard governors and coastal New England’s entire congressional delegation.” [Press Herald, [10/28/18](#)]
- **Conservation Law Foundation Executive Vice President Sean Mahoney: “If You Want to Put the Fox in Charge of the Henhouse, That’s What These Governors [Like LePage] Have Done in Using [the Consumer Energy Alliance] to Drive Their Work.”** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “‘If you want to put the fox in charge of the henhouse, that’s what these governors have done in using CEA to drive their work,’ says Sean Mahoney, executive vice president of the Conservation Law Foundation, which spearheaded the 1982 moratorium on drilling in New England waters that the Trump administration has proposed overturning. ‘They’re unabashedly an organization

formed and staffed by oil companies and drilling companies with the sole purpose of fostering greater oil exploration both offshore and onshore.” [Press Herald, [10/28/18](#)]

- **Conservation Law Foundation Executive Vice President Sean Mahoney: “They’re Unabashedly an Organization Formed and Staffed by Oil Companies and Drilling Companies With the Sole Purpose of Fostering Greater Oil Exploration Both Offshore and Onshore.”** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “‘If you want to put the fox in charge of the henhouse, that’s what these governors have done in using CEA to drive their work,’ says Sean Mahoney, executive vice president of the Conservation Law Foundation, which spearheaded the 1982 moratorium on drilling in New England waters that the Trump administration has proposed overturning. ‘They’re unabashedly an organization formed and staffed by oil companies and drilling companies with the sole purpose of fostering greater oil exploration both offshore and onshore.’” [Press Herald, [10/28/18](#)]
- **Under LePage’s Leadership, the Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition Signed a Letter to the Trump Administration Calling on it to Open “Nearly All Federal Waters to Oil and Gas Exploration,” Including in the “Oceanographic Entrances to the Gulf of Maine.”** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Under LePage, the coalition’s major action has been the submission of a letter signed by its member governors calling on the Trump administration to open nearly all federal waters to oil and gas exploration, including potential lease fields adjacent to Georges Bank and the oceanographic entrances to the Gulf of Maine.” [Press Herald, [10/28/18](#)]
- **When Trump Proposed a Draft Oil Drilling Lease Program, LePage Was the Only Governor on the Atlantic Seaboard to Support the Proposed Changes.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “On Jan. 4, the Trump administration proposed such policy changes in a draft drilling lease program, which was promptly condemned by Maine and New England’s entire congressional delegations. LePage is the only governor on the Atlantic Seaboard to support the proposed changes. ‘Governor LePage has never been one to be afraid of striking out on his own, especially if his end goal is to bring lower energy costs and prosperity to the people of Maine,’ Rabinowitz said. ‘If the other states don’t want offshore drilling, then perhaps they would reconsider their blocking of the gas pipelines through their states.’” [Press Herald, [10/28/18](#)]

2010 GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE

2008-2010: LePage Raised Over \$1.38 Million In Total Contributions For His First Gubernatorial Campaign. According to campaign finance records filed with the Maine Ethics and Elections Commission, LePage raised a total of \$1,385,476.31 in campaign contributions during his first gubernatorial campaign. [Maine Campaign Finance, Paul R LePage, 2010, Filed [12/14/10](#)]

2008-2010: LePage’s Campaign Expenditures Totaled Over \$1.38 Million; Held Only \$88 Cash On Hand At End Of Campaign. According to campaign finance records filed with the Maine Ethics and Elections Commission, LePage spent a total of \$1,385,662.75 in campaign

expenditures during his first gubernatorial campaign, leaving him with only \$88.56 cash on hand at the end of his campaign. [Maine Campaign Finance, Paul R LePage, 2010, Filed [12/14/10](#)]

2010: LePage And Wife Ann Loaned His Own Campaign \$181,000. According to campaign finance records filed with the Maine Ethics and Elections Commission, LePage and his wife Ann loaned his own campaign \$181,000 during the 2010 election cycle. [Maine Campaign Finance, Paul R LePage, 2010, Filed [12/14/10](#)]

The LePage Campaign, In 2010, Accepted An Illegal Campaign Contribution. In a “complaint filed by the Maine Democratic Party, the [Maine Ethics] Commission found that the campaign of Republican gubernatorial candidate Paul LePage had wrongly accepted donations from a family that exceeded the state’s \$750-per-person limit. The campaign said...the \$550 overpayment was a clerical and accounting error and agreed to return the money.” (Bangor Daily News, 10/29/10)

2014 GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE

2014: LePage Raised Over \$1.99 Million In Total Contributions For His First Gubernatorial Campaign. According to campaign finance records filed with the Maine Ethics and Elections Commission, LePage raised a total of \$1,990,954.70 in campaign contributions during his first gubernatorial campaign. [Maine Campaign Finance, Paul R LePage, 2014, Filed [7/15/15](#)]

2014: LePage’s Campaign Expenditures Totaled Over \$1.98 Million; Finished With Negative Cash On Hand Balance Of -\$336 At End Of Campaign. According to campaign finance records filed with the Maine Ethics and Elections Commission, LePage spent a total of \$1,986,840.96 in campaign expenditures during his first gubernatorial campaign, leaving him with a negative cash on hand balance of -\$336.56 at the end of his campaign. [Maine Campaign Finance, Paul R LePage, 2014, Filed [7/15/15](#)]

October 2014: LePage Took \$250 Contribution From Owner Of McSeagull’s Restaurant That Later Employed His Wife. According to the Maine Ethics Commission, on October 20, 2014, LePage Took \$250 From Jeff Stoddard, the owner of McSeagull’s Restaurant in Boothbay Harbor. McSeagull’s later employed LePage’s wife Ann, that employment history is detailed earlier in the research book. [Maine Campaign Finance, “Stoddard, Jeff,” [10/14/14](#)]

PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

PAUL AND ANN LEPAGE HAVE GIVEN \$5,700 TO GOP COMMITTEES, PACS SINCE 2013

2013-2021: LePage And His Wife Have Made 38 Contributions Totaling \$5,700 To Republican Campaign Committees And PACs Since 2013. According to campaign finance records filed with the Federal Election Commission Paul LePage and his wife, Ann, have made 38 separate contributions totaling \$5,700 to GOP campaign committees and political action

committees that supported republican causes since 2013. The contributions are detailed in the table below: [FEC, “Paul LePage,” “Ann LePage,” Accessed [4/15/21](#)]

2013-2021: LePage Only Gave \$1,750 To Maine GOP, Federal Candidates; All Contributions Came In 2020. According to campaign finance records filed with the Federal Election Commission Paul LePage and his wife, Ann, only gave to Maine federal candidates and Maine’s republican party in 2020, contributing a total of \$1,750. [FEC, “Paul LePage,” “Ann LePage,” Accessed [4/15/21](#)]

2009-Present: LePage Only Gave Susan Collins’ Campaign Committee \$250; Did Not Donate To Collins’ Leadership PAC, Dirigo PAC. According to campaign finance records filed with the Federal Election Commission Paul LePage and his wife, Ann, only contributed \$250 to Susan Collins’ campaign committee throughout his entire tenure as governor and since leaving office. Paul and Ann LePage did not contribute to Susan Collins’ leadership PAC, Dirigo PAC. [FEC, “Paul LePage,” “Ann LePage,” Accessed [4/15/21](#)]

Donor	Recipient	Date of Contribution	Amount (\$)
Ann LePage	Maine GOP	2/6/13	1,000
Paul LePage	Stop Hillary PAC	10/24/16	100
Paul LePage	Stop Hillary PAC	11/4/16	100
Paul LePage	Stop Hillary PAC	11/17/16	100
Paul LePage	Collins For Senator	9/21/20	250
Paul LePage	Jay Allen For Maine	10/6/20	250
Paul LePage	WinRed	10/6/20	1,000
Paul LePage	WinRed	10/6/20	250
Paul LePage	Donald Trump For President	10/6/20	1,000
Paul LePage	Dale Crafts For Congress	10/6/20	250
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/20/20	50
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/20/20	50
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/20/20	50

Paul LePage	WinRed	11/20/20	50
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/20/20	50
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/20/20	50
Paul LePage	Perdue For Senate	11/20/20	50
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/21/20	16.67
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/21/20	16.66
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/21/20	100
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/21/20	16.67
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/21/20	150
Paul LePage	Perdue For Senate	11/21/20	150
Paul LePage	Perdue For Senate	11/21/20	16.67
Paul LePage	Perdue For Senate	11/21/20	100
Paul LePage	Perdue For Senate	11/21/20	150
Paul LePage	McConnell Senate Committee	11/25/20	50
Paul LePage	McConnell Senate Committee	11/25/20	150
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/25/20	150
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/25/20	50
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/25/20	50
Paul LePage	WinRed	11/25/20	50
Paul LePage	Perdue For Senate	11/25/20	50
Paul LePage	Perdue For Senate	11/25/20	50

Paul LePage	Perdue For Senate	12/30/20	-150
Paul LePage	Perdue For Senate	12/30/20	-50
Paul LePage	Perdue For Senate	12/30/20	-50
Paul LePage	Perdue For Senate	12/30/20	-16.67
	\$5,700		

[FEC, “Paul LePage,” “Ann LePage,” Accessed [4/15/21](#)]

October 2020: LePage Gave Trump’s Presidential Campaign Committee \$1,000. According to campaign finance records filed with the Federal Election Commission Paul LePage gave Donald Trump’s presidential campaign committee \$1,000 on October 6, 2020. [FEC, “Paul LePage,” “Ann LePage,” Accessed [4/15/21](#)]

November 2020: LePage Made Two Contributions Totaling \$200 To Mitch McConnell’s Campaign Committee. According to campaign finance records filed with the Federal Election Commission Paul LePage made two separate contributions to Mitch McConnell’s campaign committee that totaled \$200 on November 25, 2020. [FEC, “Paul LePage,” “Ann LePage,” Accessed [4/15/21](#)]

2020: LePage Gave David Perdue’s Senate Campaign Committee \$300 During Run-Off Election. According to campaign finance records filed with the Federal Election Commission Paul LePage made seven separate contributions to David Perdue’s campaign committee that totaled \$300 during the run-off election in Georgia. Four of these contributions were refunded. [FEC, “Paul LePage,” “Ann LePage,” Accessed [4/15/21](#)]

LePage Hasn’t Made a Single Donation To Maine State GOP Candidates Since 2009

2009-2021: LePage Made No Contributions To Downballot Maine State GOP Candidates Other Than a \$55,000 Loan To His Own Campaign In 2010. According to campaign finance data filed with the Maine Ethics and Elections Commission, LePage’s only contribution to Maine state GOP candidates was a \$55,000 loan to his own campaign on July, 8, 2010. [Maine Campaign Finance, Transaction Search, “LePage, Paul,” Accessed [4/19/21](#)]

LEPAGE SERVED AS “FUNDRAISER” FOR MAINE-BASED POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE OPERATED BY HIS FORMER STAFFER

2016: Former LePage Administration Senior Health Policy Advisor, Holly Lusk And Longtime LePage Aide, Michael Hersey Founded PAC To Support Candidates That Pushed Tax Cuts. “The ICE PAC, which registered last week with the state’s Ethics Commission [...] The PAC was founded by two people who had formerly been part of LePage’s inner circle: Holly Lusk, his senior health policy advisor before she departed for the law firm of

Preti Flaherty, and Michael Hersey, a longtime LePage aide who until last month served as director of business development and innovation for the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. The PAC’s mission, to support “candidates who are pro-economic growth, and who strive to lower the tax burden on Maine citizens,” reads like a page from the playbook of LePage, who has pushed for reducing or even eliminating the state’s income tax since he came to office.” [Ellsworth American, [8/4/16](#)]

December 2016: LePage Was Listed On ICE PAC’s Most Recent Registration Form As “Fundraiser.” According to ICE PAC’s most recent registration filing dated December 13, 2016, LePage served as a “fundraiser” for the committee. ICE PAC’s registration is clipped below: [Maine Campaign Finance, “ICE PAC,” PAC Registration, Filed [12/13/16](#)]

2016-2017: ICE PAC Took Over \$400,000 In Total Contributions. According to the Maine Ethics Commission, ICE PAC took \$400,150 in contributions between July 22, 2016 and the termination of the PAC in 2017. The individual contributions over \$10,000 made to the PAC are detailed below: [Maine Campaign Finance, “ICE PAC,” Filings [2016-2017](#)]

Contributor	Recipient	Date	Amount (\$)
Gary Bahre	ICE PAC	7/22/16	25,000
Robert Bahre	ICE PAC	7/22/16	25,000
Diana Bean	ICE PAC	7/27/16	25,000
Linda Bean	ICE PAC	7/27/16	25,000
Paul Fortin	ICE PAC	7/27/16	20,000
Tim Varney	ICE PAC	7/28/16	10,000
Suzanne Cyr	ICE PAC	7/29/16	10,000
George Schott	ICE PAC	8/11/16	20,000
FR Carroll, Inc	ICE PAC	8/29/16	10,000
Central Maine Motors	ICE PAC	9/20/16	10,000
Suzanne Grover	ICE PAC	9/21/16	20,000
EJ Carrier Inc	ICE PAC	9/24/16	20,000
Shucks Maine Lobster LLC	ICE PAC	9/28/16	10,000
Carole Vigue	ICE PAC	10/13/16	10,000
Sandra Bahre	ICE PAC	10/19/16	25,000
Total			265,000

[Maine Campaign Finance, “ICE PAC,” Filings [2016-2017](#)]

2016-2017: ICE PAC Spent Over \$371,000; Expenditures Included Radio \$25,000 Ad Buy In Maine’s Second Senate District. According to the Maine Ethics Commission, ICE PAC spent a total \$371,415.77 in expenditures between 2016 and 2017. Expenditures included two radio ad buys totaling \$25,363.90 in Maine’s 2nd Senate district. The ad buys are detailed below: [Maine Campaign Finance, “ICE PAC,” Filings [2016-2017](#); “ICE PAC,” IE Report, Filed [11/2/16](#)]

Spender	Payee	Support/Oppose	Candidate (office)	Date	Amount
ICE PAC	Littlefield Consulting	Support	Ricky D Long (Senate-02)	11/1/16	\$12,681.95
ICE PAC	Littlefield Consulting	Oppose	Michael E Carpenter (Senate-02)	11/1/16	\$12,681.95
Total					\$25,363.90

[Maine Campaign Finance, "ICE PAC," Filings [2016-2017](#); "ICE PAC," IE Report, Filed [11/2/16](#)]

BUSINESS CAREER

WILNER WOOD PRODUCTS, CEO (EARLY 1990S)

Paul LePage, In The Early 1990s, Became "The Court- Appointed President And CEO Of Wilner Wood Products." Paul LePage, in 1986, "decided to strike out on his own as a business consultant, while teaching classes on accounting and business ethics at Kennebec Valley Vocational Institute. His consultancy, LePage & Kasevich, specialized in rescuing distressed companies, usually after a bankruptcy court had appointed LePage to run them." "In 1990, a court appointed him to run Wilner Wood Products, the largest employer in Norway, Maine, which had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, having accrued \$5 million in debt." (The Portland Phoenix, 01/18/12) "He served as the court-appointed president and CEO of Wilner Wood Products." (Portland Press Herald, 09/19/10)

In This Position LePage Presided Over Months Of Layoffs Before He Closed Wilner's Doors. "In December 1991, LePage told reporters at the time that workers' compensation expenses were 'the one thing that might prevent' a turnaround, and that they cost the company \$300,000 annually. After studying claim records, he determined that over two-thirds of accidents involved the eyes, and many of the others from repetitive motion injuries. He mandated protective glasses and compulsory morning stretches, and reported a large reduction in the number of accidents, though this may also have been due to the shrinking of the workforce. Workers' comp, he said, was 'absolutely out of control' and '100 percent in favor of the employees, without accountability.' LePage presided over...layoffs over the months that followed, shrinking the employment from 147 to 50, and then, without warning, seven months later, Wilner suddenly closed its doors." (The Portland Phoenix, 01/18/12)

LePage, At The Time Of The Closing, Was Still The Acting President Of The Company. Paul LePage, at the time of the closing, was still the acting president of the company. (Lewiston Sun Journal, 06/20/92)

Wilner Wood Products Workers Received Trade Adjustment Assistance. Workers at Wilner Wood Products, in 1991, applied for and received Trade Adjustment Assistance. (Trade Adjustment Assistance Petition 27268)

DOWN EAST PEAT, CEO (1992-?)

Paul Lepage, In 1992, “Was Called In To Serve As Chief Operating Officer Of...Down East Peat,” But Down East Peat’s Only “Plant Closed Its Doors Shortly Thereafter, Putting 16 Out Of Work.” Paul LePage, in 1986, “decided to strike out on his own as a business consultant, while teaching classes on accounting and business ethics at Kennebec Valley Vocational Institute. His consultancy, LePage & Kasevich, specialized in rescuing distressed companies, usually after a bankruptcy court had appointed LePage to run them.” “In the middle of 1992, LePage was called in to serve as chief operating officer of...Down East Peat, which had built the continent’s first peat-fired power plant in Deblois Township three years before at a cost of \$51 million. But the weather in Washington County was wetter than expected, foiling a key peat-harvesting technology and leaving the plant short of its intended fuel.” Paul LePage blamed DEP “for refusing to issue permits to allow the company to partially drain the 650-acre Denbow Heath to facilitate peat harvesting. The DEP, he said, wanted the company to first secure an electricity supply contract (to demonstrate economic necessity), something they could not do without the drainage project.” “The plant closed its doors shortly thereafter, putting 16 out of work.” (The Portland Phoenix, 01/18/12)

LePage Blamed The DEP For Putting Down East Peat Out Of Business. Paul LePage said DEP put this company out of business, and implied that the buffalo and black fly surveys were the direct reason they went out of business. (Maine Public Broadcasting Network, 08/24/10)

MARDEN’S SURPLUS & SALVAGE, GM (1996-2010)

Early In Paul Lepage’s Professional Life He Tried To Save Struggling Businesses, But He Went “From Trying To Save Struggling Industries To Literally Salvaging The Carcasses Of Those That Had Died” When He Went To Work At Marden’s Surplus & Salvage. “Governor LePage worked for the Marden family as the GM of Marden’s [Surplus & Salvage] from 1996 through 2010. (<http://mardens.com/index.php/about/faq>) “While LePage had been working in industrial plants, [Mickey] Marden had been buying up the ones that failed, converting them to warehouses or renting them out as cheap commercial space. He’d already purchased the sprawling Androscoggin Mill back in Lewiston and, when the Winslow Mill closed in 1998, he sent LePage in to negotiate its purchase as well. LePage had gone from trying to save struggling industries to literally salvaging the carcasses of those that had died.” (The Portland Phoenix, 01/18/12)

Marden’s Surplus & Salvage, When Paul Lepage Was The General Manager Of The Business, Paid Some Workers Only \$7 Per Hour. Paul LePage, in 2006, “said that politics – more than compassion – was the driving force behind the latest [minimum] wage hike. ‘It’s nothing more than a political feel-good during an election year,’ LePage said. ‘It certainly does nothing to show that you are business friendly.’ LePage...[was] quick to note that starting pay at Marden’s...[was] already \$7 an hour. But he said that doesn’t mean his company, which employs about 850 people, won’t feel the effects of the increase. He predicted the company likely would adjust its entire pay scale in order to keep its veteran workers. ‘If you increase the

minimum, you've got to increase everybody,' said LePage, describing what is known in economic circles as the 'spillover effect' of a wage increase. 'People want to maintain their distance from the minimum wage.'" (Bangor Daily News, 07/22/06)

When Paul LePage Was The General Manager Of Marden's Surplus & Salvage He Had Employees That Were Paid So Poorly That They Were On Welfare. In Other Words, He Had Employees That Taxpayers Had To Subsidize Because They Were Paid So Little. Paul LePage, in 2010, wanted "to create tiers of benefits so cash assistance is phased out slower when people are working. He has spoken about a Marden's employee – his 'poster child of welfare' – who turned down a raise so she wouldn't lose benefits." (Kennebec Journal, 10/19/10) "Jack McKay, president of the Eastern Maine Labor Council, cited Department of Health and Human Services data to indicate that Marden's doesn't offer livable wages." (Bangor Daily News, 10/22/10)

Marden's Surplus & Salvage, In Paul LePage's Last Year As The General Manager Of The Company, Employed More Than 100 People At Such Low Wages That They Were On Medicaid. Governor Paul LePage last worked as the general manager of Marden's Surplus & Salvage in 2010. (<http://mardens.com/index.php/about/faq>) "State records show that more than 100 of the 1,200 Marden's employees" in 2010 were enrolled in MaineCare, the state's Medicaid program for low-income and disabled residents." (Portland Press Herald, 10/11/10)

When Paul LePage Became The General Manager Of Marden's Surplus & Salvage It Provided Health Insurance To 71 Percent Of Its Employees. When He Left The Company It Provided Health Insurance To Only 29 Percent Of Its Employees. "Governor LePage worked for the Marden family as the GM of Marden's [Surplus & Salvage] from 1996 through 2010." (<http://mardens.com/index.php/about/faq>) Paul LePage, in 2010, "said high health insurance rates were taking their toll on Maine's business climate. 'No one can afford it,' he said. 'In 1996, 71 percent of Marden's employees took health insurance.'" In 2010, he said Marden's Surplus & Salvage was "'down to 29 percent. Why? Because the other 25 percent that the employee is responsible for is unaffordable.'" (Kennebec Journal, 08/24/10) He said on another occasion, "'we can't afford to pay 100 percent" at Marden's Surplus & Salvage, "and when that worker is a single mom with three kids, she can't afford health care." (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 02/05/04)

MARDEN'S "THRIVES ON NATURAL DISASTER"

Marden's Surplus & Salvage "Thrives On Natural Disaster." The Store's "Inventory Is Made Possible In Large Part By Human Misfortune," Including Misfortune That Is The Result Of "Earthquakes, Fires And Hurricanes." Marden's Surplus & Salvage is "the discount nirvana that thrives on natural disaster." "The store's unusual inventory is made possible in large part by human misfortune. When companies put out unpopular products or go out of business, Marden's is there. After earthquakes, fires and hurricanes, Marden's picks up the pieces from regional insurance companies. For example, a... fire at a garden nursery in upstate New York brought four trailer loads of flowers and trees to the store, most of which disappeared in a day." (Bangor Daily News, 07/09/97)

Marden's Surplus & Salvage Sold Clothes "Damaged In The Collapse Of The World Trade Center On Sept. 11." They Were At Ground Zero To Purchase The Clothes "Only Two Weeks After The Disaster," And The Clothes Were For Sale At Marden's Surplus & Salvage Less Than Two Months After 9/11. It Appears That Some Or All Of The Clothes Were Covered In Highly Toxic "Debris Dust." Marden's Surplus & Salvage sold suits from Century 21, a "Manhattan discount-clothing chain whose flagship store is located just across Church Street from the World Trade Center site." (New York Observer, 12/03/01) "Marden's brought Armani, Prada, Gucci and Versace, along with clothes from other top designers, to the state after a salvage deal with the insurers for Century 21," which "was damaged in the collapse of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11." (Bangor Daily News, 03/08/02) "The store suffered damage during the Sept. 11 terrorist attack and...[was] shuttered." Marden's Surplus & Salvage was at Century 21 at "ground zero only two weeks after the disaster" to inspect and purchase merchandise. (Bangor Daily News, 03/08/02) The suits from Century 21, which were on sale in late November 2001 at a Marden's Surplus & Salvage, "were covered with a fine white dust," according to one account. (New York Observer, 12/03/01) According to another account, "a slight smoky smell or debris dust [was] on a few items, [though] most of the Century 21 items bore no evidence of the Sept. 11 attack." (The Associated Press State & Local Wire, 05/07/02) According to a news story with the headline, "9/11 Dust Cloud Highly Toxic," an "analysis showed that the substances in the dust included cement, gypsum, asbestos, glass fibers, calcium carbonate, lead and other metal particles." "The pH of the dust was very high, meaning it was highly alkaline. 'That means it's extremely caustic and would be like inhaling powdered lye or Drano,' said Dr. Philip Landrigan, dean for global health at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York." (<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/september-11-toxic-world-trade-center-dust-cloud/story?id=14466933#.UX66B7Q4Tdm>)

Marden's Surplus & Salvage Sold Goods Salvaged In "The Aftermath Of Hurricane Katrina." Marden's Surplus & Salvage, in 2005, sold "goods hauled to Maine from a department store" in Biloxi, MS, "in the wake of Hurricane Katrina," as well as goods from Louisiana. (Portland Press Herald, 09/20/05)

POLITICAL CAREER

CITY COUNCILOR AND MAYOR OF WATERVILLE

PROPERTY TAXES

"Paul LePage Supporters Claim That He Performed Miracles As Mayor Of Waterville By Reducing Property Taxes," But "Waterville's Tax Rate Actually Declined Less Than In Other Maine Cities During His... Years As Mayor." According to Edward Karass, a supporter of Eliot Cutler in 2010, former state controller, and CEO of Karass Financial & Accounting, "Paul LePage supporters claim that he performed miracles as mayor of Waterville by reducing property taxes," but "when compared with other Maine cities (Bangor, Biddeford, Windham and Brewer), Waterville hasn't fared very well at all during the reign of Mayor

LePage.” In fact, “Waterville’s tax rate actually declined less than in other Maine cities during his seven years as mayor.” Over his last six years as mayor, “the property tax mill rate in Waterville declined by 13.46 percent. Other municipalities of similar size fared considerably better. Brewer’s mill rate dropped by about 18 percent, Windham’s by 17.49 percent, Biddeford’s by 15.3 percent and Bangor’s by 13.61 percent. Why did the mill rate in Waterville decline? Not because of Mayor LePage’s management skills, for the most part, but because the property tax relief initiative from LD 1 increased state payments to Waterville each year and required that those increased payments be used for property tax relief.” In addition, there was a “22.5 percent increase in Waterville’s non-education operating expenses” during his time as mayor. (Bangor Daily News, 07/30/10)

GOVERNOR OF MAINE

TRAVEL & VACATIONING

Paul LePage, In 2010, Said He Plans To Play “Golf More Often” After Being Sworn In As Governor: “I Haven’t Golfed in Two Years, and I Intend to Golf While I’m Governor.”

Paul LePage, after being elected governor but before being sworn in, said “he wants to hire good people so he can golf more often. ‘I don’t want to micromanage,’ he said. ‘I haven’t golfed in two years, and I intend to golf while I’m governor.’” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 12/16/10)

During The 2011 Legislative Session, Instead Of Working With The State Legislature On Reform Issues And The State Budget, LePage Went On Vacation To Jamaica. He Said, “I Went On Vacation... Because I Had Nothing To Do.” Paul LePage, on April 14, 2011, said “he hadn’t been able to deliver on his promise of reform in Augusta because the Legislature was dithering over his biennial budget and other proposals.” “During a 28-minute speech, the governor repeatedly railed against the Legislature for holding up his agenda. He said the Legislature had only passed one bill ‘of any worth,’ a bill that allows lobstermen to store traps on their docks. He added that the Legislature’s inability to advance meaningful legislation was the reason he traveled to Jamaica” earlier in April 2011. “‘I went on vacation...because I had nothing to do,’ he said. ‘Because I’m waiting. I’m waiting for legislation. I cannot do anything until the Legislature acts. And we need action.’” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 04/14/11)

- **After LePage Returned From Jamaica, LePage Said Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature Hadn’t Done a “Damn Thing.”** “After returning from Jamaica – a vacation the governor said he took because the Legislature hadn’t given him anything to do – LePage said Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature hadn’t done ‘a damn thing.’” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/02/12)

Paul LePage, In 2012, Took “A Weeklong Trip To Jamaica While The Legislative Session ...[Was] In Its Final Weeks” And Budget, “Major Health And Human Services Department Changes,” Tax, Public Education, And “Energy Issues...[Were] Still Unsettled.” Paul LePage took “a weeklong trip to Jamaica while the legislative session...[was] in its final weeks” in 2012. He left “with just a few weeks left in the session while budgets, major Health and Human Services Department changes and public education, tax and energy issues...[were] still unsettled.” “LePage spokeswoman Adrienne Bennett said the vacation is an

annual trip for the governor's family and that he'll be in regular contact and available as needed." (The Associated Press State & Local Wire, 03/20/12)

Paul LePage, in March 2013, went on "his annual trip to Jamaica" while the legislature was in session. Paul LePage, in March 2013, went on "his annual trip to Jamaica." The legislature was in session at the time. (Bangor Daily News, 03/22/13)

Paul LePage, In Early 2013, Went On Vacation To Florida Instead Of Meeting With A "Bipartisan Group Gathered At The White House To Talk With The President About...Budget Cuts." Paul LePage, in February 2013, went on vacation to Florida instead of meeting with a "bipartisan group gathered at the White House to talk with the president about looming budget cuts." (Portland Press Herald, 05/02/13)

The Same Month He Left Office in 2019, LePage Was Already in Florida, Giving Interviews "Poolside," Criticizing His Successor's Initiatives. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "The former governor is watching. Predictably, he's unhappy. Poolside in Florida, LePage spoke with WVOM on Tuesday and torched many of Mills' early initiatives, including the quick-draw Medicaid expansion. He said she 'closed Maine for business' by moving to replace his 'Open for Business' sign on the northbound section of Interstate 95 near the New Hampshire line with one that says 'Welcome Home.'" [*Bangor Daily News*, 1/15/19]

In 2018, LePage Visited Canada, Iceland, Spain, and Montenegro. According to the *Sun Journal*, "LePage has visited at least four foreign countries this year: Canada, Iceland, Spain and Montenegro. He had planned to be part of a trade mission to the United Kingdom and Ireland last month, but had to skip it after experiencing what he called a 'cardiac issue' in late August." [*Sun Journal*, 10/23/18]

Press Herald: LePage Traveled To Spain To Meet With Owners Of Central Maine Power to Discuss Massive 145 Mile Transmission Line Through Maine To Supply Massachusetts. "Before heading to Iceland for a session of the Arctic Circle Assembly last week, Gov. Paul LePage flew to Spain to meet with leaders of the company that owns Central Maine Power. [...] It is likely that at least part of the discussion between LePage and company leaders focused on a proposed 145-mile transmission line that CMP hopes to build through western Maine to serve the growing electrical needs of consumers in Massachusetts." [*Press Herald*, [10/22/18](#)]

June 2017: LePage Planned Trip To Russia To Promote Maine Tourism In Three Separate Russian Cities; Trip's Cost Estimated At \$9,500. In June, 2017, LePage "was poised to travel to Russia in June 2017, [...] The travel receipts also show the state paid some \$3,306 for train fare to transport LePage, Butera and at least one security agent between the three cities. But the trip was apparently canceled in late-May and credit card statements appear to show that the state was refunded all but roughly \$2,000 of the more than \$9,500 that was paid for visas, tickets and other services." [*Press Herald*, [2/17/19](#)]

- **LePage's Russia Trip Was Canceled But Still Cost Maine Taxpayers \$2,000.** "The travel receipts also show the state paid some \$3,306 for train fare to transport LePage, Butera and at least one security agent between the three cities. But the trip was apparently

canceled in late-May and credit card statements appear to show that the state was refunded all but roughly \$2,000 of the more than \$9,500 that was paid for visas, tickets and other services.” [*Press Herald*, [2/17/19](#)]

In 2012 and 2015, LePage Visited China Seeking More Chinese Investment in Maine.

According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “LePage also expressed a desire to lure more Chinese investment in Maine and perhaps make one last trade mission to the economic powerhouse before leaving office. He visited China in 2012 and 2015 to seek more Chinese investment in Maine.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 5/25/18]

In April 2018, Before He Resigned, LePage Senior Policy Adviser Aaron Chadbourne Reimbursed the State for the \$925.16 it Paid for Him to Stay at the Trump International Hotel in DC in Spring 2017. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Shortly after his resignation as a senior policy adviser to Gov. Paul LePage last month, Aaron Chadbourne took an unusual step: He reimbursed the state for the \$925.16 it cost to put him up for two nights at Trump International Hotel in Washington last spring.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 5/10/18]

- **Chadbourne Stayed at the Trump International Hotel, Paid for by Maine Taxpayers During an Official Visit by LePage to DC.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Chadbourne, who served as the governor's legislative liaison for several years, stayed in a room at the hotel paid for by taxpayers during an official visit by LePage to the nation's capital.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 5/10/18]

Chadbourne Stayed at Trump International May 1 and 2, 2017, Along With the Governor and His Security Staff, Making it At Least the Second Time LePage Had Paid at Trump International on the Taxpayers’ Dime. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “A copy of the invoice Chadbourne submitted to the state treasurer April 28 indicates he stayed at the hotel for two nights starting on May 1, 2017. He said the governor and security staff also stayed there, marking at least the second occasion that taxpayers covered the tab for the governor's lodging at the five-star hotel.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 5/10/18]

Chadbourne Said That His Recollection Was That LePage and His Staff Stayed at the Trump International Hotel Because it Offered the Best Rate of DC Hotels That Could Accommodate LePage’s Security Needs. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Chadbourne told Hayes that his recollection is ‘that the staff in the governor's office booked the governor's stay at Trump International Hotel at the last minute, and it was the best rate of a hotel in DC that could accommodate the governor's security needs.’” [*Portland Press Herald*, 5/10/18]

In Feb. 2018, LePage Went to Washington, DC “for the Second Time in as Many Weeks” and Met With Donald Trump to Discuss Trump’s Infrastructure Plan. According to the *Kennebec Journal*, “LePage also can be expected to continue his unannounced travels outside the state or even the country. On Monday, a day ahead of his speech, LePage popped up in Washington, D.C., for the second time in as many weeks. A photo on Twitter showed LePage attending a White House meeting with President Donald Trump and other governors to discuss the president's infrastructure plan.” [*Kennebec Journal*, 2/13/18]

2017-2019: LePage’s Office Spent Total Of \$170,000 In Travel, Lodging During Last Two Years Of Tenure; Reimbursed State For Only \$37,000. According to the Press Herald, “Records – including receipts for airfare and car rentals, lodging, restaurants and other expenses – as well as accounting summaries provided by the state, show that taxpayers funded about \$170,000 in out-of-state travel by LePage and staff members during fiscal years 2017 and 2018 and part of 2019. Organizations holding meetings or conferences attended by LePage or his staffers reimbursed the state for more than \$37,000 of those expenses.” [*Press Herald*, [2/17/19](#)]

Trump Hotel

Press Herald: LePage And His Staff Spent Over \$22,000 At Trump Properties During Two Year Period; Maine Was Reimbursed For Only \$124 Of Those Expenses. According to the Press Herald, LePage and his staff spent exorbitantly at Trump properties in 2017, 2018, and part of 2019 reporting, “Maine taxpayers footed the bill for at least \$22,000 spent at the Washington, D.C., hotel owned by the Trump Organization, which is run by the president’s two sons. The documents suggest the state was reimbursed for only \$124 of that sum.” [*Press Herald*, [2/17/19](#)]

- **LePage And His Staff Paid As Much As \$1,100 Per Night For Rooms At Trump Hotels; Spent “Hundreds Of Dollars” In Taxpayer Money On “Filet Mignon.”** LePage administration paid anywhere from \$362 to more than \$1,100 a night for rooms at the luxury hotel during trips to meet with President Trump or his inner circle, attend White House events or talk to members of Congress. Receipts from those dozen trips also show the Republican governor or his administration spending hundreds of dollars on filet mignon or other expensive menu items at the restaurant in the Trump hotel.” [*Press Herald*, [2/17/19](#)]

Headline: “Judge Cites LePage Stay at Trump Hotel in Ruling; He Describes That and the Governor’s Later Visit With Trump in Deciding a Lawsuit Charging the President With Profiting from His Office Can Proceed.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 3/29/18]

Headline: “LePage Stay at Trump Hotel Cited in Lawsuit.” [*Morning Sentinel*, 3/29/18]

The Judge Cited LePage’s Stay at Trump Hotel and His Appearance With Trump at a News Conference “as an Example of How Trump May Have Received a Financial Benefit from Another Government Figure.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Messitte cited a visit by LePage to Trump International and the governor’s subsequent appearance with Trump at a news conference as an example of how Trump may have received a financial benefit from another government figure, a potential violation of the Constitution’s ‘Foreign and Domestic Emoluments Clause.’” [*Portland Press Herald*, 3/29/18]

On One Trip, “Members of LePage’s Travel Group Spent Four Night at the Trump Hotel” While LePage Met With Trump Admin Officials and Testified Before Congress. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “During one trip, members of LePage’s travel group spent four nights at Trump International at a time when the governor met with top administration officials and testified before Congress on a national monument designation that he lobbied for the president to rescind.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 3/29/18]

LePage’s Security Team “Routinely Paid \$300 to \$500 Per Night – and Sometimes as Much as \$750 Per Night” to Stay at “Exclusive Hotels” in Downtown Washington, Despite There Being Other Less Expensive Options. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “However, state police documents showed that the governor's security team, which is required to accompany him on his travels, routinely paid \$300 to \$500 per night - and sometimes as much as \$750 per night - for rooms at exclusive hotels in a downtown Washington area that offers dozens of other, less expensive lodgings.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 3/29/18]

During One Stay at Trump Hotel, the Tab for LePage’s Security Team for Four Days Was \$2,250, Including \$40 Breakfasts and \$56/Day Valet Parking. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The stay at Trump International - a magnet for foreign dignitaries and Washington insiders, and a symbol of the murky line between the president's political and business interests - was a pricey one. All told, the tab for rooms, the \$56-per-day valet parking and food - including \$40 breakfasts from the hotel's BLT Prime restaurant - totaled \$2,250 just for LePage's security team.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 3/29/18]

Portland Press Herald In June 2017: LePage Planned Trip To DC To Meet With Trump, Marked LePage’s Fourth Trip To DC In Five Months. “Gov. Paul LePage is headed back to Washington, D.C., this week to meet with President Trump as part of a group discussion of energy issues. [...] This will be at least the fourth trip by LePage to Washington since February and at least his third event with Trump. In addition to a group governors' dinner with the president, LePage appeared with Trump during a signing ceremony for an executive order directing Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review more than two dozen national monuments, including Maine's Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.” [Press Herald, 6/27/17]

SALARY & BENEFITS

Salary & Miscellaneous Compensation

Headline: “Panel Backs Giving Next Governor a Raise; Gov. LePage Has Long Sought the Increase in Salary, Which is Now the Lowest of Any State.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18]

Headline: “LePage Proposes a Big Raise for Maines Next Governor.” [[*Bangor Daily News*, 3/21/18](#)]

In 2018, LePage Put Forward a Bill That Would More Than Double the Salary of the Next Governor. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Gov. Paul LePage moved one step closer to a long-sought victory Monday when a legislative committee overwhelmingly endorsed more than doubling the pay of the next governor, from \$70,000 a year to \$150,000. The State and Local Government Committee voted 11-1 in favor of increasing the salary, which is now the lowest of any state. The panel also approved amendments to the bill, offered by LePage, that would cap his retirement pay based on what he now makes. The committee voted that if a governor left office after the age of 70 his retirement would be based on his current salary. For LePage, who will be 70 when he finishes his term, that means his retirement pay will be equal to

three-eighths his current salary, or \$26,500, as provided under current law.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18]

- **The Committee Approved the Bill With Amendments Capping Retirement Benefits for Governors That Left Office After the Age of 70 Based on His Current Salary of \$70,000.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Gov. Paul LePage moved one step closer to a long-sought victory Monday when a legislative committee overwhelmingly endorsed more than doubling the pay of the next governor, from \$70,000 a year to \$150,000. The State and Local Government Committee voted 11-1 in favor of increasing the salary, which is now the lowest of any state. The panel also approved amendments to the bill, offered by LePage, that would cap his retirement pay based on what he now makes. The committee voted that if a governor left office after the age of 70 his retirement would be based on his current salary. For LePage, who will be 70 when he finishes his term, that means his retirement pay will be equal to three-eighths his current salary, or \$26,500, as provided under current law.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18]
- **The Bill Did Not Become Law.** [[Maine State Legislature, LD1878, 2018](#)]

LePage “Has Frequently Bemoaned His Salary, Saying at One Point That the Low Pay Made Him Feel Like a Priest or a Nun.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Unlike many states, Maine pays its governor less than most of the governor's senior staff, who are paid \$100,000 or more annually. LePage has repeatedly asked lawmakers to boost the salary for his successor, asserting that the state can't attract well-qualified candidates because of the low pay. He has frequently bemoaned his salary, saying at one point that the low pay made him feel like a priest or a nun.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18]

Maine’s Governor’s Salary at \$70,000 Was About \$17,000 Above Maine’s Median Income of \$53,079. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The current salary for a Maine governor is about \$17,000 above state's median household income of \$53,079. Under state law, governors also are allotted a \$35,000 annual personal expense account that is not subject to audit by the Legislature, bringing the governor's total compensation package to over \$100,000 a year. Governors also live without rent, utility or food expenses while at the official residence, the Blaine House.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18]

Maine Governors Also Receive an Annual \$35,000 “Personal Expense Account That is Not Subject to Audit by the Legislature, Bringing the Governor’s Total Compensation Package to Over \$100,000 a Year.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The current salary for a Maine governor is about \$17,000 above state's median household income of \$53,079. Under state law, governors also are allotted a \$35,000 annual personal expense account that is not subject to audit by the Legislature, bringing the governor's total compensation package to over \$100,000 a year. Governors also live without rent, utility or food expenses while at the official residence, the Blaine House.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18]

Maine Governors Live Rent-Free in the Blaine House and Don’t Pay Utility or Food Expenses While at the Residence. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The current salary for a Maine governor is about \$17,000 above state's median household income of \$53,079.

Under state law, governors also are allotted a \$35,000 annual personal expense account that is not subject to audit by the Legislature, bringing the governor's total compensation package to over \$100,000 a year. Governors also live without rent, utility or food expenses while at the official residence, the Blaine House.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18]

Since 2011, LePage or Republican Lawmakers Have Proposed Salary Increases for the Governor at Least Three Times, In 2016, 2017, and 2018. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The Legislature last increased the governor's salary in 1987, but since 2011 LePage or Republican lawmakers have proposed salary increases for the next governor at least three times, including in 2016, 2017 and again this year.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18]

- **In 2016, LePage Proposed a Bill to Increase the Next Governor’s Salary by \$80,000 Per Year to \$150,000 Annually.** According to the text of LD1679, “This bill increases the Governor's salary from \$70,000 per year to \$150,000 per year beginning January 2019.” The bill was killed. [[Maine State Legislature, LD1679, 2016](#)]

Health/Dental Insurance

In 2016, LePage’s Compensation Package Included a \$15,809 Health Insurance Plan, \$3,717 Towards His Retirement, \$814 for Life Insurance, and \$315 Dental Insurance Policy. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Beyond the expense account, governors are also afforded sizable benefit packages. In 2016, LePage's annual compensation package included a \$15,809 health insurance plan, \$3,717 toward his retirement, \$814 for life insurance and a \$315 dental insurance policy.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 4/3/18]

Life Insurance

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Retirement & Pension

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Effective Feb. 1, 2019, LePage Accepted His State-Funded Retirement Benefits Totaling \$2,187.50 Per Month, for a Total of \$26,250 Annually. According to a letter from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to Paul LePage, “Maine Public Employees Retirement

System (MainePERS) has completed the calculation of your retirement benefit. Your first benefit payment will be processed for the March 29, 2019 payroll and will include any retroactive benefits you are owed back to February 1, 2019, the effective date of your benefit. A Notice of Retirement, which provides you with details about your retirement benefit, is enclosed. Please carefully review this notice to make sure that it reflects the option and the beneficiary that you want to elect. You cannot change the option, and you can only change your beneficiary under very limited circumstances, once MainePERS issues your first payment. In addition, you cannot revoke your election once your first payment is issued.”

Notice of Retirement

Participant Data

Name of Recipient : Hon. Paul LePage

Benefit Effective Date : 02/01/2019

Service and Benefit Data

Benefit Type : Service Retirement

Benefit Option : Governor's Plan

Payment to your beneficiary will be made in accordance with the statutes in place at the time of your passing.

Plan	Final Comp	Total Credit	Monthly Amount
S Gov	\$ 70,000.00	8.1666	\$ 2,187.50
		8.1666	\$ 2,187.50

[Letter from MainePERS to Paul LePage, via FOAA, Dated 3/12/19]

Maine Governors Earn “a Lifetime Pension of \$26,000 a Year.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The governor, on the other hand, according to Jackson, earns a lifetime pension of \$26,000 a year on his or her first day in office.” [[Bangor Daily News, 3/25/13](#)]

HIRING AND STAFFING

Hiring Family Members

Paul Lepage Hired His “Fresh- From-College Daughter” To “A High-Level Administration Job” At A Salary That Is “\$10,000 More Than The Pay For Workers Who Pass The Teacher And Police Tests.” “As governor-elect in December 2010, LePage hired his daughter, a recent college graduate, to work for him in “a high-level administration job.” Lauren LePage earned \$40,455 in 2011 as the governor’s special assistant, according to payroll records.” At almost \$41,000 a year, Paul LePage’s “fresh- from-college daughter” was being paid “\$10,000 more than the pay for workers who pass the teacher and police tests. “‘I think the thing that really got people upset about the governor hiring his daughter is that she seemed to be really under-qualified for the job and the salary,’ said Sen. Cynthia Dill, D-Cape Elizabeth, who sponsored...[an] anti-nepotism bill as a state representative. Maine is in the minority of states that have no specific laws to limit the hiring of family members in government.” [Lewiston Sun Journal, 04/05/11; Seacoastonline.com, 03/17/12; The New York Times, 03/28/11]

Paul LePage Gave His Brother-In-Law “A \$68,577-A-Year Job” In The Lepage Administration. ““A brother-in-law of Gov. Paul LePage got a \$68,577-a-year job...[in

February 2012] with the State Planning Office. Jody Ledoux, who is married to a sister of first lady Ann LePage, became the agency's director of administrative services on Feb. 13 [2012], according to state payroll records. The job...[was] not expected to last even a full year." "Ledoux has years of professional experience that his supervisor says is related to the work...for the state." "Ledoux is well qualified for the work...said State Planning Office Director Peter Rogers." "Rogers said Ledoux is reviewing the state's leased facilities to identify ways to streamline or cut costs. Ledoux is working with officials in other departments, but the work is one of the roles of the State Planning Office, Rogers said. Ledoux has been a project manager in the construction industry in Maine, Massachusetts and Florida." "Ledoux is the second LePage family member to go to work in the executive branch." [Lewiston Sun Journal, 04/05/11, and Seacoastonline.com, 03/17/12]

Governor's Office Hiring

Paul LePage Made Businessman Dan Demeritt With A History Of Unpaid Taxes, An Income Tax Lien, Foreclosures, And A Long List Of Unpaid Business Debts "A Top Aide" In The Governor's Office. In 2011, "a top aide to Gov. Paul LePage...[lost] five buildings – including one destroyed by arson... to foreclosure." The aide was Dan Demeritt, "the governor's director of communications and legislative affairs." He described "himself on the Maine government website as a landlord and small business owner." A bank sought "default foreclosure judgments against Demeritt in Kennebec County Superior Court on properties at 11 Kinderhook and 23 and 31 Windsor streets in Randolph, and a two-family home at 34 North St., Augusta. The four-unit building at 23 Windsor St. was destroyed by a fire...[in April 2011] that the Office of the State Fire Marshal determined to be arson." "For the three-address parcel in Randolph, Demeritt ...[owed] \$251,191.47 for principal, interest, late charges, tax and insurance advances, and attorneys' fees." "For 34 North St., the bank...claims Demeritt... [owed] \$65,837.78 in principal, interest, late charges and attorneys' fees." "The bank also...filed foreclosure action to take the 611 Civic Center Drive property in Augusta, where Demeritt...[operated] Pizza Connection." He owed the bank, "according to the court complaint... \$182,090.51, including interest and late charges." In addition, "records at the city of Augusta assessor's office show unpaid taxes from two years on that property total \$6,217.50." "Besides the back taxes owed to the city of Augusta, he also...[had] liens from unpaid sewer bills on the properties subject to the foreclosure action and...[faced] a lien on an Augusta property at 11 School St. that is not in foreclosure." "Demeritt and his wife, Martha Currier-Demeritt, cleared one lien relatively promptly: On Dec. 7, 2010, they paid \$960.14 in unpaid income tax from 2008, clearing a lien Maine Revenue Service had filed against him in 2010." "He said he [also] owes money to vendors, including Steve's Appliance, and when he's paid every two weeks by the state, he sends checks to pay off those debts." (Kennebec Journal, 04/15/11) Dan Demeritt resigned from the governor's office in April 2011. (Portland Press Herald, 04/17/11)

- **LePage Top Aide Lost Multiple Houses to Foreclosure, Incurred Liens.** The Kennebec Journal reported, "A top aide to Gov. Paul LePage is losing five buildings -- including one destroyed by arson last week -- to foreclosure. Savings Bank of Maine wants judgment by default on property owned by Dan Demeritt, of Sidney, the governor's director of communications and legislative affairs... For the three-address parcel in Randolph, Demeritt owes \$251,191.47 for principal, interest, late charges, tax and

insurance advances, and attorneys' fees. The properties are valued for tax purposes at \$378,400, records in Randolph indicate... Besides the back taxes owed to the city of Augusta, he also has liens from unpaid sewer bills on the properties subject to the foreclosure action and faces a lien on an Augusta property at 11 School St. that is not in foreclosure.” [Kennebec Journal, 4/15/11]

APPOINTMENTS

“Perhaps The Most Commonly Heard Complaint Throughout The State House These Days Is That Those Anointed [By Paul Lepage] To Run Various Agencies Have Precious Little Idea How Those Operations Actually Function. What’s Worse, Second-Tier Managers Who Could Help Accelerate That Learning Curve Have Either Resigned Or Been Fired.”

“Perhaps the most commonly heard complaint throughout the State House these days is that those anointed to run various agencies have precious little idea how those operations actually function. What’s worse, second-tier managers who could help accelerate that learning curve have either resigned or been fired.” (Portland Press Herald, 04/29/11)

Mary Mayhew – DHHS

Paul Lepage Hired Mary Mayhew, A Corporate Lobbyist, To Run Maine’s Department Of Health And Human Services (DHHS). From the beginning, Mayhew was seriously unqualified for the job. She had no significant administrative credentials and her primary State House experience was as a lobbyist for the Maine Hospital Association.” (*Lewiston Sun Journal*, 04/05/11 and 03/25/12)

Bruce Poliquin – State Treasurer

Paul Lepage’s Handpicked State Treasurer Bruce Poliquin Has Been Dogged By Numerous Ethical Issues, Including Not Adequately Disclosing “His Business Income As Required By Maine Law,” Potentially Violating The Prohibition On “The State Treasurer... Engaging In Commerce While ...In Office,” And Taking A Tax Break To Which It Does Not Appear That He Was Entitled, Saving Him Between \$200,000 And \$250,000 In Property Taxes. Bruce “Poliquin was chosen by the Republican majority in the Legislature in December 2010 to serve as treasurer, following a recommendation from Gov. Paul LePage.” (Kennebec Journal, 02/28/12) “State Treasurer Bruce Poliquin did not adequately disclose his business income as required by Maine law, but he shouldn’t be fined for it. That’s the recommendation of the staff at the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices in response to a complaint filed by the Maine Democratic Party.” Poliquin “said he found the disclosure form confusing, leading him to omit three sources of income: Membership dues from his Popham Beach Club, non-cash income from Marshall Mall Associates and income his son received during a summer internship.” “Ethics staff said that Poliquin’s original income disclosure reported his ‘most significant income sources.’” The “staff didn’t recommend the maximum \$100 fine because Poliquin had already filed an amended income disclosure before the commission requested it.” Maine’s Constitution “prohibits the state treasurer from engaging in commerce while he or she is in office.” Bruce Poliquin owns “Dirigo Holdings LLC, a real estate business that runs the Popham Woods Condominiums in Phippsburg.” “Attorney General

William Schneider...issued an advisory opinion saying Poliquin should take steps to insulate himself from the Dirigo Holdings, such as establishing a blind trust.” “The treasurer issued a short written statement saying he would follow the AG’s advice.” “Prior to the AG’s opinion, Poliquin told radio station WGAN 560 that he was too busy to be involved with Dirigo Holdings and that the company was effectively managed by a bookkeeper. However, the AG report noted that Poliquin is ‘the sole member of and registered agent for Dirigo Holdings LLC.’ The report also noted that Poliquin is the sole signatory for the company checkbook.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 02/27/12) In addition, “he appeared before the Phippsburg Planning Board...to request permission to expand one of his businesses, the Popham Beach Club.” (Kennebec Journal, 02/28/12) “Poliquin...acknowledged that his appearance... [in 2011] before the Phippsburg Board of Selectmen advocating for the Beach Club was a mistake.” On the issue of taxation, Bruce Poliquin enrolled “his Georgetown waterfront property in the state’s 40-year-old Tree Growth Tax Program. Property owners enrolled in Tree Growth receive significant property tax breaks for engaging in harvesting activities designed to bolster the state’s forest products industry.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 02/27/12) “According to Mary McDonald, who is the assistant to the Georgetown Board of Selectmen, Poliquin enrolled in the program in 2004 when he applied to set aside 10 acres of his property for tree growth.” (Bangor Daily News, 02/02/12) “However, a deed restriction on Poliquin’s property appears to prohibit most of those activities. The restriction is enshrined in perpetuity, part of a land swap between the Nature Conservancy and the parcel’s previous owners.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 02/27/12) “The Maine Forest Service, in a 2009 report, identified the treasurer’s Georgetown property as an example of a possible misuse of that program.” ““For several reasons, including difficulty of road access and the restrictions on timber harvesting according to the state’s shoreland zoning regulations, the ability to harvest any timber on this property – even if that was the interest of the landowner – is extremely limited,” the MMA said in the report.” (Bangor Daily News, 02/02/12) “The Tree Growth program...allowed the treasurer to pay about \$30 a year on...[a] 10-acre parcel, a savings of roughly \$30,000 every year since he enrolled in the program in 2004.” In 2012 he “applied with the Georgetown Board of Selectmen to withdraw his land from the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law program, following claims that he’d misused the abatement law as a tax shelter.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 03/14/12) Paul “LePage stepped in to defend the treasurer, saying it was up to towns to enforce the law and that to this point he hadn’t heard any complaints. Towns are charged with enforcing the Tree Growth law.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 02/27/12)

Bill Beardsley – Maine Board of Education

Paul LePage Nominated To The Maine Board Of Education A College President Who Did Not Report Allegations Of Pedophilia, Even Though He Was Legally “Required To Report Such Allegations.” According to a news story with the headline, “LePage picks controversial commissioner for Board of Education,” Paul LePage nominated “Bill Beardsley to become a member of the Maine Board of Education.” When Bill Beardsley was the president of Husson College he was told “that the Rev. Bob Carlson, who was the chaplain at Husson from 1995 to 2006, sexually abused several children over 40 years, according to a person interviewed by the Maine State Police. Soon after police began investigating Carlson, he committed suicide.” “Beardsley, who would have been required to report such allegations, said he was warned about inappropriate sexual relationships involving Carlson but did not know minors were involved. ‘I

absolutely had no knowledge of any unlawful activity by Rev. Bob Carlson,' he" said. (The Portland Press Herald, 08/30/12)

- **Beardsley Said he Had no Knowledge of Unlawful Activity.** "Beardsley, who would have been required to report such allegations, said he was warned about inappropriate sexual relationships involving Carlson but did not know minors were involved. 'I absolutely had no knowledge of any unlawful activity by Rev. Bob Carlson,' he said earlier this month." [Morning Sentinel, 8/30/12]

Philip Congdon – Maine Department of Economic and Community Development

Paul LePage Appointed Tea Party Activist Philip Congdon To Be The Commissioner Of The Maine Department Of Economic And Community Development. Congdon "Admitted To Lawmakers At His Confirmation Hearing...That His Career...Had Precious Little To Do With The Art And Science Of Community And Economic Development" And "That Rural Development Was Something" He Had Not "Thought About." Paul LePage, in January 2011, appointed Philip Congdon, a "retired Texas Instruments executive," to be the commissioner of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. (Portland Press Herald, 01/24/11) He was also a "former member of the Maine Constitutionals, a tea party organization in Waldoboro." (Lewiston Sun Journal, 04/29/11) Philip Congdon "admitted to lawmakers at his confirmation hearing in January [2011] that his career with Texas Instruments had precious little to do with the art and science of community and economic development. And when asked at the same hearing how he planned to jump-start the economy of Aroostook County, Congdon unabashedly admitted that rural development was something 'I haven't thought about.' Apparently he still hasn't. In his now-infamous appearance before the Caribou Chamber of Commerce...Congdon left the entire audience in shocked silence after opining that a) universities have gone downhill since they started admitting blacks, b) things are in the state they are today because of poor parenting and c) the people in Aroostook County will prosper only if they 'get off the reservation' and get to work." (Portland Press Herald, 04/29/11)

- **He "Was Forced To Resign" After He Left An "Entire Audience In Shocked Silence After Opining That A) Universities Have Gone Downhill Since They Started Admitting Blacks, B) Things Are In The State They Are Today Because Of Poor Parenting And C) The People In Aroostook County Will Prosper Only If They 'Get Off The Reservation' And Get To Work."** In his now-infamous appearance before the Caribou Chamber of Commerce...Congdon left the entire audience in shocked silence after opining that a) universities have gone downhill since they started admitting blacks, b) things are in the state they are today because of poor parenting and c) the people in Aroostook County will prosper only if they 'get off the reservation' and get to work." (Portland Press Herald, 04/29/11) Democratic state Representative John Martin sent a letter to Paul LePage that "included...quotations attributed to Congdon. 'The following comments were reported to me,' Martin wrote in his letter dated April 25, 2011. 'The problem with higher education today dates back to the civil rights movement in the '60s that allowed blacks to enter colleges. That resulted in the large amount of remedial education required in colleges.' 'People in Aroostook County ought to get the hell off the reservation and create jobs for Aroostook County. You have not done a good job of

educating your kids.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 05/04/11) Congdon “was forced to resign...after reportedly making...[this] series of inappropriate comments.” (Portland Press Herald, 06/03/11) “LePage’s office announced the resignation of Congdon two days after receiving Martin’s letter.” “Congdon later told a Sun Journal reporter that he was misquoted and that his comments had been taken out of context. ‘Unfortunately, I thought I was talking to people who were sufficiently intelligent enough to understand my real meaning,’ Congdon told the Sun Journal a day later. ‘I was mistaken.’” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 05/04/11)

Darryl Brown – Department of Environmental Protection

Paul LePage’s First DEP Commissioner Had To Resign After The State Attorney General’s Office Determined He Is Ineligible To Serve In This Position Under State Law Because Of Conflicts Of Interest Involving His Consulting Firm. Darryl Brown, in April 2011, resigned “as commissioner of Maine’s Department of Environmental Protection after the Attorney General’s Office said he was ‘unqualified’ to serve under Maine law.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 04/28/11) “The Attorney General’s Office said it appeared Brown had a conflict of interest as DEP commissioner because of his financial interests in a consulting firm, Main-Land Development Consultants, that he owns. The firm represented developers as they sought DEP permits for projects.” (Bangor Daily News, 04/29/11) He “was forced to step down after Attorney General William Schneider informed him that those pesky environmentalists were right all along – conflict-of-interest laws prohibit Brown...from presiding over the DEP.” (Portland Press Herald, 04/29/11)

- **“Despite Early Evidence” That The Commissioner “Was Potentially Ineligible...The Administration” Did Not Investigate The Situation.** “Despite early evidence Brown was potentially ineligible...the administration” did not investigate the situation. “Instead, they relied on a preliminary inquiry conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and, for a time, Brown’s word that he was, in fact, eligible.” Two months before Darryl Brown resigned “two senior LePage administration aides talked with legislative leaders...about amending state law to ensure he could” stay in his cabinet post, but legislative leaders rejected the idea. Despite this outreach, Paul “LePage said he never asked legislative leaders to change the law while Brown was in office.” (Kennebec Journal, 05/01/11)
- **When It Became Obvious That There Was A Problem, The LePage Administration Tried To Change The Law To Keep The Commissioner In Office.** “By state law, anyone who has received, in the two previous years, at least 10 percent of their income directly or indirectly from clients who receive or apply for permits or licenses under the federal Clean Water Act may not be commissioner of the DEP. The state law mirrors federal law, except a violation of the federal law doesn’t make a commissioner ineligible to serve, but results in a loss of federal permitting authority. Maine Attorney General William Schneider issued a letter...that said it appeared Brown was ineligible. Schneider’s letter said that if Brown couldn’t produce documents showing there was no conflict of interest, he would be unqualified to serve. That created a problem for Brown, because Schneider noted that any documentation he provided would be considered public

record. Release of those records could hurt Brown's business, which consults for other companies on land-use issues, said Brown's personal attorney, L. Clinton Boothby." Earlier in 2011 "Brown insisted that he was eligible, saying, 'I am confident that I don't exceed the 10 percent threshold.' Brown said...that he was 'obviously' wrong, but that Maine's law is 'silliness.' 'It truly is nothing more than silliness,' he said. 'It precludes anybody with any kind of experience, and the kind of management that's required at a department like the Department of Environmental Protection, to be left out of the process and not be able to be involved.'" "LePage criticized Maine's law as 'inflexible.' He said he has spoken with legislative leaders about changing it." (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 04/28/11) "Rather than admit his choice for commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection was not properly cleared of potential conflicts under state and federal law and, therefore, a poor choice, Gov. Paul LePage blamed the needed conflict-of-interest law – and pledged to have it changed." (Bangor Daily News, 04/29/11)

- **Bangor Daily News Editorial: Brown a Poor Choice.** The Bangor Daily News opined of LePage's pick of Darryl Brown, "Rather than admit his choice for commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection was not properly cleared of potential conflicts under state and federal law and, therefore, a poor choice, Gov. Paul LePage blamed the needed conflict-of-interest law — and pledged to have it changed. Lawmakers can't go along with this." [Bangor Daily News editorial, 4/28/11]

Joseph Ponte – Maine Department of Corrections

Corrections Corp. Of America, In 2010, Indirectly Contributed \$25,000 To Paul LePage's Gubernatorial Campaign. Paul LePage, In 2011, Appointed A Corrections Corp. Of America Executive To Head The Maine Department Of Corrections. Paul LePage appointed Joseph Ponte "to lead the Department of Corrections." At the time of the appointment he was "the warden of a prison in Nevada that's owned by Corrections Corp. of America, the country's largest private-sector corrections company." At the time of the appointment "Ponte said he still owns stock in Corrections Corp. of America and has no plans to give it up." "Ponte has more than 40 years of public- and private-sector experience in corrections, having served in corrections departments in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Idaho." "Town officials in Milo have been in touch with Corrections Corp. of America since 2008 about the prospect of building a for-profit prison there, but the company has refused to commit unless Maine law is changed to allow prisoners to serve time in private facilities. The company donated \$25,000 to the Republican Governors Association, which transferred the money to its Maine political action committee. The committee spent its money to help elect LePage." (Kennebec Journal, 01/25/11) In effect, Corrections Corp. of America "contributed \$25,000 to LePage's election campaign through a contribution to the Republican Governors Association." (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/25/11) Paul "LePage said there is no connection between the prospect of a prison in Milo, Corrections Corp. of America's donation and his selection of Ponte." He "said the position was offered to people from Maine, but 'they refused it because we couldn't pay enough.'" (Kennebec Journal, 01/25/11) Corrections Corp. of America has no facilities in Maine.
(www.cca.com/facilities/?state=ME)

Patricia Aho – Department of Environmental Protection

Paul LePage Made A Lobbyist For Oil And Chemical Producers, Including “Companies Opposing The BPA” Ban, The DEP Commissioner. Paul LePage named Patricia Aho the Deputy Commissioner of DEP in February 2011. She is “a former lobbyist for...companies opposing the BPA rule.” (Bangor Daily News, 02/05/11) “As a lobbyist in 2010, Aho represented several clients before the Legislature, including auto manufacturers, the American Chemistry Council, the American Petroleum Institute, Casella Waste Systems, Dead River Co., Poland Spring and Verso Paper, according to the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.” (Portland Press Herald, 09/10/11) Paul LePage later named Patricia Aho the DEP commissioner. “The state Senate in September [2011] approved the appointment.” (Portland Press Herald, 10/16/11)

Richard McGoldrick – Finance Authority of Maine

LePage Nominated Richard McGoldrick to FAME, But McGoldrick Withdrew His Name from Consideration After It Emerged That LePage Had Already Committed to Appointing Someone Else to the Role. According to the Kennebec Journal, LePage admitted his error in the appointment of Richard McGoldrick who “requested that the administration withdraw his nomination to the agency that is redeveloping the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. McGoldrick's email was triggered by LePage's failure to reappoint Susan Snowden to the Finance Authority of Maine, which provides access to low-interest financing to development projects... LePage acknowledged the error, writing that he had committed to re-seat Snowden... The correspondence, obtained through a Freedom of Access Act request by the Portland Press Herald, explains why two of the governor's more than 70 nominees withdrew before last week's confirmation hearings at the State House. It also sheds light on recent protests from a Brunswick official that appointments to the base redevelopment agency, and perhaps others, are based more on politics and favors than expertise.” [Kennebec Journal, [9/12/12](#)]

- **McGoldrick Donated to LePage, Republican Party.** “McGoldrick is a frequent participant in the political process. In 2010, he donated \$750 to LePage's campaign, the maximum allowed at the time. He also gave \$1,500 to the Maine Republican Party.” [Kennebec Journal, [9/12/12](#)]

Unfilled Positions

Bangor Daily News: LePage Left “Hundreds Of Vacant Seats On State Boards And Commissions.” “Gov. Janet Mills is now more than two months into her tenure and has made many breaks from former Gov. Paul LePage, but she and her administration have barely begun to fill hundreds of vacant seats on state boards and commissions. Those spots often fly under the radar when it comes to observing state government, but there are more than 300 of these groups that help advise policymakers and regulate most facets of life, from the Maine Public Utilities Commission to the State Board of Funeral Service.” [Bangor Daily News, 3/14/19]

PARDONS

As Governor, LePage Issued 236 Pardons to 115 People – Less Often Than His Four Immediate Predecessors.

According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “But the governor issued three pardons at the same time late last month, according to Kristen Muszynski, a spokeswoman for Secretary of State Matt Dunlap. LePage spokeswoman Julie Rabinowitz said Wednesday that he issued up to 10 more on his final day as governor. It brings LePage's total to 236 pardons to 115 people, according to Muszynski. Rabinowitz said the new ones resulted from the last meeting of a pardon board in November and were ‘standard practice.’ He looks to have used his clemency power less often than the four governors who preceded him.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 1/3/19]

- **Gubernatorial Pardons are not Public Records.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “While Pierce confirmed that he had been pardoned, these pardons aren't public records after a 2017 law made them confidential. Maine State Archivist David Cheever said he'd only release them if a governor authorized it. That question would likely be in Mills' hands now.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 1/3/19]

Headline: LePage Pardons Ex-Lawmaker for Felony Drug Trafficking; the Move Could Affect an Investigation into Whether Jeffrey Pierce Hunted Illegally.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 1/2/19]

- **In 2019, LePage Pardoned Former State Rep. Jeffrey Pierce of a Felony Drug Trafficking Conviction from 35 Years Prior.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “A former Maine legislator who was convicted of felony drug trafficking 35 years ago has been pardoned by outgoing Republican Gov. Paul LePage. Former state Rep. Jeffrey Pierce, R-Dresden, told Maine Public that he had requested clemency for the conviction and was notified by LePage's staff that the governor signed the pardon late last week.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 1/2/19]

VETO RECORD

LePage Vetoed 642 Bills During His Eight Years in Office, 173 More Bills Than the Past 23 Governors Combined, Going Back to 1917. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The Republican governor crushed all records for vetoes during his eight years in office. He vetoed 642 bills. That's more than his predecessors Democrat John Baldacci (eight) and independent Angus King (50). In fact, LePage vetoed 173 more bills than the past 23 governors, combined. That's going back to 1917.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/30/18]

LePage Named His Dog “Veto.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “He even named his pet dog Veto, a testament to the centrality of the veto pen to his style of governance.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/30/18]

***Bangor Daily News*: LePage Left Office As “Maine’s All-Time Veto Leader And Presider Over A 2017 State Shutdown.”** “Mills broke with LePage to look for consensus on key issues. Progressives are wondering if that's the right tactic. Bipartisan deals on big issues were few and far between during the hard-charging administration of LePage, Maine's all-time veto leader and presider over a 2017 state shutdown.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 6/6/19]

- **Bangor Daily News: LePage Issued 643 Vetoes During Tenure As Governor; Maine Governors Had Previously Issued Total Of 469 Vetoes Combined.** “House Republicans upheld the 643rd -- and possibly final -- veto of LePage's eight years in office. Governors dating back to 1917 issued only 469 of vetoes in total. On Thursday, 46 Republicans backed LePage in nixing a bill to allocate \$334,000 to cover unforeseen costs of the 2018 election that were sprung on lawmakers by Secretary of State Matt Dunlap last month.” [Bangor Daily News, 9/13/18]
- **Bangor Daily News: LePage Forced 2017 Government Shutdown After Vetoing Budget From Senate GOP And Democrats.** “LePage forced a shutdown after vetoing a budget from Senate Republicans and Democrats, and relying on House Republicans to block it and other proposals until they cut a deal ending the three-day shutdown.” [Bangor Daily News, 9/13/18]

Sun Journal Editorial: LePage Uses Veto Pen “For Political Punishment” Rather Than Executive Power. “Gov. Paul LePage really, really likes his veto pen, a tool he has used to veto more legislation than any other governor in Maine recorded history. Traditionally speaking, the veto pen is seen as a source of executive power but Maine's current governor appears to be using that pen for political punishment.” [Sun Journal—Editorial, 4/29/14]

Morning Sentinel: “Nearly All Of LePage’s Vetoes Were Overturned” By Votes That Included “Every Republican In The Legislature.” “As his tax plan went down in flames, deep divisions erupted between the governor and Republicans in the Legislature and, in the end, nearly all of LePage's vetoes were overturned, in many cases by votes that included every Republican in the Legislature. Much of that -- and particularly the unanimous veto overrides -- was unprecedented for a sitting governor of a major political party in Maine. By the end of the legislative session, LePage had managed to move from the heights of his power to what seemed like a tragic figure in a dusty bunker, barking orders to phantom armies.” [Morning Sentinel, Alan Caron Column, 9/19/15]

ABUSE OF POWER

Bangor Daily News Editorial Headline: “When a Law Has No Meaning, the Governor Must be LePage.” [Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 8/3/18]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: LePage Abused His Power by Holding Up the Sale of Voter-Approved Bonds, Vetoing Bills After the Deadline Had Passed, Blocked Medicaid Expansion, and Held Up Financial Orders to Transfer Funding to Political Candidates. According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “During his administration, LePage has held up the sale of voter-approved bonds. He's attempted to veto bills after the deadline for vetoing them has passed. More recently, he's stood in the way of the Medicaid expansion voters approved but which he's consistently opposed. And he's held up financial orders that would transfer money lawmakers have already budgeted to political candidates relying on the state's public campaign financing system, a move that is a violation of the law, a judge ruled Thursday.” [Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 8/3/18]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “It’s a Sad State of Affairs When so Little Trust in the Basic Workings of Government is Warranted, But Such is the State of Maine Government Under LePage.” According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “It’s a sad state of affairs when so little trust in the basic workings of government is warranted, but such is the state of Maine government under LePage. Among the most pressing priorities for Maine’s next governor will be to restore the public’s confidence that a law on the books actually means something.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 8/3/18]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “It’s Clear That After Seven Years, LePage Still Doesn’t Understand His Job. He is the Governor, Not the King, and His Power is Limited.” According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “It’s clear that after seven years, LePage still doesn’t understand his job. He is the governor, not the king, and his power is limited.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 7/15/18]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “The Governor Should Not Get to Decide Which Laws He Feels Like Enforcing.” According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “The governor should not get to decide which laws he feels like enforcing. The judges should treat his position with the same regard he has for them.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 7/15/18]

TEMPERAMENT AS GOVERNOR

Bipartisanship

Bangor Daily News: Bipartisan Deals On Big Issues “Were Few And Far Between During The Hard-Charging Administration Of LePage.” “Mills broke with LePage to look for consensus on key issues. Progressives are wondering if that’s the right tactic. Bipartisan deals on big issues were few and far between during the hard-charging administration of LePage, Maine’s all-time veto leader and presider over a 2017 state shutdown.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/6/19]

Kennebec Journal Editorial: LePage “Won’t be Able to Talk About the Times He Got Everyone to Work Together for the Common Good, Because There Aren’t Any.” According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, “The chief executive will likely toot his own horn during the speech, taking credit for Maine’s low unemployment rate and other benefits of the long national recovery that happened to coincide with his term in office. But he won’t be able to talk about the times he got everyone to work together for the common good, because there aren’t any.” [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 2/11/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News: “Lawmakers, Party Affiliation Aside, Are Breathing A Sigh Of Relief To Have Gov. Paul LePage ‘In The Rearview Mirror.’” “House Speaker Sara Gideon, who on Wednesday earned a second term as leader of the Legislature’s lower chamber, said that she and other lawmakers, party affiliation aside, are breathing a sigh of relief to have Gov. Paul LePage ‘in the rearview mirror.’” [Bangor Daily News, 12/10/18]

Maine Senate President Troy Jackson: Many Democrats And Republicans Looked “Forward To A Better Working Relationship” After LePage Left Office. “Sen. Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, last session’s Senate minority leader, was chosen to replace Sen. Mike

Thibodeau, R-Winterport, as Senate president. Jackson and Gideon said recently that the 129th Legislature brings potential for bipartisan deal-making that hasn't come in almost a decade. [...] 'Despite anything that Gov. LePage might've done over his eight years, there's a lot of Democrats and Republicans that look forward to a better working relationship,' Jackson said, by 'not having this constant adversarial mindset.'" [St. John Valley Times, 12/10/18]

Portland Press Herald: LePage "Denied Citizens In District 32 Representation In The State Senate" By Refusing To Seat Elected Democrat As Retaliation For Unemployment Board Pick Rejection. "Gov. Paul LePage says he will swear in a newly elected state senator Tuesday afternoon, ending a spat with Democratic legislators [...] LePage's move made Deschambault the pawn in yet another tussle between the Republican governor and legislative Democrats, several of whom voted Thursday to reject his nominee to the Unemployment Insurance Commission. LePage officials acknowledged Friday that the governor's decision to cancel Deschambault's swearing-in ceremony was in retaliation for Democrats' "despicable" spurning of Steven Webster, his pick for the unemployment board. The tit-for-tat prompted Democrats to charge that LePage effectively denied citizens in District 32 representation in the state Senate. The District 32 seat has been vacant since former Sen. David Dutremble, D-Biddeford, resigned in January." [Press Herald, 4/5/16]

"Vengeful" and Insulting

Paul LePage, According To The American Conservative, Is Hostile And "Quick To Anger." He "Wears His Vengeful Reputation Proudly." Paul LePage is "quick to anger." He "wears his vengeful reputation proudly." "But underneath all of the hostility to his colleagues, expert opinion, and the press, LePage has some serious accomplishments to his name. In his first year as governor LePage passed a two-year budget – with supermajorities in both chambers – that included the state's largest ever tax cut and a lowering of the top income tax rate from 8.5 to 7.95 percent." (The American Conservative, 09/01/12)

According To A Portland Press Herald Editorial, Paul LePage "Steps On Toes, Insults Opponents, [And] Impanels Secret Discussion Groups." According to a Portland Press Herald editorial, Paul LePage "steps on toes, insults opponents, impanels secret discussion groups and brashly pursues policy initiatives that, in some cases, are very likely opposed by a majority of Mainers." (Portland Press Herald, 03/13/11)

According To A News Story With The Headline, "LePage Swears, Storms Out Of Meeting With Independent House Members, Lawmakers Say," The Governor "Swore, Pounded A Table And Stormed Out Of A Meeting With [The Only] Three Independent House Members." They Said "The Governor Called Them 'Idiots.'" According to a news story with the headline, "LePage swears, storms out of meeting with independent House members, lawmakers say," the governor "swore, pounded a table and stormed out of a meeting with [the only] three independent House members...according to the lawmakers. The trio said they hoped to talk to the governor about alternate approaches to balancing the state budget. Instead, the lawmakers said the governor called them 'idiots.'" (*Lewiston Sun Journal*, 01/22/13)

- **One Of These Three House Members Said, “I Was Somewhat In Shock. I Have Worked With Every Governor... Since Gov. [John] Reed” In The 1980s. “There’s No Comparison To Gov. LePage,” He Said. “The trio are the only members of the 151-member Maine House who aren’t caucusing with either the Republican or Democratic parties.”** State Representative Ben “Chipman said the unenrolled members went into their meeting with LePage intent on discussing the governor’s post- Christmas \$35.5 million spending curtailment order and his...two-year budget proposal.” When Representative Jeff “Evangelos brought up concerns from municipal leaders in his midcoast district that the elimination of revenue sharing – designed to save the state nearly \$200 million during the two-year budget cycle – could cause property taxes to spike hundreds of dollars for an average property owner, LePage grew irritated, [Representative Joe] Brooks, Chipman and Evangelos said...in separate telephone interviews. He raised his hands over his head, then pounded the table, Brooks said. “You guys, you’re idiots and you’re just as bad if not worse than those other guys,” LePage said, according to Brooks. ‘I assumed that he was talking about the Democrats.’ ‘He went right through the roof when I asked him the question,’ Evangelos said. ‘He flew up like a jack-in-the-box and ran out of the room and slammed the door.’” “Brooks, Chipman and Evangelos thought the meeting was over just a minute after it began, but LePage returned minutes later. ‘When he came back in the room, he was hollering at us and swearing at us,’ Evangelos said.” “‘I was somewhat in shock. I have worked with every governor, for heaven’s sake, since Gov. [John] Reed,’ said Brooks, who is serving his fourth term in the Legislature and worked for the Bangor Daily News before he was elected to the Legislature. ‘There’s no comparison to Gov. LePage.’” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/22/13)

PPH Editorial: Paul LePage “Recklessly Established A Culture Of So- Called ‘Straight Talk’ That More Often Than Not Manifests Itself In Outrageous Pronouncements And Hurtful Wisecracks That Leave Many Mainers At Least Shaking Their Heads.” According to an editorial with the headline, “Gov. LePage acts like he’s in over his head; Personnel meltdowns...show a management style unsuited to public office,” Paul LePage “recklessly established a culture of so-called ‘straight talk’ that more often than not manifests itself in outrageous pronouncements and hurtful wisecracks that leave many Mainers at least shaking their heads and sometimes shaking their fists.” (*Portland Press Herald*, 05/01/11)

Unwilling to Negotiate

Bangor Daily News Editorial: LePage Has “Bullied and Insulted Those Who Disagree With Him. As a Result, Much of LePage’s Agenda Has Withered on the Sidelines.” According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “LePage has had seven years to work with lawmakers, to persuade them that his priorities -- and his plans to meet them -- are the right ones for Maine. Instead, he has bullied and insulted those who disagree with him. As a result, much of LePage's agenda has withered on the sidelines.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 2/14/18]

Kennebec Journal Editorial: “LePage is Not Big on Checks and Balances. Whether it’s a Voter-Approved Bond He Won’t Issue, a Life-Saving Medicine He Won’t Distribute or a Renewable Energy Project He Can Disrupt, the Governor Knows How to Say ‘No.’” According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, “LePage is not big on checks and balances.

Whether it's a voter-approved bond he won't issue, a life-saving medicine he won't distribute or a renewable energy project he can disrupt, the governor knows how to say 'no.'" [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 2/11/18](#)]

Republican Criticism/Opposition to LePage

Eight Republican State Senators Wrote A Letter "Criticizing Gov. Paul LePage...For Making Demeaning Comments About Members Of The Public."

"Eight Republican Senators are criticizing Gov. Paul LePage openly for making demeaning comments about members of the public, and they are urging him to take a more civil tone." (Kennebec Journal, 04/02/11)

"'Belittling comments, whether they come from the governor or his opponents, have no place in Maine public life,' the senators wrote." (Portland Press Herald, 04/05/11) They said, "we feel compelled to express our discomfort and dismay with the tone and spirit of some of the remarks he has made." (Bangor Daily News, 04/04/11) "'Were these isolated incidents, we would bite our collective tongues, because we are all human and make mistakes. But, unfortunately, they are not isolated but frequent. Therefore, we feel we must speak out,'" they said in a

"column...written by Sen. Roger Katz of Augusta and Sen. Brian Langley Ellsworth. Six other senators added their names to the column. They are Sen. Thomas Saviello of Wilton, Sen. Chris Rector of Thomaston, Sen. Nichi Farnham of Bangor, Sen. Earle McCormick of West Gardiner, Sen. Roger Sherman of Houlton and Sen. Thomas Martin of Benton." (Kennebec Journal, 04/02/11)

"'By demeaning others, the governor...discourages people from taking part in debating the issues of the day – worrying if not only their ideas, but they themselves as people, will be the subject of scorn,' the document reads." "The Republican senators go on to criticize LePage for putting down others who disagree with him and diverting attention from important issues as evidenced during the recent removal of a mural from the Department of Labor offices."

(Bangor Daily News, 04/02/11) "On LePage's decision to order the...[removal] of the mural from the Maine Department of Labor, the senators state in their letter that the issue represents a legitimate disagreement between the governor and labor. 'But for (LePage) to announce that he would 'laugh at the idiots' should they choose to engage in our honored tradition of civil disobedience is another personal attack that only serves to further lower the bar of our public discourse,' the senators say in their column." (Kennebec Journal, 04/02/11) They called "on the governor to reject 'government by disrespect.'" "'The governor is the leader of our party,' Rector said. 'He reflects on all of us who are also Republicans and are worried about being painted with the same brush. We wanted to indicate that what's been happening is unfortunate and unproductive.'" (Bangor Daily News, 04/02/11)

- **State "Sen. Ronald Collins, R-Wells, Who Did Not Sign The Letter, Said That He And Other Republicans Who Did Not Sign The Letter Share Some Of The Same Concerns."** "Sen. Ronald Collins, R-Wells, who did not sign the letter, said that he and other Republicans who did not sign the letter share some of the same concerns." "He said some of LePage's comments, such as telling the NAACP to 'kiss my butt,' have made it more difficult for the Legislature to enact his agenda, which is create jobs and lower taxes." (Kennebec Journal, 04/02/11)
- **In Response To This Letter The Portland Press Herald Said, "Maine Needs A Leader In The Governor's Office, Not A Self- Indulgent Troublemaker Prone To**

Starting Fights ‘Not Worth Fighting.’” The Portland Press Herald said, “the senators’ op- ed was encouraging not only because it put the governor on notice that his behavior is unacceptable, but also because it demonstrates emphatically and dramatically that criticism of the governor is not the exclusive province of the media and opponents of his policy agenda.” “Maine needs a leader in the governor’s office, not a self-indulgent troublemaker prone to starting fights ‘not worth fighting,’” the Portland Press Herald said. (Portland Press Herald, 04/05/11)

August 2016: Maine GOP Senator Amy Volk Said She Was Concerned About LePage’s Behavior Saying She Wasn’t Sure If He Suffered From Substance Abuse, Mental Illness, Or Just Ignorance.” On August 28, 2016, Maine GOP Senator Amy Volk reacted to a violent voicemail LePage left for a Democratic lawmaker saying, “Dear friends and constituents, I share your deep concerns regarding the governor’s behavior. What I do not know is whether it is due to substance abuse, mental illness or just ignorance. I certainly hope that his family and small circle of close staff are considering how best to address the issue. Things definitely appear to be out of control. Leadership is considering whether we need a special session of the legislature. Some sort of censure would seem appropriate and I would welcome the ability to go on the record with a vote.” [Facebook, Honorable Amy Volk, [8/28/16](#)]

Maine GOP Senator Amy Volk: I Would Call LePage “If I Felt The Governor And I Were Friends” But “We Do Not Have That Sort Of Relationship.” On August 28, 2016, Maine GOP Senator Amy Volk said she didn’t feel like her and Paul LePage were friendly enough to have a conversation about his inappropriate behavior saying, “up until this point, I have refrained from publicly criticizing any of the governor’s behavior both out of respect for the office and a desire to preserve a working relationship with him and his staff, but this latest and the unwelcome attention it has brought to our state is a bridge too far for me. If I felt the governor and I were friends, I would give him a call or sit down with him, but we do not have that sort of relationship. He has family, he has friends and he has staff, I ask them to intervene as well as they can.” [Facebook, Honorable Amy Volk, [8/28/16](#)]

June 2018: Maine GOP Senator Amy Volk Celebrated Judge Forcing LePage To Submit Plan For Medicaid Expansion. On June 5, 2018, Maine GOP Senator Amy Volk posted on Facebook, “Judge orders LePage to submit plan for Medicaid expansion and I think this is a good thing. Conservative states across the country have models we can learn from. It’s time to implement what voters approved.” [Facebook, Honorable Amy Volk, [6/5/18](#)]

August 2016: Maine GOP Senator Amy Volk Reacted To Comments LePage Made About Wanted To Duel Member Of The Maine Legislature By Calling For Civility In Public Debate. On August 30, 2016, Amy Volk posted an Op-Ed by a fellow legislator that criticized LePage For uncivil comments made amid public debate, Volk agreed with the piece calling for LePage to be more civil. [Facebook, Honorable Amy Volk, [8/30/16](#)]

Sun Journal Editorial Headline: “Some Republican Lawmakers Frustrated With Paul LePage.” [Sun Journal—Editorial, 6/27/15]

- **Maine GOP Strategist: GOP Members Of The Legislature Said They “Are Done” With LePage Due To His Retreat To His Office And Flurry Of Vetoes.** “Critics say his decision to retreat to his office and issue a flurry of vetoes shows a lack of leadership and that his attacks on fellow Republicans are counterproductive. Finally, they say his latest actions, including meddling in a charter school's personnel decisions, are distracting from his agenda. ‘There are members of the Legislature that have stood beside Gov. LePage through thick and thin that are saying that they are done with him. That's something that I've never heard before,’ said Lance Dutson, a Republican strategist who worked on several high-profile political campaigns, including those of Maine Sen. Susan Collins and New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte.” [Sun Journal—Editorial, 6/27/15]
- **GOP Maine Senators Tom Saviello, Roger Katz Said LePage Took Partisan Politics To “A New, Dark Level” And Was “Angry And Vindictive.”** “This week, the Democratic speaker of the House of Representatives accused him of blackmailing a school for at-risk youth by threatening to withhold state funds unless they fired him for the top job there. House Speaker Mark Eves says he's considering suing LePage. After that incident, Saviello said LePage took partisan politics so a ‘new, dark level.’ GOP Sen. Roger Katz called his actions ‘personal, angry and vindictive.’ A Maine newspaper splashed the headline ‘Gov. LeRage.’ Another newspaper's editorial board suggested that he should be investigated for possible impeachment.” [Sun Journal—Editorial, 6/27/15]
- **LePage’s “Strong-Arm” Tactics Often “Backfired” And Pushed GOP To Side With Democrats To Override LePage’s Vetoes.** “LePage's strong-arm tactics have often backfired, observers say, pushing Republicans to join Democrats more often than not to override the more than 100 vetoes he has issued so far this session. ‘It's just striking how quickly he squandered any political capital he gained from his re-election,’ said Phil Bartlett, chairman of the Maine Democratic Party.” [Sun Journal—Editorial, 6/27/15]

Morning Sentinel: LePage “Not Great At Inspiring Positive Change,” Ignored GOP Allies In State Legislature For “Go-It-Alone” Approach On Tax Reform. “LePage ignored his Republican allies in the State House and the Legislature as a whole. One problem: The Legislature is not an indifferent bystander, but an equal branch of government. That go-it-alone approach underscores LePage's limitations as a leader. He has very few tools in his leadership toolbox. He's not great at inspiring positive change. Nobody has accused him of bringing people together to solve problems. And he instinctively isolates himself from anyone who isn't 100 percent compliant.” [Morning Sentinel—Editorial, 9/19/15]

Morning Sentinel: LePage “Lost The Confidence And Trust Of Many Of His Allies” And “His Threats Are No Longer Taken Seriously By Legislators.” “LePage has lost that power, because he's lost the confidence and trust of many of his allies. His threats are no longer taken seriously by legislators. They've stood up to the bully and won, and others will follow. For a leader who relies on threats to “lead,” this is a profound change. Republicans no doubt will try to put the best face on all this, as they must, going into the next round of elections, but LePage's legacy is now largely written. He'll, of course, still make annual speeches to the Legislature and propose required budgets. But nobody is listening. For all practical purposes, LePage has become a three-year lame duck.” [Morning Sentinel—Editorial, 9/19/15]

GOP Maine State Senator Roger Katz: LePage's Inability To Be Viewed As Role Model Was Hopefully "A Blip On The Screen." "Sen. Roger Katz, R-Augusta, who is also termed out, said the presidents and some Maine governors who he looked up to as a kid took seriously the responsibility of being a positive role model for the people they were leading. 'Sadly, I don't think we've experienced that in the last eight years,' Katz said. 'I hope that is a blip on the screen and that the next chief executive, no matter who it is, will understand what a real responsibility that is.'" [Press Herald, 9/14/18]

Bangor Daily News: Maine Senate Republicans Found "Odd Allies, The Democrats," Against LePage And Minority Of House GOP. "The 128th Maine Legislature, which presided over a state shutdown last year and stretched nearly five months past its scheduled end in 2018, closed its work for the year on Thursday -- but not without dealing with Gov. Paul LePage's late threat to call it back. This Legislature was defined by battles between Senate Republicans and their odd allies, the Democrats, against the Republican governor and the minority group of mostly conservative House Republicans in whom LePage's legislative power almost solely rested." [Bangor Daily News, 9/13/18]

Press Herald Columnist Greg Kesich: LePage "Stole The Show" In Campaign Appearance For GOP Maine US Senate Candidate, Eric Brakey, By Saying He Was Moving To Florida. "The celebrity guest at the news conference stole the show. Instead of staying on the Brakey message, Gov. LePage took the opportunity to make some news of his own. In response to a reporter's question, the governor announced that he would be getting out of Maine as soon as possible, choosing to spend his golden years in Florida so he won't have to pay so much in taxes. And suddenly, nobody wanted to ask about Brakey's poster, with its colored boxes and timelines. Conspiracy theories are fun, but it's not every day you hear a governor say that he can't wait to get out of his own state." [Portland Press Herald, Greg Kesich Column, 11/11/18]

[*Attacks on Fellow Republicans*](#)

Morning Sentinel Columnist Alan Caron Headline: "LePage's Overreach Alienates Even Some Fellow Republicans." [Morning Sentinel, Alan Caron Column, 6/5/15]

- **Caron: GOP PAC Run By LePage's Daughter Attacked GOP Senate President Michael Thibodeau Over Compromising With Democrats To Pass State Budget.** Morning Sentinel contributor Alan Caron remarked in June 2015, "Outside of Augusta, a Republican PAC run by Gov. Paul LePage's daughter is attacking Republican Senate President Michael Thibodeau, of Winterport, in his home district, for having the audacity to support compromises on the budget. What they don't seem to understand is that the state budget requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature, a majority that cannot be achieved without those dreaded compromises from all sides. Thibodeau and others are being accused of two crimes that agitate the most far-right Republicans. One is the notion of consorting with the enemy. The other is living in the real world." [Morning Sentinel, Alan Caron Column, 6/5/15]

- **Caron: LePage Was “Being Routed In This Legislature” As He Was Headed Toward “Nearly Complete Rejection Of His Second-Term Agenda.** “While we're still a few weeks away from the last hours of this Legislature, the ending is already coming into focus. LePage is headed toward a nearly complete rejection of his second-term agenda. Aside from the crumbs that the Legislature will throw at him when they can, he's being routed in this Legislature. Budget negotiators from both parties already have agreed to scrap LePage's sales tax increases, along with deep cuts in income taxes, revenue sharing cuts to towns and most other elements of the governor's budget.” [Morning Sentinel, Alan Caron Column, 6/5/15]
- **Caron: LePage Vowed Not To Sign Any Bills Sponsored By Democrats, Threatened To Oppose GOP In Next Election After Tax, Energy Initiatives Were Rejected By Legislature.** “Budget negotiators from both parties already have agreed to scrap LePage's sales tax increases, along with deep cuts in income taxes, revenue sharing cuts to towns and most other elements of the governor's budget. On the energy front, the Senate this week voted unanimously for an energy-efficiency bill that will fix a simple clerical error in an earlier bill, and dismisses the changes that LePage demanded. On issue after issue, in fact, the Legislature is ignoring LePage's ideas and overriding his vetoes. LePage has responded, not surprisingly, by lashing out in all directions. Last week, he held one of the most bizarre news conferences by a sitting governor in anyone's memory. In what can only be called a tantrum, he threatened to oppose Republicans during next year's campaigns. He also promised not to sign any bills sponsored by Democrats, or release any bonds, no matter how important they are to Maine.” [Morning Sentinel, Alan Caron Column, 6/5/15]
- **Caron: LePage Became GOP’s “Great Divider.”** “Most of us who follow these things marveled at LePage's newfound political skill in uniting Republicans around these ideas, some of which the party, and its current legislative leaders, had fought just a few years back. Republicans must be awestruck by LePage's election, I thought, and they're all falling in line. It turns out, as we now know, that LePage hadn't even talked with fellow Republicans, who learned about his bold plan just like you and I did, by following the news. So rather than being the new Republican unifier, LePage has quickly become the Great Divider.” [Morning Sentinel, Alan Caron Column, 6/5/15]

Morning Sentinel Columnist Caron: LePage “Attacked Fellow Republicans On Radio” And Began To “Veto All Bills From The Legislature” After His Tax Plan Was Rejected.

“You know the particulars. LePage launched a big tax plan. The Legislature, which hadn't been consulted on any of it, didn't like it. That made LePage mad, which in turn seemed to make him irrational. He began to veto all bills from the Legislature, chortling about ‘wasting their time.’ He attacked fellow Republicans on radio and managed to get Democratic House Speaker Mark Eves fired from his new job at Good Will-Hinckley by threatening to withhold funds from the school.” [Morning Sentinel, Alan Caron Column, 9/19/15]

Morning Sentinel Columnist Caron: LePage Pursued Tax Rewrite That Would Lower Income Taxes, Increase Taxes On Services And Tourists; Plan Was “Energetically Opposed By Republican Leaders.” “They concluded that it was time to firmly establish

LePage's legacy as The People's Champion. It was time to go big. They ultimately settled on an idea that was shockingly ambitious: LePage would rewrite Maine's tax laws to lower income taxes, and pay for it by increasing taxes on services and tourists. It was an idea long supported by moderates and Democrats, and energetically opposed by Republican leaders. At that moment, LePage's self-destruction began -- not because of his tax reform ideas, but because of the clumsy arrogance of his approach." [*Morning Sentinel*, Alan Caron Column, 9/19/15]

March 2015: LePage Pledged To Spend The Rest Of His Days "Going After Lawmakers" Who Opposed His Plan To Lower Maine's Income Tax, Including GOP. "Gov. Paul LePage has made it known he won't settle for any half-measures on his plan to lower Maine's income tax and overhaul its tax system. He pledged in March to 'spend the rest of my days going after' lawmakers who opposed it. The latest salvo in the battle of the biennial budget came Monday, when Maine People Before Politics, a conservative advocacy group with ties to the governor, turned its guns on Senate Republican leaders after they reached a tentative budget deal with Democrats that did not include a number of LePage's more contentious proposals." [*Bangor Daily News*, 6/4/15]

Bangor Daily News: LePage Said He Hoped Maine Senate GOP Got "Destroyed" In 2018 Election. "The same divide played in 2018 and on Thursday, when an incensed LePage said legislative leaders wouldn't advance a governor's bill aimed at shielding elderly Mainers from municipal foreclosures. Among others, he blamed Senate President Mike Thibodeau, R-Winterport, and said he hoped Senate Republicans get 'destroyed' in the November elections if they block it." [*Bangor Daily News*, 9/13/18]

IDEOLOGY AND GOVERNING PHILOSOPHY

Paul LePage Is "A Tea Party... Governor." He "Represents The Right Wing Of His Party" And Said "He Is Not Interested In Compromise." Paul LePage is "a tea party Republican governor." (Kennebec Journal, 02/04/11) Paul LePage champions "Tea Party populism." (The American Conservative, 09/01/12) When he was campaigning for governor in 2010 "he appeared at Tea Party rallies, waving a copy of the Constitution and warning the freedoms guaranteed within were being trampled on." (The Portland Phoenix, 01/18/12) In 2010, Paul "LePage said he had no problem with being associated with the tea party." (Kennebec Journal, 09/28/10) He "represents the right wing of his party." (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/02/12) According to the Portland Press Herald, Paul LePage makes "inflammatory" statements. He "may say he is not interested in compromise, but it's still the best way to get things done in a democracy." [*Portland Press Herald*, 03/25/11]

Paul LePage Ran As A Tea Party Candidate For Governor, Complaining About A "Bloated Bureaucracy" And Promising "To Reduce The Size Of The Government." When Paul LePage was campaigning for governor in 2010 "he appeared at Tea Party rallies, waving a copy of the Constitution and warning the freedoms guaranteed within were being trampled on." (The Portland Phoenix, 01/18/12) In 2010, Paul "LePage said he had no problem with being associated with the tea party." (Kennebec Journal, 09/28/10) Paul LePage, in 2010, complained about "'the bloated bureaucracy' of state workers" and promised "to reduce the size of the government." [*Portsmouth Herald*, 09/08/10]

LePage Has No Problem Being Associated with Tea Party. According to the *Kennebec Journal*, in 2010, “LePage said he had no problem with being associated with the tea party.” [*Kennebec Journal*, 9/28/10]

American Conservative: LePage “Quick to Anger,” a “Specimen” of the Tea Party Movement. The American Conservative wrote of LePage as a Tea Party Governor: “Bumptious, dogged, quick to anger, openly resentful of Maine's political class... he is an authentic specimen of the movement.” [American Conservative, September 2012]

LEPAGE’S CRITICISM OF MAINE

Press Herald Columnist Greg Kesich: LePage “May Live In Florida Now” But Still Was Regular Presence On Local Talk Radio “Complaining Bitterly About The State He Used To Run.” “I would like to miss the former governor, but I can't. He won't let us. He may live in Florida now, but he's still a regular presence on local talk radio, complaining bitterly about the state he used to run. And last week he showed up on Fox News, joining host Laura Ingraham in trashing Maine's biggest city before a national audience, claiming that it's ‘overrun with immigrants.’” [*Portland Press Herald*, Greg Kesich Column, 2/3/19]

Press Herald Columnist Greg Kesich: LePage’s “Disdain For Maine Has Never Been A Secret” As He Extended “Middle Finger” On His Way Out. “Conspiracy theories are fun, but it's not every day you hear a governor say that he can't wait to get out of his own state. They usually act like they think it's the greatest place on earth. But LePage has never played that game. His disdain for Maine has never been a secret. The middle finger he's extending on his way out the door is the same one he's been showing us for years. Has there ever been a governor of ‘Vacationland’ who has made a point of spending all of his vacations someplace else?” [*Portland Press Herald*, Greg Kesich Column, 11/11/18]

Press Herald Columnist Greg Kesich: LePage Attacked “Bad List” Of Mainers That Included Loggers, Teachers, People Of Color, Immigrants, People Who “Live In The Southern Half” Of Maine. “For starters, he didn't like ones who live in the southern half of the state, saying in a handwritten note on official stationery to a woman from Cape Elizabeth that people who live in the south ‘exploit those who are not so fortunate’ [...] In a classic 2013 diatribe, when he made crude comments about state Sen. Troy Jackson's non-use of lubricant, the governor went on to declare that people like Jackson (who is a logger when he's not in the Legislature) ‘ought to go back in the woods and cut trees and let someone with a brain come down here and do some work.’ It wasn't just loggers on the bad list. There were also state employees (‘corrupt’), teachers (‘a dime a dozen’), people of color (‘the enemy’) and immigrants, who, he says, bring ‘foreign-type diseases,’ like ‘the ziki fly.’” [*Portland Press Herald*, Greg Kesich Column, 11/11/18]

Headline: “LePage Says He’s Moving to Florida.” [*Morning Sentinel*, 11/6/18]

Just Before the 2018 Election, LePage Told Reporters He Was Planning to Move to Florida for Tax Reasons After Leaving Office. According to the *Morning Sentinel*, “Last week, just

before the Nov. 6 election, LePage told reporters in Augusta that he was planning to move to Florida for tax reasons and would teach at a university. But on Tuesday, LePage told WVOM he would live in Florida during the winter months and spend his summers in Maine.

‘The only issue now is, do we become residents of Florida or Maine?’ LePage said.” [*Morning Sentinel*, 11/15/18]

- **LePage: “I’ll Tell You Very, Very Simply: I Have a House in Florida. I Will Pay No Income Tax and the House in Florida’s Property Taxes are \$2,000 Less Than We Were Paying in Boothbay.”** According to the *Morning Sentinel*, “‘I’ll tell you very, very simply: I have a house in Florida. I will pay no income tax and the house in Florida’s property taxes are \$2,000 less than we were paying in Boothbay,’ said LePage, 70. ‘At my age, why wouldn’t you conserve your resources and spend it on your family instead of on taxes?’” [*Morning Sentinel*, 11/6/18]

Just After the 2018 Election, LePage Told Reporters He Would Winter in Florida and Spend Summers in Maine. According to the *Morning Sentinel*, “Last week, just before the Nov. 6 election, LePage told reporters in Augusta that he was planning to move to Florida for tax reasons and would teach at a university. But on Tuesday, LePage told WVOM he would live in Florida during the winter months and spend his summers in Maine.” [*Morning Sentinel*, 11/15/18]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: LePage’s Tenure As Governor Was Defined By “Economic Stagnation, Bad Mouthing Maine,” “Dramatic Cutbacks To The State’s Social Safety Net.” “After eight years of economic stagnation, bad mouthing Maine, unnecessary battles between Gov. Paul LePage and lawmakers, and dramatic cutbacks to the state’s social safety net that have left the state’s most vulnerable without the services and support they need, Maine is at a crossroads. Voters can choose a new direction built on competence and experience or they can stay the current course.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 10/19/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial Headline: “LePage’s Complaints About Maine Reflect His Lack of Leadership.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 2/14/18]

CRITICISM OF LEPAGE AS GOVERNOR, GENERALLY

Criticism of LePage’s Leadership/Ability to do the Job

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “Gov. Lepage Acts Like He’s In Over His Head; Personnel Meltdowns... Show A Management Style Unsuitd To Public Office.” (*Portland Press Herald*, 05/01/11)

According To A Newspaper Story With The Headline, “Executive Branch Has Become 3-Ring Circus” And Another Newspaper Story With The Headline, “Ringmaster Over His Head Under Big Top,” Under Paul Lepage “The Executive Branch Is Now Officially A Three-Ring Circus,” With Paul Lepage As “The Ringmaster Himself.” He Is “Utterly Unprepared...For The Center Ring Of Maine’s State Government.” According to a newspaper story with the headline, “Executive branch has become 3-ring circus” and another

newspaper story with the headline, “Ringmaster over his head under Big Top,” the “sudden departures of commissioners Darryl Brown from the Department of Environmental Protection and Philip Congdon from the Department of Economic and Community Development confirm what many have long feared since Team LePage rode into Augusta promising to transform Maine state government into something ...well, different. They’ve done it: After just under four months, the executive branch is now officially a three-ring circus. In one ring we have Brown, who was forced to step down after Attorney General William Schneider informed him that...conflict-of-interest laws prohibit Brown, who owns a development consulting firm, from presiding over the DEP. For weeks, Brown insisted that he was not in violation of identical federal and state statutes – which made him ineligible to serve if 10 percent or more of his income in the last two years came from applicants for and holders of federal clean water permits. He was, as he [later] conceded... ‘obviously’ wrong.” “In another ring we have Congdon.” He “admitted to lawmakers at his confirmation hearing in January [2011] that his career with Texas Instruments had precious little to do with the art and science of community and economic development. And when asked at the same hearing how he planned to jump-start the economy of Aroostook County, Congdon unabashedly admitted that rural development was something ‘I haven’t thought about.’ Apparently he still hasn’t. In his now-infamous appearance before the Caribou Chamber of Commerce...Congdon left the entire audience in shocked silence after opining that a) universities have gone downhill since they started admitting blacks, b) things are in the state they are today because of poor parenting and c) the people in Aroostook County will prosper only if they ‘get off the reservation’ and get to work.” “Which brings us to the ringmaster himself. LePage’s reaction to the latest in his never-ending series of sideshows...illustrates once again how utterly unprepared the man is, was and may forever be for the center ring of Maine’s state government. Rather than admit that his transition team blew it by failing to vet Brown against an easy-to-find state law before choosing him as Maine’s top environmental cop, LePage blamed the law. And he vowed, come hell or high wires, to change it.” (Portland Press Herald, 04/29/11, and Waterville Morning Sentinel, 04/30/11)

PPH Editorial: Paul LePage “Has Surrounded Himself With People Who, Like Him, Are Novices To State Government...And Excluded Those Who Could Augment His Get-Tough Philosophy With Experience, Expertise And An Occasional Dash Of Common Sense.” His Administration Looks “Like A Relentless March Toward Disaster.” According to an editorial with the headline, “Gov. LePage acts like he’s in over his head; Personnel meltdowns...show a management style unsuited to public office,” Paul LePage “recklessly established a culture of so-called ‘straight talk’ that more often than not manifests itself in outrageous pronouncements and hurtful wisecracks that leave many Mainers at least shaking their heads and sometimes shaking their fists.” “Unfortunately, the problems with LePage’s administration go beyond his own or his appointees’ loose lips. It’s beginning to look as though LePage may not be up to the job.” “LePage’s repeated refusals to take responsibility for bad decisions or apologize for offending the people who pay his salary exacerbate the difficulties he’s had getting his administration up and running.” “For the most part, the governor has surrounded himself with people who, like him, are novices to state government. He has filled his administration with people he is comfortable with, politically and personally, and excluded those who could augment his get-tough philosophy with experience, expertise and an occasional dash of common sense. LePage doesn’t seem to take advice from anyone, much less from newspaper editorials, but we’ll offer some anyway.” “Seeking the right kind of help could rescue his

administration from what looks for all the world like a relentless march toward disaster. He wouldn't be the first governor, or president, or CEO, to realize that he was in over his head and needed to eat some humble pie to save himself." (Portland Press Herald, 05/01/11)

The Resignations Of Three Top Lepage Officials In His First Four Months As Governor Raised "Questions About Lepage's Management Abilities" And Highlighted "A Lackadaisical Vetting Process." Paul LePage, in less than his first four months as governor, "lost his communications director and two Cabinet members." "The resignations of [the] three officials" raised "questions about LePage's management abilities." "While LePage's willingness to part with his appointees is seen by some as a sign of his flexibility, the loss of three key people so early in the administration points to a lackadaisical vetting process, said Ronald Schmidt Jr., chairman of the Political Science Department at the University of Southern Maine." (Kennebec Journal, 05/01/11)

PPH Editorial: LePage Repeatedly Refuses "To Take Responsibility For Bad Decisions Or Apologize For Offending The People Who Pay His Salary." "Unfortunately, the problems with LePage's administration go beyond his own or his appointees' loose lips. It's beginning to look as though LePage may not be up to the job." "LePage's repeated refusals to take responsibility for bad decisions or apologize for offending the people who pay his salary exacerbate the difficulties he's had getting his administration up and running." "For the most part, the governor has surrounded himself with people who, like him, are novices to state government. He has filled his administration with people he is comfortable with, politically and personally, and excluded those who could augment his get-tough philosophy with experience, expertise and an occasional dash of common sense. LePage doesn't seem to take advice from anyone, much less from newspaper editorials, but we'll offer some anyway." "Seeking the right kind of help could rescue his administration from what looks for all the world like a relentless march toward disaster. He wouldn't be the first governor, or president, or CEO, to realize that he was in over his head and needed to eat some humble pie to save himself." (Portland Press Herald, 05/01/11)

Criticism of LePage's Tendency to Lie/Exaggerate

The Bangor Daily News Described Paul Lepage As An "Insensitive And Crude" Liar Who Makes "Ridiculous Claims." According to a Bangor Daily News column titled, "Sideshow Paul," Governor LePage's "infamous cracks, which range from the insensitive and crude to the exaggerated and invented, have begun to suggest a pattern. On the one hand, the pattern may be evidence of an undisciplined and intemperate manner and nothing more." "But there is another possible explanation, one that arises from a bit of armchair psychological analysis. The ridiculous claims about black fly and buffalo surveys, the crack about Libby Mitchell getting old, threatening to punch a reporter, and the 'Kiss my butt' and now the 'women may have little beards' remarks may be a kind of strategy. The behaviors may not be consciously chosen, but Mr. LePage may have learned that these jibes deflect and distract." (Bangor Daily News, 02/25/11)

Maine People's Alliance's Mike Tipping: "Governor Lepage Has A Habit Of Using False Anecdotes To Back Up His Policy Positions. It Started During His Campaign And Has

Continued Throughout His Time In Office. He Routinely Makes Up Regulations That Don't Exist, Conversations That Never Happened And Discriminatory Practices That Have Never Occurred." Mike Tipping, who "works at the Maine People's Alliance and Maine People's Resource Center and writes a political column for the Portland Press Herald," wrote in a blog post on the Bangor Daily News Internet site, "Governor LePage has a habit of using false anecdotes to back up his policy positions. It started during his campaign and has continued throughout his time in office. He routinely makes up regulations that don't exist, conversations that never happened and discriminatory practices that have never occurred. LePage has repeated some of these claims even after they have been proven to be false. (<http://thetippingpoint.bangordailynews.com/2013/04/18/state-politics/lepage-windmill-conspiracy-theory>)

- The Common Theme Among These Lies "Is That They All Seem Designed To Highlight Some Extreme Example Of What Lepage Sees As Wrong With The World And Justify His Policy Prescriptions." He Uses These Anecdotes, Which Are Lies, To Make And Justify "His Decisions As Governor."** What these lies have in common is that they all seem designed to highlight some extreme example of what LePage sees as wrong with the world and justify his policy prescriptions. If any of them were true, they would be very compelling. LePage added a new false anecdote to his repertoire as he spoke to the Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce" in April 2013. "At the end of long rant against the wind power industry, filled with claims that the renewable resource doesn't create jobs and leads to higher electricity rates, LePage took aim at one wind turbine in particular. 'Now, to add insult to injury, The University of Maine, Presque Isle – anybody here been up there to see that damn windmill in the back yard? Guess what, if it's not blowing wind outside and they have somebody visiting the campus, they have a little electric motor that turns the blades. I'm serious. They have an electric motor so that they can show people wind power works. Unbelievable. And that's the government that you have here in the state of Maine,' said LePage." "The University of Maine at Presque Isle's award- winning wind turbine was built in 2009 and serves as both a source of power for the campus and a demonstration of clean energy in action." "If there's no wind, the turbine won't spin,' explained [University of Maine at Presque Isle Director of Community and Media Relations Rachel] Rice. 'There has to be naturally-occurring wind in order for the turbine to spin.'" "LePage's false anecdotes, like this one, aren't just a source of confusion and comedy. They also provide some troubling insight into the way he makes and justifies his decisions as governor. It's hard to trust any policy stance of someone who is either so incredibly gullible or is willing to cynically and habitually lie in such a transparent way in order to advance his own agenda." (<http://thetippingpoint.bangordailynews.com/2013/04/18/state-politics/lepage-windmill-conspiracy-theory>)

Paul Lepage Regularly "Forays Into Exaggeration And Hyperbole." He "May Find Exaggeration A Useful Political Tool, But It Is Neither Ethical Nor Responsible For Making Sound Public Policy Or Informing The Public," The Lewiston Sun Journal Opined. Paul LePage regularly "forays into exaggeration and hyperbole." "Recently the governor said Maine students are looked down upon across the country because they are poorly educated. 'I don't care where you go in this country. If you come from Maine you're looked

down upon,' the governor said during a July 25 [2012] press conference during which he outlined several educational initiatives.” “All of which must have struck people who travel as odd, having perhaps never heard anything like that from a single person ‘from away.’ Pressed...on how he knew that to be fact, the governor’s spokesperson, Adrienne Bennett, explained that the governor did not have research on the subject but was drawing on his own experience. ‘He is a businessman. It’s from his life experience,’ Bennett told the Bangor Daily News. ‘While it’s anecdotal, he believes it.’” “To emphasize his point, the governor added that Maine students need to take a special test to be admitted to the College of William and Mary, an excellent school that is part of the public university system in Virginia. A simple telephone call found that statement to be untrue; the school has no special test for Maine students. The governor was merely repeating something he had heard.” “The governor’s most egregious exaggeration came in December [2011] when he said a member of Forbes magazine’s staff had told him the state could improve its business climate by cutting its welfare programs. Contacted by the Sun Journal, the Forbes magazine writer acknowledged he had talked to someone in the LePage administration but had told them nothing of the sort. At the time, the governor was in the middle of a controversial attempt to cut welfare expenses.” “The governor may find exaggeration a useful political tool, but it is neither ethical nor responsible for making sound public policy or informing the public.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 08/12/12)

Lewiston Sun Journal: “Paul LePage Has Shown A Disconcerting Tendency...To Either Mishear, Misinterpret Or Misquote Important Information He Has Been Told,” Including “Information He Has Been Told By Federal Officials.” According to the Lewiston Sun Journal, “Gov. Paul LePage has shown a disconcerting tendency...to either mishear, misinterpret or misquote important information he has been told by federal officials. In the long run, the mistakes will hurt the governor’s credibility or, worse, could lead legislators to enact budgets based upon bad information.” For example, “the governor seems to have conflated or confused a conversation he had with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius” in April 2011. He was “trying to cut \$220 million from the state’s Medicaid program, but that would require a so- called Maintenance of Effort waiver from Sebelius’ department. The governor said he was told...the state would have to make cuts to the program before Sebelius’ department would consider granting the waiver.” “Federal sources refused to confirm Sebelius gave LePage such advice and declined to confirm that the...cuts are necessary to obtain a waiver. Confronted with that information, a LePage spokesperson said the administration knew it could apply for the waiver at any time and that cutting the budget first was meant to ‘put pressure’ on the federal government to grant the waiver. If we understand that correctly, the idea would be to knowingly create a budget crisis and then shift the blame to the feds. That would be playing politics with benefits that thousands of elderly and disabled people depend upon.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/11/12)

“Politicians In Maine Often Complain About LePage’s Suspicion Of Expertise. ‘He Runs Things On Anecdotes And Doesn’t Tell You The Source,’” One Democratic State Senator Said. “Politicians in Maine often complain about LePage’s suspicion of expertise. ‘He runs things on anecdotes and doesn’t tell you the source. He just takes one data point out of the whole if it furthers his ideological agenda,’ says Justin Alfond, a Democratic state senator.” (The American Conservative, 09/01/12)

COZINESS WITH LOBBYISTS AND CORPORATIONS

“Governor Paul LePage Crafted Significant Portions Of His Regulatory Reform Agenda By Literally Copying And Pasting Passages From The Memos His Staff Received From Corporate Lobbyists And Their Clients, Turning Swaths Of It Into Little More Than A Set Of Giveaways To Favored Companies.” “Confidential administration dossiers show Governor Paul LePage crafted significant portions of his regulatory reform agenda by literally copying and pasting passages from the memos his staff received from corporate lobbyists and their clients, turning swaths of it into little more than a set of giveaways to favored companies.” [s]

Lobbyists “From The State’s Most Powerful Law Firms” Were Placed By Paul LePage “In The Envious Position Of Being Able To Oversee The Drafting Of The Governor’s Policies On Behalf Of The Corporate Clients They” Represent. “Top attorneys from the state’s most powerful law firms – Pierce Atwood managing partner Gloria Pinza and, especially, Ann Robinson, head of lobbying at Preti Flaherty – were placed in the enviable position of being able to oversee the drafting of the governor’s policies on behalf of the corporate clients they are paid to represent.” The “two Portland-based firms wrote at least 28 of the 50 environmental rollbacks the governor’s office submitted to the legislature in January” 2011. “In most cases, language from the industry and lobbyist’s memos was copied word-for-word into LePage’s reform proposal.” “These include rolling back Maine’s civil rights and wage and tip sharing laws to weaker federal standards (proposed by Portland restaurateur STEVE DIMILLO)” and “weakening child labor laws (MAINE INNKEEPERS ASSOCIATION),” as well as “directing the Bureau of Insurance to ease oversight over insurance rates (MAINE ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS).” [*The Portland Phoenix*, 07/20/11]

- **In Most Cases, “Language From The Industry And Lobbyist’s Memos Was Copied Word-For-Word Into LePage’s Reform” Proposals.** “In most cases, language from the industry and lobbyist’s memos was copied word-for-word into LePage’s reform proposal.” “These include rolling back Maine’s civil rights and wage and tip sharing laws to weaker federal standards (proposed by Portland restaurateur STEVE DIMILLO)” and “weakening child labor laws (MAINE INNKEEPERS ASSOCIATION),” as well as “directing the Bureau of Insurance to ease oversight over insurance rates (MAINE ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS).” [*The Portland Phoenix*, 07/20/11]

Portland Press Herald Column: “Big Business Comes First In LePage Administration; The New Governor Talks Like A Man Of The People, But Governs Like A Friend Of The Corporations.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Greg Kesich Column, 2/2/11]

- **Paul LePage “Is Picking His Close Associates From The Boardrooms Of Big Companies” And Their Lobbyists.** According to an column in the Portland Press Herald titled, “Big business comes first in LePage administration; The new governor talks like a man of the people, but governs like a friend of the corporations,” Paul LePage “is picking his close associates from the boardrooms of big companies and not from the tea party protests that gave energy to his campaign...and he is taking his policy direction from national industrial organizations.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Greg Kesich Column, 2/2/11]

- **Many Of LePage’s Policies Benefit Out Of State Corporations, Such As His Attempt To Ease Rules On Toxic Toys. “Relaxing The Rules On Toxic Toys Won’t Create Any Jobs In Maine Or Cut The Size Of Government Or Increase Personal Responsibility Or Any Of The Things The LePage Campaign Was Supposed To Be All About. But It Will Help Some Company...That Will Never Do Much Business In Maine.”** “His...commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services, Mary Mayhew, is not a welfare-reform theorist from the Maine Heritage Policy Center, but a former lobbyist from the Maine Hospital Association, an organization of companies that profit handsomely from the current health care system, while they bankrupt the little guy. And he picked Darryl Brown to head the Department of Environmental Protection, a man who spent his professional career advising developers of golf courses and subdivisions, not theorizing about global warming.” “When it comes to policy, LePage is not exactly drawing from the grass roots either. On his extensive list of desired regulatory rollbacks, LePage...proposed getting rid of the Kid-Safe Products Law, which sets up a process for identifying toxic chemicals used in children’s products.” “This was on the wish list of the Washington, D.C.- based American Chemistry Council, which represents chemical and plastics manufacturers, and the Toy Industry Foundation in New York.” One reporter “tried to get a comment from the chemistry council’s Maine-based lobbyist, but Patricia Aho declined to speak because she was no longer with the group and is now” commissioner of DEP. “Relaxing the rules on toxic toys won’t create any jobs in Maine or cut the size of government or increase personal responsibility or any of the things the LePage campaign was supposed to be all about. But it will help some company...that will never do much business in Maine.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 02/02/11]

GOVERNING THROUGH PERSONAL VENDETTAS

March 2015: LePage Pledged To Spend The Rest Of His Days “Going After Lawmakers” Who Opposed His Plan To Lower Maine’s Income Tax, Including GOP. “Gov. Paul LePage has made it known he won't settle for any half-measures on his plan to lower Maine's income tax and overhaul its tax system. He pledged in March to ‘spend the rest of my days going after’ lawmakers who opposed it. The latest salvo in the battle of the biennial budget came Monday, when Maine People Before Politics, a conservative advocacy group with ties to the governor, turned its guns on Senate Republican leaders after they reached a tentative budget deal with Democrats that did not include a number of LePage's more contentious proposals.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 6/4/15]

Mark Eves

Portland Press Herald: LePage Used Funding As “Weapon Against A Political Foe” In Threat To Punish Organization That Hired Democratic House Speaker. “The two spoke a day after House Speaker Mark Eves, D-North Berwick, said LePage threatened to yank state funding from the Good Will-Hinckley school unless it broke its contract to hire Eves as its next president. The story has dominated discussion at the state Capitol, where attention had been focused on getting a state budget passed, with members of both parties expressing concern that

LePage overstepped his executive power by using funding for the school as a weapon against a political foe.” [Press Herald—Steve Mistler, 6/27/15]

- **Former Maine GOP Comms Director: “Most GOP I Know Are Disgusted” By LePage’s Behavior.** “On Friday, LePage’s supporters took to social media to claim Republicans were unified in their support for the governor, slamming the media and Democrats in the process. However, Lance Dutson, the principle at Red Hill Strategies who served as the former communications director for the Maine Republican Party and the communications director for the re-election campaign for U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, had a different view. ‘Most GOP I know are disgusted by (the governor’s) behavior,’ he tweeted.” [Press Herald—Steve Mistler, 6/27/15]

Morning Sentinel Editorial: Facts Showed LePage “Misused His Power” In Sabotaging House Speaker Mark Eves’ Private Career, Lawmakers Should Consider Impeachment.

“Facts show the governor misused his power, and lawmakers should consider impeachment. Sabotaging House Speaker Mark Eves’ private career revealed more of the mean-spirited, small-minded revenge politics for which Gov. Paul LePage has become famous. But this time, he may have gone too far. The Maine House should immediately begin an investigation of the governor, and if no new facts emerge that put his conduct in a positive light, he should be impeached and tried in the state Senate.” [Morning Sentinel—Editorial, 6/26/15]

QUESTIONABLE COMMENTS & PROVABLE LIES

ADMITTED TO LYING “A LOT”

Paul LePage, During His 2010 Gubernatorial Campaign, Made “False” Accusations. In 2012 He Acknowledged, “I Lie A Lot.” Paul LePage, in 2010, “claimed that a Maine Democratic Party operative had said LePage wasn’t fit to be governor because he was French Catholic. The operative, Arden Manning, later produced evidence that showed the accusation to be false.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/23/11) Paul LePage, in 2012, said “while walking away from reporters... ‘I lie a lot. You guys tell me I lie a lot.’” (Bangor Daily News, 08/27/12)

“ECONOMIC SLAVERY” COMMENTS

Paul LePage Thinks State And Federal Governments Have Put Him “Into Economic Slavery.” Paul LePage, in 2010, “stressed his fiscal accomplishments at the local level, saying the city [of Waterville] has saved money over the years to prepare for state budget cuts. ‘I know what it is to be put into economic slavery by your state government and federal government,’ he said.” (Kennebec Journal, 03/06/10)

LePage Said, “The Government Is Putting The Shackles Of Economic Slavery To Each And Every One Of Us.” “‘We’re seeing our taxes go up and our freedoms eroded,’ said” Paul LePage in 2010. He continued, “‘the government is putting the shackles of economic slavery to each and every one of us. The Maine taxpayer has been put at an extreme disadvantage.’” (Bangor Daily News, 05/13/10)

Paul LePage Said The Federal Government “Wants To Keep Its Residents Dumb, Obese And Poor While ‘Trying To Put The Shackles Of Economic Slavery On Our Children, Our Grandchildren And Our Unborn Great- Grandchildren.’” In 2012, “Gov. Paul LePage and right-wing radio host Howie Carr rallied their troops...at Fort Knox, speaking before hundreds of conservative activists at the second annual ‘Economic Freedom Festival.’” “LePage received a standing ovation when he took the lectern to decry a federal government he said wants to keep its residents dumb, obese and poor while ‘trying to put the shackles of economic slavery on our children, our grandchildren and our unborn great-grandchildren.’” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 07/08/12)

“KOOKS” IN SOUTHERN MAINE

Paul LePage Said, “‘Southern Maine, Yes, There’s A Lot Of Kooks.’” “‘In southern Maine, yes, there’s a lot of kooks down there,’” Paul LePage said in 2010. (Kennebec Journal, 03/12/10)

USING BUREAUCRATS TO ELECT REPUBLICANS & CALLING BUREAUCRATS CORRUPT

An Internal Memo Written By Paul LePage’s Spokesman Said, “Maine’s New Governor ‘Will Put 11,000 Bureaucrats To Work Getting Republicans Re- Elected.’” “An internal memo written by Paul LePage’s spokesman that said, “Maine’s new governor ‘will put 11,000 bureaucrats to work getting Republicans re-elected,’” was leaked. “The author of the memo, LePage spokesman Dan Demeritt, said the ‘11,000 bureaucrats’ phrase was not intended to be taken literally. Instead, Demeritt said the admittedly partisan memo was meant to emphasize the importance of coordinating the Republican message machine to ensure the public knows about what the new GOP majority is doing in Augusta.” “The Dec. 18 [2010] e-mail from Demeritt...starts out by stating that ‘we need a business plan for incumbent protection.’” “‘Once we take office, Paul will put 11,000 bureaucrats to work getting Republicans re- elected,’ he wrote.” [Bangor Daily News, 01/28/11]

Maine People’s Alliance’s Mike Tipping: “[LePage] Routinely Makes Up Regulations That Don’t Exist, Conversations That Never Happened, and Discriminatory Practices That Have Never Occurred.” “Mike Tipping, who “works at the Maine People’s Alliance and Maine People’s Resource Center and writes a political column for the Portland Press Herald” wrote in a blog post on the Bangor Daily News Internet site, “Governor LePage has a habit of using false anecdotes to back up his policy positions. It started during his campaign and has continued throughout his time in office. He routinely makes up regulations that don’t exist, conversations that never happened and discriminatory practices that have never occurred. LePage has repeated some of these claims even after they have been proven to be false.” (<http://thetippingpoint.bangordailynews.com/2013/04/18/state-politics/lepage-windmill-conspiracy-theory>)

Paul LePage Called State Workers “Corrupt as Can Be.” “Paul LePage, in 2012, “said state government is too big and too costly and that the state workforce is part of the problem. LePage

told the crowd that he has control over appointed state workers, but has little authority over middle managers and other unionized state employees. ‘The problem is, middle management of the state is about as corrupt as can be,’ LePage said.” “LePage’s spokeswoman, Adrienne Bennett, said... that the definition of corruption is a lack of integrity, explaining why the governor chose that word. ‘When you have employees who insist to maintain the status quo and delay progress within an administration, it is in the governor’s view corruptible behavior,’ she said.” [The Associated Press, 04/27/12]

- **LePage’s Spokesperson Said He Was “Not Talking About Criminal Activity Like Demanding Bribes, But About Employees Who Cling to the Status Quo and Delay Progress Sought by the Administration.”** “She “said that when the governor made the initial remark about corrupt middle management, he was not talking about criminal activity like demanding bribes, but about employees who cling to the status quo and delay progress sought by the administration. Bennett agreed that the word corrupt is normally associated with criminality, but she supported LePage’s word choice. ‘The governor has always expressed himself with powerful words, and this is no different,’ she said.” [Kennebec Journal, 04/28/12]
- **LePage “Offered No Proof of Corruption, No Data to Back His Case That These Managers Don’t Work and He Didn’t Specify a Specific Department.”** Paul LePage “offered no proof of corruption, no data to back his case that these managers don’t work and he didn’t identify a specific department.” (Bangor Daily News, 04/27/12)

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “Governor’s Mouth Gets Him In Trouble Again; When Will The State’s Chief Executive Show More Self-Discipline Than A Talk-Radio Blowhard?”, “Even For A Governor Who Has A History Of Tossing Out Outrageous Allegations Without Any Evidence, This Was A Stunner.” The Portland Press Herald, in an editorial titled, “Our View: Governor’s mouth gets him in trouble again; When will the state’s chief executive show more self-discipline than a talk-radio blowhard?” said, “even for a governor who has a history of tossing out outrageous allegations without any evidence, this was a stunner.” This newspaper called this rhetoric “out-of-control” from a politician who “rarely follows through with the facts.” (Portland Press Herald, 04/28/12)

LePage Put Government Resources Towards Personal Political Wish List

September 2015: Maine GOP Used Materials For Welfare Reform Referendum Proposal That Contained Metadata Revealing LePage’s DHHS Officials Helped Write It. “The Maine Republican Party has presented itself as the public face of a referendum drive to make an array of changes in state welfare programs and income tax rates. But digital fingerprints in a copy of the proposal show that senior officials in the Department of Health and Human Services and the LePage administration were deeply involved in writing it. The fingerprints, known as metadata, were in a copy of the ballot question obtained by the Portland Press Herald that circulated Sept. 11 among leaders of the Maine Republican Party, including chairman Rick Bennett and senior members of the LePage administration, including the governor’s chief of staff, John McGough.” [Press Herald, 9/24/15]

- **Maine State Regulations Prohibit Use Of State Resources For Political Activity; Didn't Apply To Ballot Measures Specifically.** “State regulations prohibit the use of state resources for political activity. However, the regulations generally define political activity in relation to candidate campaigns, not ballot campaigns. For example, the law prohibits executive branch employees from engaging in political activity ‘when the employee is on duty’ or in a ‘state-owned or leased work space.’ Political activity is defined as working for the “election or defeat” of candidates for federal, state, county or municipal office - not ballot questions.” [Press Herald, 9/24/15]
- **Fellow Republican, Lance Dutson, Said LePage’s Diverting State Resources To A Ballot Measure Was “Hostile Act” That Threatened Elections Of GOP Candidates.** “Even so, the Republican Party raised eyebrows, and drew criticism, for its unusual decision to devote manpower and resources to ballot initiatives rather than focusing on electing more Republicans to the Legislature. Some of the criticism has come from Republicans, who worry that the governor - who continues to wage war on Republican legislators - has co-opted the party machine. Lance Dutson, a longtime Republican activist who is frequently at odds with LePage, attempted to make that point on Monday in a pair of tweets. The purpose of the referendum, he wrote, is to divert resources from legislative elections. ‘It’s a hostile act’ by the party and LePage to threaten Republican legislators, he wrote.” [Press Herald, 9/24/15]

PROVEN LIES

Paul LePage, In 2012, “Said The Reputation Of Maine’s Schools Is Suffering Nationally.” His Proof Point Was That “Maine Students Need To Take A Special Test To Be Admitted To The College Of William And Mary” In Virginia. However, “A Simple Telephone Call Found That Statement To Be Untrue.” Paul LePage, in 2012, “said the reputation of Maine’s schools is suffering nationally.” (Kennebec Journal, 07/26/12) He said “Maine students need to take a special test to be admitted to the College of William and Mary, an excellent school that is part of the public university system in Virginia.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 08/12/12) More specifically, Paul “LePage said the College of William and Mary in Virginia...requires Maine students to take a placement examination before even considering their applications.” (Kennebec Journal, 07/26/12) “A simple telephone call found that statement to be untrue; the school has no special test for Maine students. The governor was merely repeating something he had heard.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 08/12/12) “College spokeswoman Suzanne Seurattan...said... that William and Mary has no separate examination requirements based on a student’s state of residency.” (Kennebec Journal, 07/26/12)

Paul LePage, In 2011, “Said Forbes Magazine Told Him Welfare And Energy Costs Led To Maine’s Ranking As The Least Business-Friendly State In The Magazine’s Annual Rankings.” Forbes Said “That LePage’s Quotes Are Inaccurate” And Accused LePage Of Lying About What He Was Told By Forbes. At a town hall meeting on December 14, 2011, “Gov. Paul LePage said Forbes Magazine told him welfare and energy costs led to Maine’s ranking as the least business-friendly state in the magazine’s annual rankings. But...[two days later] Forbes senior editor Kurt Badenhausen published a response on Forbes.com titled, ‘Gov. LePage Stretches Truth on Forbes Rankings.’ ‘Sorry Governor, but I didn’t say any of those

things,' Badenhausen wrote. 'Welfare? Not even a part of the rankings.'" "According to LePage spokeswoman Adrienne Bennett, Forbes told LePage's administration that Maine had 'structural problems.' LePage interpreted that to mean welfare and energy costs – two of his biggest agenda items – according to Bennett. 'Structural problems are welfare and energy,' she told the Press Herald. 'He is accurate in saying that.'" "Badenhausen told the Press Herald...that LePage's quotes are inaccurate. Badenhausen, who oversees the annual rankings list, said he spoke with LePage's senior economic policy advisor, John Butera, before the speech about the rankings. At no point in that conversation, however, did they discuss energy costs or welfare, Badenhausen said. Asked where LePage came up with his quotes, Badenhausen said, 'your guess is as good as mine.'" (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 12/17/11)

- **Sun Journal Editorial: LePage Made "Egregious Exaggeration" Over Economic Effect of Welfare.** The Sun Journal opined, "The governor's most egregious exaggeration came in December when he said a member of Forbes magazine's staff had told him the state could improve its business climate by cutting its welfare programs... the Forbes magazine writer acknowledged he had talked to someone in the LePage administration but had told them nothing of the sort... The governor may find exaggeration a useful political tool, but it is neither ethical nor responsible for making sound public policy or informing the public." [Sun Journal editorial, 8/12/12]

Paul LePage, In The Early 1990s, Was The Chief Operating Officer Of Down East Peat. As An Example Of Out Of Control Regulators, Paul LePage Claimed The Maine Department Of Environmental Protection (DEP) Required The Company To Do A Buffalo Survey. DEP Said This Is Not True. Paul LePage, in 1986, "decided to strike out on his own as a business consultant, while teaching classes on accounting and business ethics at Kennebec Valley Vocational Institute. His consultancy, LePage & Kasevich, specialized in rescuing distressed companies, usually after a bankruptcy court had appointed LePage to run them." "In the middle of 1992, LePage was called in to serve as chief operating officer of...Down East Peat, which had built the continent's first peat-fired power plant in Deblois Township three years before at a cost of \$51 million. But the weather in Washington County was wetter than expected, foiling a key peat-harvesting technology and leaving the plant short of its intended fuel." Paul LePage blamed DEP "for refusing to issue permits to allow the company to partially drain the 650-acre Denbow Heath to facilitate peat harvesting. The DEP, he said, wanted the company to first secure an electricity supply contract (to demonstrate economic necessity), something they could not do without the drainage project." "While campaigning in 2010, he would falsely claim that...DEP also forced him to conduct black fly and buffalo surveys in the area." (The Portland Phoenix, 01/18/12) He said DEP "ordered him to do a buffalo survey when he worked for...[the] power company." (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/23/11) "'The state of Maine made me do a three-month buffalo study,' LePage says. 'Did you hear what I said? Buffalo study. The next spring, they decided that they still didn't want this project to be built so they had us go out and count black flies. Two months counting black flies. That tells me that the attitude of the regulatory agency was very adversarial to that project.'" "LePage says the regulatory agency responsible was the Maine DEP. He says one buffalo was counted, and it was located at the Acadia Zoo. But DEP spokeswoman Donna Gormley says there's just one problem with LePage's version of what happened." (Maine Public Broadcasting Network, 08/24/10) "DEP has no record of the survey." (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/23/11) "'We went back through our files on Downeast Peat – you

know, we're talking 20 years ago. DEP did not require Downeast Peat, nor anyone else, to conduct a buffalo study or a black fly study as part of a permit requirement,' she says. 'We didn't do it 20 years ago and we don't do it now.' Invertebrate and other studies were required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. But biologist Norm Famous, who was hired by Downeast Peat for some of the work, says he has no knowledge of what LePage refers to as a 'buffalo study.' 'We did large mammal track counts in all the surrounding bogs,' he says. 'We also did a detailed study with coyotes around Downeast Peat.'" Paul LePage said DEP put this company out of business, and implied that the buffalo and black fly surveys were the direct reason they went out of business. (Maine Public Broadcasting Network, 08/24/10) "The plant closed its doors shortly thereafter, putting 16 out of work." (The Portland Phoenix, 01/18/12)

ISSUES

AGRICULTURE & FISHING

ALEWIVES

LePage Allowed Alewives Bill To Become Law. The Portland Press Herald reported, "Eighteen years ago, the Legislature approved a blockade that prevented alewives from running up the St. Croix River. In a historic decision that largely went unnoticed, that blockade will be lifted in a few days after Gov. Paul LePage opted not to veto L.D. 72... The emergency legislation requires the state to ensure, by May 1, that the fishways on the Woodland Dam and the Grand Falls Dam be reconfigured or operated in such a way that 'allows the unconstrained passage of river herring.'" [Portland Press Herald, [4/22/13](#)]

ELVERS

Local Tribe Accused LePage of Making Threats Over Elvers. The Portland Press Herald reported, "LePage threatened retaliation against Maine's Passamaquoddy tribe if it continues to issue elver-fishing licenses beyond the authorized state limit, a tribal council spokesman said... Newell Lewey of Pembroke said he and other tribal members were part of a one-minute conference call with LePage on Monday morning in which the governor asked them if the tribe would follow state law regarding the valuable elver fishery." [Portland Press Herald, [4/3/13](#)]

FOOD INSECURITY

In 2016, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Authorizing the Finance Authority of Maine to Purchase, Process, Store, and Transport Fresh and Frozen Fruits, Vegetables, and Seafood Harvested in Maine to Increase Access to Those Foods for Mainers with Food Insecurity. In April 2016, LePage allowed LD1471 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD1471 "directs the Finance Authority of Maine to contract with a statewide entity to purchase, process, store and transport fresh and fresh frozen fruits, vegetables and seafood harvested in the State to increase access to those products for residents of the State with food insecurity. The authority must consult with experts in the areas of

agriculture, food security, and public health when selecting the entity through a request for proposal process. The selected entity must adhere to all local, state and federal food safety regulations and report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters and over health and human services matters by December first of 2016, 2017 and 2018. This initiative is funded using \$3,000,000 transferred on a one-time basis from the Fund for a Healthy Maine. The resolve specifies that the authority is responsible for administering the funds until they are finally disbursed and may retain a portion of the funds for the reasonable administrative costs incurred by the authority.” [Summaries of Bills, LD1471, 2016; Maine State Legislature, LD1471, 2016]

Maine’s Food Sovereignty

October 2017: US Department Of Agriculture Threatened To Override Maine’s Ability To Run State Meat Inspection Due To Unclear Language In LePage’s Food Sovereignty Bill.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture has said it will override Maine's ability to run its own meat inspection program unless the state clarifies the law. Maine's Department of Agriculture is concerned that the law would keep it from inspecting any meat slaughtered and processed in a town that is food sovereign, negating an agreement it has with the USDA to meet federal standards. The prospect that meat-processing facilities could close, even temporarily, has sent food producers across Maine into a state of near panic and confusion. The cause of the problem is the food sovereignty bill that Gov. Paul LePage signed into law in June despite opposition from his chief agricultural advisers.” [Press Herald, 10/22/17]

GMOS

In 2013, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Requiring Disclosure of Genetic Engineering at the Point of Retail Sale of Food and Applied Sanctions for Disclosure Failures.

In 2013, LePage allowed LD718 to become law without his signature. LD 718 “requires disclosure of genetic engineering at the point of retail sale of food and provides that food for which the disclosure is not made is considered to be misbranded and subject to the sanctions for misbranding.” The House adopted the amendments by a 141-4 vote. The Senate concurred by a 35-0 vote on 6/12/13 and the bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Summaries of Bills, LD 718, [May 2014](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 718, Roll Call #276, [6/11/13](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 718, [7/9/13](#)]

- **The Bill Prohibited Food to be Labeled as “Natural” if it Had Been Genetically Engineered.** LD718 “provides that food may not be labeled as ‘natural’ if it has been genetically engineered. It defines ‘food’ to mean food intended for human consumption. It exempts products produced without knowledge that the products or items used in their production were genetically engineered; animal products derived from an animal that was not genetically engineered but was fed genetically engineered food; and products with only a minimum content produced by genetic engineering.” [Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Summaries of Bills, LD 718, [May 2014](#)]

- **The Bill’s Disclosure Requirements Did Not Apply to Restaurants, Alcoholic Beverages, or Medical Food.** LD718 “provides that the disclosure requirements do not apply to restaurants, alcoholic beverages or medical food. The disclosure provisions are administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.” [Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Summaries of Bills, LD 718, [May 2014](#)]
- **The Bill Would Go Into Effect When Mandatory GMO Labeling Had Been Adopted by Five Contiguous States, Including Maine.** LD718 “goes into effect when legislation requiring mandatory labeling of genetically engineered food has been adopted by five contiguous states, including Maine.” [Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Summaries of Bills, LD 718, [May 2014](#)]

LAWSUITS

The LePage Administration Is Suing A Small-Scale Farmer “For Ignoring State Law And Following A Local Ordinance That Exempts Farmers From State And Federal Regulations If They Sell Their Products Directly To Consumers.” Dan Brown, owner of Gravelwood Farm in Blue Hill, is being sued by the LePage administration “for ignoring state law and following a local ordinance that exempts farmers from state and federal regulations if they sell their products directly to consumers.” He “was issued a three-count civil summons...for selling milk and other food products without state licenses from his farm stand and at farmers’ markets. Blue Hill is one of five towns where voters passed local ordinances...allowing small-scale farmers like Brown to bypass state and federal regulations on foods sold directly to consumers. The attorney general’s office has issued an opinion stating the local laws were pre-empted by state and federal laws, thereby making them invalid. Brown...[was] the first farmer in those communities who’s been cited for not following state agriculture laws since the local ordinances passed, said Bob St. Peter, who owns a farm in Sedgwick and heads a group called Food for Maine’s Future, which advocates local food control.” “Maine Agriculture Commissioner Walt Whitcomb, who is a dairy farmer and sympathizes with small-scale farmers, said regulatory oversight is critical when it comes to food safety and public health. State inspectors in the past have found people changing a baby’s diapers or working on outboard motors on food preparation surfaces, he said when the towns first passed their local ordinances. Brown failed to heed repeated warnings that he needed a state license, so the department had no choice but to follow through and take him to court, Whitcomb said.” “Furthermore, milk, cottage cheese and butter samples taken from Brown’s farm stand in July [2011] were tested and found to be in violation of state health standards for milk and milk products, the summons reads.” (The Associated Press State & Local Wire, 11/16/11)

LOBSTERING

LePage Said Maine Needed More Lobster Processing, Maine Cost Too Much. The Associated Press reported in 2012, “LePage says it’s important to process the lobster... in Maine where value is added and jobs are created. He says the reason there are only three lobster-processing plants in Maine but more than 40 of them in Canada is because of the high cost of doing business in Maine. Problems came to light earlier this month when Canadian lobstermen

angry over cheap imports blocked shipments of Maine lobster. LePage says Maine needs smart policies to encourage investment to process lobster at home. In particular, he says energy prices are too high.” [Associated Press, [8/11/12](#)]

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill Funding The Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative Through 2021. In April 2018, LePage let LD 1791 become law without his signature after passing both chambers of the legislature without a roll call vote. “The legislature in the U.S. state of Maine approved a bill on 9 April to continue funding for the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative. The collaborative, which promotes the Maine lobster brand in the media and restaurant business, is funded via fees paid by members of the state’s lobster industry. The bill, which is now law, extends the fee structure through 2021.” [Maine State Legislature, LD 1791, [4/8/18](#); Seafood Source, [4/13/18](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Bill To Extend Life Of Maine Lobster Marketing Group Becomes Law.”** [Portland Press Herald, [4/9/18](#)]
- **Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative “Promotes The Maine Lobster Brand In The Media And Restaurant Business, Is Funded Via Fees Paid By Members Of The State’s Lobster Industry.”** On April 8, 2018, LD 1791 became law without Governor LePage’s signature after passing both chambers of the legislature without a roll call vote. “The legislature in the U.S. state of Maine approved a bill on 9 April to continue funding for the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative. The collaborative, which promotes the Maine lobster brand in the media and restaurant business, is funded via fees paid by members of the state’s lobster industry. The bill, which is now law, extends the fee structure through 2021.” [Seafood Source, [4/13/18](#)]
- **The Bill “Enable[d] A Maine Lobster Marketing Group To Continue Touting The State’s Signature Seafood Export In The Coming Years.”** “A bill to enable a Maine lobster marketing group to continue touting the state’s signature seafood export in the coming years became law Monday.” [Portland Press Herald, [4/9/18](#)]
- **The Maine Lobster Advisory Council And Its Seven Lobster Zone Councils Supported The Bill Continuing The Funding For The Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative.** “The collaborative has a USD 2.2 million (EUR 1.84 million) budget, largely sourced through lobster license surcharges. That budget goes towards promoting the Maine lobster – which is the North American Lobster – as a brand. The MLMC has come under some criticism in the past from members of the industry, who said the fees paid toward the collaborative budget aren’t seen as getting any return. Despite that criticism, Maine’s Lobster Advisory Council and its seven lobster zone councils all approved continuing the funding.” [Seafood Source, [4/13/18](#)]
- **Portland Press Herald: “Members Of The Lobster Industry Have Spoken In Favor Of Keeping The Marketing Group To Help The Industry Stay Profitable During Difficult Fishing Years.”** “Members of the lobster industry have spoken in favor of keeping the marketing group to help the industry stay profitable during difficult fishing

years. The collaborative was created about five years ago, after a season in which fishermen saw low prices.” [Portland Press Herald, [4/9/18](#)]

LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Created a Local Foods Procurement Program to Increase the Amount of Local Foods Procured by State Institutions (Not Local Schools). In July 2018, LePage allowed LD1584 to become law without his signature after it passed the House without a roll call vote and the Senate by a 22-11 vote. LD1584 “directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to do the following: 1. Establish and promote a local foods procurement program with the goal of increasing the percentage of local foods procured by state institutions to 20% of all food and food products procured by 2025. The program does not apply to local schools.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1584, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1584, 2018](#)]

MARINE BUSINESSES BOND

In 2014, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Funding a \$7 Million Bond To Facilitate The Growth Of Marine Businesses And Commercial Enterprises. In April 2014, LePage allowed LD1709 to become law without his signature. The bond “Provides funds to facilitate the growth of marine businesses and commercial enterprises that create jobs and improve the sustainability of the State's marine economy and related industries through capital investments, awarded after a competitive process administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development in consultation with the Department of Marine Resources and the Maine Technology Institute, to be matched by at least \$7,000,000 in private and other funds. Total: \$7,000,000.” The House passed the bill by a 114-32 and the Senate by a 28-4 vote. It became law without Gov. LePage’s signature. The voters passed the bond with 59% of the vote. [Maine State Legislature, LD1709 Bill Text, [2014](#); Maine State Legislature, LD1709, Roll Call #740, [4/17/14](#); New York Times, [2014](#)]

- **The \$7 Million Bond Funding To Facilitate Marine Businesses And Commercial Enterprises Was Awarded To The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy, A Consortium Of Maine-Based Marine Businesses, Research Institutions, And Educational Organizations, Which Invested The Funds In Public And Private Institutions Throughout Maine.** “Maine Marine Economy Bond: Finally, also in 2014, the Legislature authorized (Public Law 2014, Chapter 592), and the voters of the State of Maine approved, a \$7,000,000 bond issue to facilitate the growth of marine businesses and commercial enterprises that create jobs and improve the sustainability of the State’s marine economy and related industries through capital investments. In May 2016, the newly formed Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, a consortium of Maine-based marine businesses, research institutions and educational organizations, was selected by the State of Maine as the recipient of the \$7 million in funding and pledged to provide \$9.3 million in matching funds. The Alliance’s plan, spearheaded by the University of Maine, calls for immediate infrastructure investments in public and private institutions throughout Maine.” [Maine Technology Institute Annual Report, [FY2017](#)]

- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In Maine Fair Trade Lobster In Prospect.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Bond recipient: Maine Fair Trade Lobster. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In The Downeast Institute In Beals.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Bond recipient: Downeast Institute. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In Cooke Aquaculture In Lubec.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Bond recipient: Cooke Aquaculture. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In Blue Hill Bay Mussels, LLC In Hancock.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Capital grant recipient: Blue Hill Bay Mussels, LLC. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In Springtide Seaweed In Gouldsboro.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment,

new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Capital grant recipient: Springtide Seaweed, Gouldsboro. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]

- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In The University Of Maine’s Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory In Orono.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Bond recipient: Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In Cape Seafood LLC/Luke’s Lobster In Portland.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Bond recipient: Cape Seafood LLC/Luke’s Lobster. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In Coastal Enterprises, Inc. In Brunswick.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Capital grant recipient: Coastal Enterprises. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In Maine Seafood Ventures/Ready Seafood In Portland.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Capital grant recipient: Maine Seafood Ventures/Ready Seafood. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]

- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine's Marine Economy Invest In Bigelow Laboratory In Boothbay.** "This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens' marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming." Bond recipient: Bigelow Laboratory. [Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine's Marine Economy Invest In The University Of Maine's Darling Marine Center In Bristol.** "This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens' marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming." Bond recipient: Bigelow Laboratory. [Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine's Marine Economy Invest In Community Shellfish Inc. In Bremen.** "This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens' marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming." Capital grant recipient: Community Shellfish. [Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **Community Shellfish Used Its \$100,000 From The Bonding Funds To Rehabilitate/Repurpose An Unused Lobster Pound Into An Oyster Farm, Which Helped Preserve The Waterfront And Diversify Income For Fisherman And The Community.** "Community Shellfish. Award: Marine Bond. \$100,000. Community Shellfish is primarily a seafood wholesaler and dealer in Bremen, Maine. A grant from MTI allowed them to rehabilitate and repurpose a grandfathered, unused lobster pound enclosure for development as a dynamic and innovative aquaculture habitat to grow shellfish. Community Shellfish then started an oyster farm, where the 'Cora Cressy Oyster' is grown and then sold to retailers and restaurant distributors up and down the East Coast. By repurposing an area once used exclusively for commercial fishing, Community Shellfish is creating diversification of income for fishermen and the community - while preserving the working waterfront. This project allowed the company to hire local construction firms and workers, retain seasonal employees throughout the year and add hours for current part-time employees. 50,000: Number of oysters they

started with. 450,000: Current harvest. 800,000: Expected oysters next year.” [Maine Technology Institute, Annual Report, [FY2018](#)]

- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In Georgetown Aquaculture In Georgetown.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Capital grant recipient: Georgetown Aquaculture. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In The Maine Aquaculture Cooperative In Rockland.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Capital grant recipient: Maine Aquaculture Cooperative. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In Mook Sea Farms In Bristol.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Capital grant recipient: Mook Sea Farms. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]
- **The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In Pemaquid Mussel Farms LLC In Damariscotta.** “This network formed in 2016 following a state-sponsored, citizens’ marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming.” Capital grant recipient: Mook Sea Farms. [Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]

The \$7 Million Bonding Funding Helped The Alliance For Maine’s Marine Economy Invest In Shuck’s Maine Lobster In Richmond. “This network formed in 2016 following a

state-sponsored, citizens' marine-bond initiative (seven million dollars in public funds administered by Maine Technology Institute, plus more than seven million dollars in initial private investments) that supported 17 innovative projects from Saco to Machiasport. These investments in public and private infrastructure, capital equipment, new technologies and workforce development are transforming." Capital grant recipient: Shuck's Maine Lobster. [Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy, accessed [6/22/20](#); Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy, [6/22/20](#)]

PESTICIDES

Paul Lepage, In 2011, Signed A Bill That "Repealed A 2009 Law Requiring Pesticide Applicators To Provide Advance Notice Of Aerial Pesticide Applications To Those Who Listed Their Property On A Public Registry." Paul LePage, in 2011, signed a bill that "repealed a 2009 law requiring pesticide applicators to provide advance notice of aerial pesticide applications to those who listed their property on a public registry. Proponents say a law in effect since 1998 already provides Maine citizens with the right to be notified. LePage said the existing law was less burdensome and did the same thing. He called the repeal 'another example of good, commonsense regulatory reform.'" (The Associated Press State & Local Wire, 06/15/11)

SHELLFISH

Paul Lepage, In 2011, Proposed A Budget That Eliminated Funding For "Scientists Who Inspect Shellfish Beds, Which Are Critical To Maine's \$20 Million- A-Year Shellfish Industry." "State lawmakers...[had to] find \$120,000 to maintain funding for three scientists who inspect shellfish beds, which are critical to Maine's \$20 million-a-year shellfish industry, Sen. Lois Snowe- Mello, R-Poland, said" in April 2011. "These three positions must be maintained in order to ensure public health and safety, ensure uninterrupted services to the shellfish industry and protect the Maine shellfish brand and economy,' said Snowe-Mello, Senate chairwoman of the Legislature's Marine Resources Committee. Snowe-Mello and other members of the committee told the Appropriations Committee that they agree unanimously with Gov. Paul LePage's proposed marine resources budget, except for the omission of funding for the scientists." "The Legislature created the positions in 2009, after the state closed shellfish beds from Kittery to Harpswell in response to a determination by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that 'Maine was not in compliance with federal requirements,' said the Marine Resources Committee's report. Snowe-Mello and other committee members said the state's shellfish industry must stay in compliance with federal rules so clammers can sell shellfish across state lines." "Commissioner Darryl Brown of the Department of Environmental Protection said he will examine his budget to look for funding. He said the state should add to the number of people who inspect the shellfish beds. 'These positions are what we need to keep to maintain a minimum level of performance,' he said." (Portland Press Herald, 04/06/11)

These "Positions Must Be Maintained In Order To Ensure Public Health And Safety, Ensure Uninterrupted Services To The Shellfish Industry And Protect The Maine Shellfish Brand And Economy,' Said [Republican Lois] Snowe-Mello, Senate Chairwoman Of The Legislature's Marine Resources Committee." "State lawmakers...[had to] find \$120,000 to maintain funding for three scientists who inspect shellfish beds, which are critical to Maine's \$20

million-a-year shellfish industry, Sen. Lois Snowe- Mello, R-Poland, said” in April 2011. “‘These three positions must be maintained in order to ensure public health and safety, ensure uninterrupted services to the shellfish industry and protect the Maine shellfish brand and economy,’ said Snowe-Mello, Senate chairwoman of the Legislature’s Marine Resources Committee. (*Portland Press Herald*, 04/06/11)

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of A Bill That Increased Fivefold the Fine for Interfering With Shellfish Harvesting Done by an Individual with a Municipal Shellfish Aquaculture Permit. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD255 by a 116-23 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote. LD255 “5 increases the fine for a person who commits a civil violation of interfering with the ability of a person who holds a municipal shellfish aquaculture permit to carry out the privileges granted under the permit. The fine is changed from not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 to not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 and provides restitution by that person to the permittee in an amount equal to twice the replacement value of any damaged equipment on the permit site. The law clarifies that the prohibited action includes disturbing or molesting shellfish, not only the taking of shellfish. It excludes the designee of a holder of a municipal shellfish aquaculture permit from potential liability for taking, disturbing or molesting any shellfish on the permit site.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD255, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD255, 2015](#)]

May 2015: LePage Vetoed Bill To Rid Mudflats Of Invasive Green Crabs, Bolster Valuable Shellfish Population. “Democratic Sen. Stan Gerzofsky of Brunswick, who sponsored the bill, said the veto has squandered years of work and resources dedicated to reversing the takeover of valuable shellfish flats by invasive green crabs. The bill would have extended a pilot program to study ways to eradicate them. LD 435 received unanimous support on both the Marine Resources Committee and in the full Legislature earlier this year but was vetoed by LePage last week. The bill sought to extend the municipal predator control project, which allowed the study and implementation of measures to rid mudflats of invasive green crabs and bolster the population of valuable shellfish and marine worms, until November 2016.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/7/15]

- **Sponsor Of The Bill, Sen. Gerzofsky: Maine Has “Responsibility To Ensure Sustainability” Of Shellfish Industry.** “‘We, as a state, have a responsibility to ensure sustainability for this key Maine industry by investing in and protecting it for future generations,’ he said. ‘If nothing is done to adequately protect our intertidal areas from green crabs, it will not be long before there is nothing left to harvest.’ Softshell clam harvests in Maine dropped from 11.1 million pounds in 2012 to 10.6 million pounds in 2013. The drop was attributed largely to the spread of green crabs, though Devereaux said there are not as many now as there once were.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/7/15]

TICKS

Headline: “Aiming to Contain an Epidemic Made Worse by Global Warming, Public Health Advocates Say Their Efforts are Undercut by the LePage Administration’s Blind Eye to Climate Science.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 8/12/18]

LePage “Won’t Acknowledge the Phenomenon” of Global Warming, Suppressed State Plans to Address the Epidemic, and Vetoed Legislation Addressing it. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The ticks have brought a surge of Lyme disease in Maine over two decades, boosting reported cases from 71 in 2000 to 1,487 in 2016 - a twentyfold increase, the latest federal data show. [...] Yet in Maine, Gov. Paul LePage - a conservative Republican who has questioned global-warming science - won't acknowledge the phenomenon. His administration has suppressed state plans and vetoed legislation aimed at limiting the damage. Former government officials say state employees, including those at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, have been told not to discuss climate change.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 8/12/18]

Former Maine State Government Officials Said State Employees, Including Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Employees, Were Instructed Not to Discuss Climate Change. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The ticks have brought a surge of Lyme disease in Maine over two decades, boosting reported cases from 71 in 2000 to 1,487 in 2016 - a twentyfold increase, the latest federal data show. [...] Yet in Maine, Gov. Paul LePage - a conservative Republican who has questioned global-warming science - won't acknowledge the phenomenon. His administration has suppressed state plans and vetoed legislation aimed at limiting the damage. Former government officials say state employees, including those at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, have been told not to discuss climate change.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 8/12/18]

Maine CDC Had a Strategy to Address the Tick Infections in Maine, But “the State Has Failed to Follow Through.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “This matters because public-health departments cannot contain an epidemic worsened by global warming if they pay no attention to the climate link. The Maine CDC had an ambitious strategy that would have helped it get ahead of the problem, experts say. That strategy hinged on forecasting how impending changes in Maine's climate could increase tick-infection risks, enabling officials to warn people about where vector-borne illnesses were headed next and develop plans of attack. But the state has failed to follow through.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 8/12/18]

BUDGET

2011 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Proposed

2011 Proposed LePage Budget: Almost \$100 Million Less For Municipalities. The *Portland Press Herald* reported, “LePage's budget would give cities and towns more money in each of the next two years than they got in this fiscal year. But it would provide 33 percent less than they would receive under the 5 percent formula, based on projected revenue. Under the current system, municipalities would get a total of \$280 million over the next two years. LePage is proposing to allocate \$188 million over the same period.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 3/2/11]

- **LePage Budget Proposed Cutting Circuit Breaker Program.** The *Bangor Daily News* reported of a report done by the Maine Center for Economic Policy, a “liberal think

tank,” which found that “LePage's budget cuts by 20 percent the Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program, also known as the ‘Circuit Breaker’ program. That program provides property tax relief to more than 150,000 families.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/2/11]

LePage Administration Proposed Defunding Maine Public Broadcasting Network. The Bangor Daily News reported that the LePage administration was “recommending that lawmakers eliminate all state funding for the Maine Public Broadcasting Network.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/12/11]

- **LePage: MPBN Funding is Corporate Welfare.** In 2012 LePage said “funding for the Maine Public Broadcasting Network is a form of corporate welfare that the state can no longer afford.” [Kennebec Journal, 3/16/12]

LePage Supported Lowering Top Tax Rate, Doubling Estate Tax Exemption. The Bangor Daily News reported, “LePage's plan would also, beginning in 2013, lower Maine's top income tax rate from 8.5 percent to 7.95 percent. According to the administration, the various changes would result in an average tax decrease of \$288... More controversially, LePage has proposed doubling the current estate tax exemption, meaning heirs would pay only the so-called "death tax" on property or businesses once the value hits the \$2 million mark rather than the current threshold of \$1 million.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/2/11]

Signed, Final Budget

LePage Signed 2011 Budget that Legislature “Revised...in Key Areas.” The Morning Sentinel reported of the budget LePage signed in 2011, “The budget passed easily last week in the House and Senate. Before the budget went to lawmakers for votes, the Legislature's Appropriations Committee revised LePage's original proposal in three key areas: the pension system for teachers and state workers, taxes, and welfare programs.” [Morning Sentinel, 6/21/11]

- **Budget Froze COLA for First \$20K of Retirement Income.** “The budget seeks to address short- and long-term debt in the pension system by freezing cost-of-living increases for retirees and paying out the increases only on the first \$20,000 of annual retirement income. It caps future increases at 3 percent.” [Morning Sentinel, 6/21/11]
- **Cut Off TANF After Five Years.** “Consistent with one of LePage's goals dating back to last year's gubernatorial campaign, the budget cuts off federal money for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families after five years.” [Morning Sentinel, 6/21/11]
- **Budget Froze State Pay for Two Years.** “The budget also freezes state employees' pay for two years, and will not extend longevity payments to anyone who isn't already receiving them.” [Morning Sentinel, 6/21/11]

2012 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET & CURTAILMENT

LePage Issued Line Item Veto to General Assistance in Supplemental Budget. The Bangor Daily News reported in 2013 of LePage and the supplemental budget, “LePage on Saturday issued what are known as line-item vetoes on two parts of the budget that passed overwhelmingly through the House and Senate on Friday. It’s the first time a Maine governor has ever used that particular executive branch power. Line-item vetoes apply only to dollar amounts contained in the budget and not budget language. The two issued by the governor reportedly address funding of general assistance for the 2013 fiscal year and the disproportionate share to hospitals and psychiatric facilities, which offsets losses in federal funding.” [Bangor Daily News, [4/14/12](#)]

Sun Journal Editorial: LePage 2012 Budget “Doesn’t Get Lawmakers One Dollar Close to Solving The DHHS Shortfall.” The Sun Journal opined, “The governor himself did what he does best: Change the subject and offer distractions. Even though he hasn’t offered a glimpse of a solution to the Medicaid problem, he allowed Mayhew to present a complicated restructuring of her department, less than a month before legislative adjournment... it would cut one- third of the staff at the Dorothea Dix State Hospital in Bangor, and privatize a number of sensitive DHHS functions. And he sent down yet another supplemental budget proposal, this one stocked with new tax breaks and budget cuts. The cuts include zeroing out funding for Maine Public Broadcasting, reducing support for higher education and slashing General Assistance reimbursements for towns and cities, all proposals the Legislature rejected when he presented them last year. Rather than devoting three days of public hearings to these dubious ideas, the Appropriations Committee would have been better advised to stamp the bill “return to sender.” It doesn’t get lawmakers one dollar close to solving the DHHS shortfall.” [Sun Journal editorial, 3/25/12]

LePage Ordered \$35 Million Budget Curtailment at End of 2012. In December 2012 LePage “ordered state agencies to make \$35.5 million in temporary cuts to keep the current year’s budget in balance as state revenue collections fall short of earlier projections. While nearly every agency will have to trim expenses as a result of the order, almost three-quarters of the cuts will come from Department of Health and Human Services programs and state aid to public schools. Those two areas account for approximately 70 percent of the state budget.” [Bangor Daily News, **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**]

- **DHHS Expected to Cut Elder and Foster Care.** “While the full effect is not entirely clear, groups are anticipating reductions in adoption and foster care services and elder care. Those cuts make up a significant part of the \$13.4 million reduction the order seeks in the Department of Health and Human Services.” [Kennebec Journal, 12/29/12]
- **LePage Budget Curtailment Proposed Cutting Public School Funding, not Charter Schools.** “Maine public school administrators lodged a new complaint Monday about the state’s two new charter schools: They won’t feel any impact of \$12.6 million in education aid cuts Gov. Paul LePage ordered late last month to close a \$35.5 million hole in the current state budget... In a release issued Monday, the MEA suggested that an expansion of charter schools could force the closure of small rural Maine schools and approached ‘taxation without representation.’” [Bangor Daily News, [1/7/13](#)]

LePage Proposed Plan to Pay for Hospital Debt with Liquor Sales. In 2013 LePage proposed a plan “to repay the \$186 million the state owes Maine hospitals for treating patients covered by Medicaid... The plan includes borrowing against future liquor revenue to fund the hospital payments, releasing voter-approved bonds for transportation and conservation, and bonds for a new correctional facility.” [Bangor Daily News, [1/15/13](#)]

- **Plan not Included in LePage’s Supplemental or 2013 Budget, Called out for Shifting Debt Responsibility.** The Bangor Daily News reported, “LePage did not address the hospital debt in the supplemental budget he proposed Friday to close a roughly \$112 million shortfall for the fiscal year that ends June 30. His proposed spending plan for the biennium that begins July 1, which Finance Commissioner Sawin Millett presented Friday, also did not include provisions to pay the hospital debt... Maine Senate President Justin Alford, D-Portland, said in the statement that ‘asking Wall Street to pay our hospitals only leaves us in debt to Wall Street.’ The liquor contract is estimated to be worth \$300 million to \$400 million.” [Bangor Daily News, [1/15/13](#)]

2013 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

2013 Supplemental Budget: LePage Let Budget, with Rejections of his Proposals, Go Into Effect Without His Signature. According to the Bangor Daily News, LePage said he “let the \$153 million supplemental budget approved overwhelmingly by lawmakers Thursday become law without his signature... The budget that met with approval in the House and Senate differed substantially from the package LePage submitted in early January, reversing many of the cuts the governor proposed to health and human services programs.” [Bangor Daily News, [2/22/13](#)]

- **LePage Proposed Changes Included Elderly Drug Assistance, Municipal Funds.** “The final budget didn’t include LePage administration proposals that would have capped General Assistance payments to municipalities at \$10.1 million for the year and cut \$1.75 million from the state’s ‘Drugs for the Elderly’ program, which provides senior citizens with prescription drug assistance.” [Bangor Daily News, [2/22/13](#)]

2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET

2013: LePage Budget Proposal Eliminated Revenue Sharing with Municipalities, Removed Most Homestead Exemptions. In 2013 LePage “proposed a complete suspension of municipal revenue sharing for the next two years as part of its plan to balance the current state budget and pay for state services without new taxes. Stopping revenue-sharing payments to cities and towns would save \$98.9 million each in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, according to the governor's office. The \$6.3 billion proposal also eliminates the homestead property tax exemption and circuit breaker program for everyone except people older than 65 and veterans.” [Bangor Daily News, 1/11/13]

- **Over 100 Local Officials Opposed to LePage Budget, Said it Would Balloon Property Taxes.** LePage’s “proposed \$6.3 billion two-year state budget would balloon property taxes, slash municipal services and make Maine businesses less competitive. That was the message delivered to the Legislature's tax and budget-writing committees

Wednesday by more than 100 local officials, businesses and others affected by the governor's plan.” [Kennebec Journal, 3/14/13]

- **“Of the Different Types Of Taxes, The Property Tax Hit Lower-Income Residents Hardest.”** The Bangor Daily News reported, “Forty-three percent of all taxes collected in Maine in 2009 were property taxes, both residential and commercial, according to Maine Revenue Services data. Income and consumption taxes accounted for 28 percent each of total tax collections... Of the different types of taxes, the property tax hit lower-income residents hardest, Maine Revenue Services data show.” [Bangor Daily News, [2/22/13](#)]
- **Kennebec Journal Editorial: Previous LePage Budget Promises Now Being Paid for on Backs of Local Governments.** The Kennebec Journal wrote of LePage’s budget promises, “we were skeptical when Gov. Paul LePage and legislative allies touted the ‘biggest tax cut in Maine history’ in 2011 and bragged that it put money in the pocket of almost all Mainers, particularly middle- and lower-income workers, including thousands who would now pay ‘no tax at all.’ Impressive if true, but, of course, it's not. Not even close... The uneven distribution of the tax burden was brought home this year when LePage told us how he would pay for his tax cuts. He proposed cuts to municipal revenue sharing, cuts to property taxpayer relief programs, cuts to General Assistance, cuts to teacher retirement contributions and flat education funding -- all designed to balance the books by shifting responsibility from the state to local governments, inevitably raising taxes on the people the governor claims to have helped.” [Kennebec Journal editorial, [4/28/13](#)]
- **Portland Press Herald Editorial: Taking Money from Municipalities “Not the Answer.”** The Press Herald opined of LePage’s claim he had no choice but to cut revenue sharing in the 2013 budget, when he had previously pushed tax cuts in the last budget. The Herald wrote, “These tax cuts have been touted as having broad benefits, but that is not the whole story. Taxpayers at the lower end of the income scale are getting a break, but nowhere near as much as they would lose if their rent or municipal property tax was hiked to pay for the state withholding revenue sharing. The trade-off would be equally bad for low-income and middle -income Mainers who got a few hundred dollars more in their paychecks but lost their health insurance or aid for a disabled child so what the governor calls ‘job creators’ can get a tax cut they don't need. The governor made a strong case, but it may not be the one he was trying to make. Lawmakers from both parties are going to need more revenue to balance this budget and taking it from municipalities is not the answer.” [Portland Press Herald editorial, 2/7/13]
- **HEADLINE: LePage, as Mayor, Decried Budget Shift LePage, as Governor, Calls Necessary.** The Kennebec Journal reported, “Many continue to lament Gov. Paul LePage's proposal to cut more than \$400 million from revenue sharing to municipalities in his budget for the next two budget years... But as mayor, LePage also liked state funding. For example, he clashed with the administration of Gov. John Baldacci in 2009 when the state changed the way it reimbursed schools, leaving Waterville with likely \$1.1 million less in funding than it expected. That change was

discovered days before LePage announced his 2010 gubernatorial run... ‘All they're doing is transferring state responsibility onto taxpayers, and people keep falling for this governor's bull--,’ he was quoted as saying.” [Kennebec Journal, [2/10/13](#)]

HEADLINE: LePage's Proposed Budget Includes Income Tax Increase. The Kennebec Journal reported, “Gov. Paul LePage's two-year budget makes no mention of a tax increase, but it will raise the tax bill of the average Mainer by \$49 over the next two years. The proposal relies on subtle but lucrative changes to the state's income tax indexing. How it would work is complicated, but the result is a projected increase of more than \$8.6 million in state income tax collections over the next two fiscal years beginning July 1 and an estimated \$1.5 million in the subsequent years.” [Kennebec Journal, [1/14/13](#)]

- **Conservative Tax Group Said LePage Budget Had “Stealth Tax Increase.”** The Tax Foundation, which “has ties to conservative groups and is considered pro-business,” accused LePage of “of slipping a ‘stealth tax increase’ into his proposed 2014- 15 biennial budget. The foundation's analysis found that the governor's proposal to forgo adjusting income tax rates to inflation in 2014 and 2015 will raise average tax rates ‘in all cases.’” [Sun Journal, 2/7/13]

Editorial: LePage Budget “Passing the Buck to the Taxpayer.” Seacoast Online opined of LePage’s 2013 budget, “We understand Maine is in a tough position, with high unemployment and tepid economic growth predicted. But there needs to be a better solution than this age-old regressive one of passing the buck to the taxpayer. For instance, LePage calls for a reduction of 200 state workers. According to the Maine Department of Labor, the state employed more than 23,500 people in 2011. With a population of slightly less than 1 million, that's more than 2 percent of all of the state's residents. The Legislature needs to take a hard look at this in the months to come. We value our school and municipal employees, who are already too few due to recent flat budgets, and we believe they deserve to remain employed. And their salaries should not be paid by skyrocketing property taxes to offset these draconian budget cuts. They deserve better. The taxpayers deserve better.” [Seacoastonline.com, [1/20/13](#)]

Editorial HEADLINE: Budget is no Place to Make Election Policy. In a 2013 editorial, the Bangor Daily News wrote, “The Maine Clean Election Act benefits voters too much to fall victim to state government’s lingering fiscal problems. The voter-approved public campaign financing system should be considered on its merits as a tool for democracy, not as a state budget line competing for scarce government funds. Jonathan Wayne, executive director of the Maine Ethics Commission, warned the Legislature’s budget-writing Appropriations Committee last week that Gov. Paul LePage’s proposal to cut a total of \$4 million in state funding for the Maine Clean Election Fund in the two-year budget... would eliminate the option of public campaign financing for legislative and gubernatorial candidates in 2014... the governor effectively relegated consideration of the way Maine conducts its elections to a line item on a two-year budget.” [Bangor Daily News editorial, [3/6/13](#)]

LePage Budget Proposal Called for Altering Manufacturing Property Tax Revenue for Municipalities. The Sun Journal reported of LePage, “The governor's proposed budget eliminates the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement, or BETR, program, a property tax relief

program created by Gov. Angus King in 1995, and moves all businesses -- except retail -- into the Business Equipment Tax Exemption, or BETE... here's the difference in a nutshell: The BETR program reimburses a business for property taxes it paid to the municipality, while the BETE program exempts businesses from having to pay the property taxes in the first place and instead reimburses the municipalities for the lost revenue.” [Sun Journal, 1/17/13]

- **Administration Claimed Change Would Benefit Businesses While Local Governments Did Not “Buy it.”** The Sun Journal reported, “The administration claims the elimination of BETR and expanding BETE will streamline the ‘cumbersome’ process for the businesses, the municipalities that collect the property taxes and the state, which handles the reimbursements... [government relations director of the Maine Municipal Association Geoff] Herman doesn't buy it: ‘That argument doesn't weigh very much against the loss of \$10 million annually in a couple dozen municipalities across the state,’ he said.” [Sun Journal, 1/17/13]

Gov. Paul LePage’s Proposed \$6.3 Billion Two- Year State Budget Would Balloon Property Taxes, Slash Municipal Services And Make Maine Businesses Less Competitive. “Gov. Paul LePage’s proposed \$6.3 billion two- year state budget would balloon property taxes, slash municipal services and make Maine businesses less competitive. That was the message delivered to the Legislature’s tax and budget- writing committees...by more than 100 local officials, businesses and others affected by the governor’s plan.” (Kennebec Journal, 03/14/13)

LePage’s Office Said His Budget Included a Proposal to Completely Suspend Municipal Revenue Sharing for Two Years, Saving \$98.9 Million in FYs 2014 and 2015. It included a proposal to completely suspend “municipal revenue sharing for...two years as part of its plan to balance the current state budget and pay for state services without new taxes. Stopping revenue-sharing payments to cities and towns would save \$98.9 million each in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, according to the governor’s office.” (Bangor Daily News, 01/11/13)

- **Augusta Mayor Said LePage’s Budget Would Force Cities and Towns to Raise Property Taxes.** Augusta “Mayor William Stokes said cities and towns will be forced to raise property taxes if the Legislature approves Gov. Paul LePage’s proposal to eliminate state revenue sharing payments for two years.” “‘We have no other source of revenue except through the property tax. It’s a way of shifting costs to the most regressive form of taxation the state has, the property tax,’” he said. (Kennebec Journal, 01/12/13)
- **Mike Tipping: Municipalities Will Be Forced to Increase Property Taxes in Order to Maintain Basic Services...Will Increase Taxes Most on the Poor and the Middle Class.** Mike Tipping wrote in the Kennebec Journal, “this shifting of the burden to municipalities...represents a large part of the new LePage tax increase. Faced with the huge budget shortfalls that this proposal would cause...municipalities will be forced to increase property taxes in order to maintain basic services. This regressive move will increase taxes most on the poor and the middle class.” “Property taxes aren’t the only taxes that would be increased if LePage got his way.” “LePage’s budget proposal adds some new taxes, including a tax on the sale of newspapers and other types of published periodicals.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/24/13)

LePage's Budget Proposal Included "Eliminating The Tax Exemption For Newspapers And Other Publications Issued At Least Four Times A Year." More specifically, it included "eliminating the tax exemption for newspapers and other publications issued at least four times a year." "His budget proposal also changes the indexing process for the income tax in a way that will disproportionately affect the poor." (Kennebec Journal, 01/22/13)

Tax Foundation Found a "Stealth Tax Increase" in LePage's Budget Proposal, Finding That His Proposal to "Forgo Adjusting Income Tax Rates To Inflation In 2014 And 2015 Will Raise Average Tax Rates 'In All Cases.'" "The Tax Foundation...accused Gov. Paul LePage of slipping a 'stealth tax increase' into his proposed 2014-15 biennial budget. The foundation's analysis found that the governor's proposal to forgo adjusting income tax rates to inflation in 2014 and 2015 will raise average tax rates 'in all cases.'" (Bangor Daily News, 02/06/13)

LePage's Budget Proposal Would "Raise The Tax Bill Of The Average Mainer By \$49 Over The Next Two Years" According To LePage's Associate Commissioner of Tax Policy. The income tax part of this proposal will "raise the tax bill of the average Mainer by \$49 over the next two years." "If the Legislature approves the plan, average Mainers who pay income taxes will see a combined two-year increase of \$49 in their tax bills, according to Michael Allen, LePage's associate commissioner of tax policy." (Kennebec Journal, 01/15/13)

LePage's Budget Included Eliminating the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program – Maine's Paper Companies Opposed the Measure. An early 2013 legislative hearing "included testimony from some of the state's largest businesses opposing LePage's plan to eliminate the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program, or BETR. The governor wants to replace the 1995 program with the Business Equipment Tax Exemption, BETE. Both programs reimburse businesses for taxes paid to municipalities on equipment investments. Many business representatives who testified...support the transition to BETE because it maintains a higher reimbursement rate than the older program. Their opposition stems from the governor's plan to suspend BETR payments for one year, a proposal that would cost businesses participating in the program a combined \$38.8 million. According to budget documents prepared by Maine Revenue Services, the measure would save the state \$11.8 million." "Maine paper companies, among the heaviest users of the program, according to Maine Revenue Services data, were united in opposing the measure." "Ed Snook, with B&M, said the program leveled the playing field with other states. Suspending the reimbursement even for a year could be viewed as a tax increase by B&M's parent company, B&G Foods Inc., possibly resulting in job cuts, he said. The argument was repeated by more than a dozen businesses and their advocates, including the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce." (Kennebec Journal, 03/14/13)

"The \$6.3 Billion Proposal...Eliminates The Homestead Property Tax Exemption And Circuit Breaker Program For Everyone Except People Older Than 65 And Veterans." "The \$6.3 billion proposal...eliminates the homestead property tax exemption and circuit breaker program for everyone except people older than 65 and veterans." (Bangor Daily News, 01/11/13)

“The Only People Who Seem To Be Protected From Disproportionate Tax Increases In Lepage’s Budget Are Wealthy Individuals And Corporations. These Privileged Groups Get To Keep The Massive New Tax Breaks That Lepage And The Republican Legislature Gave Them In The...[Previous] Budget.” “The only people who seem to be protected from disproportionate tax increases in LePage’s budget are wealthy individuals and corporations. These privileged groups get to keep the massive new tax breaks that LePage and the Republican Legislature gave them in the last budget.” (Kennebec Journal, 01/22/13)

Lewiston Sun Journal Editorial: “Governor Has Chosen Tax Increases.” The Lewiston Sun Journal opined in an editorial titled, “Governor has chosen tax increases,” Governor “Paul LePage is all about hiking taxes, property taxes,” in reference to his proposals to eliminate the homestead property tax exemption and circuit breaker for most Mainers. “While the governor may tell himself he is not proposing to raise taxes, when you start cutting tax discounts for property taxpayers you are increasing what they pay. And that, in anyone’s book, is a tax increase.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/27/13)

Lewiston Sun Journal Editorial: “Governor Paul LePage is All About Hiking Taxes, Property Taxes...While the Governor May Tell Himself He is Not Proposing to Raise Taxes, When You Start Cutting Tax Discounts for Property Taxpayers You Are Increasing What They Pay. And That, in Anyone’s Book, is a Tax Increase.” The Lewiston Sun Journal opined in an editorial titled, “Governor has chosen tax increases,” Governor “Paul LePage is all about hiking taxes, property taxes,” in reference to his proposals to eliminate the homestead property tax exemption and circuit breaker for most Mainers. “While the governor may tell himself he is not proposing to raise taxes, when you start cutting tax discounts for property taxpayers you are increasing what they pay. And that, in anyone’s book, is a tax increase.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/27/13)

Tax Foundation “Suggests That Lepage’s Proposal To Switch In 2016 To A Practice Called ‘Chained Consumer Price Indexing’ Would Adversely Affect Taxpayers” By Causing “Taxes To Increase Faster Than Under The Method Currently Used.” In addition, the Tax Foundation “suggests that LePage’s proposal to switch in 2016 to a practice called ‘chained consumer price indexing’ would adversely affect taxpayers” by causing “taxes to increase faster than under the method currently used.” (Bangor Daily News, 02/06/13)

LePage Budget Included A Change in Funding to General Purpose K-12 Aid “That Will Force Local Taxpayers to Pick Up Some of the Costs.” This budget proposal also included “flat-funding General Purpose Aid to K-12 public education at \$895 million annually, which reflects the current year’s total allowance after the curtailment LePage announced” in late December 2012. It also included “shifting the responsibility for funding teacher pensions from a 100 percent state commitment to a shared responsibility between the state and local districts, a move that will force local taxpayers to pick up some of the costs.” (Bangor Daily News, 01/11/13)

Paul Lepage, In January 2013, Proposed A Budget That Did Not Increase Funding For Public Schools. Paul LePage, in January 2013, proposed a budget that would flat-fund education. “Funding for public schools and higher education will remain flat in the next two

years if Gov. Paul LePage's \$6.3 billion biennial budget proposal makes it through the Legislature unscathed." (Bangor Daily News, 01/11/13)

- **"Among 230 School Units In Maine, All But 72 Are Projected To Have Less State Funding To Work With Next Year."** Paul LePage "proposed shifting \$28.9 million in pension contributions from the state onto Maine public schools, then offsetting half of the cost with a \$14.5 million increase in General Purpose Aid to schools." "Among 230 school units in Maine, all but 72 are projected to have less state funding to work with next year once the retirement contributions are subtracted from their state aid." (Kennebec Journal, 02/23/13)

LePage's Budget Proposed Shifting \$28.9 Million in Pension Contributions From the State Onto Maine Public Schools. Paul LePage "proposed shifting \$28.9 million in pension contributions from the state onto Maine public schools, then offsetting half of the cost with a \$14.5 million increase in General Purpose Aid to schools." "Among 230 school units in Maine, all but 72 are projected to have less state funding to work with next year once the retirement contributions are subtracted from their state aid." (Kennebec Journal, 02/23/13)

Paul LePage, In January 2013, Proposed A Budget That Did Not Increase Funding For Higher Education. Paul LePage, in January 2013, proposed a budget that would flat-fund education. "Funding for public schools and higher education will remain flat in the next two years if Gov. Paul LePage's \$6.3 billion biennial budget proposal makes it through the Legislature unscathed." (Bangor Daily News, 01/11/13)

Enacted Budget – Passed Over LePage's Veto

LePage Vetoed Budget. The Sun Journal reported in June 2013, "LePage made good on long-standing threats to veto a two-year state budget proposal unanimously endorsed by a legislative committee. In his veto letter to the Legislature, LePage called the budget 'an opportunity missed,' criticizing tax increases and education funding in the proposal, while Democrats vow they have the votes to override the governor... LePage has threatened a veto since the budget came out of committee." [Morning Sentinel, 6/25/13]

Maine Legislature Overrode LePage's Budget Veto. In 2013 the Maine House and Senate voted "to override Republican Gov. Paul LePage's veto of the two-year, \$6.3 billion state budget, avoiding a state government shutdown and temporarily raising sales, meals and lodging taxes... The biennial budget, because it was passed so late in the legislative session and is considered an emergency measure, required a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate to take effect by the July 1 start of the new fiscal year... The votes to override the budget veto put legislators in a position Wednesday to divvy up about \$1.25 million for roughly 130 bills that passed without dedicated funding. The bills that gain funding will go to LePage, who could veto them, sign them or let them take effect without his signature." [Bangor Daily News, [6/26/13](#)]

- **Budget Avoided Most of the Revenue Sharing Cuts.** "The 13-member Appropriations Committee wrote a unanimously supported package that avoids nearly 65 percent of the revenue sharing cuts and restores some property tax relief — in part by raising the sales

tax from 5 percent to 5.5 percent, and meals and lodging taxes from 7 percent to 8 percent until July 1, 2015. The lawmakers also introduced a \$30 million boost in spending on public schools and funds to restore merit and longevity pay for state workers who have had their salaries frozen for more than four years.” [Bangor Daily News, [6/26/13](#)]

2014 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

In 2014, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Supplemental Bill That Closed A \$40 Million Gap In 2014 And Saved \$18 Million In 2015. In 2014, LePage allowed LD1843 to become law without his signature. “Last month, the committee recommended a budget bill, LD 1843, which closed a \$40 million gap in the current year and saved \$18 million in 2015. That bill, which passed 121-6 in the House and 33-1 in the Senate, went into law on April 3 without Gov. Paul LePage's signature. It restored cuts proposed by the LePage administration in public school funding, Head Start and higher education. It also funded merit and longevity pay increases for state employees.” The House voted to enact LD 1843 by a 121-6 vote and the Senate by a 33-1 vote. The bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Bangor Daily News, 4/9/14; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1843, Roll Call #555, [3/21/14](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 1843, [4/3/14](#)]

- **The Supplemental Budget Restored Proposed Cuts To Public School Funding, Head Start, And Higher Education.** “Last month, the committee recommended a budget bill, LD 1843, which closed a \$40 million gap in the current year and saved \$18 million in 2015. That bill, which passed 121-6 in the House and 33-1 in the Senate, went into law on April 3 without Gov. Paul LePage's signature. It restored cuts proposed by the LePage administration in public school funding, Head Start and higher education. It also funded merit and longevity pay increases for state employees.” The House voted to enact LD 1843 by a 121-6 vote and the Senate by a 33-1 vote. The bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Bangor Daily News, 4/9/14]
- **The Supplemental Budget Funded Merit And Longevity Pay Increases For State Employees.** “Last month, the committee recommended a budget bill, LD 1843, which closed a \$40 million gap in the current year and saved \$18 million in 2015. That bill, which passed 121-6 in the House and 33-1 in the Senate, went into law on April 3 without Gov. Paul LePage's signature. It restored cuts proposed by the LePage administration in public school funding, Head Start and higher education. It also funded merit and longevity pay increases for state employees.” The House voted to enact LD 1843 by a 121-6 vote and the Senate by a 33-1 vote. The bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Bangor Daily News, 4/9/14]

2015 BIENNIAL BUDGET

June 2015: Maine Legislature Forced To Override LePage’s Veto To Pass \$6.7 Budget Deal, Avoid Partial Government Shutdown. “By wide margins, the Maine House and Senate have overridden Gov. Paul LePage’s veto of the \$6.7 billion two-year state budget brokered by

leaders of the two parties in the Legislature. The Senate voted 25 to 10 without debate while the House voted 109 to 37. With only hours to go before the current state budget was due to expire, lawmakers have avoided a feared partial shutdown of state government.” [Maine Public, 6/30/15]

- **Maine Public: LePage Was “Not A Fan Of The Budget.”** “Gov. Paul LePage is not fan of the budget, which he will have to deal with for the next two years. He told a morning rally of supporters that the document was crafted in secret by the four top legislative leaders of both parties who made a travesty of his own budget priorities.” [Maine Public, 6/30/15]
- **Budget Included \$135.4 Million In Tax Cuts By 2017; Income Tax Decreased By .5 Percent While Maintaining Sales Tax Rates; Increased Meals, Lodging Tax.** “The budget plan includes an income tax cut paid for with changes to the sales, meals and lodging taxes. The current 5.5 percent sales tax is scheduled to decrease to 5 percent July 1. The budget deal would keep the tax at 5.5 percent to help fund the income tax cut, which would be phased in over the next two fiscal years. Meals and lodging taxes would increase. The current 8 percent meals tax is scheduled to fall to 7 percent on July 1. The budget deal would maintain the 8 percent tax for both meals and lodging until Dec. 31, then increase the lodging tax to 9 percent on Jan. 1 to capture more revenue from tourists.” [Morning Sentinel, 6/30/15]
- **Tax Brackets Would Change In 2017, Top Rate Applied To Those Earning \$50,001 Or More, Middle Bracket Applied To \$21,400-\$50,000 Earners.** “Democrats said that under the revised tax structure, many Mainers earning up to \$5,200 would have to start filing income tax forms to receive the full tax cuts. That is because the standard deduction would increase to \$11,600, and low-income Mainers would qualify for a fully refundable Earned Income Tax Credit. The tax brackets would change in 2017, but the rates would remain the same. The top rate would kick in for those earning \$50,001 or more, while the middle rate would cover those earning from \$21,400 to \$50,000. The income threshold for the bottom rate would remain the same.” [Morning Sentinel, 6/30/15]

Sun Journal: Maine Legislature Showed “Bipartisan Strength” In Standing Up To LePage’s Veto Of \$6.7 Billion Budget That Cut Income Tax, Increased Taxes For Tourists. In June 2015, Scott Thistle wrote in the Lewiston Sun Journal regarding the override of LePage’s budget veto, “In a show of bipartisan strength Tuesday, the Maine Legislature stood up to Republican Gov. Paul LePage's veto of a new \$6.7 billion state budget that cuts the state's income tax rate and stretches the sales tax in an attempt to export more of the state's costs to visitors.” [Sun Journal, 6/30/15]

- **GOP House Minority Leader Ken Fredette: A Vote To Sustain LePage’s Veto Of 2015 Budget Bill “Would Risk A State Government Shutdown.”** “On Tuesday, House Minority Leader Ken Fredette, long a staunch ally of LePage, credited the governor for elevating the discussion on the income tax cut but he also urged his colleagues to join him in voting to overturn the veto. Fredette said the budget didn't have everything Republicans wanted but it did have much they could be proud of and a vote to sustain

LePage's protest of the budget would risk a state government shutdown.” [Sun Journal—Scott Thistle, 6/30/15]

- **Fredette Following Override Of LePage’s Veto: Budget’s Tax Reduction “Focused On The Middle Class,” Helped People “We Want To Have Stay In Maine.”** “That is significant income tax reduction and it is focused on the middle class, many of those people that we want to have stay here in Maine . . . you're a young family, you have young children, we want you to stay here in Maine, we are going to put money back in your pocket,’ Fredette said summarizing the message of the override vote.” [Sun Journal—Scott Thistle, 6/30/15]

Sun Journal Headline: “Does GOP Budget Divide Signal ‘Lame Duck’ Status For LePage?” [Sun Journal—Scott Thistle, 5/20/15]

- **Sun Journal Writer Scott Thistle: GOP’s Split “Could Be A Signal The Power Of Firebrand Republican Gov. Paul LePage Is Waning.”** In May of 2015, Scott Thistle wrote, “Recent actions by State House Republicans could be a signal the power of firebrand Republican Gov. Paul LePage is waning as he heads toward the sixth month of his second term. Last week, Legislative Republican leaders split with LePage on his two-year state budget proposal, rejecting key LePage policy objectives around tax and spending reforms. On Tuesday, in another blow to LePage, lawmakers overturned with unanimous votes a LePage veto on a bill that allows for the transfer of moose-hunting permits between family members. This follows at least two other veto override votes earlier this year, where Republicans changed their votes to sustain a LePage veto.” [Sun Journal—Scott Thistle, 5/20/15]

June 2015: Democrats, GOP Reached Budget Deal That “Revealed Deep Rift Within Republican Party Ranks” As LePage, House GOP Wanted Income Tax Cuts Included In Budget. “Unable to reach bipartisan agreement on income tax cuts, Republican and Democratic leaders in the Legislature have struck a tentative budget deal that would make it harder for lawmakers to increase taxes in the future. But the deal has revealed a deep rift within Republican ranks, with the top House Republican vowing to fight the emerging budget compromise because it lacks the income tax cuts and welfare reforms sought by party leaders and Gov. Paul LePage.” [Press Herald, 6/1/15]

- **June 2015: Members Of Appropriations And Financial Affairs Committee Reached \$6.57 Billion Budget Deal, But Expected Opposition From LePage.** “Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee had hoped to finalize work on the \$6.57 billion budget by Monday in order to give themselves enough time to get the measure through the full Legislature and override a threatened veto from Gov. Paul LePage. But House Republicans are resisting a tentative deal struck late Sunday night between Republican leaders in the Senate and the Legislature's Democratic leadership.” [Morning Sentinel, 6/2/15]
- **LePage “Blasted” Senate Republicans For “Siding With House Democrats” In Stymieing His Efforts To Lower, Eliminate Maine’s Income Tax.** “On Thursday,

LePage again turned up the heat by going public about his displeasure with the state Senate's Republican majority leadership. During an hourlong radio chat Thursday morning, LePage blasted Senate Republicans, again accusing them of siding with House Democrats in stymieing his efforts to lower and eventually eliminate Maine's income tax.” [Sun Journal—Scott Thistle, 6/4/15]

2017 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign a Supplemental Budget Bill. The House passed the supplemental budget package by a 142-1 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote, and the budget became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [State of Maine Legislature, LD 302, Roll Call #11, [3/2/17](#)]

- **The \$29 Million Budget Included \$5 Million In State And Federal Funds To Fund Opioid Addiction Treatment To Low-Income And Uninsured Mainers.** “This morning, members of the House of Representatives voted 142 to 1 in favor of LD 302, ‘An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.’ Later, members of the Senate voted unanimously to finally enact the budget and send it to Gov. Paul LePage. The governor has 10 days to sign it, veto it, or allow it to become law without his signature. After a push from democratic leaders, specifically an amendment offered by Sen. Cathy Breen, D-Falmouth, the supplemental budget bill now contains nearly \$5 million in state and federal funds to provide opioid addiction treatment to Mainers most in need of help — the uninsured and those with low incomes. This \$29 million dollar spending package also contains \$7.1 million in funding to keep tuition low at the University of Maine, \$7 million to the Maine Military Authority in Aroostook county, and \$5.5 million to rehabilitate fish hatcheries in our Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Department. Additionally, the package moves \$35 million to the state’s Rainy Day Fund.” [Press Release, Speaker Sara Gideon, [3/2/17](#)]
- **The \$29 Million Budget \$7.1 Million To Keep Tuition Low At The University Of Maine, \$7 Million For The Maine Military Authority, And \$5.5 Million For Rehabilitation Of Fish Hatcheries.** “This morning, members of the House of Representatives voted 142 to 1 in favor of LD 302, ‘An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.’ Later, members of the Senate voted unanimously to finally enact the budget and send it to Gov. Paul LePage. The governor has 10 days to sign it, veto it, or allow it to become law without his signature. After a push from democratic leaders, specifically an amendment offered by Sen. Cathy Breen, D-Falmouth, the supplemental budget bill now contains nearly \$5 million in state and federal funds to provide opioid addiction treatment to Mainers most in need of help — the uninsured and those with low incomes. This \$29 million dollar spending package also contains \$7.1 million in funding to keep tuition low at the University of Maine, \$7

million to the Maine Military Authority in Aroostook county, and \$5.5 million to rehabilitate fish hatcheries in our Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Department. Additionally, the package moves \$35 million to the state's Rainy Day Fund." [Press Release, Speaker Sara Gideon, [3/2/17](#)]

2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET & SHUTDOWN

Gov. LePage's Proposed Budget

Governor LePage Proposed Cutting The State Workforce By 500 In His Budget Proposal.

"In his budget proposal unveiled in January, LePage wants to cut income and corporate taxes, reduce the state workforce by 500, further reduce welfare rolls and fundamentally change the state's education funding formula. He also proposed nullifying the 3 percent surcharge on wealthy Mainers by setting the top tax rate at 7.15 percent this year, down from the current 10.15 percent on earnings above \$200,000. And by 2020, all taxpayers would be paying a flat tax of 5.75 percent under LePage's plan." [Portland Press Herald, 4/7/17]

Governor LePage Proposed Cutting Welfare Rolls In His Budget Proposal. "In his budget proposal unveiled in January, LePage wants to cut income and corporate taxes, reduce the state workforce by 500, further reduce welfare rolls and fundamentally change the state's education funding formula. He also proposed nullifying the 3 percent surcharge on wealthy Mainers by setting the top tax rate at 7.15 percent this year, down from the current 10.15 percent on earnings above \$200,000. And by 2020, all taxpayers would be paying a flat tax of 5.75 percent under LePage's plan." [Portland Press Herald, 4/7/17]

Governor LePage Proposed Nullifying The 3 Percent Surcharge On Wealthy Mainers That Voters Passed Via Referendum In November 2016 By Cutting The Top Tax Rate From 10.15 Percent To 7.15 Percent On Earning Above \$200,000. "In his budget proposal unveiled in January, LePage wants to cut income and corporate taxes, reduce the state workforce by 500, further reduce welfare rolls and fundamentally change the state's education funding formula. He also proposed nullifying the 3 percent surcharge on wealthy Mainers by setting the top tax rate at 7.15 percent this year, down from the current 10.15 percent on earnings above \$200,000. And by 2020, all taxpayers would be paying a flat tax of 5.75 percent under LePage's plan." [Portland Press Herald, 4/7/17]

- **11/8/16: Maine Voters Voted To Raise Taxes On High Earners By 3 Percent To Help Pay For Public Education.** "Nov. 8, 2016: Maine votes to raise taxes on high earners as rural voters helped Republican Donald Trump get elected president in a schizophrenic election entrenching a divided Legislature. The 3 percent surtax on high earners for education funding passed with 51 percent of votes, Democrat Hillary Clinton won Maine's presidential race, but dropped the 2nd Congressional District to Trump and legislative Republicans and Democrats kept their respective Senate and House majorities, but with weaker margins." [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]

Governor LePage Proposed Cutting Income And Corporate Taxes In His Budget Proposal.

"In his budget proposal unveiled in January, LePage wants to cut income and corporate taxes,

reduce the state workforce by 500, further reduce welfare rolls and fundamentally change the state's education funding formula. He also proposed nullifying the 3 percent surcharge on wealthy Mainers by setting the top tax rate at 7.15 percent this year, down from the current 10.15 percent on earnings above \$200,000. And by 2020, all taxpayers would be paying a flat tax of 5.75 percent under LePage's plan.” [Portland Press Herald, 4/7/17]

Governor LePage Proposed Reducing State Reimbursement Rates To Hospitals And Cut MaineCare Eligibility For 25,000 Individuals. “Also Tuesday, lawmakers on the Legislature's Appropriations and Health and Human Services committees held a joint public hearing on LePage's two-year state budget plan, considering portions of the proposal that would reduce state reimbursement rates to hospitals and reduce MaineCare eligibility for nearly 25,000 Mainers, including about 5,000 single adults ages 18 and 19. The eligibility changes alone would save the state about \$140 million. House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, signaled Democrats' opposition to the plan. ‘Democrats will not sign off on a plan that would have such negative consequences in rural Maine,’ Gideon said in a written statement. ‘Critical-access hospitals are already undergoing layoffs or facing closure. We need a transformational plan for Maine's economy that involves pulling our state together, instead of deepening the divide between our rural and our urban areas.’” [Portland Press Herald, 2/21/17]

Nov. 2016 – Maine Voters Voted to Raise Taxes on High Earners to Pay for Public Education Funding

11/8/16: Maine Voters Voted To Raise Taxes On High Earners By 3 Percent To Help Pay For Public Education. “Nov. 8, 2016: Maine votes to raise taxes on high earners as rural voters helped Republican Donald Trump get elected president in a schizophrenic election entrenching a divided Legislature. The 3 percent surtax on high earners for education funding passed with 51 percent of votes, Democrat Hillary Clinton won Maine's presidential race, but dropped the 2nd Congressional District to Trump and legislative Republicans and Democrats kept their respective Senate and House majorities, but with weaker margins.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]

Jan. 2017 – Gov. LePage Released His Two-Year Budget Plan, Proposing Flat Income Tax and Cuts to Welfare

1/6/17: Governor LePage Released His Two-Year Budget Plan, Including A Flat Income Tax And Cuts To Welfare, Despite His Prior Similar Proposals Not Being Enacted By The Legislature. “Jan 6, 2017: LePage releases his final two-year budget plan, proposing a flat income tax by 2020 and deep welfare cuts, but it never has a chance. After the Legislature enacted two straight two-year budgets over LePage vetoes in 2013 and 2015, the governor released a proposal that contained many of his old ideas, including a flat income tax and deep welfare cuts.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]

March 2017 – Maine Legislature Enacted a Supplemental Budget Funding Higher Education and Addiction Treatment

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign a Supplemental Budget Bill. The House passed the supplemental budget package by a 142-1 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote, and the budget

became law without Governor LePage's signature. [State of Maine Legislature, LD 302, Roll Call #11, [3/2/17](#)]

- **The \$29 Million Budget Included \$5 Million In State And Federal Funds To Fund Opioid Addiction Treatment To Low-Income And Uninsured Mainers.** “This morning, members of the House of Representatives voted 142 to 1 in favor of LD 302, ‘An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.’ Later, members of the Senate voted unanimously to finally enact the budget and send it to Gov. Paul LePage. The governor has 10 days to sign it, veto it, or allow it to become law without his signature. After a push from democratic leaders, specifically an amendment offered by Sen. Cathy Breen, D-Falmouth, the supplemental budget bill now contains nearly \$5 million in state and federal funds to provide opioid addiction treatment to Mainers most in need of help — the uninsured and those with low incomes. This \$29 million dollar spending package also contains \$7.1 million in funding to keep tuition low at the University of Maine, \$7 million to the Maine Military Authority in Aroostook county, and \$5.5 million to rehabilitate fish hatcheries in our Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Department. Additionally, the package moves \$35 million to the state's Rainy Day Fund.” [Press Release, Speaker Sara Gideon, [3/2/17](#)]
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April 2017 – Democrats Introduced Their Two-Year Budget Plan, Including New Revenue from the Voter-Approved Surtax on High Income Earners

4/6/17: Democrats Release Their Budget Proposal Called The “Opportunity Agenda,” Which Included Spending The \$265 Million In New Revenue From The Voter-Approved Surtax. “April 6: Democrats roll out a countering plan, while Republicans dismiss it and say

they won't accept a budget that does not repeal the voter-approved surtax. Legislative Democrats' unveiled their 'Opportunity Agenda,' a plan to spend \$265 million in anticipated new revenue using the last budget as the framework. Much of it was directed at property tax relief. Senate President Mike Thibodeau, R-Winterport, called it 'a therapy session.'" [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]

Republicans Said They Would Oppose Any Budget That Did Not Repeal The Voter-Passed Surtax. "April 6: Democrats roll out a countering plan, while Republicans dismiss it and say they won't accept a budget that does not repeal the voter-approved surtax. [...] Republicans also dug in against the surtax, with Senate Majority Leader Garrett Mason, R-Lisbon Falls, saying his party 'will accept nothing less than a repeal' in the budget." [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]

June 2017 – Budget Negotiations Stalled Over the Future of the Voter-Passed 3% Surtax on High Income Earners

Republican Senate President Mike Thibodeau Proposed \$100 Million In New Education Funding, Pulled From "Existing Resources," Which Sara Gideon Called A Non-Starter Since It Would Result In Cuts Elsewhere. "On Wednesday, Thibodeau told reporters that Senate Republicans were proposing \$100 million in new education funding in the 2018-2019 budget year, finding the money 'within existing resources.' The breakdown of where that money would come from is unclear: Sen. Roger Katz, R-Augusta, a member of the budget committee, said some of it would come from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, while his caucus is also looking at ways to 'decrease the size of state government so we can increase funding for public education.' [...] But to Democrats, that sounds like 'cuts' in other areas of government. House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, called that a non-starter, saying, 'We don't think those are acceptable ways to pay for education funding.'" [Bangor Daily News, 6/1/17]

- **Republicans Offered The Additional \$100 Million For Education Funding In Exchange For Killing The Voter-Approved Tax On High-Income Individuals To Fund Education, Estimated To Raise \$320 Million Annually.** "State budget negotiations appeared to begin in earnest Wednesday, with Senate Republicans offering to make \$100 million in new funding available to schools if Democrats agree to repeal a voter-approved ballot measure to fund education through a tax on high-income earners. Senate President Mike Thibodeau, R-Winterport, said his party's offer satisfies the will of voters who passed the ballot referendum last fall that tacks a 3 percent surcharge on all household incomes over \$200,000. Thibodeau said the \$100 million annually would come from projected state revenues over the next two-year budget cycle. Thibodeau's proposal got a chilly reception from Democrats and House Republicans. Democrats, who hold the majority in the House and have 17 of the 35 seats in the Senate, said Thibodeau's offer would amount to cutting about \$200 million from public schools, based on estimates that the new tax surcharge will pump up to \$320 million into schools annually." [Portland Press Herald, 6/1/17]

6/2/17: Legislative Democrats And Republicans Were Split On How To Fund Public Education At 55 Percent From The State, Either Through A 3 Percent Surtax On Income Above \$200,000 Or Another Way. "Months after the Legislature first began holding public

hearings on LePage's budget proposal, a major sticking point remains the voter-approved 3 percent surtax on household income above \$200,000 to raise revenues for classrooms. The debate swirls around the state of Maine's tax revenues, and whether that surtax will dampen hearty revenues projected in years to come. Following concern from Republicans that the surtax is already driving away business leaders and professionals, several Democrats have said they're willing to remove the tax. But they would only agree to that, Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon said, if Republicans provide another way to reach the requirement that voters approved in 2004 to require the state to fund 55 percent of local education costs." [Associated Press, 6/2/17]

House Speaker Sara Gideon: "Democrats Are Absolutely Ready To Consider How To Fund Education Fully With Other Revenue Sources, But We Do Not See A Way That 3 Percent (Surcharge) Is Repealed And That We Actually Pay For Education Fully With Existing Resources." "House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, said the Republican proposal was a positive, if small, step forward. 'Democrats are absolutely ready to consider how to fund education fully with other revenue sources, but we do not see a way that 3 percent (surcharge) is repealed and that we actually pay for education fully with existing resources,' she said. 'It's just not possible without what we believe are probably very detrimental cuts to programs that all of us care about - we are open to see what the proposal is - but right now we are still hundreds of millions of dollars apart.'" [Portland Press Herald, 6/1/17]

6/2/17: Speaker Sara Gideon Said Democrats Would Be Open To Scrapping The 3 Percent Surtax Only If Republicans Provided A Way For The State To Fund 55 Percent Of Public Education Costs. "Months after the Legislature first began holding public hearings on LePage's budget proposal, a major sticking point remains the voter-approved 3 percent surtax on household income above \$200,000 to raise revenues for classrooms. The debate swirls around the state of Maine's tax revenues, and whether that surtax will dampen hearty revenues projected in years to come. Following concern from Republicans that the surtax is already driving away business leaders and professionals, several Democrats have said they're willing to remove the tax. But they would only agree to that, Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon said, if Republicans provide another way to reach the requirement that voters approved in 2004 to require the state to fund 55 percent of local education costs." [Associated Press, 6/2/17]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: LePage Engaged In "Game Of Chicken" With Legislators Over Government Shutdown; Traveled To DC Amid Looming Shutdown. In June, 2017, the Bangor Daily News published an editorial saying, "In typical LePage style, he threw in a threat. 'I'm the worst guy in the world to play chicken with because I don't veer either way,' he told WVOM Tuesday morning. 'I go straight ahead. So if there's a collision to be had, it's coming Friday night.' Negotiating a budget is not a game of chicken. It is not a battle to be won through collisions to see who remains standing. It requires veering. A real governor would get legislative leaders in a room and work toward a compromise, not simply issue demands and threats. Instead, with a government shutdown looming, LePage is headed to Washington to talk with the Trump administration about energy policy." [Bangor Daily News—Editorial, 6/27/17]

- **2017: LePage's Budget Proposal Included Tax Break For Maine's Highest Income Earners, "One Of LePage's Highest Priorities."** "Two proposals are only about \$25

million apart in terms of how much money would be raised and devoted to education. Both include a tax break for Maine's highest income earners, one of LePage's highest priorities. This numerical gap and details of where the money would come from could be resolved if there were serious negotiations taking place.” [Bangor Daily News—Editorial, 6/27/17]

- **GOP Senate President, House Speaker Sara Gideon “Can’t Finalize A Budget On Their Own” Due To “Late Hour Of The Budget Process” LePage Interfered In.** “Senate President Mike Thibodeau and House Speaker Sara Gideon, despite their serious work on bridging the differences between their caucuses, can't finalize a budget on their own. Because of the perilously late hour of the budget process and because of an expected veto from LePage, two-thirds of lawmakers are needed to pass a budget, and to override a veto if one is forthcoming.” [Bangor Daily News—Editorial, 6/27/17]

Democratic Speaker of the House Offered to Compromise on the Size of the Surtax on the Wealthy, Reducing it from 3% to 1.5% and Raising the Income Threshold

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “Democrats, Like House Speaker Sara Gideon, Have Strongly Advocated For Honoring The Voters’ 55 Percent Mandate, But They Have Been Less Firm In Their Commitment To The Size Of The Tax Surcharge.” “By making a non-negotiable demand of the full repeal of a voter-approved 3 percent surtax on income greater than \$200,000, they have put themselves in the position of: Ignoring the mandate of the voters in not one but two referendum elections; Making a tax cut for the wealthiest 2 percent of Mainers their top priority; Forcing local property tax payers to pay more for schools. [...] Democrats, like House Speaker Sara Gideon, have strongly advocated for honoring the voters' 55 percent mandate, but they have been less firm in their commitment to the size of the tax surcharge. [...] Between Thibodeau's position and Gideon's, there is a \$220 million gap. Republicans say it should be spent to cut taxes on the wealthiest; Democrats say it should be used to pay for schools.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, 6/4/17]

Bangor Daily News: “House Democrats Have Blinked In A Standoff Over Education Funding, Angering Progressives By Offering Republicans A Deal To Increase The Threshold For Maine’s Surtax On High Earners And Lower It From 3 Percent To 1.75 Percent.” “House Democrats have blinked in a standoff over education funding, angering progressives by offering Republicans a deal to increase the threshold for Maine's surtax on high earners and lower it from 3 percent to 1.75 percent.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/7/17]

Sara Gideon Offered Republicans A Deal To Fund Public Education At 55 Percent From The State While Lowering The Surtax To 1.75 Percent While Increasing The Threshold To Incomes Above \$300,000, Which Was Estimated To Generate \$128 Million Over Two Years. “House Democrats led by Speaker Sara Gideon of Freeport tried that this week, offering a deal to fund education at 55 percent by the 2019 fiscal year while increasing the surtax's threshold to \$300,000 and lowering it to 1.75 percent, which is estimated to generate \$128 million over two years.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/7/17]

- **The Plan Would Raise The Additional \$114 Million By Raising The Sales Tax From 5.5 Percent To 5.75 Percent, Increasing The Lodging Tax From 9 Percent To 10 Percent, And Raising Taxes On Tobacco Products.** “To offset the difference, House Democrats' plan would find another \$114 million by raising the sales tax from 5.5 percent to 5.75 percent, the lodging tax from 9 percent to 10 percent and raising taxes on tobacco products to the same rate as cigarettes, which is called equalization.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/7/17]
- **Sara Gideon: “Democrats Put Forward A Plan That Funds Public Education At 55 Percent, Reduces The 3 Percent Surtax, Rejects Destructive Cuts Contained In The Original Proposal From The LePage Administration And Avoids A Government Shutdown.”** On June 7, 2017, Sara Gideon posted on her political Facebook page, “Democrats put forward a plan that funds public education at 55 percent, reduces the 3 percent surtax, rejects destructive cuts contained in the original proposal from the LePage administration and avoids a government shutdown. We are at the table, waiting for the GOP response.” [Speaker Sara Gideon Facebook, [6/7/17](#)]

Kennebec Journal: “House Democrats Touted Their Proposal As A Way To Achieve The Elusive Target Of 55 Percent State Funding For Public Schools While Scaling Back The 3 Percent Tax Surcharge That Voters Approved In November.” “The latest machinations over the 3 percent tax hike on personal income over \$200,000 a year highlight the political challenges facing lawmakers as they attempt to strike an as-yet-elusive budget deal before the end of the month. House Democrats touted their proposal as a way to achieve the elusive target of 55 percent state funding for public schools while scaling back the 3 percent tax surcharge that voters approved in November.” [Kennebec Journal, 6/8/17]

Democratic Senate Minority Leader Troy Jackson Called Sara Gideon’s Offer To The Republicans “More Generous Than Many People Would Have Liked,” But Said It Showed That The Democrats Were Serious About Negotiating And Passing A Budget. “Democrats have mostly moved in unison on the budget to date. However, Senate Democrats haven't been touting Gideon's plan on education funding, reflecting difference that's likely more about negotiating tactics and less about policy. In a statement, Senate Minority Leader Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, said Gideon has ‘made yet another offer in an effort to get Republicans to negotiate seriously’ and called it ‘more generous than many people would have liked.’ ‘But it shows how serious we are about doing our jobs and passing a budget to avoid the kind of crisis that Republicans seem determined to create,’ he said. ‘The ball is in their court.’” [Bangor Daily News, 6/7/17]

Gov. LePage Said He’d Veto Any Budget That Included Tax Increases or Increased Education Funding Without Changes to the Education Funding System

6/2/17: Governor LePage Said He Would Veto Any Budget That Increased Education Funding Without Changes To The Education Funding System. “As lawmakers spend the weekend haggling over the budget behind closed doors, Gov. Paul LePage said this week that he'll veto any budget that increases education funding without big changes to the system.” [Associated Press, 6/2/17]

June 2017 – Dem. Speaker of the House and Republican Senate President Created Bipartisan Budget Committee to Come Up With a Final Budget Compromise

HEADLINE: “Six Lawmakers Will Decide If Maine Gets A Budget Or A Government Shutdown.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/13/17]

6/13/17: Budget Negotiations Stalled In The Appropriations Committee Negotiations, Prompting Sara Gideon And Republican Senate President Thibodeau To Create A Special Bipartisan Budget Committee. “June 13: Budget negotiations stall in the Appropriations Committee, so Thibodeau and Gideon convene -- and lead -- a special committee whose work is poisoned from the start, allowing LePage to re-enter the process.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]

6/13/17: A Six-Member Committee Was Appointed To Meet In Public And Produce A Budget Deal After The State Legislature Deadlocked On The Budget Over The Issue Of Education Funding. “A small group of lawmakers has the task of coming up with a budget deal over the next few days and averting a government shutdown at the peak of the state's tourism season. Lawmakers have arrived at a deadlock on education funding after months of deliberation, and negotiations over a final budget deal in the last few weeks have revealed staunch division among legislative leaders and the 13-member appropriations committee. So, legislative leaders have decided to turn to a rarely used tactic of appointing a six-member committee of lawmakers to meet in public and come up with a strongly supported budget deal in the coming days. Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon said the process will be accountable and transparent, and she noted it appears to be the first time lawmakers are resorting to the tactic in budget negotiations. The Republican-controlled Senate on Tuesday voted on a swirl of competing budget proposals during a session marked by exasperation and partisan votes.” [Associated Press, 6/13/17]

- **One Day After Sara Gideon And Senate President Mike Thibodeau Told Reporters That The Budget Conference Committee Would Conduct Its Negotiations In Public, The Conference Committee Spent Most Of Its Day In Closed-Door Negotiating Sessions.** “A special panel of six Maine lawmakers set up to broker a deal on the state's next two-year budget remained far apart late Wednesday after spending hours behind closed doors meeting with legislative leaders and other lawmakers. While members spent part of Wednesday morning in the public committee room they broke up around midday and didn't return until after 7:30 p.m. The shift to closed-door negotiations came a day after House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, and Senate President Mike Thibodeau, R-Winterport, told reporters that the panel would do its work in public.” [Portland Press Herald, 6/15/17]

Republican House Minority Leader Ken Fredette Said That The Special Budget Committee Was “Doomed To Fail.” “June 13: Budget negotiations stall in the Appropriations Committee, so Thibodeau and Gideon convene -- and lead -- a special committee whose work is poisoned from the start, allowing LePage to re-enter the process. [...] So, Thibodeau and Gideon took their chambers into procedural votes allowing them to send it to a six-person committee. House Republicans weren't on board with that plan and House Minority Leader Ken Fredette, R-

Newport, told the Bangor Daily News on the first day the panel met that its work was ‘doomed to fail.’” [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]

Republican Reps. Fredette And Timberlake Said The Structure Of The Conference Committee Was Such That Thibodeau And Gideon Needed The Support Of Only Two Other Individuals To Move A Budget Forward. “Fredette and Rep. Jeff Timberlake, R-Turner, a conservative member of the Appropriations Committee, said the structure of the conference committee means the budget is basically in the hands of Thibodeau and Gideon, who need the support of only Sen. Roger Katz, R-Augusta, and Rep. Aaron Frey, D-Bangor, respectively, to push it forward. ‘We’ve got essentially the two majority leaders writing the budget,’ Fredette said. ‘This process is a failed process. We were never told Mike and Sara were going to appoint themselves to the committee, which leaves them writing the budget and damn it, they’re setting themselves up for a failure. When that happens it’s not going to be House Republicans’ fault. This is doomed for failure.’” [Bangor Daily News, 6/14/17]

Mid-June 2017 – Republicans Aligned with Gov. LePage and Stalled the Work of the Special Budget Committee

6/15/17: The Budget Conference Committee’s Negotiations “Stalled,” Leading Sara Gideon To Blame House Minority Leader Ken Fredette For The Committee Having Done “No Real Work” Yet. “Negotiations on Maine’s two-year state budget stalled on Thursday when the Legislature’s top Democrat blasted Republicans aligned with Gov. Paul LePage for holding out as lawmakers breezed by their deadline for an agreement. House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, angrily said during a Thursday afternoon meeting of the special six-person panel convened to close the budget amid a long impasse over education funding that it has done ‘no real work’ this week. She blamed House Minority Leader Ken Fredette, R-Newport.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/15/17]

Bangor Daily News: Sara Gideon “Blast[ed] LePage-Aligned House Republicans” For Failing To Come To The Table To Negotiate On The State Budget. “It comes one day after an unproductive Thursday meeting of the six-person committee tasked with closing the Legislature’s impasse on education funding, where House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, raised the specter of a shutdown to blast LePage-aligned House Republicans. ‘When all these things fail,’ she told WCSH, referring to services that could be stopped, ‘there will be one party who didn’t come to the table to make sure that state government kept functioning.’” [Bangor Daily News, 6/16/17]

6/17/17: Governor LePage Met With Budget Negotiators And Aligned Himself With House Republicans On The Budget Negotiations, Against Senate Republicans And Democrats. “LePage has suggested the state follow Congress in using continuous resolutions to fund state government amid gridlock, and his administration criticized legislative leaders this week for taking the unprecedented step of leaving budget negotiations to a ‘super committee’ of six lawmakers. LePage met behind closed-doors with leaders Friday, and aligned himself with House Republicans at odds with Democrats and Senate Republicans over an impasse on education funding.” [Associated Press, 6/17/17]

The Conference Committee Missed Its Deadline To Vote The Budget Out Of The Committee, Essentially Ensuring That Governor LePage Would Not Get The Budget With 10 Days Or More Before The Budget Needed To Be Signed Into Law On July 1. “On Thursday, the Legislature stumbled past a deadline to vote a budget out of the committee, which means any final budget that gets two-thirds approval in both chambers is now virtually assured to get to LePage's desk with less than 10 days -- the period he can hold a bill before signing or vetoing it -- before a shutdown that would come if there is no budget by July 1.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/16/17]

Sara Gideon Said That Governor LePage Had Told Her Multiple Times That He Would Hold Any Budget The Legislature Sent Him For The Full 10 Days, Triggering A State Shutdown, Unless The Legislature Sent Him The Budget He Supported. “Meanwhile, LePage cast a large shadow over the negotiations, despite the fact that lawmakers could enact a budget without his support by once again overriding his veto. Gideon said the governor told her on two occasions last week that he would exercise his right to hold the budget for 10 days -- thereby triggering a government shutdown -- unless Democrats send him a budget he supports. And LePage hinted again Tuesday that he has no plans to back down from the political fight as his administration prepares for a potential shutdown.” [Kennebec Journal, 6/28/17]

June 30, 2017 – LePage-Aligned House Republicans Blocked the Speaker of the House and Senate President’s Proposed Budget, Forcing a Government Shutdown

6/29/17: Budget Conference Committee Recommended A Two-Year Budget Of \$7.1 Billion, Brokered By Sara Gideon And Senate President Mike Thibodeau. “Barely a day away from a government shutdown, a special six-person budget committee recommended a tenuous two-year state spending plan to the Legislature late Thursday, setting up a scramble to wrangle two-thirds support and a showdown with Gov. Paul LePage. The deal brokered by Senate President Mike Thibodeau, R-Winterport, and House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, has a bottom line of \$7.1 billion and appears to be the state's only hope of avoiding a shutdown.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/29/17]

- **Bangor Daily News: “Thibodeau And Gideon Grew Tired Of The Committee’s Lack Of Progress And Cut Their Own Budget Deal, Sending It To The Floor.”** “Just more than a day before Maine's Saturday shutdown, Thibodeau and Gideon grew tired of the committee's lack of progress and cut their own budget deal, sending it to the floor on June 30, which angered House Republicans and Senate Democrats alike.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]
- **Sara Gideon And Senate President Thibodeau’s Budget Deal Cut The Surtax, Increased Education Funding By \$162 Million, And Kept A LePage-Opposed Lodging Tax.** “Just more than a day before Maine's Saturday shutdown, Thibodeau and Gideon grew tired of the committee's lack of progress and cut their own budget deal, sending it to the floor on June 30, which angered House Republicans and Senate Democrats alike. It proposed cutting the surtax but included \$162 million in additional education funding, but it left a lodging tax increase in place that LePage had already

expressed opposition to earlier in the day. The next day, he held a hastily arranged news conference to say he wouldn't sign it.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]

- **Gideon/Thibodeau Compromise Budget Increased The Lodging Tax From 9 Percent To 10.5 Percent.** “The deal brokered by Senate President Mike Thibodeau, R-Winterport, and House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, has a bottom line of \$7.1 billion and appears to be the state's only hope of avoiding a shutdown. But it's full of pitfalls that could repel some Republicans and Democrats in what promises to be a dramatic set of votes on Friday. Minority members in both parties said they were left out of negotiations, with Rep. Tom Winsor, R-Norway, casting the lone vote against the plan. Chief among potential conflict points are a lodging tax increase and overall price tag that Gov. Paul LePage has said is too high, as well as repeal of a surtax that progressive Democrats have staunchly defended. [...] To offset some of the lost revenue, the plan would raise Maine's lodging tax from 9 percent to 10.5 percent beginning Oct. 1 -- higher than the Senate Republican proposal of 10 percent that was made earlier this week.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/29/17]
- **Compromise Budget Repealed The Voter-Approved Surtax On High-Income Voters To Fund Education And Increased State Funding For Public Education By \$162 Million.** “The deal brokered by Senate President Mike Thibodeau, R-Winterport, and House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, has a bottom line of \$7.1 billion and appears to be the state's only hope of avoiding a shutdown. But it's full of pitfalls that could repel some Republicans and Democrats in what promises to be a dramatic set of votes on Friday. Minority members in both parties said they were left out of negotiations, with Rep. Tom Winsor, R-Norway, casting the lone vote against the plan. Chief among potential conflict points are a lodging tax increase and overall price tag that Gov. Paul LePage has said is too high, as well as repeal of a surtax that progressive Democrats have staunchly defended. [...] The plan aims to resolve Maine's budget impasse by increasing state aid to K-12 public education funding by \$162 million over the current biennium while eliminating the surtax on high-income earners approved by voters in 2016.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/29/17]
- **Compromise Budget “Would Use Unspent Medicaid Funding And \$10 Million Over The Biennium From The Fund For A Healthy Maine, Which Is Underwritten By A Lawsuit Against Tobacco Companies.”** “The compromise plan also would use unspent Medicaid funding and \$10 million over the biennium from the Fund for a Healthy Maine, which is underwritten by a lawsuit against tobacco companies.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/29/17]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: Democrats “Capitulated On The 3 Percent Tax...Giving An Income Tax Break To Maine’s Top Earners.” “Democratic leaders pledged to maintain the surtax, and the more than \$300 million in additional education funding it was predicted to generate over the next two years. Republicans leaders sought to repeal the surtax. In the end, Democrats capitulated on the 3 percent surtax, which was stripped from the final budget agreement, giving an income tax break to Maine's top earners. They compromised on the \$300 million in additional education funding, settling for about half as much by agreeing to a Senate

Republican plan to generate additional revenue by raising the state's lodging tax, which was a compromise from GOP members who generally oppose tax increases.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 7/1/17]

Democratic Senate Minority Leader Troy Jackson Said The Compromise Budget Was “Not The Largest Education Increase In Our History, It Is The Largest Cut To Public Education In Our State’s History And Maine Students Will Be Worse For It.” “Senate Minority Leader Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, said he hated the budget before him and his vote wasn't for the budget but against a state government shutdown. Jackson said those who have pitched the budget as an historic investment in public schools were wrong, because it was voters last November who truly made the largest investment in education, and the new budget cut that in half. ‘I offer to you this budget is not the largest education increase in our history, it is the largest cut to public education in our state's history and Maine students will be the worse for it, and for what?’ he said. ‘For what reason are we dismissing the will of the Maine voters, the same voters who elected us to this Legislature?’” [Kennebec Journal, 7/1/17]

HEADLINE: “LePage Says He Won’t Sign Latest Budget Proposal And Will Allow A Shutdown.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/30/17]

6/30/17: Governor LePage Said That He Wouldn’t Sign The Compromise Budget Proposal If It Passed Out Of The State Legislature. “Gov. Paul LePage said Friday that he won't sign a state budget package endorsed Thursday night by a special panel, ensuring a partial shutdown of state government at midnight. The Republican governor's opposition to the budget deal would force Maine's first state government shutdown since 1991, which could stretch 10 days if LePage holds a budget bill for the full time the Constitution allows before he must act. A budget would go to him tonight if the Legislature can muster two-thirds votes in both chambers, but even that was a big ‘if’ on Friday.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/30/17]

- **Governor LePage Said He Opposed The \$7.1 Billion Cost Of The Budget And That It Raised The Lodging Tax To 10.5 Percent Without Income Tax Cuts.** “LePage told reporters his major objections were the overall cost of the budget package -- around \$7.1 billion -- and that it proposes raising the state's lodging tax from 9 percent to 10.5 percent without income tax cuts. However, the budget package currently under consideration contains an income tax cut of 3 percent because it eliminates the surtax on income above \$200,000 per year for education which was approved by voters last year.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/30/17]

Maine House Of Representatives Voted 87-60 To Enact The Compromise Budget In The Evening Of June 30, Short Of The Two-Thirds Support Needed To Override A Veto. “Maine residents may wake up with a partial government shutdown after resistance from House Republicans prevented enactment of a two-year budget. The Maine House voted 87-60 to enact the budget on Friday night. But that is short of the two-thirds support needed. Republican House Minority Leader Ken Fredette says that GOP Gov. Paul LePage is offering his own budget plan as an alternative. That plan has not been finalized yet, however, and lawmakers haven't reviewed it. Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon has adjourned the House while lawmakers await LePage's budget bill.” [Associated Press, 7/1/17]

Maine Senate Voted 34-1 In Favor Of The Compromise Budget. “The Maine Senate has voted overwhelmingly in favor of a \$7.1 billion, two-year budget proposal that some Democrats said they hated. The Senate voted 34-1 Friday in favor of the budget, which now heads back to the House. The budget needs buy-in from House Republicans to achieve the needed two-thirds support.” [Associated Press, 7/1/17]

Bangor Daily News: “In A Show Of Loyalty To LePage, 60 House Republicans Block A Thibodeau-Gideon Budget And Force A Shutdown.” “July 1: In a show of loyalty to LePage, 60 House Republicans block a Thibodeau-Gideon budget and force a shutdown, then make a counteroffer.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]

- **House Minority Leader Ken Fredette Defended House Republicans, Saying They Wanted To Deliver To Governor LePage A Budget He Would Sign, Rather Than One That Passed But Would Sit For 10 Days On The Governor’s Desk.** “House Minority Leader Ken Fredette, R-Newport, defended his caucus' stance, saying they must deliver a budget LePage ‘could sign’ rather than one that passes with two-thirds majorities and sits on the governor's desk for the allotted 10 days he has to act on it.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/1/17]

July 1, 2016 – Maine State Government Shut Down for the First Time in 25 Years

HEADLINE: “Partial Government Shutdown In Maine After Budget Impasse.”
[Associated Press, 7/1/17]

HEADLINE: “LePage, Lawmakers Fail To Reach Budget Deal, Triggering Government Shutdown.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/1/17]

Associated Press: Maine’s First Government Shutdown In A Quarter-Century Began After House Republicans Failed To Support A Proposed \$7.1 Billion Budget. “A partial state government shutdown began early Saturday in Maine after lawmakers failed to meet a deadline for a new state budget while House Republicans revealed they were working with GOP Gov. Paul LePage on a secret, alternative plan. A proposed two-year, \$7.1 billion budget wasn't approved Friday night after resistance from House Republicans, whose concerns include \$162 million allotted for increased education spending. The shut-down is Maine's first in a quarter-century.” [Associated Press, 7/1/17]

Associated Press: “Maine’s Government Shut Down For The First Time Since 1991 At 12:01 A.M. Saturday, As Republicans In The House Of Representatives Left To Chants Of ‘Shame’ After They Effectively Killed A Two-Year Budget Compromise Forged By Two Legislative Leaders.” “Maine's government shut down for the first time since 1991 at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, as Republicans in the House of Representatives left to chants of ‘shame’ after they effectively killed a two-year budget compromise forged by two legislative leaders.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/1/17]

Three And A Half Hours Before The End Of The Fiscal Year, LePage Announced His Own Budget Proposal. “But no one had seen LePage's latest budget proposal - announced on the

House floor just 3.5 hours before the end of the fiscal year - and the scene in the State House was one of confusion as lawmakers, lobbyists and state workers awaited word on the budget.”
[Portland Press Herald, 7/1/17]

- **Speaker of the House Said Governor LePage Did Not Have A Formal Counterproposal To The Legislature-Passed Budget, And Then Threw A “Temper Tantrum” When It Was Clear Democrats Would Not Accept His Proposed Changes.** “Afterward, House Speaker Sara Gideon told lawmakers that LePage did not have a formal, written counterproposal to offer and then threw a ‘temper tantrum’ after it was clear Democrats would not go along with his proposed changes. Gideon said the governor then walked out by saying, ‘Shut her down.’” [Portland Press Herald, 7/1/17]
- **House Speaker Sara Gideon: Governor LePage “Presented Us With A List Of Demands And When They Weren’t All Met – And I Want To Indicate That I Was Willing To Work With Most Them, Almost All Of Them – He Had A Temper Tantrum, He Walked Out With The Words ‘Shut Her Down.’”** “Afterward, House Speaker Sara Gideon told lawmakers that LePage did not have a formal, written counterproposal to offer and then threw a ‘temper tantrum’ after it was clear Democrats would not go along with his proposed changes. ‘He presented us with a list of demands and when they weren’t all met — and I want to indicate that I was willing to work with most of them, almost all of them — he had a temper tantrum, he walked out with the words ‘Shut her down,’” Gideon told the House chamber minutes before midnight. ‘I want you all to know tonight that after the governor’s aggressive behavior, specifically towards me, I left the Blaine House but my three male colleagues chose to stay and continue talking.’” [Portland Press Herald, 7/1/17]
- **House Speaker Sara Gideon: “I Myself, Have Met, Or Spoken With, The Governor At Least Five Times In The Past Week Alone, And While We Were Unable To Come To An Agreement, We Did Negotiate Until The Very End, Including Tonight When The Governor Summoned Four Leaders To The Blaine House.”** GIDEON: “There have been some who have tried to say that the Chief Executive has somehow been left out of the budget process. I want to assure you that nothing could be further from the truth. I, myself, have met, or spoken with, the governor at least five times in the past week alone, and while we were unable to come to an agreement, we did negotiate until the very end, including tonight when the governor summoned four leaders to the Blaine House. He presented us with a list of demands, and when they weren’t all met, and I want to indicate to you that I was willing to work with most of them, almost all of them, he had a temper tantrum. He walked out with the words ‘Shut her down.’ I want you all to know tonight that after the governor’s aggressive behavior, specifically towards me, I left the Blaine House, though my three male colleagues chose to stay and continue talking.” [Speaker Sara Gideon Facebook, [6/30/17](#)] (VIDEO) 2:40
- **House Speaker Sara Gideon: “I Want You All To Know Tonight That After The Governor’s Aggressive Behavior, Specifically Towards Me, I Left The Blaine House, Though My Three Male Colleagues Chose To Stay And Continue Talking.”** GIDEON: “There have been some who have tried to say that the Chief Executive has

somehow been left out of the budget process. I want to assure you that nothing could be further from the truth. I, myself, have met, or spoken with, the governor at least five times in the past week alone, and while we were unable to come to an agreement, we did negotiate until the very end, including tonight when the governor summoned four leaders to the Blaine House. He presented us with a list of demands, and when they weren't all met, and I want to indicate to you that I was willing to work with most of them, almost all of them, he had a temper tantrum. He walked out with the words 'Shut her down.' I want you all to know tonight that after the governor's aggressive behavior, specifically towards me, I left the Blaine House, though my three male colleagues chose to stay and continue talking." [Speaker Sara Gideon Facebook, [6/30/17](#)] (VIDEO) 2:40

Governor LePage Proposed A Budget Deal That Purportedly Funded Education At \$160 Million Over Current Levels, But “Add[ed] A Number Of Potential Poison Pills For Progressives,” Including A Statewide Teacher Contract, An Identification Program For Tax-Exempt Property Held By Land Trust, And Repealing Ranked-Choice Voting. “Details were thin Friday on LePage's proposed deal, but the Bangor Daily News obtained what one lawmaker said is a list of LePage's demands. The list stated the governor would allow \$160 million in added education funding over the two-year budget that ended Friday night, minus the voter-approved surtax on high earners that is earmarked for education funding but Republicans have aimed to kill. That's only \$2 million shy of Thibodeau's and Gideon's education figure, but LePage's latest offer reportedly adds a number of potential poison pills for progressives, including a pilot program for a statewide teacher contract already rejected by Democrats, a program that would identify tax-exempt property held by land trusts and the repeal of the voter-approved ranked-choice voting law.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/1/17]

- **Governor LePage Said Sara Gideon Was “Controlled By Union Bosses” For Not Agreeing To Education Policy Changes That The Legislature Had Previously Rejected.** “The Maine Legislature tracked toward a potential Monday vote to reopen state government after Republicans aligned with Gov. Paul LePage fleshed out a two-year budget offer that was revised downward in cost on Sunday. It was no sure thing on Sunday evening, when the hunkered-down Republican governor interrupted negotiations to blast House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, saying she's ‘controlled by union bosses’ for not agreeing to previously rejected education policy changes. The Legislature's special budget panel was expected to vote Sunday night on a \$7.1 billion offer from House Republicans, 60 of whom forced the Saturday shutdown by blocking a deal brokered by Gideon and Senate President Mike Thibodeau, R-Winterport.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/2/17]

During the Shutdown, LePage Refused to Cross the Street to Meet in Person With Legislative Leadership

Speaker of the House Sara Gideon Invited Governor LePage To Present His Budget Proposals To The Budget Conference Committee, But He Declined Saying, “It’s Not My Budget, It’s The House Republicans.” “On Saturday, Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon of Freeport, who has clashed with LePage throughout the budget negotiations, formally invited LePage to present his proposals to the six-member budget conference committee. According to

Gideon, LePage declined the invitation by replying, 'It's not my budget, it's the House Republicans.'" [Kennebec Journal, 7/2/17]

Boston Globe: Governor LePage And Speaker of the House Sara Gideon Each Refused To Cross Capitol Street To Negotiate With The Other During The First Day Of The Government Shutdown. "Maine Governor Paul LePage was absent from the evening meeting at the State House, to which Speaker of the House Sara Gideon had invited him. The two had traded barbs on Twitter earlier in the day over where to meet to discuss the shutdown, with each refusing to cross Capitol Street to speak to the other. 'Been available to negotiate since 8,' tweeted LePage, who wanted to meet at the Blaine House, his residence. '@saraGideon is welcome to come over any time.' Gideon replied in a tweet of her own: 'I am at the State House. This is where budget negotiations belong.'" [Boston Globe, 7/2/17]

7/1/17: Speaker of the House Sara Gideon Called On Governor LePage To "Walk The 100 Yards Across The Street And Come Into This Building, Look State Workers In The Eye At The Same Time And Do His Job." "On Saturday, Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon of Freeport formally invited LePage to present his proposals to the six-member budget conference committee. But LePage declined, saying, 'It's not my budget, it's the House Republicans,' according to Gideon. 'He needs to walk the 100 yards across the street and come into this building, look state workers in the eye at the same time and do his job,' Gideon said." [Portland Press Herald, 6/1/17]

July 3, 2016 – LePage Gave State Employees the Day Off on the First Work Day of the Government Shutdown

Governor LePage Gave State Employees The First Work Day, Monday July 3, During The Government Shutdown Off Of Work. "Since the Legislature has still failed to put a budget in place, Governor Paul R. LePage has announced he will allow state employees to take administrative leave with pay for Monday, July 3. This is the same authority the Governor exercises in administratively closing non-emergency state offices the day before Christmas or Thanksgiving so employees can enjoy an extended holiday with their families and loved ones. In addition, the Governor will provide employees already working as designated emergency personnel on Monday with compensatory time off for the work they perform on that day." [Press Release, Office of Governor LePage, 7/2/17]

- **Governor LePage: "Speaker Of The House Sara Gideon Is Intent On Prolonging The State Government Shutdown And Making It Uncertain Whether State Employees Who Have Been Forced Out Of Work Will Get Paid For Monday."**
"Speaker of the House Sara Gideon is intent on prolonging the state government shutdown and making it uncertain whether state employees who have been forced out of work will get paid for Monday," said Governor LePage. 'It is unconscionable for state workers to lose a day's pay because of the Legislature's repeated failure to put a budget on my desk.'" [Press Release, Office of Governor LePage, 7/2/17]
- **Governor LePage: "It Is Unconscionable For State Workers To Lose A Day's Pay Because Of The Legislature's Repeated Failure To Put A Budget On My Desk."**

“Speaker of the House Sara Gideon is intent on prolonging the state government shutdown and making it uncertain whether state employees who have been forced out of work will get paid for Monday,’ said Governor LePage. ‘It is unconscionable for state workers to lose a day’s pay because of the Legislature’s repeated failure to put a budget on my desk.’” [Press Release, Office of Governor LePage, 7/2/17]

Portland Press Herald: “As Part Of The Budget Deal, All State Employees Will Be Paid For Any Work Hours Lost During The Shutdown.” “As part of the budget deal, all state employees will be paid for any work hours lost during the shutdown.” [Portland Press Herald, 7/4/17]

July 2 and 3, 2017 – Special Budget Committee Voted Out Another Budget Plan, LePage-Aligned House Republicans Blocked It

7/2/17: Budget Conference Committee Endorsed A Two-Year \$7.1 Billion Budget That Kept The 10.5 Percent Lodging Tax But Delayed Its Implementation By A Month. “The Maine Legislature’s special budget panel endorsed a two-year budget late Sunday, setting up a high-pressure round of Monday floor votes on Day 3 of a state shutdown, but risking another impasse with Gov. Paul LePage over hiking the lodging tax. [...] Over the weekend, legislators worked to gain a deal that LePage would sign. House Republicans presented, then modified a proposal, but the committee changed it to hike the lodging tax from 9 percent to 10.5 percent like the earlier Thibodeau-Gideon deal, but putting it into effect in November.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/3/17]

- **The Compromise Budget Did Not Include A Pilot Program For A Statewide Teacher Contract, But Made Concessions On The Governor’s Request For Incentivizing School District Regionalization.** “The governor may also find more fault with the deal: It also doesn’t include a proposed pilot program for a statewide teacher contract, which Democrats in the House of Representatives rejected in bill form last month. However, it does make concessions on his demands for money to incentivize school district regionalization and to study the impact of conservation land on property taxes.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/3/17]

7/2/17-7/3/17: Special Budget Committee Voted Out Another Budget Plan That Had Tax Increases In It, And House Republicans Blocked The Deal. “July 2: The panel mostly ignores that plan and votes out another package defying LePage’s no-tax hike warning. In a late-night vote, Thibodeau and Gideon lead the panel into voting for yet another budget that defied LePage by leaving the lodging tax increase in after he issued a Facebook video saying he wouldn’t agree to a tax increase. House Republicans signaled that he wouldn’t sign it. July 3: House Republicans again block that deal, but LePage and Gideon hastily negotiate a deal to ax the lodging tax increase and end the shutdown.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]

During the Shutdown, LePage Allegedly Told Lawmakers That He’d Be Going on Vacation During it

Lawmakers Said Governor LePage Called Them To Tell Them He Was Going On Vacation While The Government Was Shut Down, But His Spokeswoman Later Said He Would Not Be Leaving The State. “Earlier Monday, the lawmakers said that LePage called them to say he was going on vacation, but LePage spokeswoman Adrienne Bennett said Monday night that the governor would not be going on vacation. ‘(He) will not be leaving,’ she said in an email. The news that LePage said he was planning to take a vacation amid a state budget shutdown was paired with reports out of New Jersey -- also a state shutdown over the budget -- that Gov. Chris Christie and his family visited a beach closed to the public, prompting outrage.” [Kennebec Journal, 7/4/17]

July 3, 2017 – LePage and the Speaker of the House Negotiated an End to the Shutdown

HEADLINE: “LePage, Gideon Cut Late-Night Deal To End Shutdown.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/3/17]

7/3/17: Governor Paul LePage And Sara Gideon Struck A Deal To End The Government Shutdown, With The House Of Representatives And Senate Voting After Midnight To Pass The Budget. “Hope soared at the State House just after 10 p.m. Monday when Gov. Paul LePage and Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon struck a deal for a bipartisan budget bill and an end to Maine's three-day government shutdown. The House of Representatives voted 147-2 in favor of the deal at nearly 1 a.m. Tuesday and the Senate followed suit 35-0. LePage signed the budget into law.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/3/17]

Details of Final Compromise Budget

7/3/17: Sara Gideon And Governor LePage Negotiated A Deal To Eliminate The Lodging Tax Increase In Exchange For Blocking Changes To Maine’s Behavioral Health System And Additional Early Childhood Education Funding. “July 3: House Republicans again block that deal, but LePage and Gideon hastily negotiate a deal to ax the lodging tax increase and end the shutdown. When that deal went to the House floor, a smaller group of 54 Republicans again withheld their votes to block a two-thirds majority. But negotiations dragged on in private. By 9:30 p.m., LePage and Gideon hammered out a deal that eliminated the lodging tax increase in exchange for blocking changes to Maine's behavioral health system and adding federal funds to early childhood education programs. The Legislature approved it easily and the shutdown ended when LePage signed it just after 1 a.m. on July 4, holding a celebratory signing alongside a group mostly made up of House Republicans and praising them for holding firm to control majority Democrats.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/5/17]

The Budget Deal Cut The Proposed Increase To The Lodging Tax In Exchange For A Two-Year Moratorium On Changing The Funding Structure Of Maine’s Behavioral Health System And More TANF Funding For Early Childhood Education Programs. “According to Rep. Patricia Hymanson, D-York, House chairwoman of the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee, key elements of the deal include negating the proposed lodging tax increase, which LePage and Republicans have treated as a poison pill. In exchange, Hymanson said, Democrats were able to secure two items they have been fighting for this year: One is a two-year moratorium on changes to the funding structure for the state's behavioral health system,

which the Department of Health and Human Services has been trying to implement since a 2016 Burns & Associates report. The other item is the allocation of more federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding for early childhood education programs.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/3/17]

New York Times: LePage And Sara Gideon “Crafted A New Deal That Scrapped The [Lodging Tax] Increase, Added Money For Head Start Programs And Protected Behavioral Health Reimbursements.” “Late last week, Senate Republicans and the Democrats who control the House agreed on a compromise budget. In a major concession by Democrats, it would repeal a voter-approved tax surcharge on the state's highest earners, which had been expected to generate more than \$300 million for education. But the bill also contained a roughly \$20 million increase in the state's lodging tax -- as had the budget Mr. LePage first proposed. On Monday, Mr. LePage said he would not sign a budget that included the lodging tax increase. Late in the evening, he and Sara Gideon, the Democratic House speaker, crafted a new deal that scrapped the increase, added money for Head Start programs and protected behavioral health reimbursements.” [New York Times, 7/3/17]

The Compromise Budget Agreement Struck Between Sara Gideon And Governor LePage Would “Likely Require A Supplemental Budget In 2018 Because It Leaves Additional Funding For Maine Direct-Care Workers Unaddressed In The Next Fiscal Year.” “The two-year state budget may be signed, but Gov. Paul LePage and the Legislature's top Democrat have already teased their tacks for the next standoff, likely to happen sometime next year. The budget agreement reached by the Republican governor and House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, will likely require a supplemental budget in 2018 because it leaves additional funding for Maine direct-care workers unaddressed in the next fiscal year.” [Bangor Daily News, 7/6/17]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: Final Compromise Budget Increased Cash Assistance For Poor Families For The First Time Since 2001, From \$485 Per Month To \$582 Per Month For A Family Of Three. “But a close reading of the budget tells a more complicated tale — a tale that includes some victories for low-income Mainers that mostly happened under the radar, that will prove significant, and that fly in the face of LePage’s agenda. The two-year budget that just took effect, for example, includes the first increase since 2001 in the amount of cash assistance a poor family with kids can collect through the state’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. On Oct. 1, the maximum cash benefit for a poor family of three will rise to \$582 from \$485. It’s not a lot of money to survive on, but a 20 percent bump will prove significant for a family living on the edge — easing the toxic stress that goes along with not being able to make ends meet.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/12/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: Final Compromise Budget Linked Cash Assistance To Rise With Inflation Each Year. “The two-year budget that just took effect, for example, includes the first increase since 2001 in the amount of cash assistance a poor family with kids can collect through the state’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. On Oct. 1, the maximum cash benefit for a poor family of three will rise to \$582 from \$485. It’s not a lot of money to survive on, but a 20 percent bump will prove significant for a family living on the edge — easing the toxic stress that goes along with not being able to make ends meet. Not only that. The budget changed state law to ensure the cash benefit amount rises each year based on inflation. The

spending plan also includes funding and a change in state law to start a program that helps low-income families obtain used cars, so parents can attend work or school.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/12/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: Final Compromise Budget Included Funding To Start A Program To Help Low-Income Families Obtain Used Cars In Order To Get To Work Or School. “The two-year budget that just took effect, for example, includes the first increase since 2001 in the amount of cash assistance a poor family with kids can collect through the state’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. On Oct. 1, the maximum cash benefit for a poor family of three will rise to \$582 from \$485. It’s not a lot of money to survive on, but a 20 percent bump will prove significant for a family living on the edge — easing the toxic stress that goes along with not being able to make ends meet. Not only that. The budget changed state law to ensure the cash benefit amount rises each year based on inflation. The spending plan also includes funding and a change in state law to start a program that helps low-income families obtain used cars, so parents can attend work or school.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/12/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: Final Compromise Did Not Include Proposed Millions Of Dollars Of Cuts To Maine’s Safety Net, Including Kicking Parents And Young Adults Off Medicaid. “It’s also worth noting what didn’t make it into the two-year budget that took effect — notably millions of dollars in damaging cuts to Maine’s safety net that LePage included in his first budget proposal earlier this year. The budget doesn’t include cuts that would have kicked parents and young adults off Medicaid, and it retains state funding for General Assistance — the last-resort source of aid that residents obtain through city hall or at their local town offices.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/12/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: Final Compromise Did Not Include The LePage-Proposed Cuts To General Assistance. “It’s also worth noting what didn’t make it into the two-year budget that took effect — notably millions of dollars in damaging cuts to Maine’s safety net that LePage included in his first budget proposal earlier this year. The budget doesn’t include cuts that would have kicked parents and young adults off Medicaid, and it retains state funding for General Assistance — the last-resort source of aid that residents obtain through city hall or at their local town offices.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/12/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: Final Compromise Budget Repealed The 3 Percent Surtax On Incomes Above \$200,00. “It’s easy to look at the top-line details of Maine’s recently passed two-year state budget and conclude that Democrats in the Legislature came out of the ordeal of a government shutdown virtually empty-handed. Republicans entered this year’s legislative session with a goal of repealing the 3 percent surtax on incomes above \$200,000 that voters passed into law last November, and they succeeded. The final budget includes no additional tax on the state’s top earners.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/12/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: Final Compromise Budget Added About Half Of The \$300 Million In Public Education Funding That The 3 Percent Surtax Was Supposed To Raise. “Republicans entered this year’s legislative session with a goal of repealing the 3 percent surtax on incomes above \$200,000 that voters passed into law last November, and they succeeded. The final budget includes no additional tax on the state’s top earners. That surtax was supposed to raise more than \$300 million in funding for public schools in its first two years; the final budget

added about half that amount beyond Gov. Paul LePage's initial budget proposal." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/12/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: "Democrats Capitulated On The 3 Percent Surtax...Giving An Income Tax Break To Maine's Top Earners." "In the end, Democrats capitulated on the 3 percent surtax, which was stripped from the final budget agreement, giving an income tax break to Maine's top earners. They compromised on the \$300 million in additional education funding, settling for about half as much by agreeing to a Senate Republican plan to generate additional revenue by raising the state's lodging tax, which was a compromise from GOP members who generally oppose tax increases." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/1/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: The Budget Included An Additional \$162 Million For Schools. "In the end, the surtax was repealed, but the budget includes an additional \$162 million for schools, with \$27.5 million directed to schools with high percentages of students in poverty." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/7/17](#)]

Republican Senate President Thibodeau Said The Budget Made "The Largest Investment In K-12 Education As A State In Our History. I Think We Ought To All Be Proud Of That." THIBODEAU: "We actually invested over \$150 million new dollars in K-12 education, most of that money in year number two. A significant increase in public education and our support for it. And you know, look, educating our children is important and an expensive proposition and it does have a substantial impact on people's property taxes, but we are, and have made, the largest investment in K-12 education as a state in our history. I think we ought to all be proud of that." [Maine Public Radio, [6/14/18](#)] (AUDIO) 15:05

Bangor Daily News Editorial: "In Education, Much Of The Increased Funding The Two-Year Budget Includes Will End Up In School Districts With High Proportions Of Low-Income Students." "In education, much of the increased funding the two-year budget includes will end up in school districts with high proportions of low-income students. The budget, for example, ends the state practice of deducting state aid, dollar for dollar, from those districts that receive federal Title I funds, which are earmarked for high-poverty districts. And by altering the school funding formula, the new two-year budget earmarks more state funds for low-income districts that have trouble raising money from local property taxpayers." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/12/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: "Also Important, The Budget Includes Changes That Put New Emphasis On Public Preschool And After-School Programs — Opportunities That Can Make A Difference In Academic Achievement For Students From Low-Income Families." "Also important, the budget includes changes that put new emphasis on public preschool and after-school programs — opportunities that can make a difference in academic achievement for students from low-income families." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/12/17](#)]

Sara Gideon: Final Compromise Budget Protected The Homestead Property Tax Exemption "For Most Families." "In a divided government, I truly believe that compromise was necessary to reach a final agreement, and that improving Maine's economy is the key to our future. We were successful by balancing investments that will strengthen our State, while rejecting policies that would negatively impact middle class families. The 2017-2018 Biennial

Budget: [...] Bolsters property tax relief: Protects the Homestead exemption for most families. This critical program reduces property tax bills by exempting a portion of the home's value from tax assessment." [Speaker Gideon, 2017 Legislative Report, [12/27/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: Final Budget Included \$14 Million For Direct Care Workers.

"None of these changes made it into the final budget. Instead, it includes a boost in TANF benefits and allocates more than \$14 million to support direct care workers. Low pay is causing shortages of workers needed to care for the elderly and disabled." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/7/12](#)]

Editorial Commentary About the Final Budget

Bangor Daily News Editorial: The Budget Included Victories For Low-Income Mainers, Included "Because Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon Advocated For Them,"

Including An Increase In TANF Benefits. "The claims that Democrats lost big have come from the right and left sides of the political spectrum. And some Democratic priorities certainly took a hit. But a close reading of the budget tells a more complicated tale -- a tale that includes some victories for low-income Mainers that mostly happened under the radar, that will prove significant, and that fly in the face of LePage's agenda. The two-year budget that just took effect, for example, includes the first increase since 2001 in the amount of cash assistance a poor family with kids can collect through the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. On Oct. 1, the maximum cash benefit for a poor family of three will rise to \$582 from \$485. It's not a lot of money to survive on, but a 20 percent bump will prove significant for a family living on the edge -- easing the toxic stress that goes along with not being able to make ends meet. Not only that. The budget changed state law to ensure the cash benefit amount rises each year based on inflation. The spending plan also includes funding and a change in state law to start a program that helps low-income families obtain used cars, so parents can attend work or school. Those initiatives are in there because Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon advocated for them as part of far-reaching legislation she proposed earlier this year to spend the state's sizable balance of federal welfare funds in ways that actually help low-income families." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/12/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: The Budget "Includes Some Victories For Low-Income Mainers That Mostly Happened Under The Radar, That Will Prove Significant, And That Fly In The Face Of LePage's Agenda."

"The claims that Democrats lost big have come from the right and left sides of the political spectrum. And some Democratic priorities certainly took a hit. But a close reading of the budget tells a more complicated tale — a tale that includes some victories for low-income Mainers that mostly happened under the radar, that will prove significant, and that fly in the face of LePage's agenda." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/12/17](#)]

HEADLINE: "Maine's Unnecessary Government Shutdown Can End With Compromise, Not Extortion." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/1/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: "The Failure To Reach A Budget Agreement Rests At The Feet Of 60 Republicans Members Of The House Of Representatives, Led By Reps. Ken Fredette And Ellie Espling." "Maine's government is shut down. It didn't have to happen. The failure to reach a budget agreement rests at the feet of 60 Republicans members of the House of

Representatives, led by Reps. Ken Fredette and Ellie Espling, who were more intent on kowtowing to Gov. Paul LePage's demands than serving the people who elected them." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/1/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: Gov. LePage Could Sign Any Budget Lawmakers Put Before Him, He Has Made The Choice Not To. He Has Made It Clear That He Would Only Sign A Budget That Matched His Ever-Changing Wish List. This Is Not Governing Or Leadership, It Is Extortion. "Failing to understand Maine's system of government, Fredette said it was lawmakers responsibility to deliver a budget LePage could sign, as if they work for the governor, not the Maine people. LePage could sign any budget lawmakers put before him, he has made the choice not to. He has made it clear that he would only sign a budget that matched his ever-changing wish list. This is not governing or leadership, it is extortion." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/1/17](#)]

Kennebec Journal Editorial: "If Maine Government Goes Over The Brink, The Blame Will Not Be On The Presiding Officers. It Will Rest Of Gov. LePage And The Members Of The House Who Backed Him." "The governor and his allies are trying to convince wavering House members that if the government shuts down, most people will blame the Democrats. But that would be a risky supposition. The Democrats did not refuse to negotiate -- the governor did. The Democrats did not force the resignation of the state's budget director two weeks before the shut-down deadline -- the governor did. And the Democrats did not reintroduce unpopular and unworkable policy demands at the last minute, the way that the governor did by making an already-rejected pilot program for a statewide teachers contract a nonnegotiable condition. Last week, Gideon and Thibodeau were reportedly only \$25 million apart on a deal: a difference of less than three-tenths of 1 percent in a proposed \$7 billion budget. If Maine government goes over the brink, the blame will not be on the presiding officers. It will rest on Gov. LePage and the members of the House who backed him." [Editorial, Kennebec Journal, 6/27/17]

Kennebec Journal Editorial On A Possible Government Shutdown: "The Democrats Did Not Refuse To Negotiate – The Governor Did. The Democrats Did Not Force The Resignation Of The State's Budget Director Two Weeks Before The Shut-Down Deadline – The Governor Did." "The governor and his allies are trying to convince wavering House members that if the government shuts down, most people will blame the Democrats. But that would be a risky supposition. The Democrats did not refuse to negotiate -- the governor did. The Democrats did not force the resignation of the state's budget director two weeks before the shut-down deadline -- the governor did. And the Democrats did not reintroduce unpopular and unworkable policy demands at the last minute, the way that the governor did by making an already-rejected pilot program for a statewide teachers contract a nonnegotiable condition. Last week, Gideon and Thibodeau were reportedly only \$25 million apart on a deal: a difference of less than three-tenths of 1 percent in a proposed \$7 billion budget. If Maine government goes over the brink, the blame will not be on the presiding officers. It will rest on Gov. LePage and the members of the House who backed him." [Editorial, Kennebec Journal, 6/27/17]

Kennebec Journal Editorial On A Possible Government Shutdown: "The Democrats Did Not Reintroduce Unpopular And Unworkable Policy Demands At The Last Minute, The Way That The Governor Did By Making An Already-Rejected Pilot Program For A

Statewide Teachers A Nonnegotiable Condition.” “The governor and his allies are trying to convince wavering House members that if the government shuts down, most people will blame the Democrats. But that would be a risky supposition. The Democrats did not refuse to negotiate -- the governor did. The Democrats did not force the resignation of the state's budget director two weeks before the shut-down deadline -- the governor did. And the Democrats did not reintroduce unpopular and unworkable policy demands at the last minute, the way that the governor did by making an already-rejected pilot program for a statewide teachers contract a nonnegotiable condition. Last week, Gideon and Thibodeau were reportedly only \$25 million apart on a deal: a difference of less than three-tenths of 1 percent in a proposed \$7 billion budget. If Maine government goes over the brink, the blame will not be on the presiding officers. It will rest on Gov. LePage and the members of the House who backed him.” [Editorial, Kennebec Journal, 6/27/17]

Bangor Daily News Editorial On Budget Negotiations: “[Republican Senate President] Thibodeau And Gideon, Like Real Leaders, Are Looking For Areas Of Compromise, Which Many In Their Party May Not Like But Realize Are Necessary To Come To A Budget Agreement.” “There is one path -- and one day -- left to finalize a state budget and avert a government shutdown. If legislative negotiators can reach agreement on a spending plan and both chambers of the State House approve it Friday, it could be on the governor's desk hours before a new budget must be in place. [...] Thibodeau and Gideon, like real leaders, are looking for areas of compromise, which many in their party may not like but realize are necessary to come to a budget agreement.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 6/29/17]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “The Failure To Reach A Budget Agreement Rests At The Feet Of 60 Republicans Members Of The House Of Representatives, Led By Reps. Ken Fredette And Ellie Espling, Who Were More Intent On Kowtowing To Gov. Paul LePage’s Demands Than Serving The People Who Elected Them.” “Maine's government is shut down. It didn't have to happen. The failure to reach a budget agreement rests at the feet of 60 Republicans members of the House of Representatives, led by Reps. Ken Fredette and Ellie Espling, who were more intent on kowtowing to Gov. Paul LePage's demands than serving the people who elected them.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 7/1/17]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “Other Legislative Leaders, Especially House Speaker Sara Gideon And Senate President Mike Thibodeau Took Their Responsibilities Seriously. They Presided Over Weeks Of Negotiations.” “Other legislative leaders, especially House Speaker Sara Gideon and Senate President Mike Thibodeau took their responsibilities seriously. They presided over weeks of negotiations that resulted in a two-year spending budget that was approved by a 34-1 vote in the Senate Friday. The same budget passed the House by a vote of 87-60, falling short of the two-thirds necessary to enact the budget immediately and to override a potential veto from LePage.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 7/1/17]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “This Is What A Compromise Budget Looks Like...It Was Compromise, Not Hollow Threats And Grandstanding, That Allowed The State To Move Forward.” “This is what a compromise budget looks like. Each legislative caucus, and the governor, got some of what they wanted, but also agreed to things they didn’t like. The lesson

from the shutdown of 2017? In the end, it was compromise, not hollow threats and grandstanding, that allowed the state to move forward.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [7/7/17](#)]

MAINE CREDIT RATING

Maine’s Credit Rating Was Downgraded In January 2013, In Part Because Of Paul LePage’s Budget Proposals. Fitch Ratings, in January 2013, downgraded “Maine’s general obligation bond debt a notch, to ‘AA’ from ‘AA-plus.’” “In its rating statement, Fitch cited continued budget pressures as a result of state revenues that have come in below earlier expectations and a \$100 million shortfall that has developed in the state’s Medicaid program. Fitch noted that Gov. Paul LePage’s proposal for balancing the...budget relies largely on digging into state reserves, a move that could affect the state’s ability to react to future budget challenges.” “The change in rating is a sign Maine could be forced to pay higher interest rates when it issues new debt.” (Bangor Daily News, 01/23/13)

Maine’s Bond Debt Rating Downgraded by Fitch, Agency Notes that LePage Budget Proposal Puts State Future at Risk. The Sun Journal wrote, “Slipping state revenues, persistent budget gaps and ‘an increasingly contentious decision-making environment’ have led one of the nation’s three main credit rating agencies to downgrade Maine’s general obligation bond debt a notch, to ‘AA’ from ‘AA- plus.’ The downgrade by Fitch Ratings reflects the agency’s assessment of the state’s \$472 million in general obligation bond debt... In its rating statement, Fitch cited continued budget pressures as a result of state revenues that have come in below expectations and a \$100 million shortfall that has developed in the state’s Medicaid program. Fitch noted that Gov. Paul LePage’s proposal for balancing this year’s budget relies largely on digging into state reserves, a move that could affect the state’s ability to react to future budget challenges.” [Sun Journal, 1/24/13]

- **Moody’s Warned Maine About Credit Downgrade.** The Portland Press Herald reported that Moody’s Investors Service issued a warning Monday “that Maine’s continuing Medicaid budget problems could hurt the state’s credit rating.” [Portland Press Herald, [1/15/13](#)]

SEQUESTRATION

Paul LePage, In 2010, Said He Thinks The Federal Government Should Spend Billions Of Dollars Less In Maine Each Year. Paul LePage, during an interview in 2010, “said Maine should not receive more federal funding than residents pay in federal taxes.” (Kennebec Journal, 10/08/10) He believes “states should not collect more in federal funds than they contribute. ‘If, for instance, we put \$1.5 billion into the federal coffers and we get \$2 billion, somebody else on the other end is losing. I have a problem with that,’ he said. ‘I don’t think you should get more than you put in, unless you earn it. There’s no free lunches.’” (Kennebec Journal, 12/05/10)

- **Yet In 2012 He Opposed Cuts Via Sequestration.** Now “Gov. Paul LePage is worried about the potential impact of across-the-board cuts in federal spending...from the deficit-ceiling agreement made in the summer of 2011. It forces automatic and significant cuts, or sequestration, in defense and discretionary spending,” because the Obama

administration and Congress fail to reach agreement on budget cuts. He called “sequestration ‘a particularly bad decision’ that will impact state government, Maine people and communities. He says elected officials’ feet must be held to the fire.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 10/20/12)

- **Maine Received \$1.89 in Revenue for Every Tax Dollar.** According to Talking Points Memo, Maine received \$1.89 in benefits received from the federal government for every tax dollar collected. [Talking Points Memo, [2/22/12](#)]

WATERVILLE BUDGET

2006: LePage Wanted a “Bare-Bones” Education Budget for Waterville. The Morning Sentinel reported on Mayor LePage and budget negotiations with the Waterville School Board: “Board member Sara Sylvester asked city officials what they are looking for as far as a school budget figure. LePage said he has not yet seen the school budget, but offered a suggestion. ‘You need to get to a budget that you absolutely believe is a bare-bones budget you need to go with,’ he said. ‘If that’s satisfactory, then we’ll go with it. If not, there’ll be some cuts.’” [Morning Sentinel, 3/14/06]

CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES

EXTREMISM/WHITE NATIONALISM

2019: LePage Decried Changes To Maine Electoral College Rules, Saying “White People Will Not Have Anything To Say.” “Earlier this year LePage said the elimination of white political power was behind an effort to change the way Maine casts its votes in the Electoral College. ‘What would happen if they do what they say they’re going to do, white people will not have anything to say,’ he told the listeners of WVOM in Bangor. ‘It’s only going to be the minorities who would elect.’” [Portland Press Herald—Greg Kesich, 6/25/19]

DRUGS & THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOIDS

Portland Press Herald Editorial HEADLINE: “Our View: Maine Pain Patients Should Get Access To Less-Addictive Drugs.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [5/14/15](#)]

HEADLINE: “Maine Bill Would Help Patients Buy Opiates That Deter Addiction.” [Portland Press Herald, [5/11/15](#)]

HEADLINE: “Maine Bill Aims To Make Abuse-Deterrent Painkillers More Affordable.” [NPR, [5/20/15](#)]

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Mandating That Patients Who Were Prescribed Opioids With “Abuse-Deterrent Formulations” Were Charged the Same Co-Pay They Would Pay for Regular Opioids. In June 2015, the House voted to override LePage’s veto of LD919 by a 119-13 vote and the Senate voted 34-0 to concur in the veto override. “Co-sponsored by Democratic Reps. Barry Hobbins of Saco and Sara Gideon of Freeport and Republican Sens. Roger Katz of Augusta and Amy Volk of Scarborough, L.D. 919 would mandate that patients who are prescribed drugs with abuse-deterrent formulations pay the same co-pay as they would for painkillers that lack these properties.” 5. [Editorial, Kennebec Journal, 5/14/15; Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 919, [August 2015](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 919, [7/16/15](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 919, Roll Call #457, [6/30/15](#)]

- **Portland Press Herald: Under the Bill, “Health Insurance Companies Would Not Be Allowed To Charge Patients More For Less Addictive Versions Of Prescription Opiates.”** “Health insurance companies would not be allowed to charge patients more for less addictive versions of prescription opiates under a new bill being considered in the Maine Legislature.” [Portland Press Herald, [5/11/15](#)]
- **The Bill Would “Remove The Financial Incentive For Patients To Choose The Cheaper Versions – And Therefore Make Them Less Likely To Abuse And Become Addicted To Them.”** “The bill would remove the financial incentive for patients to choose the cheaper versions – and therefore make them less likely to abuse and become addicted to them. The bill does not affect the cost of the drugs for those who would pay for them out-of-pocket, such as the uninsured.” [Portland Press Herald, [5/11/15](#)]

***Kennebec Journal* Editorial: “The Less Addictive Versions Of Prescription Opiates Can Cost Hundreds Of Dollars More Per Month.”** “To stem the tide of addiction, technology has been developed that prevents users from chewing, crushing, grating or grinding pain pills to experience the ‘high.’ But the less addictive versions of prescription opiates can cost hundreds of dollars more per month.” [Editorial, Kennebec Journal, 5/14/15]

***Kennebec Journal* Editorial: Insurers Opposed the Legislation To Charge The Same Co-Pay For Less Addictive Opioids, Saying The Abuse-Deterrent Formulations Were Often More Expensive.** “If the bill is approved, it would remove the financial incentive for consumers to choose the cheaper versions, to which it's easier to become addicted. Insurers have objected to L.D. 919, claiming that because abuse-deterrent formulations are often more expensive, the bill could result in higher premiums. But this criticism overlooks the high price of addiction.” [Editorial, Kennebec Journal, 5/14/15]

***Kennebec Journal* Editorial: “If The Bill Is Approved, It Would Remove The Financial Incentive For Consumers To Choose The Cheaper Versions, To Which It's Easier To Become Addicted.”** “If the bill is approved, it would remove the financial incentive for consumers to choose the cheaper versions, to which it's easier to become addicted.” [Editorial, Kennebec Journal, 5/14/15]

Kennebec Journal Editorial: “While Abuse-Deterrent Medications Aren’t A Silver Bullet, Making Them More Available And More Affordable Could Reduce The Risk Of Addiction. By Supporting L.D. 919, Our Elected Officials Have An Opportunity To Make This Happen.” “But while abuse-deterrent medications aren’t a silver bullet, making them more available and more affordable could reduce the risk of addiction. By supporting L.D. 919, our elected officials have an opportunity to make this happen.” [Editorial, Kennebec Journal, 5/14/15]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “The Less Addictive Versions Of Prescription Opiates Can Cost Hundreds Of Dollars More Per Month.” “To stem the tide of addiction, technology has been developed that prevents users from chewing, crushing, grating or grinding pain pills to experience the ‘high.’ But the less addictive versions of prescription opiates can cost hundreds of dollars more per month.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [5/14/15](#)]

- **2015: Opiate Painkiller Zohydro, Without Abuse-Deterrent Properties, Cost \$15.98 Per Day, While Abuse-Deterrent OxyContin Cost \$31.73 Per Day.** “Although drug prices vary widely and abuse-deterrent drugs are not always more expensive, in many cases there is a difference in prices for medications depending on whether they have abuse-deterrent properties. For instance, Zohydro, an opiate painkiller not available with abuse-deterrent properties, costs \$15.98 per day, while abuse-deterrent OxyContin costs \$31.73 per day, on average, according to [www.goodrx.com](#), a price comparison website.” [Portland Press Herald, [5/11/15](#)]
- **2016: A 30-Day Supply Of Pfizer’s Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Cost \$268 While A 30-Day Supply Of Generic Morphine Cost \$38.** “Federal health officials also have pushed back against requirements to cover the drugs, citing the “staggering” costs. For example, a 30-day supply of Pfizer’s abuse-deterrent Embeda, a combination drug containing morphine, costs \$268, while a 30-day supply of a generic morphine costs roughly \$38, according to data compiled by Truven Health Analytics, a company that tracks drug prices set by manufacturers.” [CBS, [12/15/16](#)]

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation To Allow Methadone Treatment Facilities To Be Entered Into The Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program With Patients’ Consent. In June 2017, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1619 by a 143-0 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote. LD 1619 “allows for the name of a methadone treatment facility and dosage information regarding methadone for the treatment of opioid dependency to be entered into the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program if a patient has given consent to the facility and the information is disclosed only during a medical emergency and only to medical personnel involved in treating the patient. Any disclosure of methadone dosage information is subject to 42 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 2.32. A patient’s dosage information must be entered into the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program when treatment begins, 90 days after that, and then every 180 days. The Department of Health and Human Services must amend the contract amendment to ensure the required enhancement to the Controlled Substances

Prescription Monitoring Program. The department must convene a stakeholder group to advise on the criteria for the enhancement and stakeholders must include methadone providers and providers of emergency services. The department must submit a progress report on implementation of the enhancement to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 30, 2018.” [Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1619, [August 2017](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1619, Roll Call #369, [6/21/17](#)]

- **Maine’s Prescription Monitoring Program Tracked Controlled Prescription Drugs In The State Of Maine In Order To Prevent And Detect Misuse Of Prescription Drugs.** “What is a Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)? A Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP; sometimes called a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, or PDMP) is a state-run electronic database that tracks controlled prescription drugs that are dispensed to patients within the state. A PMP is a tool that prescribers, pharmacists, and other healthcare and public health professionals can use to address misuse, abuse, and diversion of prescription drugs. Why does Maine have a PMP? The Maine PMP was created to prevent and detect the misuse, abuse, and diversion of prescription drugs in Maine.” [Maine Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, accessed [5/2/19](#)]

In 2013, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Instructing the Substance Abuse Services Commission to Develop a Process to Increase Registration in the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program. LD388 “requires the Substance Abuse Services Commission to develop a process to increase registration in the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program through professional licensing boards and to develop strategies to promote the use of the program by prescribers. The Substance Abuse Services Commission is required to report its findings, recommendations and any suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2014.” The House passed LD 388 by a 138-0 vote. The Senate passed the bill on 5/8/13 and it became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Morning Sentinel, 2/27/13; State of Maine Legislature, LD 388, Roll Call #71, [5/2/13](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 388, [5/20/13](#)]

CRITICISM OF LEPAGE’S RESPONSE TO OPIOID CRISIS

Portland Press Herald Editorial HEADLINE: “LePage Policy Undermines Overdose Crisis Response.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [8/7/16](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial HEADLINE: “LePage’s Views On Addiction Compound Maine’s Overdose Crisis.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [7/18/16](#)]

- **SUBHEADLINE: “The Governor’s Illogical Talking Points Double Down On A Strategy That Has Failed For Years.”** [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [7/18/16](#)]

***Kennebec Journal* Editorial Headline: “LePage’s Inaction on Naloxone Puts Lives in Danger.”** [*Kennebec Journal*, Editorial, 1/15/18]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Headline: “LePage-Era Foot-Dragging Blocks Access to Treatment; The Legislature Need to Act, or Maine Will Continue to Do Nothing in the Face of a Crisis.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 4/23/18](#)]

Headline: “Health, Recovery Experts Argue Against Age Limit to Buy Naloxone; as the U.S. Surgeon General Calls for Greater Access to the Drug, Maine Regulators are Urged to Reject Restrictions Backed by LePage.” [[Portland Press Herald, 4/6/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald: “LePage’s [Opposition To Expanding Access To Naloxone] Was Criticized By Addiction Specialists As Well As Some In Law Enforcement, A Fact Likely Reflected In The Wide Margins In Both The House And Senate Votes.” “Among the most closely watched bills was the measure that would allow pharmacists to dispense naloxone without a prescription. The House voted 132-14 and the Senate voted 29-5 to override LePage. Also known by the brand name Narcan, naloxone works to quickly counteract the potentially deadly symptoms of an overdose from heroin or other opiates. The governor had vetoed the measure last week with the argument that increasing access to the overdose antidote does not address the ‘root causes of the problem’ creating Maine’s drug crisis. ‘Naloxone does not truly save lives; it merely extends them until the next overdose,’ he wrote in his veto letter. ‘Creating a situation where an addict has a heroin needle in one hand and a shot of naloxone in the other produces a sense of normalcy and security around heroin use that serves only to perpetuate the cycle of addiction.’ LePage’s stance was criticized by addiction specialists as well as some in law enforcement, a fact likely reflected in the wide margins in both the House and Senate votes.” [[Portland Press Herald, 4/29/16](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: LePage’s Opposition To Naloxone Was “Absurd,” But “Thankfully, That Illogical Line Of Thinking Has Been Rejected By Advocates, Police And A Majority Of Maine Legislators.” “Worse, in response to the governors’ pact, LePage restated his absurd objection to the overdose antidote naloxone, saying through his spokesman that the medication ‘has not been proven to get drug addicts off deadly opiates.’ Thankfully, that illogical line of thinking has been rejected by advocates, police and a majority of Maine legislators. Naloxone was never meant to treat addiction, just as a heart stent doesn’t lower your cholesterol. It simply revives a person near death from overdose. Making it less available won’t get more people into treatment; it will only ensure that more people die.” [[Editorial, Portland Press Herald, 7/18/16](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Gov. LePage To Blame For Protracted Naloxone Fight; His Resistance To Making The Overdose Antidote More Available Has Wasted Valuable Time.”** [[Editorial, Portland Press Herald, 4/6/18](#)]
- **Portland Press Herald Editorial: LePage’s Opposition To Put In Place “What Are Widely Acknowledged As The Best Rules Surrounding” Naloxone, Forced Lawmakers To Spend Time Passing Those Rules Rather Than Addressing Other Parts Of The Opioid Crisis.** “The Legislature has for two years now been trying to move on from naloxone to the bigger items driving the crisis. Lawmakers have attempted to put in place what are widely acknowledged as the best rules surrounding the overdose-reversing drug, which is to make it accessible to as many at-risk people as possible. Yet

at each point, the governor has stood in the way, forcing lawmakers to put time and effort into passing what should be no-brainer legislation – time that could be better spent tackling the more complex and costly components of the issue.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [4/6/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald Writer Joe Lawlor: LePage Tightened Eligibility For MaineCare Amid Growing Opioid Crisis; Number Of People Patients Declined By Almost 100,000.

“Heroin overdose deaths in Maine surged from seven in 2009 to 57 in 2014, and the number of people seeking treatment for opiate abuse jumped from 1,115 in 2010 to 3,463 in 2014. [...] Since 2013, efforts by Democrats and some moderate Republicans to expand Medicaid to more than 60,000 Mainers have been opposed by most Republicans lawmakers and vetoed by Gov. Paul LePage, a staunch opponent of expansion. Under LePage, Maine has tightened eligibility for MaineCare, the state's name for Medicaid, reducing the number of Mainers who can obtain the free health insurance. The number of MaineCare patients has declined from 355,000 in 2011 to 287,000 this year, due to tightening eligibility requirements and the improved economy.” [Press Herald—Joe Lawler, 12/27/15]

Press Herald Writer Eric Russell: LePage’s Response To Maine’s Drug Crisis Was Focused On Increased Law Enforcement, Rather Than Treatment. “Here in Maine, the LePage administration's response to the drug crisis, until recently, was heavily weighted toward increased law enforcement. In his own State of the State address in 2014, LePage spent much of his time talking about the policy goals that have defined his administration: tax cuts, bloated government and welfare reform. He mentioned the drug crisis at the end but focused on drug-affected babies and how that would further strain the welfare system. LePage then mentioned traffickers and said the state needed more drug agents. He never used the word ‘treatment.’” [Press Herald—Eric Russell, 3/26/17]

Press Herald Writer Eric Russell: LePage Has Been Critical Of Naloxone And “Used Language That Suggests People Get What They Deserve And Shouldn’t Be Saved” From Overdoses. “The list of deaths would be longer if not for the increased availability and use of the drug naloxone, which reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. In 2016, rescue workers used naloxone 2,380 times, up from 1,565 the year before, according to state data. Republican Gov. Paul LePage has been critical of naloxone and has used language that suggests people get what they deserve and shouldn't be saved after a couple of overdoses.” [Press Herald—Eric Russell, 3/26/17]

Press Herald Writer Eric Russell: LePage Led Reduction In Reimbursement Rates For Methadone, Tightened Eligibility For MaineCare; Both Made Seeking Addiction Treatment More Difficult. “For several years as the problem worsened, policymakers - led by LePage - made it harder to get treatment, not easier. They reduced reimbursement rates for methadone, a drug used to treat opioid addiction. They tightened eligibility for MaineCare, the state's version of Medicaid, leaving many low-income people without the ability to pay. They fought increased access to naloxone, prompting Attorney General Janet Mills, a frequent adversary of the governor, to sidestep him and use funds her office controls to provide the overdose drug to local police departments.” [Press Herald—Eric Russell, 3/26/17]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “the LePage Administration Has Made it Much Hard for Mainers With Substance Abuse Disorder to Access Treatment and Focused Instead on Punishing Substance Abusers and Dealers.” According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “The outgoing governor continues to wrongly blame minorities for Maine's drug crisis. He made the erroneous claim again last week. When Rep. Drew Gattine pushed back against the governor's racially insensitive language, LePage left him a vulgar voicemail and challenged him to a duel. These ludicrous comments diverted attention from the fact that the LePage administration has made it much harder for Mainers with substance abuse disorder to access treatment and focused instead of punishing substance abusers and dealers.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 12/28/18]

Bangor Daily News Editorial Headline: “LePage Has Duty to Let Lives Be Saved With Anti-Overdose Drug, Even if He Doesn’t Like it.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 1/9/18]

Bangor Daily News Editorial Called LePage’s Blocking of Rules to Allow Naloxone to be Sold Without a Prescription “Outrageous and Heartless.” According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “Since then, the law allowing naloxone distribution without a prescription has been stalled. First, by the Board of Pharmacy, which said some of the law's language was unclear. After fixes from the Legislature, which became law without the governor's signature, the board took up the issue again and in August unanimously finalized rules for naloxone distribution. Five months later, the rules are languishing on the governor's desk, with no timetable for their release. This has led to confusion among pharmacies -- Walgreens dispenses naloxone without a prescription, but CVS does not -- and deprives some overdose victims of a second chance. This is outrageous and heartless.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 1/9/18]

Headline: “Despite Rising Death Toll, LePage Vetoes Opioid Treatment Bills.” [[Maine Beacon](#), 7/9/18]

Bangor Daily News: Number of Drug Overdose Deaths “Has Doubled in Just 3 Years as Gov. LePage and Other State Leaders Continue a Pattern of Slow Response to the Crisis.” [[Bangor Daily News](#), 2/22/18]

LePage Made No Mention of the Opioid Crisis During 2018 State of the State Address, and Refused to Comment On Increasing Overdose Deaths When Data Were Released.

According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “LePage, who made no mention of the opioid crisis during his State of the State speech this month, did not issue a public statement about the new data Thursday, and his office did not respond to a request for comment.” [[Bangor Daily News](#), 2/22/18]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “Maine Has Made Little Progress [on the Opioid Epidemic]. Years into the Crisis, Availability [of Treatment] Still Does Not Match the Demand, and Officials Have Done Little But Bite Around the Edges.” According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “Making sure treatment is available when and where it is needed has always been the key to taking the wind out of the opioid epidemic, yet Maine has made little progress. Years into the crisis, availability still does not match the demand, and officials have done little but bite around the edges.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 4/23/18]

Governing.com: the *Portland Press Herald* Found “That Although Other States Have Similar Problems [Related to the Opioid Crisis], it Has Been Exacerbated in Maine by Insufficient Resources and a Lack of Consensus on How Best to Combat the Problem.”

According to Governing.com, “The Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram published a 10-part series called ‘Lost’ last year that examined the impact of the opioid crisis in Maine. The series found that although other states have similar problems, it has been exacerbated in Maine by insufficient resources and a lack of consensus on how best to combat the problem.”

[[Governing.com](http://governing.com), 4/27/18]

DRUG COURTS

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of A Supplemental Appropriations Bill That Included Funding To Expand Maine’s Drug Court, “Which Steers Offenders Into Treatment Programs And Now Operates In Five Of The 16 Counties.” In July 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD925 by a 139-4 vote and the Senate by a 32-1 vote. “The Legislature also approved funding for an expansion of the state’s drug court, which steers offenders into treatment programs and now operates in five of the 16 counties.” [Maine State Legislature, LD 925, Roll Call #702, [7/9/18](#); Portland Press Herald, [7/16/18](#)]

- **Portland Press Herald: “The Legislature Finally Produced What Treatment Advocates Regard As Meaningful Responses To Maine’s Epidemic Of Opioid Abuse. Three New Laws Moved Forward Earlier This Month, Despite Veto Attempts By Republican Gov. Paul LePage.”** “After two years of virtually no progress, the most recent session of the Legislature finally produced what treatment advocates regard as meaningful responses to Maine’s epidemic of opioid abuse. Three new laws moved forward earlier this month, despite veto attempts by Republican Gov. Paul LePage.” [Portland Press Herald, [7/16/18](#)]

- **The Appropriations Bill Funded A New Drug Court At \$150,000:**

14 **Sec. J-1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
15 allocations are made.

16 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

17 **Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Z199**

18 Initiative: Provides funds for case management and other ancillary services provided by
19 the office for drug courts established by the Judicial Department. These funds must be
20 used to provide services for up to 30 new participants either at a new drug court in the
21 State or in existing drug courts in the State.

22	GENERAL FUND	2017-18	2018-19
23	All Other	\$0	\$150,000
24			
25	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>

[Maine State Legislature, LD 925 as amended, [2018](#)]

- **The Appropriations Bill Provided Funding For A New Drug Court For Up To 30 Participants Or To Expand An Existing Drug Court By Up To 30 Participants.** “Part J provides additional funding for the Judicial Department to establish a new drug court in the State for up to 30 participants or to expand by up to 30 the number of participants served by existing drug courts in the State pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 421. It also provides funding for the case management and ancillary services provided to drug court participants by the office of substance abuse and mental health services within the Department of Health and Human Services.” [Maine State Legislature, LD 925 as amended, [2018](#)]
- **The Appropriations Bill “Also Provides Funding For The Case Management And Ancillary Services Provided To Drug Court Participants By The Office Of Substance Abuse And Mental Health Services.”** “Part J provides additional funding for the Judicial Department to establish a new drug court in the State for up to 30 participants or to expand by up to 30 the number of participants served by existing drug courts in the State pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 421. It also provides funding for the case management and ancillary services provided to drug court participants by the office of substance abuse and mental health services within the Department of Health and Human Services.” [Maine State Legislature, LD 925 as amended, [2018](#)]
- **The Appropriations Bill Included \$10,800 To Pay For Active Retired Judges To Help Cover The Drug Courts:**

33 JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
34 Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Page 21 - 128LR1296(02)-1

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 653, L.D. 925

1 Initiative: Provides funds for active retired judges to cover other [court](#) time of full-time
2 sitting judges assigned either to a new drug court in the State or to existing drug courts in
3 the State to allow for up to 30 new participants.

4	GENERAL FUND	2017-18	2018-19
5	All Other	\$0	\$10,800
6			
7	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,800

[Maine State Legislature, LD 925 as amended, [2018](#)]

DRUG LAWS

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill That Strengthened Laws on the Manufacture and Sale of Methamphetamine and Other Drugs. In July 2015, LePage allowed LD1246 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD1246 “strengthens laws regarding the manufacture and sale of methamphetamine and other drugs. It does the following: 1. Provides that possession of two grams or more of fentanyl powder or 90 or more individual containers containing fentanyl powder constitutes "trafficking"; 2. Provides that possession of at least one gram but less than two grams of fentanyl powder or at least 45 but fewer than 90 individual containers of fentanyl powder constitutes "furnishing"; 3. Establishes the crime of aggravated unlawful operation of a methamphetamine laboratory; 4. Prohibits and designates as a Class C crime the unlawful possession of a scheduled drug containing fentanyl powder, seven grams or more of cocaine or two grams or more of cocaine in the form of cocaine base; and 5. Authorizes a court to order as part of the sentence of a defendant restitution that to pay as an expense of emergency response the costs of a response to a suspected unlawful methamphetamine laboratory, including trained laboratory personnel and laboratory services.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1246, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1246, 2015](#)]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Adding Two Additional Drugs Related to Fentanyl to the List of Schedule W Drugs. In July 2015, LePage allowed LD729 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD729 “adds acetylfentanyl and methylacetylfentanyl derivatives to the list of Schedule W drugs. Acetylfentanyl and methylacetylfentanyl derivatives are not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and are closely related to the prescription opioid fentanyl, which is a Schedule W drug.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD729, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD729, 2015](#)]

E-CIGARETTES

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Prohibiting Smoking Electronic Cigarettes In Public Places. In 2015, LePage let LD1108 become law without his signature. LD 1108 as it became law “defines a new term, ‘electronic smoking device,’ and amends the definition of ‘smoking’ to include use of an electronic smoking device for the purpose of prohibiting the use of an electronic smoking device in public places.” The House accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report by a 90-56 vote. The Senate accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report on 6/17/15, and the bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature on 7/4/15. [Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1108, [August 2015](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1108, Roll Call #256, [6/15/15](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1108, [7/4/15](#)]

LANGUAGE

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Replacing Stigmatizing Language Related to Opioid and Other Substance Use with “Substance Use Disorder” and “Person with Substance Use Disorder.” In May 2018, LePage allowed LD1871 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD1871 “removes statutory references to "substance abuse," "addict," "alcoholic," "alcoholism" and "drug-dependent person" and replaces them with "substance use disorder" and "person with substance use disorder." The changes in language are intended to be respectful and minimize stigma for

individuals who suffer with this disorder. New definitions are similar to those used in the clinical setting. Executive agencies are directed to replace outdated references in rules, forms, policies and publications as agencies amend or create these documents. The language changes in the law are not intended to change eligibility requirements for services or benefits provided by the Department of Health and Human Services or affect the State's eligibility or requirements for federal programs or grants.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1871, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1871, 2018](#)]

MAINE OPIOID STATS

From 2011 to 2018, Maine Repeatedly Set Records for the Number of Annual Opioid Deaths

2012: Maine Had 163 Drug Overdose Deaths; 101 Involved Pharmaceutical Opioids.

According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Of the 163 overdose deaths in 2012, 101 involved pharmaceutical opioids, her data show. But the demand for pills also affects heroin use.” [[Bangor Daily News, 1/15/14](#)]

2014: Maine Had Record 208 Drug Overdose Deaths. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “In 2015, 272 people died in Maine as the result of overdosing — a 31 percent jump over 2014, which saw a record 208 overdose deaths, Mills said.” [[Bangor Daily News, 3/7/16](#)]

2015: Maine Set A New Record With 272 Drug Overdose Deaths. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine has set another grim record for drug overdose deaths, Attorney General Janet Mills said Monday in a news release. In 2015, 272 people died in Maine as the result of overdosing — a 31 percent jump over 2014, which saw a record 208 overdose deaths, Mills said.” [[Bangor Daily News, 3/7/16](#)]

- **2015: 157 Deaths Were from Heroin and/or Fentanyl and 111 Were from Pharmaceutical Opioids.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “In 2015, 157 deaths were caused by heroin and/or nonpharmaceutical fentanyl and 111 were caused by pharmaceutical opioids, Mills said.” [[Bangor Daily News, 3/7/16](#)]
- ***Bangor Daily News* Headline: “Maine Sets New Record for Overdose Deaths in 2015.”** [[Bangor Daily News, 3/7/16](#)]

2016: Maine Had Record 376 Drug Overdose Deaths, A 39 Percent Increase From Previous Year. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine’s total of 376 overdose deaths last year outpaced 2015’s previous all-time high of 272 by 39 percent, according to data released by Attorney General Janet Mills on April 11.” [[Bangor Daily News, 2/2/17](#)]

- **2016: “Maine Averaged More Than One Drug Overdose Death Per Day in 2016, Setting a Third Consecutive All-Time Record That Underscores the Urgency of the State’s Opiate Crisis.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Driven by the quick rise of fentanyl-related deaths, Maine averaged more than one drug overdose death per day in 2016, setting a third consecutive all-time record that underscores the urgency of the state’s opiate crisis.” [[Bangor Daily News, 2/2/17](#)]

- **Bangor Daily News Headline: “A Deadly Record: Maine Averaged More Than an Overdose Death Per Day in 2016.”** [[Bangor Daily News, 2/2/17](#)]
- **Portland Press Herald Headline: “Maine Overdose Deaths soared Nearly 40 Percent Last Year, to Record 378.”** [[Portland Press Herald, 2/2/17](#)]
- **Portland Press Herald: “Maine Overdose Deaths Climbed for the Fifth Straight Year in 2016, Soaring Nearly 40 Percent to Claim a Record 378 People.”** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Maine overdose deaths climbed for the fifth straight year in 2016, soaring nearly 40 percent to claim a record 378 people and signal a deepening of the state’s drug crisis.” [[Portland Press Herald, 3/14/17](#)]

2017: Drug Overdose Deaths in Maine Rose to Record 418, an 11 Percent Increase from Previous Year. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The Maine Attorney General’s Office reported Thursday that 418 people died from overdoses in 2017. That’s an 11 percent increase over the 376 overdose deaths in 2016, but the number has been climbing sharply for the past five years.” [[Bangor Daily News, 2/22/18](#)]

- **Bangor Daily News Headline: “Drug Overdoses Killed a Record 418 People in Maine Last Year.”** [[Bangor Daily News, 2/22/18](#)]
- **Bangor Daily News: “Opioids, Including Prescription and Illicit Drugs, Were Responsible for 354 of the Deaths.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Opioids, including prescription and illicit drugs, were responsible for 354 of the deaths, although fentanyl, a powerful synthetic, has now supplanted heroin as the deadliest substance. Unlike heroin, which is manufactured from poppy plants, fentanyl can be made in a laboratory and is easier to smuggle because it’s sold in tiny doses.” [[Bangor Daily News, 2/22/18](#)]

In 2018, Number of Drug Overdose Deaths “Has Been Climbing Sharply for the Past Five Years” in Maine. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The Maine Attorney General’s Office reported Thursday that 418 people died from overdoses in 2017. That’s an 11 percent increase over the 376 overdose deaths in 2016, but the number has been climbing sharply for the past five years.” [[Bangor Daily News, 2/22/18](#)]

2018: There Were 354 Drug Deaths In Maine. “There were 354 drug deaths in Maine in 2018. That number is down by 63 – or 15 percent – from 2017, when the state experienced a record 417 deaths, the highest point in the prolonged and devastating opioid crisis. [...] While the report identified deaths in every Maine county, a quarter took place in Cumberland County. Penobscot and York counties each accounted for 15 percent.” [Portland Press Herald, [4/18/19](#)]

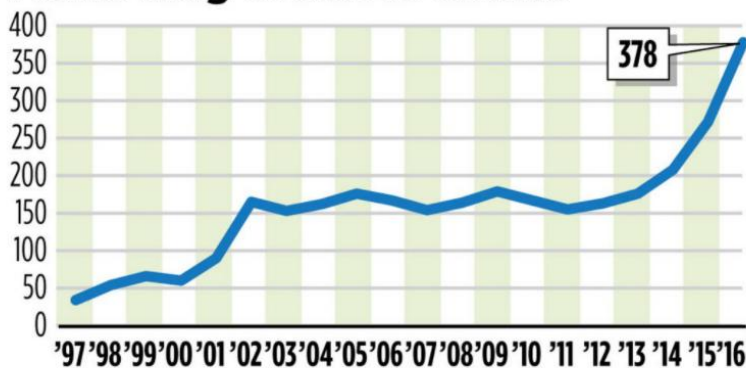
- **Of The 354 Drug Deaths In Maine In 2018, 89% Were Accidental Overdoses, 8% Were Suicides, And 3% Were Certified As “Undetermined.”** “Manners of death: Of the 354 drug deaths, 313 (89%) were accidental overdoses, 30 (8%) were suicides, and

10 (3%) were certified as undetermined manner of death.” [Maine Office of the Attorney General, Maine Drug Death Report for 2018, [4/19/19](#)]

- **2018: Drug Deaths Due To Opioids In Maine Totaled 283.** “Overall patterns of note in 2018: [...] Deaths due to opioids totaled 283, a 20% reduction in number compared to 2017.” [Maine Office of the Attorney General, Maine Drug Death Report for 2018, [4/19/19](#)]
- **2018: Only 22% Of The 354 Overdose Deaths Were Due To Prescription Opioids – Most Were Due To Non-Prescription Opioids Like Heroin And Fentanyl.** “Even with a years-long decline in opioid prescriptions, widely seen as the root of the opioid epidemic, drug overdose deaths in the state continued a steady climb until 2018, when 354 people died as a result of an overdose — a 15 percent decline over 2017. Only 22 percent of those deaths were attributed to prescription opioids. The bulk of the deaths were attributed to opioids such as heroin and fentanyl. That decline could continue into 2019, with the Maine attorney general’s office reporting that overdose deaths have fallen 14 percent for the first quarter of the year, compared with the same period in 2018.” [Bangor Daily News, [7/18/19](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Drug Overdose Deaths Declined In 2018 But Remain At Historic Levels.”** [Portland Press Herald, [4/18/19](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Maine Drug Overdose Deaths Drop In 2018, Epidemic Persists, Report Says.”** [WABI, [4/18/19](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Maine Overdose Deaths Down In 2018, But Still ‘Alarming.’”** [News Center Maine, [4/18/19](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Maine Had Fewer Overdose Deaths In 2018 But Opioid Epidemic Remains A ‘Public Health Crisis.’”** [Portland Press Herald, [2/9/19](#)]

Graph of Drug Overdose Deaths Shows a Spike During LePage’s Tenure:

Maine drug overdose deaths



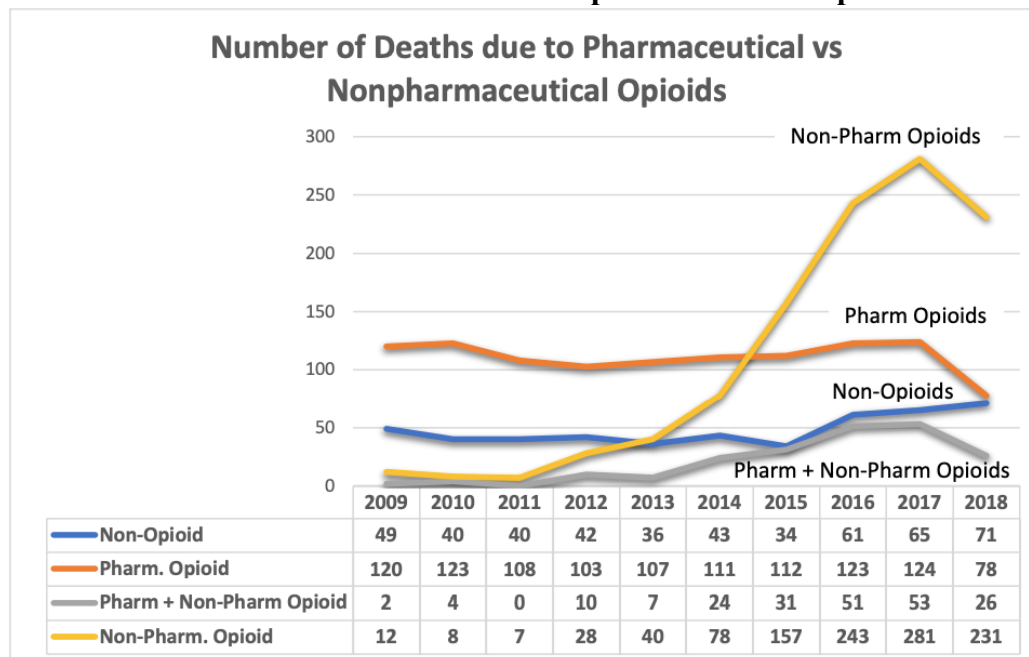
SOURCE: University of Maine, Maine Office of the Attorney General

STAFF GRAPHIC | MICHAEL FISHER

[[Portland Press Herald, 2/2/17](#)]

During LePage's Tenure, the Rate of Nonpharmaceutical Opioid Deaths Skyrocketed

2009-2018: Maine Pharmaceutical Vs. Nonpharmaceutical Opioid Deaths:



[Maine Office of the Attorney General, Maine Drug Death Report for 2018, [4/19/19](#)]

Near the End of LePage's Tenure, Maine Was One of the Top States in the Country in Number of Opioid Overdose Deaths, While Other New England States Saw Decreases

National Institute On Drug Abuse: In 2017, Maine Was In The Top Ten States With The Highest Opioid Overdose Deaths. “In 2017, Maine was among the top ten states with the highest overdose deaths involving opioids in the U.S.” [National Institute on Drug Abuse, accessed [9/5/19](#)]

2016-2017: Maine Saw A Statistically Significant Increase In Drug Overdose Deaths. “States with statistically significant increases in drug overdose death rates from 2016 to 2017 included Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.” [Centers for Disease Control, accessed [9/5/19](#)]

Bangor Daily News: Under LePage, Maine Was Sixth Worst State In The Nation In Increases In Opioid Deaths In 2017, While Other New England States Saw Decreases. “Maine is losing the battle against opioids. Other states aren't exactly winning, but many are having success at reducing the epidemic's death grip, while the death toll in Maine continues to rise. Maine was the sixth worst state in the nation in terms of increases in opioid deaths, according to new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Three states in New

England -- Massachusetts, Vermont and Rhode Island -- saw decreases in overdose-related deaths. Although New Hampshire and Connecticut's death rates rose, the increases were significantly smaller than Maine's. According to the CDC, overdose deaths in Maine increased 10.9 percent between January 2017 and 2018, compared with the national average of 6.6 percent.” [Bangor Daily News, 8/21/18]

Center For Disease Control: Overdose Deaths In Maine Increased 10.9 Percent Between 2017 And 2018, Resulting In 407 Deaths; National Average Was 6.6 Percent Increase.

“According to the CDC, overdose deaths in Maine increased 10.9 percent between January 2017 and 2018, compared with the national average of 6.6 percent. The CDC says 407 people died from drug overdoses in Maine during that time, up from 367 deaths in 2016. The CDC numbers are slightly below the Maine attorney general's office, which reported 418 deaths in 2017 and 376 deaths in 2016.” [Bangor Daily News, 8/21/18]

2017: Maine Ranked #6 In The Nation For Rate Of Opioid Overdoses Per 100 People:

State Opioid-Involved Overdose Death Rates and Opioid Prescribing Levels

State	Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths/100,000 persons ¹ (2017)	Opioid Prescriptions/100 persons ² (2017)
■ West Virginia	49.6	81.3
■ Ohio	39.2	63.5
■ Washington D.C.	34.7	28.5
■ New Hampshire	34.0	52.8
■ Maryland	32.2	51.7
■ Maine	29.9	55.7
■ Massachusetts	28.2	40.1
■ Kentucky	27.9	86.8
■ Connecticut	27.7	48.0
■ Rhode Island	26.9	51.2

[National Institute on Drug Abuse, accessed [11/24/19](#)]

2017: Overdose Deaths Were The Seventh Highest Cause Of Death For Mainers.

ME Leading Causes of Death, 2017	Deaths
1. Cancer	3,391
2. Heart Disease	2,844
3. Accidents	990
4. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	982
5. Stroke	736
6. Alzheimer's disease	601
7. Diabetes	395
8. Flu/Pneumonia	301
9. Suicide	274
10. Kidney Disease	260

Maine Mortality Data	Deaths
Firearm Deaths	172
Homicide	19
Drug Overdose Deaths	424

[CDC, [2017](#)]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: Between 2015 and 2016, Maine Had One of the Largest Increases in Drug Overdose Deaths; “One Reason is That Maine is Among a Handful of States That Do Not Allow the Distribution of Naloxone Without a Prescription.”** According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine had one of the largest increases in drug overdose deaths between 2015 and 2016, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One reason is that Maine is among the handful of states that do not allow the distribution of naloxone without a prescription.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 1/31/18]

Between 2011 and 2016, Maine Was One of Only Two States That Reduced its Spending on Anti-Addiction Medications

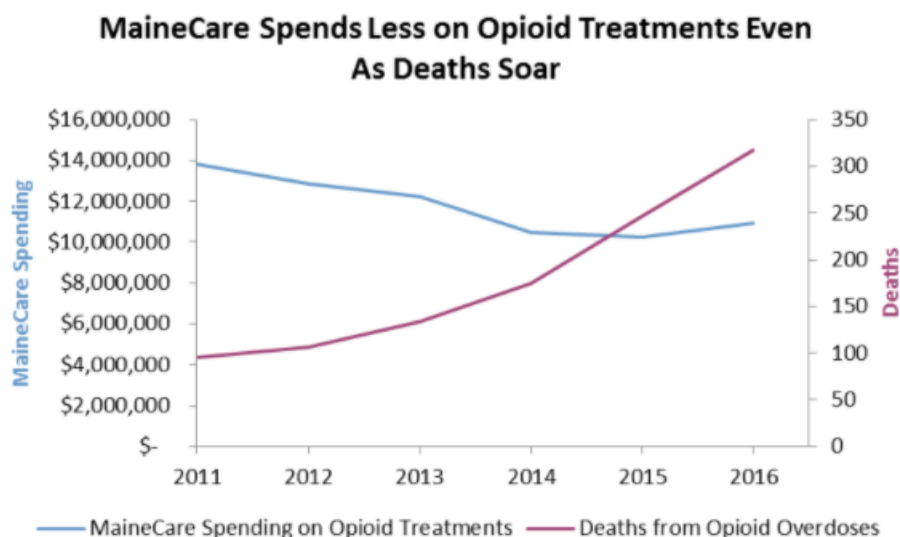
Maine Was One of Only Two States Whose Spending on Anti-Addiction Medications Like Naloxone Declined Between 2011 and 2016. According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Across the United States, Medicaid is playing a crucial role in responding to the fight against the opioid crisis—except in Maine—where one person per day is dying from a drug-related overdose, most of which are caused by opioid use. That’s the stark conclusion to be drawn from data presented in a new report from the Urban Institute, which shows Medicaid spending on anti-addiction medications up 155% nationally in the past five years, but down 21% in Maine over the same period. In fact, Maine and Tennessee are the only two states whose Medicaid spending on buprenorphine, naltrexone, and naloxone declined between 2011 and 2016. Maine’s status as an outlier matches the LePage administration’s decision to not only refuse to accept federal funding to cover more low-income people in Maine’s Medicaid program, but to actively make it harder for Mainers living in or near poverty to get health care.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 7/13/17](#)]

- Nationally, Medicaid Spending on Anti-Addiction Medications Was Up 155% Between 2011 and 2016, But in Maine, it Was Down 21% During the Same Time Period.** According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Across the United States, Medicaid is playing a crucial role in responding to the fight against the opioid crisis—except in Maine—where one person per day is dying from a drug-related overdose, most of which are caused by opioid use. That’s the stark conclusion to be drawn from data presented in a new report from the Urban Institute, which shows Medicaid spending on anti-addiction medications up 155% nationally in the past five years, but down 21% in Maine over the same period. In fact, Maine and Tennessee are the only two states whose Medicaid spending on buprenorphine, naltrexone, and naloxone declined between 2011 and 2016. Maine’s status as an outlier matches the LePage administration’s decision to not only refuse to accept federal funding to cover more low-income people in Maine’s Medicaid program, but to actively make it harder for Mainers living in or near poverty to get health care.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 7/13/17](#)]

Between 2011 and 2014, Medicaid Spending in Maine Dropped 24%, While the Number of Opioid Overdose Deaths Increased 300%

Between 2011 and 2014, Medicaid Spending in Maine Dropped 24%, While the Number of Opioid Overdose Deaths Increased 300%. According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Separate data on all opioid treatment in Maine show that the demand for opioid treatment has not declined alongside Medicaid spending in the state. In fact, demand is higher than ever. Between 2011 and 2014, MaineCare spending declined 24%, even as the number of deaths from opioid overdoses increased 300%.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 7/13/17](#)]

Graph of MaineCare Spending Vs. Opioid Deaths Under LePage:



Source: MECEP analysis of Urban Institute data; US Centers for Disease Control mortality data; Maine Attorney General's office.

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 7/13/17](#)]

Between 2006 and 2012, Penobscot County Led the Entire Region of New England in Number of Pain Pills Dispensed per Person; Four of the Top Five Counties in New England for Pills Distributed per Person Were in Maine

HEADLINE: “Data: More Opioids Were Handed Out Per Person In Penobscot County Than Anywhere Else In New England.” [Bangor Daily News, [7/18/19](#)]

Bangor Daily News: “More Pain Pills Were Handed Out On Average Per Person In Penobscot County Than In Any Other New England County Between 2006 And 2012.”

“More pain pills were handed out on average per person in Penobscot County than in any other New England county between 2006 and 2012. That revelation comes after the Washington Post on Tuesday released an analysis of a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration database, made public for the first time, that tracks the path of every pain pill distributed in the U.S.” [Bangor Daily News, [7/18/19](#)]

2006-2012: Of The Top Five Counties In New England For Pain Pills Distributed Per Person, Only One Was Not A Maine County. “In Maine, 56 pain pills per person were distributed in Penobscot County on average each year over that six-year period, the largest number for any other county in the state — and New England. Somerset (52.1), Kennebec (49.7), Piscataquis (48.5) and Washington (47.5) counties were among the five Maine counties with the highest per person distribution of pain pills. Across the region, only one county from outside Maine cracked the top five — Kent County, Rhode Island, where 48.8 pain pills were distributed per person. Only seven other New England counties saw more pain pills distributed per person than any Maine county — Grafton County, New Hampshire (38.5); Dukes County, Massachusetts (38.5); Hampden County, Massachusetts (37.5); Merrimack County, New Hampshire (36.7); Strafford County, New Hampshire (36.5); Windham County, Vermont (35.7); and Berkshire County, Massachusetts (35.5).” [Bangor Daily News, [7/18/19](#)]

2018: Maine Cities And Counties With 10 Or More Total Drug Deaths:

COUNTY CITY	TOTAL NUMBER (PERCENT) OF OVERDOSE DEATHS 2018 N=354	TOTAL NUMBER (PERCENT) OF OPIOID DEATHS 2018 N=283	PERCENT OF MAINE CENSUS POPULATION 2017 (1,335,907)
Androscoggin	33 (9%)	26 (9%)	8%
Lewiston	16 (5%)	13 (5%)	3%
Aroostook	8 (2%)	4 (1%)	5%
Cumberland	88 (25%)	70 (25%)	22%
Portland	44 (12%)	34 (12%)	5%
Franklin	5 (1%)	5 (2%)	2%
Hancock	10 (3%)	9 (3%)	4%
Kennebec	43 (12%)	38 (13%)	9%
Augusta	15 (4%)	14 (5%)	1%
Knox	6 (2%)	3 (1%)	3%
Lincoln	6 (2%)	4 (1%)	3%
Oxford	13 (4%)	9 (3%)	4%
Penobscot	53 (15%)	39 (14%)	11%
Bangor	24 (7%)	18 (6%)	2%
Piscataquis	5 (1%)	5 (2%)	1%
Sagadahoc	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	3%
Somerset	10 (3%)	9 (3%)	4%
Waldo	9 (3%)	6 (2%)	3%
Washington	9 (3%)	8 (3%)	2%
York	54 (15%)	48 (17%)	15%
Sanford	10 (3%)	9 (3%)	2%

[Maine Office of the Attorney General, Maine Drug Death Report for 2018, [4/19/19](#)]

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Headline: “Governor’s Veto of Pot Reforms Overridden by Large Margin.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/10/18]

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of Medical Marijuana Reform That Allowed Patients to Use Marijuana if Doctors Deemed it to be Medically Beneficial. In July 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1539 by a 119-23 vote and the Senate by a 25-8 vote. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The Maine House voted 119-23 and the Maine Senate voted 25-8 to override the Republican governor's veto and adopt legislation that will allow patients to use marijuana if a doctor deems it medically beneficial, grant six new medical dispensary licenses, permit caregivers to expand their business operations and give the state and municipalities more power to regulate them.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/10/18; [Maine State Legislature, LD1539, 2018](#)]

- **The Bill Granted Six New Medical Dispensary Licenses.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The Maine House voted 119-23 and the Maine Senate voted 25-8 to override the Republican governor's veto and adopt legislation that will allow patients to use marijuana if a doctor deems it medically beneficial, grant six new medical dispensary licenses, permit caregivers to expand their business operations and give the state and municipalities more power to regulate them.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/10/18; [Maine State Legislature, LD1539, 2018](#)]

- **The Bill Allowed Caregivers to Expand Their Business Operations and Gave the State/Localities More Regulatory Power Over Them.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The Maine House voted 119-23 and the Maine Senate voted 25-8 to override the Republican governor's veto and adopt legislation that will allow patients to use marijuana if a doctor deems it medically beneficial, grant six new medical dispensary licenses, permit caregivers to expand their business operations and give the state and municipalities more power to regulate them.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/10/18; [Maine State Legislature, LD1539, 2018](#)]

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Amending Maine’s Medical Marijuana Laws. In July 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD238 by a 144-0 vote and the Senate by a 31-3 vote. The bill was called “an Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act.” [[Maine State Legislature, LD238, 2018](#)]

- **The Bill Clarified That Patients, Caregivers, and Dispensaries Could Manufacture Marijuana Products from Harvested Marijuana.** LD238 “Clarifies that qualifying patients, primary caregivers and registered dispensaries may manufacture marijuana products from harvested marijuana, including production of marijuana concentrate, by processes of marijuana extraction that do not involve certain inherently hazardous substances.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD238, 2018](#)]
- **The Bill Created a Process for Other Individuals to Manufacture Marijuana Products from Harvested Marijuana.** LD238 “Establishes a process for persons or entities that are not qualifying patients, primary caregivers or registered dispensaries to manufacture marijuana products from harvested marijuana, including marijuana concentrate, by processes of marijuana extraction that do not involve certain inherently hazardous substances, to become registered to manufacture marijuana products.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD238, 2018](#)]
- **The Bill Created a Process for People to Become Authorized to Produce Marijuana Concentrate.** LD238 “Establishes a method for qualifying patients, primary caregivers and registered dispensaries to become authorized by law to produce marijuana concentrate by processes involving inherently hazardous substances if certain safety and compliance standards are met; 5. Establishes a process for persons or entities that are not qualifying patients, registered caregivers or registered dispensaries to become authorized to produce marijuana concentrate by processes involving inherently hazardous substances.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD238, 2018](#)]
- **LePage Said He Vetoed the Legislation Because it Put the “Interests of a Small, Vocal Minority Before That of Everyday Mainers” by Allowing Unregulated Extraction of “Hazardous Substances.”** According to LePage’s veto letter for LD238, “LD 238 is the type of unfortunate legislation that places the interests of a small, vocal minority before that of everyday Mainers. Put plainly, this bill needlessly jeopardizes public health and safety under the guise of benefiting patients of Maine’s medical marijuana program. LD 238 allows these types of businesses to operate in the absence of

department rule or certification, posing a significant risk to the public since the legislation allows inherently hazardous materials to be used during extraction.” [[Gov. LePage Veto Letter for LD238, 7/6/18](#)]

Press Herald: Maine’s “Slowest Adult-Use Marijuana Rollout In The US” Cost Maine More Than “\$82 Million In Taxes And 6,100 Industry Jobs.” “From legalization to legal sales, Maine is inching toward the slowest adult-use marijuana rollout in the U.S., with economists saying the three-year wait for stores to open will have cost Maine more than \$82 million in taxes and 6,100 industry jobs. The delay has caused some investors and industry experts to take their dollars and skills to other states, consultants say.” [Press Herald, 10/20/19]

- **Press Herald: LePage “Vowed Not To Move Ahead With Adult-Use Sales Until Maine Was Ready” While “Doing Very Little To Make That Happen.”** “Although LePage never publicly said ‘not under my watch,’ he vowed not to move ahead with adult-use sales until Maine was ready, while doing very little to make that happen. Even after lawmakers overrode his veto, LePage hired no consultants, wrote no regulations, made no staff hires. ‘The difference in Maine was you had a governor who just didn’t want to do it,’ said Andrew Freedman, Colorado’s former marijuana czar who is now a consultant who has advised Maine on its adult-use rules. ‘If you’re a governor, you can just kick the can down the road if you want. That’s what he did.’” [Press Herald, 10/20/19]

NALOXONE

LePage Comments on Naloxone

LePage Said In a Veto Letter Regarding Naloxone “Does Not Truly Save Lives; It Merely Extends Them Until The Next Overdose.” “‘Naloxone does not truly save lives; it merely extends them until the next overdose,’ LePage wrote in his veto letter. ‘Creating a situation where an addict has a heroin needle in one hand and a shot of naloxone in the other produces a sense of normalcy and security around heroin use that serves only to perpetuate the cycle of addiction.’” [Press Herald, 2/2/18]

Criticism of LePage’s Opposition to Naloxone

Bangor Daily News: “Under Republican Gov. Paul LePage, Maine Has Been Slow to Expand Access” to Medication-Assisted Treatments and the Overdose Reversal Drug Naloxone. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Under Republican Gov. Paul LePage, Maine has been slow to expand access to medication-assisted treatment such as suboxone, and slow to improve access to naloxone, a drug that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose.” [[Bangor Daily News, 2/22/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald: “LePage’s [Opposition To Expanding Access To Naloxone] Was Criticized By Addiction Specialists As Well As Some In Law Enforcement, A Fact Likely Reflected In The Wide Margins In Both The House And Senate Votes.” “Among the most closely watched bills was the measure that would allow pharmacists to dispense naloxone

without a prescription. The House voted 132-14 and the Senate voted 29-5 to override LePage. Also known by the brand name Narcan, naloxone works to quickly counteract the potentially deadly symptoms of an overdose from heroin or other opiates. The governor had vetoed the measure last week with the argument that increasing access to the overdose antidote does not address the ‘root causes of the problem’ creating Maine’s drug crisis. ‘Naloxone does not truly save lives; it merely extends them until the next overdose,’ he wrote in his veto letter. ‘Creating a situation where an addict has a heroin needle in one hand and a shot of naloxone in the other produces a sense of normalcy and security around heroin use that serves only to perpetuate the cycle of addiction.’ LePage’s stance was criticized by addiction specialists as well as some in law enforcement, a fact likely reflected in the wide margins in both the House and Senate votes.” [Portland Press Herald, [4/29/16](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: LePage’s Opposition To Naloxone Was “Absurd,” But “Thankfully, That Illogical Line Of Thinking Has Been Rejected By Advocates, Police And A Majority Of Maine Legislators.” “Worse, in response to the governors’ pact, LePage restated his absurd objection to the overdose antidote naloxone, saying through his spokesman that the medication ‘has not been proven to get drug addicts off deadly opiates.’ Thankfully, that illogical line of thinking has been rejected by advocates, police and a majority of Maine legislators. Naloxone was never meant to treat addiction, just as a heart stent doesn’t lower your cholesterol. It simply revives a person near death from overdose. Making it less available won’t get more people into treatment; it will only ensure that more people die.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [7/18/16](#)]

Headline: “LePage Ever More Alone in Resistance to Naloxone; Other States With Republican Leaders Have Embraced Access to the Life-Saving Overdose Drug, But Distribution in Maine’s Still Uneven.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 1/28/18]

***Portland Press Herald* Editorial HEADLINE: “Gov. LePage To Blame For Protracted Naloxone Fight; His Resistance To Making The Overdose Antidote More Available Has Wasted Valuable Time.”** [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, 4/6/18]

Bangor Daily News Editorial HEADLINE: “LePage’s Latest Vetoes Hurt Maine People. Lawmakers Should Override Them.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [4/27/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial Blamed Governor LePage For Repeatedly Blocking Expanding Access To Naloxone. “In his veto letter, LePage writes about undermining the Board of Pharmacy and repeats his misstatements about naloxone not helping those struggling with opioid addiction. He doesn’t offer any ideas for better treating the thousands of Mainers who want to end their addiction.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [4/27/18](#)]

Morning Sentinel Headline: LePage’s Inaction On Naloxone Puts Lives In Danger.” [Morning Sentinel, 1/15/18]

In 2018, “More Than 40 Other States Allow[ed] Naloxone to be Dispensed Without a Prescription, Making Maine a National Outlier Despite the Severity of the Opioid Crisis in the State.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “More than 40 other states allow naloxone

to be dispensed without a prescription, making Maine a national outlier despite the severity of the opioid crisis in the state.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 3/23/18]

In 2014, LePage Refused to Sign a Bill Expanding Access to Naloxone to First Responders and Drug Users’ Family Members

HEADLINE: “As Maine Heroin Overdoses Soar, A Life-Saving Drug Is Within Reach; Health Officials And A Legislator Work To Make Narcan, Which Reverses The Effects Of Opioids, More Available In Emergencies.” [Portland Press Herald, 2/4/14]

In 2014, LePage Refused to Sign a Unanimously Bipartisan Bill That Expanded Access To Opioid Overdose-Reversal Drug Narcan To First Responders And Addicts’ Family Members. In April 2014, LePage let LD1686 become law without his signature, after the legislation passed the House on 4/16/14 by a 142-0 vote and the Senate on 4/16/14 by a 35-0 vote. “Fatal heroin overdoses in Maine quadrupled from 2011 to 2012. Naloxone is a drug that can reverse overdoses from heroin and other opioids like morphine. State Rep. Sara Gideon (D) is sponsoring legislation that would place the drug, which is sold under the trade name Narcan, in the hands of police, firefighters, at-risk users and their families.” [State of Maine Legislature, LD 1686, [4/29/14](#); Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1686, [May 2014](#); Huffington Post, [2/11/14](#)]

- **Bill Allowed First Responders Like Police Officers, Firefighters, And Basic EMTs To Carry Naloxone.** “The amended bill had been an attempt to strike a compromise between Gideon and the LePage administration. Shortly before the House voted 147-0 to approve the bill, Gideon said she believed the amended proposal didn’t go far enough, but would still help prevent deaths by overdose by allowing first responders such as police officers, firefighters and basic emergency medical technicians to carry and dispense the overdose antidote naloxone. Currently, only paramedics may administer naloxone. Advanced emergency medical technicians can, but only with approval from a hospital.” [Morning Sentinel, 4/15/14]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “Putting Naloxone In The Hands Of Police, Firefighters And The Family Members Of Those Suffering From An Addiction To Painkillers Would Be One More Tool To Help The State Deal With Its Major Drug Problem.” “This week, the Legislature is set to decide whether to expand the availability of a drug that counters the effects of an opiate overdose. Putting naloxone into the hands of police, firefighters and the family members of those suffering from an addiction to painkillers would be one more tool to help the state deal with its major drug problem.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 4/14/14]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign a Bill Expanding Access to Naloxone to the Friends of Individuals At-Risk of Overdose

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Expanding Access To Naloxone To Friends Of At-Risk Individuals. In 2015, LePage allowed LD140 to become law without his signature. LD140 “allows for the prescription of naloxone hydrochloride by standing order. It allows for the prescription of naloxone hydrochloride to friends of and other persons in a

position to assist an individual at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose in addition to immediate family members. It also allows for the prescription of naloxone hydrochloride by standing order to a public health agency operating an overdose prevention program in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services.” The House accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report by a 108-36 vote. The Senate accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report on 6/10/15 and the bill became law without the governor’s signature. [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, 2/19/15; State of Maine Legislature, LD 140, Roll Call #147, [6/3/15](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 140, [7/12/15](#); [Summaries of Bills, LD140, 2015](#)]

In 2016, the Legislature Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Allowing Naloxone to be Dispensed Without a Prescription

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Allowing Pharmacists to Dispense Naloxone Without a Prescription. In April 2016, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1547 by a 132-14 vote and the Senate by a 29-5 vote. LD1547 “directs the Maine Board of Pharmacy to establish by rule procedures and standards for authorizing pharmacists to dispense naloxone hydrochloride. The rules must establish adequate training requirements and protocols for dispensing naloxone hydrochloride by prescription drug order, standing order or pursuant to a collaborative practice agreement. It provides criminal, civil and professional disciplinary immunities for persons who, acting in good faith and with reasonable care, possess, store, prescribe, dispense or administer naloxone hydrochloride in accordance with the governing law.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1547, 2016](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1547, 2016](#)]

- **4/29/16: Maine Legislature “Voted Overwhelmingly” To Override Governor LePage’s Veto Of Legislation To Allow Pharmacists To Provide Naloxone Without A Prescription.** “The Maine Legislature has voted overwhelmingly to override Maine Gov. Paul LePage’s veto of a bill to increase the availability of a drug overdose antidote. The Senate voted 29-5 and the House 132-14 to reject the veto on Friday. The governor opposed the proposal to allow pharmacists to provide the lifesaving drug Narcan without a prescription under some circumstances to friends and family members of addicts believed to be at risk of an overdose from opioids.” [Associated Press, 4/29/16]
- **HEADLINE: “Lawmakers Override Vetoes In Order To Fight Overdose Epidemic, Add Jail Funding.”** [Portland Press Herald, [4/30/16](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Maine Lawmakers Override LePage’s Callousness On Drug Policy.”** [MSNBC, Rachel Maddow Blog, [5/2/16](#)]
- **Boston Magazine Headline: “Maine’s Gov. LePage Vetoes Bill Giving Increased Access to Lifesaving Narcan.”** [[Boston Magazine, 4/21/16](#)]

As of April 2016, 30 Other States Allowed The Sale Of Naloxone Without A Prescription. “Pharmacy chains such as Rite Aid and CVS already dispense naloxone without a prescription in

other states. About 30 states allow sales of the drug without a prescription.” [Portland Press Herald, 4/21/16]

Governor LePage Vetoed the Bill To Allow Naloxone To Be Sold Over The Counter Without A Prescription Because It Would Create “Normalcy And Security Around Heroin Use.” “Republican Maine Gov. Paul LePage is vetoing a bill that would allow people to buy a lifesaving drug overdose antidote without a prescription. LePage in his veto message Wednesday said allowing easier access to the antidote Narcan would create a sense of ‘normalcy and security around heroin use.’ Narcan is a brand name for naloxone. The antidote reverses the effects of heroin and powerful painkillers such as Oxycodone. Major drugstore chains plan to sell naloxone over the counter in several states this year. Assistant House Majority Leader Sara Gideon sponsored the bill. The Freeport Democrat says giving more people access to Narcan would ‘save lives and spare families the unthinkable loss of a loved one to a preventable overdose.’” [Associated Press, 4/21/16]

Bangor Daily News: LePage’s Veto Of Bill To Expand Access To Naloxone Without A Prescription “Provoked Immediate Backlash.” “In 2016, lawmakers passed LD 1547 to permit pharmacists to dispense naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan, without a prescription. The goal was to turn the tide in the rising number of fatal drug overdoses, which reached a deadly record of 418 last year. LePage raised doubts about whether naloxone would achieve that goal when he issued his now famous veto. ‘Naloxone does not truly save lives; it merely extends them to the next overdose. Creating a situation where an addict has a heroin needle in one hand and a shot of naloxone in the other produces a sense of normalcy and security around heroin use that serves only to perpetuate the cycle of addiction,’ LePage wrote in his veto letter. That provoked an immediate backlash both in Maine and nationally. Milo’s police chief, for example, blasted LePage’s veto as “uninformed.” [Bangor Daily News, 12/30/18]

In June 2017, LePage Refused to Sign a Bill Fixing an Error in the 2016 Naloxone Law to Allow the Law to Move Forward

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Fixing an Error in the Previous Year’s Bill to Actually Allow Pharmacists to Sell Naloxone Over the Counter. In 2017, LePage allowed LD1594 to become law without his signature. LD 1594 “provides that a pharmacist may prescribe and dispense naloxone hydrochloride to an individual at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose or to a person in a position to assist such an individual in accordance with rules adopted by the Maine Board of Pharmacy. The rules adopted by the Board must establish adequate training requirements and protocols for prescribing and dispensing naloxone hydrochloride when there is no prescription drug order, standing order or collaborative practice agreement authorizing naloxone hydrochloride to be dispensed to the intended recipient. A pharmacist’s authority to prescribe naloxone hydrochloride expires on July 1, 2019.” The House and Senate passed the legislation as amended on 6/9/17 and 6/12/17, respectively. The bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature on 6/24/17. [State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 1594, [6/24/17](#); Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1594, [August 2017](#)]

- May 2017: Naloxone Was Still Not Available At Pharmacies Without A Prescription Due To An “Apparent Mistake” In the 2016 Bill Allowing for Naloxone Sales Without a Prescription.** “A law that allows pharmacists to dispense medicine that reverses an opiate overdose without a prescription has been stalled for more than a year due to a language technicality -- but may soon be amended to fix the problem, officials said. The Legislature last April passed LD 1547 to make naloxone, often sold as Narcan nasal spray, available at pharmacies without a prescription, so opiate users and their family and friends could have easy access to the life-saving medication. But in an apparent mistake, the bill introduced by Rep. Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, still requires would-be users to have a prescription. The bill's language calls for the establishment of procedures and standards for dispensing naloxone -- something pharmacists already do -- but it doesn't say they can give out the medicine without a prescription.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/5/17]
- June 2017: Emergency Legislation To Fix The Over-The-Counter Naloxone Bill Passed The Legislature And Was Sent To Governor LePage.** “Legislators on Monday endorsed an emergency bill designed to fix a stalled year-old law to allow pharmacists to sell opiate overdose antidotes over the counter without a prescription. The amendment now heads to the desk of Gov. Paul LePage, who unsuccessfully vetoed the original bill, at the time saying the opiate antidote naloxone -- commonly sold as Narcan nasal spray -- ‘does not truly save lives, it merely extends them until the next overdose.’ The original bill, introduced by Rep. Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, was designed to make naloxone available at pharmacies without a prescription. But as written, it still required would-be users to have a prescription.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/13/17]
- June 2017: Bill To Fix The 2016 Legislation Allowing Over-The-Counter Sale Of Naloxone Became Law Without Governor LePage’s Signature.** “An emergency bill to tweak a year-old law to allow pharmacists to sell medicine to stop an opiate over-dose over the counter and without a prescription became law last week without the governor's signature. Gov. Paul LePage passed on signing an after-deadline bill submitted in early May and endorsed by more than two-thirds of the Legislature that fixed language in an existing law to permit sales of the opiate antidote naloxone, which is commonly sold as Narcan nasal spray, at pharmacies without a prescription. As written, the original bill -- introduced last year by Rep. Sara Gideon, D-Freeport -- still required would-be customers to have a prescription. That led Rep. Karen Vachon, R-Scarborough, to submit the amendment two months ago.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/30/17]

Kennebec Journal: “Members Of The Board Of Pharmacy Were Confused About Whether The Language Of L.D. 1547 Actually Legally Directed Them To Create Rules For Maine Pharmacists To Sell [Naloxone] Over The Counter.” “But the most confusing part of the law, according to pharmacy board President Joe Bruno and others, is a sentence in the bill that seems to contradict the stated goals of its authors. The sponsors of the law, L.D. 1547, hoped it would allow pharmacists to sell naloxone without a prescription, making it more accessible to drug addicts and those who might be in a position to save them. When they proposed the legislation, they pointed to the growing numbers of Mainers who overdose from heroin and prescription painkillers every year. [...] But members of the Board of Pharmacy were confused about

whether the language of L.D. 1547 actually legally directed them to create rules for Maine pharmacists to sell the drug over the counter.” [Kennebec Journal, 12/4/16]

In 2017, the Legislature Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Allowing Correctional Offices to Administer Naloxone

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Allowing for State, County, and Regional Jail Corrections Officers to Administer Naloxone. In June 2017, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD324 by a 138-3 vote and the Senate by a 32-0 vote. LD324 “adds state corrections officers and county and regional jail corrections officers to the list of persons authorized to administer naloxone hydrochloride. Corrections officer must possess a certification from the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in order to administer naloxone hydrochloride.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD324, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD324, 2017](#)]

In Late 2017, LePage “Stalled” the Implementation of Rules Allowing Naloxone to be Sold Without a Prescription

While Drug Overdose Death Skyrocketed In Late 2017, LePage Stalled A Measure To Allow Individuals to Purchase Overdose Reversal Drug Narcan Over-the-Counter.

According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Data released last fall for the first six months of 2017 suggested that the number of deaths in Maine might be plateauing. From January through June, there were 185 deaths, slightly below the pace of 2016. But the death count escalated in the second half of 2017. During that same time period, LePage stalled a measure that would have allowed people to purchase naloxone over the counter without a prescription. Although the Maine Board of Pharmacy voted to approve the rules, they sat on the governor’s desk for five months.” [[Bangor Daily News, 2/22/18](#)]

Despite Approval By Board Of Pharmacy, the Rules Sat On LePage’s Desk For Five Months. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Data released last fall for the first six months of 2017 suggested that the number of deaths in Maine might be plateauing. From January through June, there were 185 deaths, slightly below the pace of 2016. But the death count escalated in the second half of 2017. During that same time period, LePage stalled a measure that would have allowed people to purchase naloxone over the counter without a prescription. Although the Maine Board of Pharmacy voted to approve the rules, they sat on the governor’s desk for five months.” [[Bangor Daily News, 2/22/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial Headline: “LePage Won’t Act, so Pharmacy Board Must Implement Naloxone Rules.”** [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 1/31/18]

- ***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: “The Governor Has Abdicated His Authority. The Board of Pharmacy Must Stop Withholding the Rules and Implement Them Now, Before More Lives are Lost.”** According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “Those rules are one step away from being implemented. The governor has abdicated his authority. The board of pharmacy must stop withholding the rules and implement them now, before more lives are lost.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 1/31/18]

January 2018: When Asked About Rules To Expand Naloxone Availability, LePage Told Reporters He “Didn’t Know A Thing About It” After His Office Confirmed Rules Were In His Office. “LePage's office confirmed the rules were in his office awaiting action. Stopped for a quick interview at a conference last week, LePage said that he ‘didn't know a thing about it.’ If he's lying, it wouldn't be the first time. The purposeful obstruction of these rules matches his history as well. As the epidemic was ramping up, with a Mainer dying every other day, LePage opposed providing naloxone to the trained emergency personnel who were coming upon overdose victims in unheard-of numbers. The next year, a similar bill became law without his signature.” [Morning Sentinel, Editorial, 1/15/18]

In February 2018, Maine’s Board of Pharmacy Approved Rules Allowing Naloxone Sales Without a Prescription, for Mainers 21 and Up, a LePage Requirement for the Rules

In Feb. 2018, Maine’s Board of Pharmacy Approved Rules Allowing Mainers Age 21 and Over to Obtain Naloxone Without a Prescription After a Two-Year Delay Because LePage Opposed the Measure. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “House Speaker Sara Gideon has proposed allowing pharmacists to dispense opioid overdose reversal drugs to Mainers of any age without a prescription, after the LePage administration successfully pushed to set the minimum age at 21. In February, Maine's Board of Pharmacy approved long-delayed rules that would allow Mainers age 21 and over to obtain naloxone - also known as Narcan - without a prescription as the state continues to grapple with the opioid addiction crisis. The Legislature had passed a bill in 2016 directing the pharmacy board to develop the rules, but they were delayed for nearly two years in part because Gov. Paul LePage opposed the measure. In a final compromise, the LePage administration approved the rules after the board agreed to increase the minimum age from 18 to 21.” [Portland Press Herald, 3/30/18]

The Initial Rules Were Supposed to Allow Individuals Over the Age of 18 to Obtain Naloxone Without a Prescription, But LePage Successfully Set the Minimum Age at 21. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “House Speaker Sara Gideon has proposed allowing pharmacists to dispense opioid overdose reversal drugs to Mainers of any age without a prescription, after the LePage administration successfully pushed to set the minimum age at 21. In February, Maine's Board of Pharmacy approved long-delayed rules that would allow Mainers age 21 and over to obtain naloxone - also known as Narcan - without a prescription as the state continues to grapple with the opioid addiction crisis. The Legislature had passed a bill in 2016 directing the pharmacy board to develop the rules, but they were delayed for nearly two years in part because Gov. Paul LePage opposed the measure. In a final compromise, the LePage administration approved the rules after the board agreed to increase the minimum age from 18 to 21.” [Portland Press Herald, 3/30/18]

February 2018: LePage Instituted Raised Age Limit In Law To Allow Purchase Of Overdose-Prevention Drug Naloxone From 18 To 21. “The LePage administration Thursday approved long-delayed rules allowing individuals to obtain the overdose reversal drug naloxone without a prescription, but did so only after the Maine Board of Pharmacy raised the minimum age to 21. Six months after first approving the policy, the board voted unanimously again Thursday morning, but this time restricted non-prescription sales of naloxone to people 21 or

older in order to appease objections raised by Gov. Paul LePage. A senior staff member in LePage's office signed the rules a few hours later.” [Press Herald, 2/2/18]

In April 2018, the Legislature Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Making Permanent the Provision Allowing Naloxone to be Sold Without a Prescription

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode Governor LePage’s Veto in Order to Allow Naloxone To Be Dispensed Over The Counter By Pharmacists Past July 1, 2019. On April 5, 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD565 by a 121-21 vote and the Senate by a 32-0 vote. “This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. It repeals the provision of Public Law 2017, chapter 249 that prevent pharmacists from prescribing and dispensing naloxone hydrochloride after July 1, 2019 to an individual at risk of an overdose or to a family member or friend of an individual at risk of an overdose.” [Maine State Legislature, LD 565, Roll Call #573, [4/5/18](#); Maine State Legislature, LD 565 Amendment Text, [2018](#)]

- **Portland Press Herald Editorial: The Legislation “Eliminate[d] A Sunset Provision From A Bill Passed In 2016 Allowing Pharmacies To Dispense Naloxone Without A Prescription.”** “The Legislature has for two years now been trying to move on from naloxone to the bigger items driving the crisis. Lawmakers have attempted to put in place what are widely acknowledged as the best rules surrounding the overdose-reversing drug, which is to make it accessible to as many at-risk people as possible. Yet at each point, the governor has stood in the way, forcing lawmakers to put time and effort into passing what should be no-brainer legislation - time that could be better spent tackling the more complex and costly components of the issue. The governor wrote those words in the veto to L.D. 565, which would eliminate a sunset provision from a bill passed in 2016 allowing pharmacies to dispense naloxone without a prescription.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, 4/6/18]

Headline: “Maine Lawmakers Clash With Governor Over Naloxone Access.” [[Wall Street Journal, 4/16/18](#)]

In May 2018, the Legislature Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Allowing Naloxone to be Dispensed to Individuals of Any Age, Not Just 21+

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation To Allow Pharmacists To Dispense Naloxone To Individuals Of Any Age. In May 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1892 by a 132-16 vote and the Senate overrode it by a 34-0 vote. LD 1892 “authorizes a pharmacist to prescribe and dispense naloxone hydrochloride, in accordance with protocols adopted by the Maine Board of Pharmacy, to an individual of any age who is at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose; who is a member of the immediate family of, or a friend of, an individual at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose; or who is in a position to assist an individual at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.” [State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 1892, [5/2/18](#); Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, Summary of Bills, LD 1892, [October 2018](#); Maine State Legislature, LD 1892, Roll Call #651, [5/2/18](#)]

- **Headline: “Lawmakers Overturn 11 of Governor’s 20 Vetoes; The Bills That Pass Include One to Make an Overdose Reversal Drug Available to all Mainers.”** [*Portland Press Herald*, 5/3/18]
- **Headline: “Narcan Bill Would Undo Age Limit Set by LePage; All Mainers, Not Just Those 21 or Older, Could Buy the Opioid Overdose Antidote Without a Prescription.”** [*Portland Press Herald*, 3/30/18]
- **Headline: “Maine Gov. Vetoes Increasing Access to Naloxone Overdose Drug.”** [Governing.com, 4/27/18]

The Bill “Would Give Everyone, Regardless of Age, Easier Access to the Lifesaving, Overdose-Reversing Drug Naloxone.” According to Governing.com, “Gov. Paul LePage on Wednesday vetoed a bill that would give everyone, regardless of age, easier access to the lifesaving, overdose-reversing drug naloxone.” [Governing.com, 4/27/18]

In 2017, LePage Tried to Pass a Bill to Require Counties to Recover the Cost of Naloxone from Repeat Users

May 2017: LePage Submitted Bill To Require Counties To Recover Costs Of Naloxone From People That Required The Drug Due To Overdose. “LePage submitted a governor's bill, LD 1558, on Tuesday that requires municipalities and counties to recover the cost of naloxone hydrochloride from repeat users, and it comes with a \$1,000 fine per incident for communities that don't. Bangor area doctors and advocates said the bill would make it harder to stop the state's drug epidemic -- which last year killed more than one person a day.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/4/17]

- **Penobscot Community Health Care VP: LePage’s Bill Was Unfair Attempt To “Codify Our Society’s Bias About Addiction Into Law.”** “Bangor area doctors and advocates said the bill would make it harder to stop the state's drug epidemic -- which last year killed more than one person a day. ‘My comment is to ask whether we will make the same requirement of people with other chronic diseases,’ Dr. Noah Nesin, Penobscot Community Health Care vice president of medical affairs, said Tuesday after reading the proposed bill. ‘If the answer is no, then the bill is simply an attempt to codify our society's bias about addiction into law.’ ‘If a person suffers more than one cardiac arrest will they have to pay for the second use of a defibrillator?’ Nesin asked.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/4/17]

Bangor Daily News Headline: “LePage Wants Mainers Repeatedly Revived by Narcan to Pay for It.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/4/17]

WMUR Headline: “Maine Governor's Bill Would Require State Residents Pay for Narcan After First Overdose.” [WMUR, [5/8/17](http://WMUR)]

WGME Headline: “Gov. LePage Wants Mainers Repeatedly Revived by Narcan to Pay for It.” [[WGME, 5/4/17](#)]

OPIOID ABUSE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Acupuncture

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill That Required DHHS to Develop a Pilot Project to Treat Alcohol and Substance Abuse Disorders Using Acupuncture Protocols. In June 2017, LePage allowed LD185 to become law without his signature after the bill passed the House by a 98-46 vote and the Senate without a roll call vote. LD185 “requires the Department of Health and Human Services and the department's office of substance abuse and mental health services to apply by January 1, 2018, for authorization from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to develop a pilot project to treat alcohol abuse disorders, substance abuse disorders and co-occurring disorders using the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association auricular acupuncture protocol. It requires the department to consult with a statewide association representing licensed acupuncturists in the establishment of treatment standards. It requires that the treatment be provided by staff who are licensed to practice acupuncture in the State and whose licenses are in good standing. It provides that the project may last no longer than two years and must be reimbursable as allowed under the United States Social Security Act and be cost-neutral or result in savings to the MaineCare program. It requires the department and the office to report their findings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters at the end of the project.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD185, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD185, 2017](#)]

Family Treatment Programs

In 2018, the House and Senate Unanimously Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Increased Access To Treatment For Families Impacted By Opioid Addiction, Using A Program That Achieved An 80% Long-Term Sobriety Success Rate. In May 2018, the House overrode Gov. LePage’s veto of LD1771 by a 148-0 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote. “LD 1771, An Act to Support Vulnerable Families, increases access to treatment programs for families impacted by addiction. Its veto was overridden unanimously in both bodies. This new law uses federal dollars to expand upon a treatment model that has been utilized by McAuley Residence, a department of Mercy Hospital in Portland, for 30 years. This model treats mothers with substance use disorders by providing stable housing and a comprehensive array of support services that allow for recovery and reunification with children. By using a high-accountability model that treats the entire family, this facility achieves a remarkable 80 percent long-term sobriety success rate. The Department of Health and Human Services will issue an RFP to establish a similar program in at least one other service center community, likely Bangor and/or Lewiston.” [Penobscot Bay Pilot, [5/2/18](#); Maine State Legislature, LD 1771, Roll Call #658, [5/2/18](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Bills To Address Child Abuse Prevention, Opioid Epidemic, Labor Trafficking Survive Governor’s Vetoes.”** [Penobscot Bay Pilot, [5/2/18](#)]

- **Sept. 2019: It Was Announced That A Home For Women In Recovery And Their Children Would Open In Bangor Run By Northern Light Mercy Hospital, Thanks To The Funding From The Bill Supported By Sara Gideon.** “A home for women in recovery, and their children, plans to open in the Bangor area in the coming months. It will replicate the mission and work of the McAuley Residence, run by Northern Light Mercy Hospital in Portland, which houses 15 women and up to 30 children, and offers therapeutic options on site, said Melissa Skahan, vice president of mission integration at the hospital.” [Bangor Daily News, [9/9/19](#)]
- **Sept. 2019: The Hospital Did Not Have A Location In Bangor Planned Yet But Had Successfully Bid For \$500,000 From The Maine Department Of Health And Human Services For The Project.** “The hospital does not have a location in the Bangor area planned yet, and it is currently working out a contract with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, which would put roughly \$500,000 toward the endeavor, Skahan said. The hospital received word in June that it was the successful bidder after the department put out a request for proposals.” [Bangor Daily News, [9/9/19](#)]
- **At The Site, Women Will Receive Therapy And Other Interventions And Coordinate With Child Protective Services To Reunite With Their Children.** “In addition to connecting with providers off site, women also receive therapy and other interventions on site. They work with a parent coach and, if they have lost custody, coordinate with Child Protective Services and others to set the stage for reunifying with their children.” [Bangor Daily News, [9/9/19](#)]
- **In The Program, The Women Focus On School, Work, And Financial Planning, And Have To Secure Housing To Transition Into In Order To Leave The Home.** “Later on in the program, women focus on school, work and financial planning. Finally, they have to secure housing to transition out of the home.” [Bangor Daily News, [9/9/19](#)]

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Directing DHHS to Request Proposals for Two Housing-Based Programs for Mothers Impacted by Substance Use Disorder. In May 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1771 by a 148-3 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote. LD1771 “requires the Department of Health and Human Services to issue a request for proposals for two housing-based programs for mothers affected by substance use disorder who have at least one child under 10 years of age when entering the program. The mothers in the programs must receive stable housing and comprehensive services that support recovery and unification with their children. The services provided include care coordination, health care, child care, early childhood education, home supports, after-school programming, parenting education, treatment for mental health and substance use disorder, postsecondary education, community-based transportation and employment supports. The programs must include data collection to assess long-term recovery outcomes, transition to employment and independence.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1771, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1771, 2018](#)]

Funding

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of A Supplemental Appropriations Bill. In July 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD925, a supplemental appropriations bill, by a 139-4 vote and the Senate by a 32-1 vote. [Maine State Legislature, LD 925, Roll Call #702, [7/9/18](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Maine Lawmakers In Special Session Finally Respond To Opioid Crisis; Several Significant Bills Were Passed By Overriding Vetoes From Gov. Paul LePage, But Advocates Say More Work Needs To Be Done, Especially With Medicaid Expansion.”** [Portland Press Herald, [7/16/18](#)]
- **Portland Press Herald: “The Legislature Finally Produced What Treatment Advocates Regard As Meaningful Responses To Maine’s Epidemic Of Opioid Abuse. Three New Laws Moved Forward Earlier This Month, Despite Veto Attempts By Republican Gov. Paul LePage.”** “After two years of virtually no progress, the most recent session of the Legislature finally produced what treatment advocates regard as meaningful responses to Maine’s epidemic of opioid abuse. Three new laws moved forward earlier this month, despite veto attempts by Republican Gov. Paul LePage.” [Portland Press Herald, [7/16/18](#)]
- **The Supplemental Appropriations Bill Funded A Statewide Resources And Referral Center For Individuals With And Family Members/Friends Of Individuals With Substance Abuse Disorders.** “An Act To Develop a Statewide Resource and Referral Center & Develop Hub-and- spoke Models To Improve Access, Treatment and Recovery for Those with Substance Use Disorder. LD. 1430, Sponsor: Rep. Karen Vachon. Key Points: Establishes a statewide resource and referral center for individuals with substance use disorders and friends and family members of individuals with substance use disorders, law enforcement and providers of substance abuse treatment. Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with evidence-based substance abuse treatment providers across the State to provide integrated medication-assisted treatment to individuals with substance use disorders. Department of Health and Human Services is directed to fund treatment for individuals without insurance and develop a rate of reimbursement that takes into account the multiple parts of treatment an individual with a substance use disorder requires in addition to medication. >SUCCESS: This legislation has passed the House and Senate and was funded in LD 925.” [Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services Maine, 128th Legislature, [2017-2018](#)]
- **The Legislation Funded A \$6.6 Million Initiative To “Align Treatment And Recovery Programs To Ensure That Fewer People Who Need Help Slip Through The Cracks.”** “Three new laws moved forward earlier this month, despite veto attempts by Republican Gov. Paul LePage. The first funds the creation of a so-called \$6.6 million ‘hub-and-spoke’ initiative to align treatment and recovery programs to ensure that fewer people who need help slip through the cracks or relapse without intervention. The money in the legislation helps pay for medication-assisted treatment – such as methadone and

Suboxone – for the uninsured, who are the most likely to lack access to treatment. Some 400 to 500 people will gain assistance.” [Portland Press Herald, [7/16/18](#)]

- **The Legislation Funded Medication-Assisted Treatment For Between 400-500 Uninsured Individuals.** “Three new laws moved forward earlier this month, despite veto attempts by Republican Gov. Paul LePage. The first funds the creation of a so-called \$6.6 million ‘hub-and-spoke’ initiative to align treatment and recovery programs to ensure that fewer people who need help slip through the cracks or relapse without intervention. The money in the legislation helps pay for medication-assisted treatment – such as methadone and Suboxone – for the uninsured, who are the most likely to lack access to treatment. Some 400 to 500 people will gain assistance.” [Portland Press Herald, [7/16/18](#)]

In 2015, the LePage Administration Failed to Apply for \$3 Million in Federal Funds to Help Fund Addiction Treatment in the State. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine substance abuse clinics are questioning why the state forfeited a chance to win potentially millions of federal grant dollars for addiction treatment. The clinics highlighted Gov. Paul LePage’s administration’s decision not to apply for the funds a day after saying they were never informed about other federal grants Maine did accept to help uninsured Mainers recover from substance abuse. [...] The state was eligible for up to \$3 million in federal aid to improve and expand treatment and recovery services for abusers of opioid drugs, such as heroin and prescription painkillers. Maine was among 39 states invited to apply because of its high per-capita rate of admissions to treatment programs.” [[Bangor Daily News, 8/7/15](#)]

- **The Funding Would Have Helped Improve and Expand Treatment and Recovery Services for Drug Users, Earmarked for Medication Treatments Like Methadone and Suboxone.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The state was eligible for up to \$3 million in federal aid to improve and expand treatment and recovery services for abusers of opioid drugs, such as heroin and prescription painkillers. Maine was among 39 states invited to apply because of its high per-capita rate of admissions to treatment programs. The money was earmarked for programs that help clients recover with use of medication, such as methadone and Suboxone.” [[Bangor Daily News, 8/7/15](#)]
- **From 2011 to 2017, LePage Lost \$3 Million for Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction:**

GRANT/FEDERAL FUNDS LOST	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES FUNDED	YEAR FUNDING STOPPED	STATE MATCH REQUIRED TO ACCESS FEDERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS DOLLAR AMOUNT LOST CUMULATIVE 2011-2017*	FEDERAL FUNDS MONEY UNSPENT CUMULATIVE 2011-2017	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS LOST TO MAINE 2011-2017
Medication Assisted Treatment-Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction ⁸¹	treatment services for opioid addiction	2016	none	\$ 3,000,000*		\$ 3,000,000

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

- **Maine Was Invited to Apply for the Three-Year, \$1 Million/Year Grant, But Failed to do so.** According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Maine was invited, but

did not apply for a three-year grant, for \$1 million per year. The state will also lose this funding in 2018” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

In 2015, LePage Lost \$800,000 in Federal Funding for the State Youth Treatment-Implementation Project, Which Provided Treatment to Adolescents with Substance Use Disorders.

GRANT/FEDERAL FUNDS LOST	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES FUNDED	YEAR FUNDING STOPPED	STATE MATCH REQUIRED TO ACCESS FEDERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS DOLLAR AMOUNT LOST CUMULATIVE 2011-2017*	FEDERAL FUNDS MONEY UNSPENT CUMULATIVE 2011-2017	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS LOST TO MAINE 2011-2017
State Youth Treatment-Implementation project ⁸²	treatment for adolescents with substance use disorders	2015	none		\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000

***Source: Maine received a renewal of this grant state, but the contract for services ended on 12-31-15 and no services were provided in 2016. MECEP was unable to confirm if services are being provided in 2017 or how the funds are being used. Conversation with Malory Otteson Shaughnessy, MPPM, Executive Director, Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services & Maine Behavioral Health Foundation. Stone, Matthew. Bangor Daily News.*

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

[Home Health Program](#)

LePage Pushed for Creation of Opioid Health Home Program, That “Largely Failed.”

According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “One initiative pushed by the LePage administration – and former Department of Health and Human Services commissioner Mary Mayhew, now a candidate for governor – was the creation of an Opioid Health Home program, but so far that effort has largely failed. After pledging to spend \$4.8 million to treat up to 400 Mainers affected by the crisis, a memo released this month by DHHS showed that less than \$60,000 had been spent on the program in the year or so since it launched. Only five uninsured people and about 50 MaineCare recipients have received treatment.” [[Bangor Daily News, 2/22/18](#)]

- **LePage Pledged To Spend \$4.8 Million To Treat 400 Mainers Affected By Drug Crisis, But As Of Early 2018, Only \$60,000 Was Spend To Provide Treatment for 55 Mainers In Program’s First Year.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “One initiative pushed by the LePage administration – and former Department of Health and Human Services commissioner Mary Mayhew, now a candidate for governor – was the creation of an Opioid Health Home program, but so far that effort has largely failed. After pledging to spend \$4.8 million to treat up to 400 Mainers affected by the crisis, a memo released this month by DHHS showed that less than \$60,000 had been spent on the program in the year or so since it launched. Only five uninsured people and about 50 MaineCare recipients have received treatment.” [[Bangor Daily News, 2/22/18](#)]

[Opioid Outpatient Treatment Providers](#)

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Allowed For, But Did Not Require, The DHHS Reimbursement Rate To Outpatient Opioid Treatment Centers To \$72 Per Week From \$60 Per Week, The Lowest

Rate In The Nation. In August 2017, the House overrode LePage's veto of LD952 by a 114-23 vote and the Senate by a 30-4 vote. "Both chambers also voted to override LePage's veto of L.D. 952, a bill to increase access to opioid addiction services, especially medication-assisted treatment with methadone. The bill allows the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to increase Maine's Medicaid reimbursement rate to methadone providers -- currently \$60, the lowest in the nation -- but does not require it. It appears unlikely that the LePage administration would pursue such a rate increase." According to an adopted amendment to the bill, "This amendment removes the section from the bill that relates to pharmacy oversight. It changes the increase in reimbursement in the bill for methadone providers from \$80 to \$72 a week. It removes the language that gives the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to increase reimbursement by rulemaking." [Maine State Legislature, LD 952, Roll Call #458, [8/2/17](#); Maine State Legislature, LD 952 Amendment Text, [2017](#); Maine State Legislature, LD 952 Bill Text, [2017](#); Morning Sentinel, 8/3/17]

- **The Legislation Would Cost \$573,000 Annually.** "LD 952, An Act To Ensure Access to Opiate Addiction Treatment in Maine. It's a concept that most people can agree on, but with a \$573,000-a-year fiscal note." [Sun Journal, 7/7/17]
- **Increasing MaineCare Reimbursement Rates For Methadone Clinics Would Help Expand Access To Opiate Addiction Treatment Across Maine.** "Nielsen was among dozens of people who testified Friday on a slew of bills all aimed at addressing a heroin or opioid crisis that shows few signs of abating after killing about one Mainer a day last year. Many of the proposals sought to expand opiate treatment across Maine, whether by providing an additional \$6.7 million a year for comprehensive medication-assisted treatment, or by increasing the MaineCare reimbursement rates paid to methadone clinics." [Morning Sentinel, 4/29/17]

Residential Treatment

Paul LePage, In 2011, Proposed Slashing "Funding For Residential Treatment Of Alcohol And Drug Addictions." The LePage Administration, in 2011, proposed cutting "state funding for residential treatment of alcohol and drug addictions, according to the Maine Office of Substance Abuse. The \$4 million cut would eliminate state funding for 10 centers statewide and would force them to either find new revenue sources or stop taking in addicts and alcoholics. One of those, Serenity House in downtown Portland, would lose \$376,000 – more than half its revenue, said Robert Dawber, executive director of the 44-year-old treatment center for men." "The two-year budget proposed by Gov. Paul LePage would eliminate a total of \$4.4 million in state funding for substance abuse programs. The money, part of the Fund for a Healthy Maine, comes from a legal settlement with tobacco companies and would effectively be used to help pay for increasing Medicaid costs. The loss of the \$4.4 million also would trigger a reduction in federal aid of about \$1.3 million, according to Guy Cousins, director of the Office of Substance Abuse. The overall loss of \$5.7 million represents about 20 percent of the agency's budget, he said." "Many of the men at Serenity House are battling addiction to prescription painkillers, which ranks a close second to alcohol among the top reasons Mainers seek treatment. Maine is the clear leader nationwide in the percentage of its population addicted to painkillers such as OxyContin, according to federal data." (Kennebec Journal, 03/11/11)

General Mismanagement

Headline: “LePage Defends Handling of Opioid Crisis, Says Treatment is Available and Free.” [[Portland Press Herald, 3/14/17](#)]

LePage “Brushed Off a Question” About Drug Users “Who Cannot Get Access to Treatment Because They Lack Health Insurance and Land on Long Waiting Lists for Subsidized Care at Clinics That Provide Methadone and Counseling.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Talking about the state’s devastating drug addiction crisis, LePage brushed off a question during a phone-in radio interview on WVOM in Bangor about addicts who cannot get access to treatment because they lack health insurance and land on long waiting lists for subsidized care at clinics that provide methadone and counseling.” [[Portland Press Herald, 3/14/17](#)]

Mainers Who Wanted Treatment for Drug Use But Couldn’t Access it Totaled About 25,000-30,000. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Those seeking treatment for illicit drugs but unable to access it in Maine number about 25,000 to 30,000, according to estimates from SAMHSA, the federal substance abuse treatment agency.” [[Portland Press Herald, 3/14/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News: LePage “Tried To Squeeze The Life” From State’s Public Health Infrastructure As Maine Opioid Crisis “Accelerated.” “The LePage administration tried to squeeze the life out of the program. As Maine’s opioid addiction crisis accelerated, the administration dismantled a key piece of the state’s public health infrastructure. (Public health nurses specialize in working with the moms of drug-affected newborns.) The administration left positions vacant as nurses left the program. Staff members of then-Health and Human Services Commissioner Mary Mayhew barred the then-public health nursing director from emailing his staff without clearance from above, and they ordered that the program withdraw its brochure from circulation so word about the services would get out to fewer people who might need them.” [Bangor Daily News, 9/17/18]

Morning Sentinel Editorial: LePage’s Delays In Implementing Medicaid Expansion Has “Likely Contributed” To Overdose Death Toll. “Their ranks also include people who are struggling to overcome substance use disorders, including the thousands of Mainers who can’t access treatment for the opioid addiction that is killing more than one Mainer a day. LePage’s policies, including his multiple vetoes of Medicaid expansion, have likely contributed to that death toll, starving treatment providers of paying customers, forcing them to shut their doors at a time when they should be expanding.” [Morning Sentinel, 7/15/18]

- **Bangor Daily News: Under LePage, Maine was Only New England State Not To Expand Medicaid.** “It is not a big mystery why Maine is failing. For one, it is the only state in New England that has not expanded Medicaid, as allowed under the Affordable Care Act. Lawmakers tried for years to pass an expansion, but Gov. Paul LePage vetoed it five times. Voters last year approved expansion, but LePage refuses to implement the law that would

extend to health insurance to about 70,000 low-income Mainers.” [Bangor Daily News, 8/21/18]

- **Bill To Make Narcan Available Without Prescription “Languished In Gov. Paul LePage’s Desk For Months.”** “Others were specific, such as expanded access to Narcan. This straightforward recommendation highlights the difficulty of enacting and following common-sense steps to address opioid use. Lawmakers passed a law to make Narcan available without a prescription and directed the Maine Board of Pharmacy to write the needed rules, which is finalized last August. The rules languished on Gov. LePage’s desk for months as he argued that the law should be changed to make Narcan available only to those 21 and older. The Board of Pharmacy gave in to LePage and raised the age requirement. Lawmakers then passed another law to remove the age limit. It was vetoed by LePage, but the veto was overridden.” [Bangor Daily News, 8/21/18]

OPIOID PRESCRIBING

Gifts and Perks to Doctors

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Law Cutting Back Gifts, Speaking Fees, And Food From Pharmaceutical Companies To Doctors, Especially Those Prescribing Opioids. In June 2017, LD 911 became law without Governor LePage’s signature after passing both chambers of the Legislature without a roll call vote. “A bill that would curtail gifts, speaking and consulting fees and expensive food flowing from pharmaceutical companies to doctors has passed the Legislature and awaits the signature of Gov. Paul LePage. Rep. Scott Hamann, D-South Portland, said the goal of the bill is to ensure doctors do not have conflicting interests when prescribing drugs – especially opioids – since Maine is in the midst of an opioid crisis.” [Maine State Legislature, LD 911, [6/28/17](#); Portland Press Herald, [6/20/17](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Legislature Passes Bill To Rein In Drug Company Perks For Doctors.”** [Portland Press Herald, [6/20/17](#)]
- **The Legislation Banned All Cash Gifts From Pharmaceutical Companies To Doctors And Only Allowed Non-Cash Gifts Of “Minimal” Value.** “Hamann’s bill would ban all cash gifts and only allow noncash gifts of ‘minimal’ value. Any gifts where ‘reciprocity is expected or implied’ would also be prohibited.” [Portland Press Herald, [6/20/17](#)]
- **Portland Press Herald: “Rep. Scott Hamann, D-South Portland, Said The Goal Of The Bill Is To Ensure Doctors Do Not Have Conflicting Interests When Prescribing Drugs – Especially Opioids – Since Maine Is In The Midst Of An Opioid Crisis.”** On June 28, 2017, LD 911 became law without Governor LePage’s signature after passing both chambers of the Legislature without a roll call vote. “A bill that would curtail gifts, speaking and consulting fees and expensive food flowing from pharmaceutical companies to doctors has passed the Legislature and awaits the signature of Gov. Paul LePage. Rep. Scott Hamann, D-South Portland, said the goal of the bill is to ensure doctors do not have

conflicting interests when prescribing drugs – especially opioids – since Maine is in the midst of an opioid crisis.” [Portland Press Herald, [6/20/17](#)]

- **Maine Medical Association Vice President Gordon Smith On The Bill: “It Would Eliminate Any Perception That There’s A Conflict Of Interest Among Doctors. The Bill Is Also Consistent With Our Code Of Ethics.”** “The Maine Medical Association, which represents doctors’ interests before the Legislature, was officially neutral on the bill. But Gordon Smith, the association’s executive vice president, said he sees some benefits to it. ‘It would eliminate any perception that there’s a conflict of interest among doctors,’ Smith said. ‘The bill is also consistent with our code of ethics.’” [Portland Press Herald, [6/20/17](#)]
- **Harvard Medical School’s Medical Ethics Expert Dr. Eric Campbell: “To Be Accepting Payments For Opioids In The Face Of The Opioid Epidemic In Many Ways Can Be Viewed As Professionally Irresponsible.”** ““This is pretty vexing,’ said Dr. Eric Campbell, a medical ethics expert at Harvard Medical School, speaking broadly about the practice. ‘To be accepting payments for opioids in the face of the opioid epidemic in many ways can be viewed as professionally irresponsible.’” [Portland Press Herald, [12/25/16](#)]

HEADLINE: “Even Amid Crisis, Opioid Makers Plied Doctors With Perks.” [Portland Press Herald, [12/25/16](#)]

Portland Press Herald: Between 2014 And 2015, Payments From Pharmaceutical Companies To Doctors Related To Opioids Doubled. “While the opioid crisis deepened in Maine over the past three years, drug companies selling opioids increasingly showed up on the doorsteps of physicians’ offices – offering free food and beverages, consulting or speaking fees, discount coupons for drugs and other freebies. The total payments to doctors related to opioids doubled from 2014 to 2015.” [Portland Press Herald, [12/25/16](#)]

- **2014-2015: Opioid Pharmaceutical Industry Spending Increased From \$21,654 To \$42,550 On Maine Doctors.** “Overall, opioid industry spending on Maine doctors increased from \$21,654 in 2014 to \$42,550 in 2015.

Portland Press Herald: “While The Opioid Crisis Deepened In Maine Over The Past Three Years, Drug Companies Selling Opioids Increasingly Showed Up On The Doorsteps Of Physicians’ Offices – Offering Free Food And Beverages, Consulting Or Speaking Fees, Discount Coupons For Drugs And Other Freebies.” “While the opioid crisis deepened in Maine over the past three years, drug companies selling opioids increasingly showed up on the doorsteps of physicians’ offices – offering free food and beverages, consulting or speaking fees, discount coupons for drugs and other freebies. The total payments to doctors related to opioids doubled from 2014 to 2015.” [Portland Press Herald, [12/25/16](#)]

2017-2018: Payments To Maine Doctors From Pharmaceutical Companies Dropped By \$1.22 Million:

Recipient State is "Maine"

Type of Payment is "general"

Program Year	Total Payments	Total Amount
2018	16,799	\$3,147,694.15
2017	19,093	\$4,366,037.67
2016	21,758	\$5,058,204.70
2015	23,600	\$6,085,605.56
2014	25,363	\$4,718,961.01
2013	9,237	\$1,582,833.02

[Open Payments Data, CMS, accessed [9/16/19](#)]

Informed Prescribing and Consent

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Required Opioid Prescribers to Develop an Opioid Medication Prescribing Policy That Included Informed Consent and Counseling on the Risk of Opioid Use. In June 2017, LePage allowed LD479 to become law without his signature after the bill passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD479 “requires health care entities that include prescribers of opioid medications to develop an opioid medication prescribing policy that includes risk assessment, informed consent and counseling on the risk of opioid use. The policy must be developed by January 1, 2018.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD479, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD479, 2017](#)]

July 2011: LePage Signed Bill That Repealed Requirement For Pharmaceutical To Disclose Actual And Best Prices For Drugs Dispensed In Maine. According to a brief released by Epstein, Becker, Green, “LD 719 further repeals Maine's actual price disclosure statute, § 2698-B, effective September 28, 2011. This statute requires prescription drug manufacturers to disclose, on a quarterly basis, the average manufacturer price ("AMP") and best price ("BP") for all drugs dispensed in Maine that are subject to the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program. Prescription drug manufacturers will no longer be required to submit these price reports to Maine, although federal reporting requirements[7] remain in effect.” [EBG Law, [8/15/11](#)]

Prescription Drug Prices Sky-Rocketed Under LePage

2014-2018: Maine Health Data Organization Said Mainers’ Spending On Prescription Drugs Increased By \$400,000. According to the Maine Health Data Organization, “In 2014, the

federal government estimated Mainers spent \$1.5 billion on prescription drugs. In 2018, the Maine Health Data Organization estimated that had increased to almost \$1.9 billion. After accounting for the cost of living and population changes, that's the equivalent of a 19 percent increase in just four years. [Maine Center for Economic Policy, [4/16/19](#)]

2012-2017: Under LePage, Drug Prices In Maine Increased By Almost 60 Percent While Annual Income For Mainers Over 50 Increased By Less Than 6 Percent. According to AARP, “The average annual cost of prescription drug treatment increased 57.8% between 2012 and 2017, while the annual income for Mainers only increased 5.6%.6.” [AARP, Accessed [4/27/21](#)]

2012: LePage Sought To Cut Medicaid Prescription Drug Coverage. In 2012, PEW Research noted LePage sought massive cuts to Medicaid, saying, “Some of LePage's proposed Medicaid cuts, such as eliminating dental care, physical therapy and chiropractic services, are not too different from ones that governors in both parties are recommending in states across the country. Neither are his proposed reductions in payments to hospitals and doctors or limits on prescription drug coverage. But LePage also wants to get at enrollment, and this is what makes him, at the moment, the most draconian of the governors when it comes to health policy.” [PEW Research, [2/6/12](#)]

2013: LePage Proposed State Budget That Cut Prescription Drug Payment Aid For Seniors. On January 11, 2013, the Bangor Daily News reported, “Gov. Paul LePage’s proposed budget for the next two years includes cuts that could be felt by rural hospitals, senior citizens who receive aid to help them pay for prescription drugs, and municipalities whose general assistance funds are in high demand.” [[Bangor Daily News, 1/11/13](#)]

- **LePage Sought Cuts To Medicare Savings Plan That Helped Seniors Pay For Prescription Drugs.** “The two-year budget proposal also scales back the Medicare Savings Plan to the minimum levels mandated by the federal government. Currently, according to Mayhew, only Maine, Connecticut and Washington, D.C., exceed the federal minimum on that program, which offers senior citizens aid for prescription drugs through the state’s Medicaid program.” [[Bangor Daily News, 1/11/13](#)]

May 2018: LePage Allowed Bill To Authorize Study To Review Drug Prices, Increase Price Transparency To Pass Into Law Without His Signature. In May 2018, “he governor of Maine, Paul LePage, allowed legislation to pass into law without his signature that: (1) authorizes a study to review and overview drug prices and (2) has implications for top 25 drugs of different types.” [[Policy & Medicine, 5/11/18](#)]

[Governor Janet Mills Immediately Signed Legislation To Increase Prescribing Transparency, Lower Drug Costs After LePage Left Office](#)

Foley Hoag LLP Drug Pricing Policy Watch: Mills Signed Into Law Prescription Drug Affordability Board That Appointed Members Tasked To “Lower Prescription Drug Costs.” According to a policy brief written by Foley Hoag LLP, in June 2019, Governor Janet Mills Signed into law the establishment of a Maine prescription drug affordability board that

“according to advocates is designed to lower prescription drug costs in the state. The Board will consist of 5 members, with each member having expertise in either health care economics or clinical medicine. Two of the members will be appointed by the Senate President, two of the members will be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one member will be appointed by the Governor.” [[JD Supra, 9/25/20](#)]

June 2019: Mills Signed Bill Into Law That Created Drug Importation Program That Allowed Maine Medicaid Supplier To Import Cheaper Drugs From Canada, Other Countries. On June 24, 2019, AARP celebrated a bill signed by Governor Mills that allowed Maine to import drugs from Canada and other countries to create competition that would help lower prescription drug prices. [[AARP, 6/24/19](#)]

June 2019: Mills Signed Bill Into Law To Require Pharmacy Benefit Managers To “Pass Along To Consumers All Rebates They Receive From Drugmakers.” On June 24, 2019, AARP celebrated a bill signed by Governor Mills that required “pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to pass along to consumers all rebates they receive from drugmakers, and to direct PBMs to offer the cash price of a medicine to a consumer if it is lower than the patient's insurance copayment.” [[AARP, 6/24/19](#)]

June 2019: Mills Signed Bill Into Law That Required Pharmaceutical Manufacturers To Report Drug Price Increases Of More Than 20 Percent. On June 24, 2019, AARP celebrated a bill signed by Governor Mills that required “brand-name pharmaceutical manufacturers to annually report any price increases of more than 20 percent and for generic manufacturers to report 20 percent price hikes for medicines that cost at least \$10 per pill or other unit.” [[AARP, 6/24/19](#)]

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Directing State Agencies to Move Toward the Licensing and Regulation of Retail Marijuana Sales. In May 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1719 by a 109-39 vote and the Senate 28-6 vote. “The highest-profile vote came as lawmakers overrode the governor on L.D. 1719 and directed state agencies to begin moving toward the licensing and regulation of retail marijuana sales. But lawmakers also dealt with several other drug-related bills, as well as measures focused on sex trafficking, addiction treatment and electricity ‘microgrids.’” [*Portland Press Herald*, 5/3/18; [Maine State Legislature, LD1719, 2018](#)]

Portland Press Herald: GOP Maine Senator Roger Katz Said Lawmakers Received “No Help From State Agencies” When They Sought Counsel On Legalized Marijuana Taxation. “Committee leaders are worried that the LePage administration will scuttle the bill, either through an outright veto or delayed implementation, even if the legislation is passed during a special legislative session next month. Republican Sen. Roger Katz of Augusta, co-chair of the Marijuana Legalization Implementation Committee, said the panel has gotten almost no help from state agencies when it sought counsel, even on key issues such as taxation.” [*Press Herald*, 9/29/17]

SENTENCING

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill That Reduced the Punishment for Possession of Some Drugs When the Violator Had No Prior Convictions. In June 2015, LePage allowed LD113 to become law without his signature after the bill passed the House by a 92-52 vote and the Senate. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “L.D. 113 reduces the punishment for possession of some drugs when the violator has no previous convictions.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/9/15; [Maine State Legislature, LD113, 2015](#)]

June 2017: LePage Vetoed Bill That Provided Legal Protections For People That Sought Help For Overdose Victims Despite Possessing Drugs At Time Of Reporting. “Gov. Paul LePage vetoed a bill that would have offered an “affirmative defense” against prosecution to a person caught with illegal drugs after they sought help for an overdose victim. [...] In what is likely to be a controversial move, LePage is blocking a bill that sought to address the problem of drug users -- and especially heroin or other opiate users -- abandoning someone who is overdosing because they fear being arrested by police for their own illegal activity. Like all vetoes, it will take a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate to override LePage. The bill, L.D. 1079, would not have provided immunity from prosecution but would have provided individuals with an “affirmative defense” if police find drugs or paraphernalia on them after they have overdosed or call for emergency assistance for another overdose victim.” [Morning Sentinel 6/6/17]

- **Morning Sentinel: Public Testimony “Directly Contradict” LePage’s Conclusion Over Overdose Reporting Protections.** “Public testimony on this topic directly contradict the governor’s conclusions, however. Individuals recounted how they were arrested after calling for help or recalled friends who they believe died of an overdose because people in their group fled. Portland resident Shaun Le, for instance, told how a friend was abandoned during an overdose and was later declared brain dead because he was deprived of oxygen until paramedics arrived.” [Morning Sentinel 6/6/17]

SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKERS

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Helped Increase Recruitment, Development, And Retention Of Substance Abuse Disorder Workers. In June 2017, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1376 by a 142-3 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote. “This bill will assist with increasing the recruitment, development and retention of workers in the behavioral health and substance use disorder fields. In order to enhance the pipeline for advancement and development of a substance use disorder treatment workforce, this bill streamlines and clarifies the progression of licensure within the field of Alcohol and Drug Counselors. Creates parity for LCPCs. Allows twice the number of CEUs to be taken through online courses.” [Maine State Legislature, LD 1376, Roll Call #399, [6/27/17](#); Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services Maine, 128th Legislative Biennium, [2017-2018](#)]

SYRINGE EXCHANGES

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill That Established a Methodology for Distributing Syringe Exchange Funds to Programs Certified by DHHS. In April 2016, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1552 by a 108-40 vote and the Senate by a 25-9 vote. LD1552 “establishes a methodology for distributing funds for the hypodermic apparatus exchange programs certified by the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and allows the center to amend the rules with respect to the distribution of funds, renewal of certification, complaint investigation procedures and decertification criteria. The center must allocate funds appropriated for existing hypodermic apparatus exchange programs among programs based on rates of intravenous drug use and negative health outcomes related to drug use in the geographic area surrounding a program and the amount of services historically provided by the program although funds awarded in order to facilitate the operation of programs in counties without a program may be awarded through a competitive grant process.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1552, 2016](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1552, 2016](#)]

- **The Bill Promulgated Regulatory Rules But Did Not Appropriate Funds to Support the New Rules.** According to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, “The ban on using federal funds to support exchange activities was lifted on January 6, 2016. The Maine Legislature passed LD 1552 (*An Act To Reduce Morbidity and Mortality Related to Injection Drugs*) in the spring of 2016, but no funds were appropriated to support this action. Additional regulatory rules were also promulgated through this statute (10-144 CMR c.252). The Maine Legislature passed LD 1707 (*An Act To Reduce the Cost of Care Resulting from Blood-borne Infectious Diseases*) July 9, 2018. This bill provides funds to support hypodermic apparatus, or syringe, exchange programs. This funding is due to be distributed to the three state-certified Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Program Operators in early 2019.” [[Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 2018](#)]
- **The Needle Exchange Program Was Initially Funded With General Fund Funding, But The Funding Language Was Stripped From The Bill As Enacted.** “-- LD 1552, *An Act to Reduce Morbidity and Mortality Related to Injected Drugs*. The \$75,000 cost of a needle-exchange program originally was funded with general fund dollars, but the funding language was stripped before the bill's enactment. The Legislature intended for the bill to be funded out of Maine Center for Disease Control funds.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/27/16]
- **LePage Said He Vetoed the Legislation Because it Didn’t Provide a Funding Source for the Needle Exchange Programs.** According to LePage’s veto letter for LD1552, “This bill establishes a hypodermic needle exchange program whereby the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention is required to provide funding to needle exchange operators. However, the Legislature did not appropriate any money to fund this program.” [[Gov. LePage Veto Letter for LD1552, 4/26/16](#)]

- **6/27/16: Governor LePage Issued An Executive Order Funding The Needle Exchange Program, Which Democratic Legislative Leaders Called A Campaign Stunt.** “Gov. Paul LePage has issued an executive order related to four bills he says the Legislature refuses to properly fund. Democratic House Speaker Mark Eves of North Berwick said the situation was a campaign stunt. LePage says he'll use money from the Low-Cost Drugs for Maine's Elderly Program, the Fund for a Healthy Maine and personal services accounts to fund the bills and may resort to a hiring freeze with the Department of Health and Human Services to find the funding. [...] The four bills are: [...] -- LD 1552, An Act to Reduce Morbidity and Mortality Related to Injected Drugs. The \$75,000 cost of a needle-exchange program originally was funded with general fund dollars, but the funding language was stripped before the bill's enactment. The Legislature intended for the bill to be funded out of Maine Center for Disease Control funds.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/27/16]

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of A Bill That Funded A Clean Syringe Exchange. In July 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1707 by a 102-40 vote and the Senate by a 25-8 vote. “Among the bills caught in LePage’s crosshairs were LD1707, which would fund clean hypodermic syringe exchange; LD1711, a pilot project of low-barrier treatment and housing for homeless opioid users; LD105, which sought to establish a Substance Use Disorder Cabinet in the Maine Legislature; and LD812, which would establish a pilot project in Washington County for residents seeking treatment and recovery support for substance use disorders.” The House overrode LePage’s veto by a 102-40 vote and the Senate by a 25-8 vote, and the bill became law. [Maine Beacon, [7/9/18](#); Maine State Legislature, LD 1707, Roll Call #711, [7/9/18](#)]

- **The Needle Exchange Program Would “Create New Access Points For Entry To Treatment And Recovery Programs.”** “Also approved over LePage’s veto was a \$75,000 needle-exchange program, part of a harm-reduction strategy that is meant not only to help stop the spread of infectious diseases such as hepatitis C and HIV, but also to create new access points for entry to treatment and recovery programs.” [Portland Press Herald, [7/16/18](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Despite Rising Death Toll, LePage Vetoes Opioid Treatment Bills.”** [Maine Beacon, [7/9/18](#)]
- **LePage On Needle Exchange Program Veto: Program Provided “Path for A Person To Participate In Dangerous, Destructive And Deadly Behavior.”** “In his veto letter on the needle-exchange bill, LePage wrote, ‘I do not believe it is the government's responsibility to ensure that we provide the safest possible path for a person to participate in dangerous, destructive and deadly behavior.’ He said he was working with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to ‘make it a priority to invest in evidence-based treatment options that will produce the best outcomes for individuals dealing with addiction.’” [Press Herald, 7/16/18]

ECONOMY & JOBS

CO-WORKING SPACES

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill That Created The Maine Coworking Development Program And Funded It With \$200,000. In June 2015, LePage allowed LD1332 to become law without his signature. The bill allocated \$100,000 for 2015-16 and \$100,000 for 2016-17 to provide “funds to support collaborative workspace businesses.” The bill was passed to be engrossed in Senate on June 18, 2015 and passed in the House by an 80-59 vote on June 22, 2015. The bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature on July 12, 2015. [Maine Legislature, LD 1332, [6/22/15](#); Maine Legislature, LD 1332, House Roll Call 299, [6/22/15](#); Maine Legislature, LD 1332, Bill Text As Amended, [6/22/15](#)]

- **2015: The Maine Coworking Development Program Awarded \$100,000 In Grants To Businesses In Biddeford, Brunswick, And Portland.** “The coworking fund was created in 2015, and provided \$100,000 in grants that year to businesses in Augusta, Bethel, Biddeford, Brunswick, Millinocket and Portland. But the program was zeroed out by then-Gov. Paul LePage in subsequent budgets.” [MaineBiz, [11/27/19](#)]

ECONOMY COMMENTS, GENERALLY

Paul LePage, Instead Of Promoting The State To Attract Businesses, Voices “Criticisms That Maine Isn’t Business-Friendly And That Businesses Don’t Want To Locate In Maine Because Of The Quality Of The State’s Workforce.” Paul LePage, in January 2013, “voiced criticisms that Maine isn’t business-friendly and that businesses don’t want to locate in Maine because of the quality of the state’s workforce; that Maine schools aren’t preparing students for college-level work; and that Maine’s public schools employ too many superintendents.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/22/13)

Bangor Daily News Editorial: LePage’s Tenure As Governor Was Defined By “Economic Stagnation, Bad Mouthing Maine,” “Dramatic Cutbacks To The State’s Social Safety Net.” “After eight years of economic stagnation, bad mouthing Maine, unnecessary battles between Gov. Paul LePage and lawmakers, and dramatic cutbacks to the state’s social safety net that have left the state’s most vulnerable without the services and support they need, Maine is at a crossroads. Voters can choose a new direction built on competence and experience or they can stay the current course.” [Bangor Daily News—Editorial, 10/19/18]

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Increasing the Maximum Loan Amount Through FAME’s Economic Recovery Program from \$1 Million to \$2 Million. In June 2015, LePage allowed LD1140 to become law without his signature after both chambers passed the law without a roll call vote. LD1140 “increases the maximum loan amount available through the Economic Recovery Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. The law takes effect only upon the receipt by the Economic Recovery Program Fund of an appropriation, general obligation bond funding or other funding in the amount of at least \$13,000,000.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1140, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1140, 2015](#)]

FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Biomass

- **In 2016, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill Creating A Commission To Study The Economic, Environmental, And Energy Benefits Of The Maine Biomass Industry.** In April 2016, LePage let LD1693 become law without his signature after passing both chambers of the Legislature without roll call votes. The bill was a “Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry.” [Maine State Legislature, LD 1693, [4/28/16](#)]
- **The Bill Created A Commission Of Legislators, A Wood Harvester, A Sawmill, The Pulp And Paper Industry, And Users Of Biomass Energy To Study How To Maintain A Sustainable Future For Maine’s Biomass Industry.** “Aiding this initiative is another recently passed bill that, in order to study economic, environmental and energy benefits of Maine’s biomass industry, establishes a commission consisting of legislators, a wood harvester and representatives of the biomass energy industry, a sawmill, the pulp and paper industry, and users of biomass energy. One initiative of the commission, which has to report results by December, is to examine and evaluate public policy and economic proposals to create and maintain a sustainable future for the Maine biomass industry.” [Biomass Magazine, [4/19/16](#)]

Headline: “LePage Urges Lawmakers to Oppose Biomass Industry Subsidy.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 1/11/18]

- **In 2018, LePage Said He Opposed Two Bills That Would Have Funded a \$45 Million Subsidy to Help Maine’s Biomass Industry.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Gov. Paul LePage told lawmakers he opposes a pair of bills that would have taxpayers fund a \$45 million subsidy to help Maine's foundering biomass industry.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 1/11/18]
- **One Bill Would Create a \$20 Million Revolving Loan Fund for Investments in Biomass Plants, the Other Bill Would Provide \$25 Million for Steam Piping to Power Nearby Manufacturing Facilities from Biomass Plants – the Two Bills Were Merged into One With a \$25 Million Price Tag That LePage Still Opposed.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “One of the bills proposed Wednesday, sponsored by Sen. Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, would create a \$20 million revolving loan fund for capital investments in biomass plants, which burn wood to generate power for the electric grid. The second bill, sponsored by Sen. David Woodsome, R-North Waterboro, would provide \$25 million to extend steam piping from existing biomass plants to nearby manufacturing facilities, build co-generation plants that produce electricity and heat for sawmills, and convert fossil-fuel boilers in public buildings and businesses to biomass boilers. The sponsors of the two bills agreed Wednesday to merge the measures into a single bill with a \$25 million price tag. LePage, however, said he still opposed that measure.” [[Portland Press Herald, 1/11/18](#)]

Forest Products Industry

LePage “Refused to Meet with Federal Experts Working to Find Ways to Strengthen Maine’s Forest Products Industry.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “The LePage administration did not seek federal funds to preserve 6,400 acres of working forest land and refused to meet with federal experts working to find ways to strengthen Maine’s forest products industry.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

- **Headline: “Federal Team Starts Tour of Maine Forest Products Industry.”** [[Portland Press Herald, 8/17/16](#)]
- **LePage Said He Wouldn’t Meet With the Team Evaluating Maine’s Forest Products Industry Until the Commerce Department Reconsidered its Tariffs on Canadian Paper Imports.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Federal, state and local officials gathered Wednesday called collaboration critical, but Gov. Paul LePage has said he won’t work with the team until the Department of Commerce reconsiders tariffs on Canadian paper imports.” [[Portland Press Herald, 8/17/16](#)]

Logging on State-Owned Land

Paul LePage, In 2011, Vetoed A Bill To Prohibit The Employment Of “Foreign Laborers At Logging Operations On State-Owned Land.” Paul LePage, in 2011, “citing potential constitutional issues...vetoed a bill that would have prohibited the Maine Department of Conservation from employing foreign laborers at logging operations on state-owned land.” “Sen. Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, introduced LD 340 to write the prohibition into statute after he documented an instance of a Canadian logger working on a public lot in northern Maine.” “Jackson, a logger himself, and others have accused landowners and contractors of skirting or violating federal and state laws by hiring lower-cost Canadian loggers while Maine workers struggle to find jobs.” “In his letter to lawmakers, LePage wrote that he was vetoing the bill on constitutional grounds. He also referenced the fact that his predecessor, Democratic Gov. John Baldacci, vetoed a similar bill in 2003.” (Bangor Daily News, 06/08/11)

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Establishing Penalties for Unlawful Tree Cutting. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD670 by a 108-36 vote and the Senate by a 33-1 vote. LD670 “provides for consequences for the unlawful cutting of trees. It makes a distinction between the unlawful cutting of trees in areas zoned for residential use and the unlawful cutting of trees in other areas. It also makes a distinction between the unlawful cutting of ornamental or fruit trees and the unlawful cutting of all other trees. If a person cuts down or damages trees without permission on land the person does not own, the person is liable to the owner for damages. The owner of the land may choose which valuations and calculations to apply to determine the damages to be paid. The court may reduce the damages awarded for good cause shown when the cutting of trees was done negligently or without fault. Chapter 241 authorizes an additional award of punitive damages if the person acted with malice, and deletes the cap on the recovery of costs of professional services for asserting a claim, including attorney’s fees. Chapter 241 provides that

public utilities and their contractors are not liable for damages when the cutting or removal of trees is necessary to improve the safety and reliability of the public utilities' delivery of products and services.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD670, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD670, 2015](#)]

April 2015: LePage Refused To Release Conservation Bond Money Approved By Maine Voters Until Legislature Agreed To Increased Tree-Cutting On State Land. “A bipartisan group of lawmakers will propose legislation Tuesday that would force Gov. Paul LePage to issue voter-approved bonds, setting up a possible showdown over conservation money that the governor is using to gain political leverage. The bill, announced by Sen. Roger Katz, R-Augusta, would almost certainly be vetoed by LePage, who is withholding \$11.4 million previously approved by voters for the Land for Maine's Future program until legislators agree to increase tree cutting on state- owned land. Lawmakers would need a two-thirds majority in both the Senate and the House to override a veto.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/28/15]

- **Bangor Daily News: “Members Of Both Parties” Decried LePage’s Tactic, Saying He Was Delaying 30 Projects Already Approved For Funding.** “Conservationists and members of both parties have decried LePage's tactic, saying his use of the bonds as political leverage threatens 30 projects already approved for funding around the state, including a plan in Cumberland and North Yarmouth to preserve 215 acres at Knight's Pond and Blueberry Hill.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/28/15]

Forest Products Industry Stats Under LePage

Between 2011 and 2016, Five of Maine’s Paper Mills Shut Down, Costing Thousands of Mill Jobs. According to the Natural Resources Council of Maine, “Since Governor LePage was elected, five paper mills have shut down, and thousands of mill workers have lost their jobs in Maine.” [[Natural Resources Council of Maine, 2016](#)]

Bangor Daily News: “Maine Was Devastated by Mill Closures During LePage’s Tenure.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine was devastated by mill closures during LePage’s tenure. Between 2013 and 2016, paper mills in East Millinocket, Bucksport, Lincoln, Old Town and Madison.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/31/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News: “Between 2013 And 2016, Paper Mills in East Millinocket, Bucksport, Lincoln, Old Town and Madison Shut Down” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine was devastated by mill closures during LePage’s tenure. Between 2013 and 2016, paper mills in East Millinocket, Bucksport, Lincoln, Old Town and Madison.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/31/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News: “Mill Closures Have Had a Ripple Effect Throughout the Forest Product Industries,” Especially Damaging Logging and Biomass Energy Production. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The mill closures have had a ripple effect throughout the forest product industries, including biomass energy production and logging. A study conducted after the closure of mills in Old Town and Lincoln last year concluded that at least an additional 563 jobs could be lost as a result across Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock and Waldo counties. Among those hardest hit would be the loggers who supplied the raw material to the mills.” [[Bangor Daily News, 6/18/16](#)]

- **Study Of 2015 Mill Closures In Old Town And Lincoln Concluded That At Least 563 Additional Jobs Would Be Lost From Surrounding Communities.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The mill closures have had a ripple effect throughout the forest product industries, including biomass energy production and logging. A study conducted after the closure of mills in Old Town and Lincoln last year concluded that at least an additional 563 jobs could be lost as a result across Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock and Waldo counties. Among those hardest hit would be the loggers who supplied the raw material to the mills.” [[Bangor Daily News, 6/18/16](#)]

LePage “Struggled to Keep Maine’s Legacy Paper Industry Viable” During His Time as Governor. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “While he struggled to keep Maine’s legacy paper industry viable or to seal some high-profile deals to lure global companies such as Airbus to Maine, he worked aggressively outside the public spotlight to make state government more responsive to business needs.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/17/18](#)]

2016: Despite Downward Trend In Maine Forest Products Industry, “LePage Has Taken Few Steps to Transition the State Toward an Economy Less Dependent On Extracting Natural Resources.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “In spite of this downward trend plaguing Maine’s natural resource economy, LePage has taken few steps to transition the state toward an economy less dependent on extracting natural resources.” [[Bangor Daily News, 6/16/16](#)]

By 2015, Maine Paper Mills That Once Employed More Than 18,000 Mainers Provided Jobs to Only 5,500. According to an editorial from the *Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel*, “Pulp and paper mills that once employed more than 18,000 Mainers now provide jobs to about 5,500.” [[Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, Editorial, 10/4/15](#)]

Portland Press Herald Headline: “Maine’s Lincoln Mill Lays Off 200 After Boiler Explosion.” [[Portland Press Herald, 12/11/13](#)]

Bangor Daily News Headline, “East Millinocket Paper Mill Announces Layoffs Affecting 212 Workers.” [[Bangor Daily News, 2/6/14](#)]

Bangor Daily News Headline: “Old Town Fuel & Fiber Closes, Leaving 180 Workers Furloughed Indefinitely.” [[Bangor Daily News, 8/14/14](#)]

Bangor Daily News Headline: “Verso Mill in Bucksport to Close by Year’s End, 570 Employees to Lose Jobs.” [[Bangor Daily News, 10/1/14](#)]

Maine Public Headline: “Shock Ripples Through Jay Region as Verso Cuts 300 Jobs at Androscoggin Mill.” [[Maine Public, 8/20/15](#)]

Sept. 2015: Lincoln Paper And Tissue, Penobscot County Company With 170 Workers, Filed For Bankruptcy. According to the Associated Press, “Lincoln Paper and Tissue in Penobscot County has filed for bankruptcy. The company, which employs 170 people in the

production of specialty tissue for products like party napkins and medical tissues, filed a voluntary petition for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Monday.” [[Associated Press, 9/29/15](#)]

Sept. 2015: Expera Specialty Solutions Announced Plans To Close Pulp Mill In Old Town That Employed 195 Workers. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Expera Specialty Solutions announced Tuesday that it would shut down its pulp mill in Old Town by the end of the year. The Wisconsin-based company, which purchased the mill less than a year ago and then restarted it, cited falling market prices for pulp, combined with wood costs, as factors in the decision. The mill in Penobscot County employs 151 hourly workers and 44 salaried workers.” [[Portland Press Herald, 9/29/15](#)]

Bangor Daily News Headline: “Madison Paper Mill to Shut Down by May, Lay Off 214.” [[Bangor Daily News, 3/14/16](#)]

WGME Headline: “Verso to Shut Down Machine, Lay Off 190 at Jay Mill.” [[WGME, 11/1/16](#)]

Lewiston Morning Sentinel Headline: “Jay Mill to Shut Down Paper Machine Permanently, Cut 120 Jobs.” [[Lewiston Morning Sentinel, 7/19/17](#)]

Spat Between Critical Sawmill Owners and LePage

Headline: “Watchdog Finds no Proof That LePage Punished Sawmill Owners Who Criticized Him.” [[Bangor Daily News, 8/20/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald: “Maine’s Legislative Watchdog Found No Evidence That Gov. Paul LePage Was Directly Involved in a February Decision to Divert Timber Harvested on Public Lands Away From Two Maine Mills.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Maine’s legislative watchdog found no evidence that Gov. Paul LePage was directly involved in a February decision to divert timber harvested on public lands away from two Maine mills.” [[Portland Press Herald, 8/21/18](#)]

- **The Two Maine Mills That Lost Out on Timber Had Been Critical of LePage’s Stance on U.S. Tariffs on Canadian Lumber, Felt Like They Were Being Retaliated Against.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The two companies who lost out on the timber, Moose River Lumber and Pleasant River Lumber, both owned by the Brochu family, had been publicly critical of the governor’s position on U.S. tariffs on Canadian lumber and some felt they were being retaliated against.” [[Portland Press Herald, 8/21/18](#)]
- **Legislative Watchdog Found the Decision to Divert the Timber Was Made by the Director of Maine Forest Service Because the Company the Timber Was Diverted to Had Been Facing a Critical Shortage of Logs at the Time.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The watchdog agency found that the decision to divert the spruce and fir timber that had been harvested in Maine away from the Brochus’ mills and to Stratton Lumber was made solely by the director of the Maine Forest Service, Doug Denico. It

also affirmed that the decision was made because Stratton Lumber was facing a critical shortage of logs at the time.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 8/21/18]

- ***Portland Press Herald* Editorial Headline: “Probes Necessary After LePage’s Lack of Candor.”** [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 3/26/18]
- **In Feb. 2018, the Bureau of Public Lands Stopped Sending Timber Harvested from State-Owned Lands to a Maine-Owned Lumber Mill, Sending it Instead to a Canadian-Owned Mill.** According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “Last week, it was first questions over the allocation of timber from state-owned lands. In February, the Bureau of Public Lands stopped shipping such timber to mills owned by Jason and Chris Brochu, sending it instead to a Canadian-owned mill.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 3/26/18]
- **Headline: “Watchdog Agency to Review Public-Timber Dispute; the Governor Says he Supports a Probe into Diversion of Logs from Mills Owned by LePage Critics.”** [*Portland Press Herald*, 3/24/18]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: “By Refusing to Allow Commissioners to Answer Questions or Appear Before Committees [About the Timber Diversion], LePage Has Stifled Needed Oversight and Given the Impression That His Administration Has Things to Hide.”**

According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “By refusing to allow commissioners to answer questions or appear before committees, LePage has stifled needed oversight and given the impression that his administration has things to hide. The case of the diverted wood is convoluted and confusing, which is why lawmakers need to sort out what happened and why.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 3/22/18]

Forest Legacy Conservation Program

Headline: “Maine Won’t Participate in Forest Legacy Conservation Program.” [[*Bangor Daily News*, 11/9/15](#)]

LePage “Did Not Seek Federal Funds to Preserve 6,400 Acres of Working Forest Land.”

According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “The LePage administration did not seek federal funds to preserve 6,400 acres of working forest land and refused to meet with federal experts working to find ways to strengthen Maine’s forest products industry.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy](#), 3/21/17]

- ***Bangor Daily News*: “The LePage Administration Has Decided to Take a Pass on Applying for its Share of Federal Conservation Funds.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The LePage administration has decided to take a pass on applying for its share of federal conservation funds.” [[*Bangor Daily News*, 11/9/15](#)]
- **Under LePage, Maine Lost \$1.725 Million in Federal Funding for the Forest Legacy Program.**

GRANT/FEDERAL FUNDS LOST	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES FUNDED	YEAR FUNDING STOPPED	STATE MATCH REQUIRED TO ACCESS FEDERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS DOLLAR AMOUNT LOST CUMULATIVE 2011-2017*	FEDERAL FUNDS MONEY UNSPENT CUMULATIVE 2011-2017	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS LOST TO MAINE 2011-2017
Forest Legacy Program ¹⁰²	Perham Stream project, forest land conservation	2016	25%, state, local, private	\$ 1,725,000		\$ 1,725,000

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

- **Maine Center for Economic Policy: “Maine Competes Very Well for These Funds; the Governor Refused Needed State Support for the Project and the State Could Not Apply.”** According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Note: Maine competes very well for these funds; the governor refused needed state support for the project and the state could not apply.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]
- **Bangor Daily News: “Maine Consistently Has Led the Nation in Applying for and Receiving Forest Legacy Funding, But the State Has Opted to Skip Several Applications Rounds Under LePage.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “She [Mills] also has pledged to be more proactive in seeking federal Forest Legacy funds to protect working forests from development. Maine consistently had led the nation in applying for and receiving Forest Legacy funding, but the state has opted to skip several application rounds under LePage.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 11/11/18]

[Opportunity Zone Grants](#)

July 2018: LePage Granted Special Discretion For Tax Breaks To Two Paper Mill Towns Despite “Declines In Most Paper Industry Sectors.” “Out of 32 places to give tax breaks to investors, Gov. Paul LePage had special discretion for two. For each of those special picks, LePage looked to paper towns. The governor's use of those special selections to pick Madawaska and Baileyville reflect a hope that, despite declines in most paper industry sectors, the mills that have endured some brutal years may still draw new investment or serve as an anchor for sustaining rural economies.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 7/18/18]

- **Bangor Daily News: LePage Chose Not To Grant Opportunity Zone Status To Paper Mill In Verso After Telling Bucksport Mill Owners To “Get Out Of The State Of Maine.”** “LePage did leave out some towns with operating mills. He did not pick Skowhegan, where owner Sappi had already begun a \$165 million investment, or Jay, where Verso owns a mill. Verso's move to shut its Bucksport mill and sell it for scrap angered LePage to the point of telling the company to ‘get out of the state of Maine.’” [*Bangor Daily News*, 7/18/18]

[Put ME to Work](#)

In 2018, LePage Vetoed a Budget That Funded a Bipartisan Effort to Train the Next Generation of Logging Operators Throughout the State by Implementing the Professional Logging Contractors’ Mechanical Operator Training Program at Three Community College in Maine – the Legislature Overrode LePage’s Veto. According to the Professional

Logging Contractors of Maine, “Workforce Development— LD 1373, An Act to Create the Put ME to Work Program was a bi-partisan effort by members of the Maine Legislature to assist the logging industry train the next generation of logging operators that are desperately needed throughout the State. This is the funding mechanism that assisted with the implementation of the PLC’s Mechanical Logging Operator training program at three of Maine’s Community Colleges. This bill was designed to provide operational funding for the next two years to get this important program off the ground. Funding (\$1,000,000) and language from this bill was included in the State budget, which was passed by both the House and Senate on Wednesday, June 17th. The Governor vetoed the budget, but the Legislature voted to override the veto on June 30th.”
[[Professional Logging Contractors of Maine, Accessed 12/8/21](#)]

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP ASSISTANCE COLLABORATIVE

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Changing the Eligibility Requirements for the Industry Partnership Assistance Collaborative by Reducing Required Private Sector Matching Funding from 50% to 25%. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD700 by a 146-1 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. LD700 “changes the laws governing the Office of the Governor, Industry Partnership Assistance Collaborative's grant program. It changes eligibility requirements for the grant program by reducing the grant program's required private sector matching funding from 50% to 25% and allowing the collaborative discretion to exempt businesses with fewer than 25 employees from the matching funding requirement.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD700, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD700, 2015](#)]

MAINE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM

In 2016, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Created the Maine Capital Investment Program to Provide Loans to Business Development Projects Costing at Least \$50 Million That Were Projected to Create 250 Full-Time Jobs That Pay 125% of Maine’s Average Weekly Wage. In March 2016, LePage allowed LD1480 to become law without his signature after it passed the House without a roll call vote and the Senate by a 33-1 vote. LD1480 “authorizes the Finance Authority of Maine to create the Maine Capital Investment Program to provide loans and bond funding to eligible business development projects that have projected costs of at least \$50,000,000 or that are projected to result in the creation or retention of at least 250 full-time employment positions that pay at least 125% of the state annual average weekly wage.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1480, 2016](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1480, 2016](#)]

- **To Qualify for Funding, Each Business Must Secure a 25% Match From Another Source and Then Re-Award at Least 10% of Their Funding to the Fund Within Five Years of the Project’s Completion.** “Under this program, the authority may issue a direct loan of up to \$50,000,000 or bond funding of up to \$200,000,000 to each eligible business development project. To qualify for a direct loan, the business development project must first secure a match equal to 25% of the loan amount from another funding source. Bonds issued by the authority for the purpose of funding eligible business development projects are not general obligation bonds of the authority, the State or any agency or political subdivision of the State. As a way of replenishing the fund, award

recipients must re-invest an amount equal to 10% of the award into the fund within five years after completion of the project.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1480, 2016](#)]

MAINE ECONOMY UNDER LEPAGE

2013: LePage Tied for Second-Worst Governor for Private Sector Job Creation. “LePage tied for second-from-worst among the 45 governors ranked. Citing figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the publication found that about 10,500 private-sector jobs had been created since LePage took office in January 2011, which works out to an annual growth rate of 0.91 percent, about half the national average of 1.98 percent.” [Bangor Daily News, [7/6/13](#); Business Journals, [6/27/13](#)]

- **Maine Listed as 41st in Job Creation in the US.** As of July 2013 Jobs USA ranked Maine at 41st for nonfarm job creation over the past year in the US, having only a 1.1% increase in job creation. [Job Growth USA, Arizona State University, [7/13](#)]

HEADLINE: Maine Leads List Of The Worst States For Business. At the end of 2012, Forbes reported, “For the third straight year Maine ranks No. 50 in Forbes seventh annual Best States for Business. Maine’s problems run deep. It has the second highest corporate tax burden at 16% above the national average, according to Moody’s Analytics. Energy costs, like the rest of New England, are also sky high at 27% above the U.S. average. The state is burdened with the oldest population in the U.S. with a median age of 42. The numbers tell the story on Maine. Its economy contracted 0.6% a year between 2006 and 2011, versus 0.5% annual growth (net of inflation) for the U.S. as a whole. The five-year projected growth rate of 2.5% is fifth worst in the U.S. The job growth picture is equally anemic, as its 1.4% forecasted rate through 2016 ranks fourth worst among states. Maine has few big businesses headquartered there, including none of the 1,000 largest U.S. companies by sales.” [Forbes.com, [12/12/12](#)]

HEADLINE: Bangor Manufacturer Moving Headquarters To N.H., Citing ‘Less Than Friendly’ Business Environment. “P.A.T. Products, an international distributor of specialty chemicals, plastic and raw materials, has been based in Bangor for 39 years. Leo Coyle, the company’s founder and president, told the Bangor Daily News he is moving the company’s corporate headquarters to the Pease International Tradeport in Portsmouth, N.H., because of that state’s more attractive tax structure... Maine has a ‘far less than friendly business environment, and that’s clear, no matter what our friend Mr. LePage puts out there,’ he said.” [Bangor Daily News, [2/28/13](#)]

Maine Economic Growth Council Found “Cause for Concern” in Maine’s Lack of Research and Development. “Maine has more cause for concern than optimism, according to the Maine Economic Growth Council’s” report, which cited Maine’s relatively low level of research and development funding and that “Gov. Paul LePage’s veto of a \$20 million general obligation bond in May 2012 exacerbates the problem, the report states.” [Bangor Daily News, [3/5/13](#)]

HEADLINE: Maine Remains in the Pits on Job Creation Despite LePage’s Prolonged Focus. The Bangor Daily News reported that though “Between when LePage took office in

January 2011 and May of this year, the state has seen an increase in the ranks of the employed workers of about 13,750, according to seasonally adjusted figures from the Maine Department of Labor... Maine continues to rank near the bottom in various measures of states' business climates. Maine was one of only three states (along with Wisconsin and Wyoming) to lose private-sector jobs between April 2012 and April 2013, according to data released June 14 by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Maine's second-from-last ranking was caused by the loss of 1,500 jobs for a drop of about 0.3 percent, according to the trust." [Bangor Daily News, [7/6/13](#)]

Bangor Daily News: 2018 Maine Department Of Labor Report Projected Net Gain Of Only 100 Jobs By 2026. In August of 2018 the Bangor Daily News detailed "A report released last week by the Maine Department of Labor paints a bleak picture of the state's economic future -- fewer than 100 net jobs will be added by 2026. Most job gains will come in the health care sector while losses will be mainly in the service and manufacturing sector." [Bangor Daily News, 8/8/18]

Bangor Daily News: Maine DoL Reports Indicated Maine Needed To Attract More People To Fill Jobs, Pay Taxes But LePage Has Been "Insulting" To New Mainers. "When it comes to new Mainers, LePage has sometimes been downright insulting. He has blamed immigrants for bringing diseases and the fictional 'ziki fly' to Maine. He called asylum seekers, people fleeing violence and persecution in their homelands the 'biggest problem in our state,' although Maine is home to very few of them. He has also insulted black people and fought against LGBT rights in other states. The Maine Department of Labor report makes clear -- as have countless reports before it -- that Maine needs to attract new residents to fill jobs and pay taxes to support government services." [Bangor Daily News, 8/8/18]

Maine Was Rated Among the Worst States in the Country for Business Under LePage

2010-2018: Maine Ranked Among Worst States for Businesses According to *CNBC's* "Top States for Business" Rankings Which Placed Maine 35th to 46th Under LePage.

Year	Ranking According to <i>CNBC's</i> "Top States for Business"
2010	39th
2011	40th
2012	35th
2013	38th
2014	45th
2015	44th
2016	46th
2017	46th
2018	45th

Bangor Daily News Headline: "Forbes Lists Maine as Worst State for Business, Again." [Bangor Daily News, [12/12/11](#)]

Bangor Daily News Headline: “Study: Maine Is Fifth-Worst State for Business Taxes.”
[[Bangor Daily News, 4/17/12](#)]

WCVB Headline: “Maine Ranked as Worst State for Business: Forbes Gives Maine Last-Place Ranking, Again.” [[WVCB, 12/12/12](#)]

2015: Maine Moved Up to 48th Ranking in *Forbes*’ List of Business-Friendly States After Being Ranked 50th from 2010-2013. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “We’re No. 48! That’s on the Forbes magazine list of business-friendly states. Maine sat at 49th last year after taking 50th place — last among states, for you civic-minded people — from 2010 to 2013.” [[Bangor Daily News, 10/23/15](#)]

NewsCenter Maine Headline: “CNBC Ranks Maine Fifth Worst State for Business.”
[[NewsCenter Maine, 7/12/17](#)]

MaineBiz Headline: “WalletHub’s ‘Best And Worst’ State Economies Puts Maine In Bottom Tier.” [[MaineBiz, 6/5/17](#)]

Mainebiz 2017: “An Analysis Of 2017 ‘Best And Worst State Economies’ By The Personal Finance Website WalletHub Ranks Maine 45th Nationwide.” According to MaineBiz, “An analysis of 2017 ‘best and worst state economies’ by the personal finance website WalletHub ranks Maine 45th nationwide. WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 27 key indicators of economic performance and strength. The data set ranges from GDP growth to startup activity to share of jobs in high-tech industries.” [[MaineBiz, 6/5/17](#)]

Maine’s Economy Lagged Behind its New England Neighbors and National Averages

2010-2015: Maine’s GDP Growth Was “Essentially Even, at 0.3 Percent, Compared to 4.1 Percent Growth in New England and 10 Percent Nationally.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Maine’s GDP growth between 2010 and 2015 was essentially even, at 0.3 percent, compared with 4.1 percent growth in New England and 10 percent nationally.” [[Portland Press Herald, 4/25/17](#)]

2015: “Maine’s Economy Grew by a Sluggish 0.4 Percent [...] Lagging Behind New England’s 1.3 Percent Growth Rate and the Nation’s 2.4 Percent Growth.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine’s economy grew by a sluggish 0.4 percent last year, lagging behind New England’s 1.3 percent growth rate and the nation’s 2.4 percent growth.” [[Bangor Daily News, 6/18/16](#)]

2016: “Maine is Among the States With the Slowest Growing Economies, According to the Latest Report Card from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine is among the states with the slowest growing economies, according to the latest report card from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.” [[Bangor Daily News, 6/18/16](#)]

2016: President of Envision Maine On LePage Economy, “If You Look at the Economic Traction We’ve Had During His Administration, It’s Horrifying [...] Maine is Creating a

Fraction of the Jobs Created Elsewhere. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “‘If you look at the economic traction we’ve had during his administration, it’s horrifying,’ Alan Caron, president of Envision Maine, said. ‘Maine is creating a fraction of the jobs created elsewhere.’” [[Bangor Daily News, 6/18/16](#)]

Associated Press Headline: “Maine Sees Sluggish Economic Growth at End of 2016.” [[Associated Press, 5/11/17](#)]

Q4 2016: Maine Was Ranked 43rd in Economic Growth for Late 2016. According to the Associated Press, “Maine ranks 43rd in the nation in terms of economy growth late last year. The state's economy grew just 0.7 percent in the final three months of 2016. That makes Maine the slowest-growing state in New England, where the average growth rate was 1.9 percent.” [[Associated Press, 5/11/17](#)]

Q4 2016: Maine Was Slowest Growing State in New England. According to the Associated Press, “Maine ranks 43rd in the nation in terms of economy growth late last year. The state's economy grew just 0.7 percent in the final three months of 2016. That makes Maine the slowest-growing state in New England, where the average growth rate was 1.9 percent.” [[Associated Press, 5/11/17](#)]

Maine Public Headline: “Feds: Maine's Economic Growth Accelerates In 3rd Quarter, But Lags In New England.” [[Maine Public, 1/24/18](#)]

2017: Maine GDP “Grew 1.4 Percent, Below the National Growth Rate of 2.1 Percent and the New England Regional Growth Rate of 1.6 Percent.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Last year, the state’s gross domestic product – the measure of the output of goods and services in Maine – grew 1.4 percent, below the national growth rate of 2.1 percent and the New England regional growth rate of 1.6 percent.” [[Portland Press Herald, 7/26/18](#)]

Q1 2018: Maine’s GDP Grew 0.6 Percent, 46th in the Nation. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The federal Bureau of Economic Analysis reported this week that the state’s economy grew at an annual rate of just 0.6 percent in the first three months of this year, 46th in the nation.” [[Portland Press Herald, 7/26/18](#)]

2018: TD Bank Forecasted Maine GDP to Grow 1.8 Percent, Well Below National Forecast of 3 Percent. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “TD Bank forecasts that economic growth in Maine will pick up for the rest of the year and end up by 1.8 percent. But that’s well below the 3 percent growth rate forecast for the rest of the country in 2018, said James Marple, a senior economist for the bank.” [[Portland Press Herald, 7/26/18](#)]

Maine Had One of the Slowest Recoveries in the Nation from the Great Recession

2016: Maine Was One Of 10 States That Had Not Recovered All Jobs Lost During The Great Recession. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine also is among 10 states that haven’t recovered all the jobs they lost during the Great Recession.” [[Bangor Daily News, 6/18/16](#)]

2017: President and CEO of Maine Development Foundation: “There is No Question That Maine’s Economic Recovery Has Generally Been Lower Than the Country and the Region.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “‘There is no question that Maine’s economic recovery has generally been lower than the country and the region,’ said Yellow Light Breen, president and CEO of the Maine Development Foundation.” [[Portland Press Herald, 4/25/17](#)]

2017: Maine Took “Four Times Longer Than Usual” to Recover from Great Recession, Finally Recovering to Pre-Recession Employment Levels in 2017. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The estimate of Maine payroll jobs in January topped 620,000 for the first time since before the Great Recession, a recovery that took four times longer than usual.” [[Bangor Daily News, 3/13/17](#)]

- **Maine’s Recovery to Pre-Recession Employment Levels Came “More Than Two Years After the Nation as a Whole Recovered Jobs Lost During the Great Recession.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The benchmark comes more than two years after the nation as a whole recovered jobs lost during the Great Recession. Research into the recovery has found a steady pattern in recent recessions, in which rural areas are left behind as new business growth becomes increasingly concentrated in urban areas.” [[Bangor Daily News, 3/13/17](#)]
- **It Took Maine an Average of 27 Months to Recover from Previous Six Recessions Compared to 109 Months to Recover from Great Recession of 2007.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The Maine Department of Labor has compared that recovery to past recessions, noting that the previous six recessions took an average of 27 months for payroll jobs to recover. If the latest preliminary payroll job estimates hold, recovery from the Great Recession that started in December 2007 will have taken 109 months.” [[Bangor Daily News, 3/13/17](#)]
- **Bangor Daily News Headline: “After 109 Months, Maine’s Finally Recovered Jobs Lost to the Recession.”** [[Bangor Daily News, 3/13/17](#)]

Maine’s Northern, Rural Areas Suffered Slowest Recovery Under LePage

WGME: Under LePage, Maine’s Rural, More Northern Counties “Struggled To Rebound” From Recession. In 2018, WGME noted that Maine’s economic recovery was most stunted in areas that voted for LePage in greater numbers, noting “many northern and rural portions of Maine have struggled to rebound, and continue to face population losses and unemployment rates well above the state and national averages.” [[WGME, 12/19/18](#)]

2011-2017: Maine’s More Conservative, Rural Second Congressional District Had “Consistently Higher” Unemployment Rate Than Southern Part Of The State. “In Maine’s left-leaning 1st Congressional District — made up of Cumberland, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, York and most of Kennebec county — the average unemployment rate dropped from 7.2 to under 3 percent from 2011 to 2017, the most recent year available, according to state data. During the same period, the unemployment rate in the more conservative, rural 2nd

Congressional District, excluding a small part of Kennebec County, remained consistently higher, falling from 9.5 to 3.9 percent.” [WGME, [12/19/18](#)]

Maine Lost Thousands of Manufacturing Jobs Under LePage

2011-2014: Maine Lost Roughly 1,400 Manufacturing Jobs Under LePage. According to data reported by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Maine’s manufacturing jobs declined from 51,000 statewide to 49,700 between 2011 and 2014. [Bureau Of Labor Statistics, Maine, Manufacturing, Accessed [5/2/21](#)]

Maine Department of Labor Report Forecasted Net Increase of 94 Jobs in Maine from 2016 to 2026. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The Maine Department of Labor’s latest workforce forecast reflects a changing job market in which health care and food service workers will be in high demand in the coming years, while people in office administration and production may have a tough time finding work. And the job fields that are growing at a healthy clip aren’t enough to offset the number of jobs lost in older industries or slower growing job areas. That’s according to a report by the Department of Labor’s Center for Workforce Research and Information looking at job projections for 10 years from 2016 to 2026. In fact, the net job growth over that period is only 94 jobs total, or about nine per year.” [Bangor Daily News, [8/7/18](#)]

2016: LePage Said the State Was On the Verge of Losing Up to 1,500 Manufacturing Jobs. According to WGME, “Now, the governor is saying he knows firsthand, that the state is on the verge of losing as many as 1,500 manufacturing jobs. ‘We’re taking jobs in the 60’s and 70’s and 80-thousand dollars a year,’ LePage said. Governor LePage won’t say exactly where those jobs will be lost, only that they’re coming.” [WGME, [4/20/16](#)]

- **WMTW Headline: “Gov. LePage Increases Prediction of Maine Job Losses.”** [WMTW, [4/20/16](#)]
- **Maine Public Headline: “LePage: Maine to Lose Between 1,200 and 1,500 Jobs This Summer.”** [Maine Public, [4/20/16](#)]
- **2016: LePage Predicted 1,000-1,600 Maine Job Losses During the Summer.** According to Maine Public, “Gov. Paul LePage has upped by hundreds the number of jobs he says will be lost in Maine this summer. LePage made the prediction at one of his ongoing town hall meetings in Biddeford Tuesday night. ‘This summer, we’re going to lose between 1,200 and 1,500 more jobs - not all paper, but some paper and some other industries,’ LePage said. ‘The problem is this: Every single job that we’re talking about are jobs that get paid above the per capita median income of Mainers. We’re talking jobs in the \$60,000, \$70,000 and \$80,000 a year. I find that appalling.’” [Maine Public, [4/20/16](#)]
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PINE TREE DEVELOPMENT ZONE

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Extending The End Date For Pine Tree Development Zone Certification And Benefits. On April 18, 2018, Sara Gideon voted for LD1654. "The Maine Legislature enacted LD1654, amending a corporate income tax statute to extend the end date for the Pine Tree Development Zone certification and benefits by three years." The House passed the bill by a 148-0 vote and the Senate by a 33-0 vote. The bill became law without Gov. LePage's signature. [Maine State Legislature, LD1654, [2018](#); Maine State Legislature, LD1654, Roll Call #632, [4/18/18](#); Bloomberg Tax, [7/10/18](#)]

- **The Law Extended The Sunset Date For The Pine Tree Development Zone From 2028 To 2031.** "Maine lawmakers have enacted a bill to extend the life of a controversial economic development program that has created hundreds of tax havens for businesses in Maine. The Pine Tree Development Zone program was set to expire at the end of this year, but its expiration date has been extended by three years to Dec. 31, 2021, and additional reporting requirements have been added for the estimated 200 businesses that benefit from the program statewide. Under a sunset provision written into the law that created the program, all benefits would have ended in 2028, but that date has been extended to 2031." [Portland Press Herald, [7/9/18](#)]
- **HEADLINE: "Maine Extends Date For Pine Tree Development Zone Benefits."** [Bloomberg Tax, [7/10/18](#)]
- **HEADLINE: "Legislature Extends Pine Tree Development Zone Program By 3 Years."** [Maine Biz, [7/9/18](#)]
- **The Pine Tree Development Program "Provides Qualifying Businesses With Tax Benefits, Including Income Tax Credits And Sales Tax Exemptions On The Purchase Of Business Equipment, In Exchange For The Promise Of New Jobs."** "The underlying law, first put in place under Democratic Gov. John Baldacci, provides qualifying businesses with tax benefits, including income tax credits and sales tax exemptions on the purchase of business equipment, in exchange for the promise of new jobs." [Portland Press Herald, [7/9/18](#)]
- **Maine Biz: "The Pine Tree Development Zone Program Grants 10-Year State Income Tax Credits And Sales Tax Exemptions To Businesses That Create Well-Paying Jobs In Certain Industries."** "Created by the Legislature in 2003, the Pine Tree Development Zone program grants 10-year state income tax credits and sales tax exemptions to businesses that create well-paying jobs in certain industries." [Maine Biz, [7/9/18](#)]

- **2018: It Was Estimated That 200 Businesses Benefitted From The Pine Tree Development Program.** “Maine lawmakers have enacted a bill to extend the life of a controversial economic development program that has created hundreds of tax havens for businesses in Maine. The Pine Tree Development Zone program was set to expire at the end of this year, but its expiration date has been extended by three years to Dec. 31, 2021, and additional reporting requirements have been added for the estimated 200 businesses that benefit from the program statewide. Under a sunset provision written into the law that created the program, all benefits would have ended in 2028, but that date has been extended to 2031.” [Portland Press Herald, [7/9/18](#)]
- **Eligible Industries For The PTDZ Program Were Biotechnology, Aquaculture, Composite Materials, Environmental Technology, Forestry And Agriculture Technology, Manufacturing And Precision Manufacturing, IT, And Financial Services.** “Eligible sectors are: Biotechnology; Aquaculture and Marine Technology; Composite Materials Technology; Environmental Technology; Advanced Technologies for Forestry and Agriculture; Manufacturing and Precision Manufacturing; Information Technology; Financial Services.” [Maine Department of Economic & Community Development, accessed [7/21/20](#)]

RURAL MAINE

***Bangor Daily News*: “LePage Has Maintained Staunch Support in the Northern, Rural Areas of Maine That Have Struggled Economically During His Time in Office.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The divide maps a dynamic that's defined the governor's tenure: LePage has maintained staunch support in the northern, rural areas of Maine that have struggled economically during his time in office, while being deeply unpopular in the southern, urban areas that have prospered.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/19/18]

Northern and Rural Parts of Maine “Have Struggled to Rebound” From the Recession and “Face Population Losses and Unemployment Rates Well Above the State and National Average. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “At the same time, many northern and rural portions of Maine have struggled to rebound, and continue to face population losses and unemployment rates well above the state and national averages.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/19/18]

SMALL BUSINESSES

Paul LePage, In 2011, Supported The Repeal Of A “Law That Allows Cities And Towns To Consider The Economic Impact Of [Big Box And Other] Large-Scale Retail Development In Deciding Whether To Approve Such Projects.” LD 322, in 2011, which was a bill “to scale back or repeal a four-year-old law that allows cities and towns to consider the economic impact of large- scale retail development in deciding whether to approve such projects. Supporters of the Informed Growth Act say it reveals the hidden costs that come with big-box stores, such as local shops going out of business and expenses increasing for municipalities. Those who favor repeal say the law discourages development and competition.” “The bill’s supporters...[included] Gov. Paul LePage , Walmart Stores Inc., the Maine Municipal Association, the Maine State Chamber

of Commerce and groups representing developers and real estate agents.” “The Informed Growth Act requires the developer of any store that’s 75,000 square feet or larger to pay \$40,000 for an independent economic-impact study. The local planning board can use the study as it decides whether to allow the project. For much of the time since the law was adopted in 2007, the recession has inhibited development. The Informed Growth Act...[was] used only once [through 2010], for a Walmart expansion project in Skowhegan. Walmart won approval. No big-box store has ever been rejected because of the law.” (Portland Press Herald, 02/24/11)

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Aimed at Revitalizing Main Streets.

In July 2015, LePage allowed LD1372 to become law without his signature after it passed the Senate without a roll call and the House by a bipartisan 102-44 vote. LD1372 “encourages municipalities to develop policies in the comprehensive planning process that assess community needs and environmental effects of municipal regulations, lessen the effect of excessive parking requirements for buildings in downtowns and on main streets and provide for alternative approaches for compliance relating to the reuse of upper floors of buildings in downtowns and on main streets.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1372, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1372, 2015](#)]

In 2014, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of Bonding Legislation That Provided \$12 Million To Support Small Businesses And Maine’s Rural Economy. In May 2014, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1827 by a 118-28 vote and the Senate overrode it by a 31-4 vote, and the bond became law, going to the voters for approval. According to the text of the bonding legislation, “The proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized under this Act must be expended as designated in the following schedule under the direction and supervision of the agencies and entities set forth in this section. FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE. Provides funds to insure portions of loans to small businesses made by a participating financial institution in order to spur investment and innovation. Total: \$4,000,000. Provides funds for state, regional and local financial intermediaries to make flexible loans to small businesses to create jobs, revitalize downtowns and strengthen the rural economy. Total: \$8,000,000.” [Maine State Legislature, LD1827, Roll Call #787, [5/1/14](#); Maine State Legislature, LD1827 Bill Text, [2014](#)]

- **Bonding Text Read: “Do You Favor A Bond Issue To Provide \$4,000,000 In Funds To Insure Portions Of Loans To Small Businesses To Spur Investment And Innovation And To Provide \$8,000,000 In Funds To Make Flexible Loans To Small Businesses To Create Jobs, Revitalize Downtowns And Strengthen The Rural Economy?”** [Maine State Legislature, LD1827 Bill Text, [2014](#)]
- **Nov. 2014: Maine Voters Approved The Bond With 62.7% Of The Vote.** [New York Times, [2014](#)]
- **The Bonding Referendum “Would Provide \$12 Million In Additional Funding For Two Small-Business Loan Programs.”** “Both houses of the Legislature voted by overwhelming majorities Thursday to override Gov. Paul LePage’s veto of a bond referendum that would provide \$12 million in additional funding for two small-business loan programs.” [Portland Press Herald, [5/1/14](#)]

- **The Bond Included \$4 Million For The Commercial Loan Insurance Program, Which Insures Parts Of Bank Loans Made To Small Businesses.** “The bond proposal will go before voters statewide in November. It calls for an additional \$4 million to insure portions of bank loans made to small businesses under the state’s Commercial Loan Insurance Program, and \$8 million more for the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program. Both programs are administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, a state financing agency.” [Portland Press Herald, [5/1/14](#)]
- **The Bond Included \$8 Million For The Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program, Which Offered Loans To Small Businesses.** “The bond proposal will go before voters statewide in November. It calls for an additional \$4 million to insure portions of bank loans made to small businesses under the state’s Commercial Loan Insurance Program, and \$8 million more for the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program. Both programs are administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, a state financing agency. [...] The Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program offers loans of as much as \$250,000, with terms as long as 20 years, to qualifying small businesses through regional, nonprofit economic development organizations. In a revolving loan program, funds paid back from loans are used to issue new loans.” [Portland Press Herald, [5/1/14](#)]

June 2017: LePage’s Veto Of Law Allowing Sale Of 50-Mililiter Bottles Of Liquor In Maine Over Overridden By Senate, House; LePage’s Proposal Would’ve Impacted 130 Workers In Lewiston. “LePage vowed to seek the ban if the Legislature approved a nickel deposit on the bottles over his opposition. It did. The bureau plans a July 11 hearing to determine whether it should go along with the governor's request to "de-list" the 50-milliliter bottles for sale in Maine, a move that may affect the jobs of some of the 130 workers at a plant in Lewiston that bottles the most popular brand sold in the state. The commission is soliciting comments on the proposed ban so that it can present them to the five members of its board at next month's meeting. The Senate and House each voted to override LePage's veto last week. Three Lewiston-area senators -- Democrat Nate Libby and Republicans Eric Brakey and Garrett Mason -- were among the few who voted to sustain the veto.” [Sun Journal, 6/13/17]

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

CHEMICALS

Bisphenol-A (BPA)

2008: Maine Legislature Passed a Bill Establishing a Process to Banning the Sale of Certain Products Containing BPA. “In 2008, the Maine Legislature passed the so- called Kid Safe Products Act, which establishes a process for the...[state] to ban the sale in Maine of certain products containing chemicals that may pose a risk to children. The bill passed by unanimous vote in the Senate and 129-9 in the House.” BPA is a chemical often found “in children’s sippy cups and other consumer products.” (Bangor Daily News, 02/05/11)

Paul LePage Opposes A Ban On Bisphenol-A (BPA), Even Though There Are “Volumes Of Scientific Studies Indicating That BPA Could Pose Serious Risks To Fetuses And Developing Children.” “Eight states plus Canada and the European Union have approved restrictions on BPA, which critics contend has been linked to learning disabilities, reproductive problems, cancer and obesity. While many manufacturers have begun voluntarily replacing BPA with other chemicals, the chemical industry points to other studies that deemed the compound safe. And the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other federal agencies have not recommended banning or restricting the chemical.” Under a process established under the Kid Safe Products Act, “the Maine Board of Environmental Protection voted unanimously in December [2010] to ban BPA in any new, reusable food and beverage containers – including sippy cups and resealable water bottles.” Paul LePage, in 2011, “released his first package of regulatory reform proposals, including a recommended repeal of the BPA rule that...[had] not yet been formally adopted. Instead, LePage says Maine should rely on federal standards.” “The LePage administration said the BPA rule is one example of Maine regulators needlessly adopting stricter standards than those imposed by other states or the federal government. And while the BPA rule itself may not be scaring away investment, administration officials suggest it is part of the business-unfriendly regulatory approach that LePage argues may discourage business growth.” “Researchers bristled at the governor’s dismissal of what they insist are volumes of scientific studies indicating that BPA could pose serious risks to fetuses and developing children. ‘BPA is one of the most well-studied chemicals, and it is just ludicrous to ignore the science,’ said Susan Shaw, a toxicologist at the Maine Environmental Research Institute who has been studying the effects of toxics on humans and animals for more than three decades. ‘There is a large body of evidence about the hazards of BPA that is irrefutable.’” (Bangor Daily News, 02/05/11)

- **BPA “Has Been Linked To Learning Disabilities, Reproductive Problems, Cancer And Obesity.” It Is Found In “Reusable Food And Beverage Containers – Including Sippy Cups And Resealable Water Bottles,” As Well As Baby Bottles. .** “Eight states plus Canada and the European Union have approved restrictions on BPA, which critics contend has been linked to learning disabilities, reproductive problems, cancer and obesity. It is even found in baby bottles. (Lewiston Sun Journal, 07/06/08; Bangor Daily News, 02/05/11)
- **Paul LePage Said, “‘The Worst Case Is Some Women May...[Grow] Little Beards’” From Exposure To BPA. “Critics Charge That LePage Is Taking Up The Agenda Of Out-Of-State Manufacturers, As No Maine Company Has Stood Up In Opposition” To The State’s BPA Ban.** “LePage said he has yet to see enough science to support a ban on BPA.” He “said until scientists can prove BPA is harmful, the state should not rush to restrict its use.” “LePage then added: ‘The only thing that I’ve heard is if you take a plastic bottle and put it in the microwave and you heat it up, it gives off a chemical similar to estrogen. So the worst case is some women may have little beards.’” (Bangor Daily News, 02/23/11) “Critics charge that LePage is taking up the agenda of out-of-state manufacturers, as no Maine company...stood up in opposition to the [BPA] regulation, according to Mike Belliveau of the Environmental Health Strategy Center.” (Greenwire, 02/24/11) “No Maine business testified against” the ban. “However, it met

stiff resistance from the national chemical industry, including The Dow Chemical Co.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/28/11)

LePage’s 2011 Proposed Environmental Regulatory Reforms Would Have “Restore[d] the Endocrine Disruptor Bisphenol-A to Baby’s Bottles and Sippy Cups.” Ann Robinson is “a trusted advisor to Governor Paul LePage who simultaneously maintains her day job as a corporate lobbyist at Preti Flaherty Beliveau & Pachios.” She “was the author of the governor’s infamous ‘Phase I’ regulatory reform agenda, which sought to roll all of Maine’s environmental laws back to weaker federal standards, restore the endocrine disruptor Bisphenol-A to baby’s bottles and sippy cups, gut product-recycling legislation, and rezone 30 percent of the Maine North Woods for development.” She created this agenda “by cutting and pasting language provided by major North Woods landholders, the producers of many currently recycled products, the pulp and paper industry, and her colleagues at Preti...which represents PhRMA, Medco, Merck, the Toy Industry Association of America, and other interested parties.” (The Portland Phoenix, 09/07/11)

Chemical Safety

Paul LePage, In 2011, Proposed Rolling Back “Statutes Aimed At Keeping Dangerous Chemicals Out Of Our Bodies And Our Landfills.” “Supporters of Gov. Paul LePage see ‘Phase 1 of the Governor’s Regulatory Reform Proposals’ – a seven-page document...that focuses almost exclusively on Maine’s environmental laws and regulations – as a crucial first step in making Maine’s state government more business-friendly.” Among the proposals was one “to require that 30 percent of the unorganized territory...be zoned for development.” These reforms range “from rollbacks of consumer- product safety and recycling statutes aimed at keeping dangerous chemicals out of our bodies and our landfills, to relaxation of protections for vernal pools and wildlife habitats, to elimination of controls on sulfur emissions from fuel oil.” (Portland Press Herald, 01/30/11)

Fertilizers

April 2014: LePage Argued Fertilizers Containing Phosphorus, Nitrogen Were Beneficial To Maine’s Shorelines By Spurring Plant Growth, Prevent Erosion. The Bangor Daily News reported in 2015, “A bill designed to protect Maine lakes by banning the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus or nitrogen near shorelines is headed to Gov. Paul LePage after near-unanimous support in the House and Senate. LePage vetoed a bill with similar setbacks last year when it was sponsored by Democratic Rep. Jeff McCabe of Skowhegan. [...] LePage argued in his veto letter last April that setback restrictions similar to those outlined in Chipman’s bill would provide an undue enforcement responsibility on officers from the Department of Environmental Protection, which he suggested would require patrols on every shoreline in Maine. LePage also said fertilizers can spur shoreline plant growth that helps prevent erosion.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/30/15]

Lead Poisoning

Headline: “LePage Vetoes Funding for Lead Program.” [Sun Journal, 7/2/18]

After LePage Vetoed \$4 Million for Lead Abatement Programs, House Assistant Majority Leader Jared Golden Said LePage's Veto Threatened to Put Maine Children in Harm's Way. According to the *Sun Journal*, "As part of his effort to undermine a minimum wage hike approved by Maine voters in 2016, Gov. Paul LePage vetoed a spending bill Monday that includes \$4 million for a lead abatement program aimed at alleviating a serious public health issue in Lewiston and Auburn. Lewiston and Auburn are considered among the places in Maine with the biggest lead problems. In his veto message, LePage did not mention the program specifically, insisting he did not want to get into 'a debate about the details' of the bill. His focus was on trying to get lawmakers to slow the scheduled increase in the minimum wage with a veto of a \$41.6 million spending plan that includes a number of items LePage endorsed. The veto drew a strong rebuke from Rep. Jared Golden, D-Lewiston, the assistant majority leader in the House and his party's candidate for the 2nd District U.S. House seat this year. 'Lawmakers took an overwhelming bipartisan vote to protect Maine kids, but the governor's veto threatens to put more young people in harm's way,' Golden said in a prepared statement." [*Sun Journal*, 7/2/18]

CMP/IBERDROLA

Headline: "LePage Visits Spain to Meet CMP Owner; The Governor's Press Secretary Says the Secret Trip Was to Discuss 'Ways to Lower Energy Costs for Maine Ratepayers.'" [*Portland Press Herald*, 10/23/18]

Headline: "LePage Made Secret Trip to Spain Last Week to Meet With CMP's Owners." [*Sun Journal*, 10/22/18]

In 2018, LePage Flew to Spain to Meet with Leaders of Iberdrola, the Parent Company of Central Maine Power (CMP). According to the *Kennebec Journal*, "Before heading to Iceland for a session of the Arctic Circle Assembly last week, Gov. Paul LePage flew to Spain to meet with leaders of the company that owns Central Maine Power. Julie Rabinowitz, his press secretary, confirmed Monday that LePage met with Iberdrola last Tuesday. Rabinowitz said that LePage and Iberdrola executives 'discussed ways to lower energy costs for Maine ratepayers, which has remained a priority for the governor since taking office.'" [*Kennebec Journal*, 10/23/18]

- **The Governor's Office "Provided No Information on Who Paid for the Governor's Travel."** According to the *Kennebec Journal*, "LePage's office disclosed Thursday that the governor was leading a delegation to the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland. It made no mention of an earlier stop in Spain. It provided no information on who paid for the governor's travel." [*Kennebec Journal*, 10/23/18]

CMP Corridor

Headline: "LePage Vows to Push Through \$950M Project to Send Quebec Hydropower Through Maine." [*Bangor Daily News*, 2/16/18]

CONSERVATION, GENERALLY

Paul LePage, In 2011, Called Conservation “A Ponzi Scheme.” “‘Conservation is just another word for a Ponzi scheme in many respects,’ he said in an interview. ‘What I mean by that, it is not that conservation is bad, conservation is very, very good if you do it properly.’” (Kennebec Journal, 12/09/11)

- **When Paul LePage Ran Marden’s Surplus & Salvage It Took Thousands Of Dollars From The State In Energy Conservation Cash Subsidies.** “Governor LePage worked for the Marden family as the GM of Marden’s [Surplus & Salvage] from 1996 through 2010. He never did, and does not now, own any part of the company.” (<http://mardens.com/index.php/about/faq>) “Through the Efficiency Maine Program, Marden’s purchased new, high efficiency HVAC units for the Ellsworth store and received a \$10,090 cash incentive.” “Marden’s Discount made energy efficient upgrades at two of its other retail stores as well. In Biddeford, a lighting installation resulted in a \$4,590 cash incentive and Marden’s received a \$35,320 cash incentive check for completing a major lighting renovation involving 1,200 fixtures at its two Calais locations. These projects brought the retailer’s total of Efficiency Maine cash incentives to \$50,000” in 2004. (Efficiency Maine, Press Release, 11/10/04) Maine Public Utilities Commissioner Kurt Adams, in 2007, presented “Marden’s in Madawaska with a rebate check for \$15,945 from the Efficiency Maine program for new lighting installed” in a store. (Efficiency Maine, Press Release, 04/18/07)

EFFICIENCY MAINE

In 2015, the House and Senate Both Unanimously Overrode Governor LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Restored \$38 Million Energy Efficiency Funding To The Efficiency Maine Trust After A Typo In An Energy Bill Cut The Funding. In June 2015, the House and Senate overrode Governor LePage’s veto of LD1215 unanimously. “LD 1215 (2015) Energy Efficiency Funding Replaced: ‘AND.’ [...] The Legislature restored energy efficiency funding to the Efficiency Maine Trust. In March, the Public Utilities Commission slashed \$38 million from energy efficiency programs. The funding cut was the result of a clerical error in the omnibus energy bill of 2013 – the word ‘AND’ had been erroneously omitted. Rep. Gideon sponsored a bill to fix the error and restore the energy efficiency funding.” [Maine Conservation Voters, 2016 Legislative Scorecard, [2016](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1215, Roll Call #387, [6/23/15](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 1215, [6/23/15](#); Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, Summaries of Bills, LD 1215, [August 2015](#)]

- **The Bill To Re-Insert The Word “And” Received “Strong Support From Conservation Groups, Energy-Efficiency Contractors And Several Business Owners” and Republican State Senator Roger Katz.** “The first proposal - to simply re-insert the word ‘and’ in the law - received strong support from conservation groups, energy-efficiency contractors and several business owners. Sponsored by Democratic Rep. Sara Gideon of Freeport, L.D. 1215 had clear bipartisan support on the committee. ‘This is the simplest bill you will hear all year,’ said Sen. Roger Katz, R-Augusta, a co-sponsor.” [Energy Monitor, 4/23/15]

- **2014: Efficiency Maine Helped Homeowners Buy 2.5 Million Low-Energy Light Bulbs And Helped 3,000 Businesses Reduce Their Electricity Costs Through Rebates Or Subsidies.** “The 2-1 vote by the PUC means less money will be available for a program that homeowners used to buy 2.5 million discounted low-energy light bulbs last year and that 3,000 businesses used to reduce their electricity costs with rebates or subsidies for a wide range of energy-saving improvements.” [Kennebec Journal, 3/19/15]
- **Natural Resources Council Of Maine’s Dylan Voorhees Said That If The Funding Error For Efficiency Maine Was Not Fixed, Maine Consumers Would Pay \$250 Million More On Their Energy Bills Over Three Years.** “Environmentalists and business owners called on lawmakers Monday to swiftly fix an error in a bill that caused state regulators to limit funding for programs designed to lower consumers' energy bills. [...] If the decision isn't reversed, consumers will pay \$250 million more on their energy bills over three years, said Dylan Voorhees of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. His organization plans to file a motion urging regulators to reconsider their decision, but is also asking lawmakers to pass a bill to fix the problem.” [Associated Press, 3/30/15]

EPA

Paul Lepage Thinks The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Should Be Shut Down. Paul LePage, in 2009, said in an interview, “I think the Department of Energy should be shut down, and, quite frankly, I think the EPA should be shut down.” (Aroostook Watchmen, 11/24/09, <http://recordings.talkshoe.com/TC-52956/TS-294701.mp3>, Minutes 48 and 49)

Paul Lepage Does Not Think “The Department Of Environmental Protection Should...Regulate Air, Land And Water In The State.” Paul LePage, in 2010, “said the Department of Environmental Protection should not regulate air, land and water in the state. That responsibility should rest with the Department of Agriculture, he said.” (Kennebec Journal, 09/01/10)

ETHANOL

Paul Lepage Believes The United States Should “Eliminate Subsidies For Producing Ethanol From Corn.” Paul LePage, in 2008, wrote, the United States should “eliminate subsidies for producing ethanol from corn and get back to growing corn for food. We can substitute grass as effectively as corn for producing ethanol.” (Kennebec Journal, 06/24/08)

GLOBAL WARMING & CLIMATE CHANGE

Global Warming Could Have A Major Impact On Maine’s Coastal Economy, But Paul Lepage Thinks Global Warming Is A Hoax. In 2010, “students asked LePage if he thinks global warming is a myth, and whether he would reject funding from the federal government and in turn affect federal support of university research. On global warming, LePage responded, ‘I just don’t know how severe it is, and I’m not sure how much we as human beings contribute to

it.' He said, 'scientists are divided on it.' Previously, on a radio show, LePage said 'exactly' after the host said global warming is a 'hoax' based on 'lying science.'" (Portland Press Herald, 10/06/10)

When Paul LePage Was Mayor Of Waterville He “Signed The U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement,” Which “Pledges Cities To Slash Emissions.” Ironically, when Paul LePage was mayor of Waterville he “signed the U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement,” which “pledges cities to slash emissions 7 percent below 1990 levels to 2012.” (ClimateWire, 06/10/10, and www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/list.asp)

LePage Said Scientists Were Divided on Global Warming, that it was Based on “Lying Science.” When asked at a University of Maine event if he thought global warming was a myth, LePage responded, “I just don't know how severe it is, and I'm not sure how much we as human beings contribute to it... Scientists are divided on it.” The Portland Press Herald reported that “on a radio show, LePage said ‘Exactly’ after the host said global warming is a ‘hoax’ based on ‘lying science.’” [Portland Press Herald, 10/6/10]

Portland Press Herald Writer Mary Pols: LePage “Put A Halt” To Efforts To Develop Climate Change Adaptation Plan. “In interviews this month, we asked them whether they believe in climate change, a question so basic that it caused some to do a double take. ‘Is that the question?’ one said, eyebrows raised. It's relevant because Gov. Paul LePage was elected in 2010 as a climate change skeptic, scoffing at ‘Al Gore science’ during a debate, and he almost immediately put a halt to the state's efforts to develop a climate change adaptation plan that had begun under Gov. John Baldacci in 2009.” [Press Herald—Mary Pols, 10/14/18]

HOME HEATING OIL

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill That Allowed Home Heating Oil Delivery Drivers to Bleed Residential Home Heating Oil Burners as Long as the Driver Had Completed Training in Bleeding Oil Burners. In June 2015, the House voted to override LePage’s veto of LD294 by a 139-7 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. LD294 “provides that a home heating oil delivery driver may bleed a residential home heating oil burner without direct supervision if the driver has documentation of completion of a training course in bleeding oil burners that has been approved by the Maine Fuel Board.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD294, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD294, 2015](#)]

LAND FOR MAINE’S FUTURE

2012: Maine Forests and Farms “Could be in Jeopardy” Over LePage Bond Refusal. The Maine Public Broadcasting Network reported, “As many as two dozen working forests, working farms and outdoor recreation projects around the state could be in jeopardy even though they were approved for funding last year by the Land for Maine's Future Program, with the advice and consent of the LePage administration. In June, the governor announced that the state would not borrow any more money until at least 2014. And he has not backed away from that position, even though just last month Maine voters authorized another \$5 million land conservation bond.” [MPBN, [12/3/12](#)]

- **Land for Maine's Future Faced \$2 Million Gap.** "Land for Maine's Future, which has conserved more than 445,000 acres statewide since its start in 1987, has pledged about \$6.95 million to help land trusts and other partners close deals on 18 parcels that will be set aside for conservation, recreation and sustainable forestry, and another parcel to be set aside for farming. The program, however, only has \$4.66 million on hand. Program officials thought they would have access by now to about \$7 million in bond funding voters approved for the program in November 2010." [Bangor Daily News, [11/23/12](#)]

In 2016, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Reauthorizing \$6.5 Million In Voter-Approved Land For Maine's Future Bonds For 5 More Years After He Had Let Them Expire.

In 2016, LePage allowed LD1454 to become law without his signature. According to a press release from the Maine Senate Democrats, "The Maine Senate on Thursday voted unanimously to reauthorize \$6.5 million in voter-approved conservation bonds that will fund Land for Maine's Future projects across the state. The Senate vote followed a unanimous vote in the House of Representatives on Tuesday. The bonds were approved at the ballot box in 2010, but were allowed to expire last year after Gov. Paul LePage refused to issue them, a move that jeopardized efforts to protect farmlands, forests, wildlife habitat and working waterfronts in Maine." LD1454 "extends by five years the period for issuing the balance of bonds for land conservation purposes that were authorized by voters at a statewide election held in November 2010." The House adopted the amendments by a 147-0 vote. The Senate concurred on 1/14/16. The House finally passed the bill on 1/19/16 and the Senate on 1/21/16 by a 34-0 vote and the bill became law without Governor LePage's signature on 2/3/16. [Press Release, Maine Senate Democrats, [1/14/16](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1454, [2/3/16](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1454, Roll Call #466, [1/12/16](#); [Summaries of Bills, LD1454, 2016](#)]

- **The Bill "Would Force LePage to Release All LMF Bonds."** In December of 2015, the Bangor Daily News reported, "Earlier this year, Republican Sen. Roger Katz of Augusta proposed a bill, LD 1378, that would bar governors from withholding voter-approved bonds. It was passed but vetoed by Gov. LePage, and the Maine House of Representatives fell six votes short of overriding it. After this, lawmakers approved an amended bill, LD 1454, authored by McCabe that would force LePage to release all LMF bonds. This January, LePage is expected to veto this bill. It will then bounce back to the Legislature, where it will need to be approved by the two-thirds of both the House and Senate to be passed into law." [Bangor Daily News, 12/4/15]

January 2016: LePage Refused To Sign Bill Reviving \$6.5 Million Bonds To Support Land For Maine's Future Program; Bill Was Passed Unanimously By Senate, Majority Of Maine Voters. "A frequent critic of the land conservation program whose political maneuvering led to the bonds' expiration, LePage acknowledged Thursday that he lacked the votes to sustain a veto but indicated he would allow the bill to become law without his signature. 'I'm not going to sign it, absolutely not,' LePage said on the Maine Public Broadcasting Network's 'Maine Calling' program. 'It will go into law without signature.' Program supporters cheered the movement on bonds after months of uncertainty. 'Why it's important to me is it ensures this land will be available now and into the future for our children, our grandchildren and future Mainers,' said

Sen. Tom Saviello, R- Wilton. [...] Maine voters approved the \$6.5 million in bonds for the Land for Maine's Future program in November 2010.” [Press Herald, 1/22/16]

January 2017: LePage Nominated Former GOP Legislator To Post On Land For Maine’s Future Board Who Previously Voted To Defund The Conservation Program. “We’re struggling to find a good-faith explanation for Gov. Paul LePage’s latest nominee to the Land for Maine’s Future board: Michael Timmons, a former Republican legislator who voted in 2015 to sustain the governor’s veto of a bill to fund the conservation program. The nomination is a blatant effort by LePage to disrupt the board’s important work, and the Maine Senate shouldn’t support it. Founded in 1987, Land for Maine’s Future has helped conserve over 500,000 acres of working forest, farmland and commercial waterfront across the state. Nonprofits across the ideological spectrum, from environmental groups to hunting and fishing organizations, are advocates for the program, and Maine voters have never rejected proposals to fund LMF conservation projects.” [Morning Sentinel—Editorial, 1/20/17]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Headline: “Land Program Works Best When Used Broadly; Gov. LePage’s Narrow View About Land Conservation Should Not Trump State Law.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 4/2/17](#)]

LePage Released Funding to Protect the Big Six Forest, Which Contained What Might Be America’s Biggest Sugarbush With 340,000 Taps – the Land’s Owner Was Paul Fortin, a LePage Donor. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The proposal in question was to protect the Big Six Forest, a 23,600-acre property that contains the head of the St. John River along the Quebec border and may have America’s biggest sugarbush with 340,000 taps that in 2013 yielded 24 percent of Maine’s maple sugar production and 3.4 percent of the national output. Its owner, Paul Fortin, was also a LePage donor. While LePage’s office couched support for the project as consistent with his jobs-minded approach, a land trust official said it shows how the governor has favored rural conservation over more accessible projects near population centers.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/24/18]

MAINE PUBLIC ADVOCATE OFFICE

Paul Lepage Slashed The Staff In The Office That Fights “For The Lowest Feasible Level Of [Utility] Rates” By More Than 14 Percent. The job of Maine’s Public Advocate “is to represent the interests of Maine ratepayers in proceedings before the Maine Public Utilities Commission, including issues regarding electricity and natural gas prices. The Office of the Public Advocate also supports Maine residents on matters related to telecommunications, including accessibility to broadband Internet service.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 04/02/13) “The Public Advocate Office’s primary responsibility is to represent the interests of Maine residential users of utility service.” It argues “for the lowest feasible level of rates and for the delay of increases when supported by adequate evidence, consistent with a high level of service quality.” (www.maine.gov/meopa/about) A “bill introduced by the governor would eliminate a position in the Office of the Public Advocate,” thereby reducing “the staff at the Office of the Public Advocate from seven to six,” and “reduce assessments on utilities,” thereby giving utilities a tax break. (Lewiston Sun Journal, 03/15/12)

MINING

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of Legislation That Banned Open Pit Mining in Maine. In June 2017, the Senate overrode LePage’s veto of LD820 by a 35-0 vote and the House overrode his veto by a 122-21 vote. “The Maine Senate has passed a bipartisan metal mining bill that would ban open pit mines and wastewater impoundments, although some environmental advocates fear it does not go far enough. LD 820, An Act To Protect Maine’s Clean Water and Taxpayers from Mining Pollution, passed in the Senate Tuesday morning by a vote of 34-0.” [State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 820, [6/7/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 820, Roll Call #269, [6/7/17](#); [Bangor Daily News](#), [5/9/17](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Maine Lawmakers Ban Open-Pit Mining, Approve Restrictions.”** [Bloomberg Law, [6/8/17](#)]
- **Headline: “Maine Senate Unanimously Votes to Ban Open-Pit Mining.”** [[Bangor Daily News](#), [5/9/17](#)]
- **The Legislation Prohibited Open-Pit Mining And Wet Mine Tailings Impoundments.** LD 820 “requires the use of dry stack tailings management and prohibits the use of wet mine waste units or tailings impoundments for the management of mine waste and tailings. 9. It prohibits open-pit mining.” [Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Summaries of Bills, LD 820, [August 2017](#)]
- **Supporters of the Bill Said it Was “the Strongest Metal Mining Law in the Country.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “LD 820, which now heads to the Maine House, would amend the controversial 2012 law with provisions banning open pit mines, large wastewater impoundments and mining on public lands, along with a host of other limits and requirements that backers say would make it the strongest metal mining law in the country.” [[Bangor Daily News](#), [5/9/17](#)]
- **Open Pit Mining Was “the Most Polluting Form of Mining in Our Country.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Carson noted that the bill would ban open pit mining, ‘the most polluting form of mining in our country,’ and the kinds of wastewater impoundments that have failed and led to environmental disasters in others parts of North America and around the world.” [[Bangor Daily News](#), [5/9/17](#)]
- **The Bill Prohibited the Use of Wet Mine Waste, Requiring “Dry Waste Management” Instead, Preventing Water Buildup and Runoff of Acid Mine Drainage.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The bill would prohibit the use of wet mine waste, a source of acid mine drainage and other naturally occurring contaminants, and instead require ‘dry waste management’ where waste rock is stored in lined structures that prevent water buildup and runoff.” [[Bangor Daily News](#), [5/9/17](#)]
- **The Bill Required Companies That Wanted to Develop a Mine in Maine to Post “Sufficient Cash ‘to Cover the Cost in the Event of an Accident or Spill of a Worst-**

Case Accident or Spill.;” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “A company that wants to apply to develop a metal mine in Maine would have to post sufficient cash ‘to cover the cost in the event of an accident or spill of a worst-case accident or spill,’ as determined by an independent third party, Carson said.” [[Bangor Daily News, 5/9/17](#)]

- **The Law Was “The Strongest Metal Mining Law In The Country.”** “LD 820, which now heads to the Maine House, would amend the controversial 2012 law with provisions banning open pit mines, large wastewater impoundments and mining on public lands, along with a host of other limits and requirements that backers say would make it the strongest metal mining law in the country.” [Bangor Daily News, [5/9/17](#)]
- **Natural Resources Council Of Maine Scientist: Mining Regulations Bill Supported By “Democrats And Republicans” Crucial To Protect “Citizens And Environment From Mining Pollution.”** “Many of the state's environmental organizations, including the Natural Resources Council of Maine and Trout Unlimited, were heavily involved in developing the language that went into L.D. 820. ‘The bill sets a new standard that could serve as a model for any state interested in protecting their citizens and environment from mining pollution,’ Nick Bennett, a staff scientist at NRCM who helped craft the bill, said in a statement. ‘We are delighted that both Republicans and Democrats voted with such overwhelming margins to ensure that this protective bill will become law despite the governor's objections.’” [Press Herald, 6/8/17]

In 2014 and 2015, Canada-Based Irving Corporation Pushed for Weakening the Mining Rules in Maine Because it Wanted to Open a 400-Acre Open-Pit Mine at Bald Mountain in Aroostook County. According to the Natural Resources Council of Maine, “Governor LePage is angry with the Legislature, and with NRCM, because strong bipartisan majorities defeated his proposal to weaken Maine’s mining rules in 2014 and 2015. Canada-based Irving Corporation pushed these rules so it could pursue a 400-acre open-pit mine at Bald Mountain in Aroostook County. This mine would result in so much pollution that Irving sought weaker regulations.” [[Natural Resources Council of Maine, 2016](#)]

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Paul LePage Supports The “Development Of A Nuclear Power Plant” In Maine.

Paul LePage, in 2010, said he “would support development of a nuclear power plant” in Maine. (Kennebec Journal, 01/21/10)

OIL/GAS

Maine Coastal and Inland Oil Clean-Up Fund

In 2013, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Imposing A Tax Of \$0.03 Per Barrel Of Crude Oil On Individuals Transporting Crude Oil By Rail Or Truck To Benefit the Maine Coastal and Inland Oil Clean-Up Fund. In 2013, LePage allowed LD1340 to become law without his signature. LD 1340 “amends the laws governing the Maine Coastal and Inland Surface Oil Clean-up Fund to require a person transporting crude oil by rail or highway to

pay an assessment of 3 cents per barrel of crude oil being transported; currently, the assessment is imposed only on a person transporting refined oil.” The House finally passed the bill as amended on 6/10/13 by a 92-45 vote. The Senate passed the bill on 6/11/13 and the bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Summaries of Bills, LD 1340, [July 2013](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1340, [6/25/13](#)]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Streamlining and Stabilizing Funding for Two Oil Spill Clean-Ups Funds. In July 2015, LePage allowed LD1303 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD1303 “combines current provisions of law related to the Ground Water Oil Clean-up Fund and the Maine Coastal and Inland Surface Oil Clean-up Fund. It streamlines administration of oil clean-up funds and stabilizes funding for clean-up activities. It improves government administration by combining two boards with expertise in oil spill prevention and cleanup and responsibility for fund oversight into one, and it streamlines fee requirements from two separate amounts for each product type into one.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1303, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1303, 2015](#)]

Offshore Drilling

Paul LePage Supports Drilling For Oil And Gas In “The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge And The Atlantic And Pacific.” Paul LePage, in 2011, said, “‘in the short term conservation will help minimize costs, but it is only a small portion of the solution.’ LePage said he urges President Barack Obama to look for immediate alternatives, including oil and gas exploration and production in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, portions of the Rocky Mountains, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Atlantic and Pacific.” (The Associated Press State & Local Wire, 04/23/11)

LePage Implied That He Specifically Supports “Drilling Off The Coast Of Maine.” “As for the state’s future energy needs, LePage has nothing good to say about the Public Utilities Commission” (PUC). “‘We’re paying an exorbitant amount for electricity by design. The PUC sets the rates. They fought drilling off the coast of Maine, they fight cheap hydro power from Canada, they fight nuclear power,’ he said.” (Seacoastonline.com, 04/22/10) “In a debate on energy policy Sept. 23 [2010] at the University of Southern Maine, LePage said he would ‘never say never’ to the idea of offshore drilling in state waters.” (Portland Press Herald, 10/07/10)

Press Herald Columnist Greg Kesich: LePage Was “Only Governor On The Eastern Seaboard” To “Welcome Offshore Drilling For Oil And Gas” Despite Fishing, Tourism Objections. “LePage assured members of Congress that the land was not worth taking, not even for free. Visitors to Maine only go to the coast, he explained. ‘Very few will be in the mosquito area.’ But don’t think that means that LePage himself is fond of the coast. He was the only governor on the Eastern Seaboard to say he would welcome offshore drilling for oil and gas, over the objections of the fishing and tourism industries.” [Portland Press Herald—Greg Kesich, 11/11/18]

Headline: “Governor Isolated in Support for Oil Drilling; LePage Bucks Leaders of Other Coastal States and Maine’s Own Delegation in Backing a Trump Plan to Open Federal Waters.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 1/14/18]

***Portland Press Herald*: LePage, “Alone Among the Governors of the 16 Contiguous States Potentially Affected by the Trump Administration’s Plan, Has Lobbied to Have Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration Leases Allowed Almost Everywhere.”** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “But Gov. Paul LePage, alone among the governors of the 16 contiguous states potentially affected by the Trump administration's plan, has lobbied to have offshore oil and gas exploration leases allowed almost everywhere, a position that will likely undermine the congressional delegation's effort to remove areas offshore from Maine from consideration.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 1/14/18]

OMNIBUS ENERGY BILL

In 2013, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Expanded Natural Gas Pipelines, Increased Funding For Energy Efficiency Efforts, And Funded Affordable Heating Systems For Low-Income Maine Families. In June 2013, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1559 by a 121-11 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. “The bill, L.D. 1559, the Omnibus Energy Bill, incorporates ideas from at least nine separate bills and would encourage the expansion of natural-gas pipelines into New England, increase funding for energy-efficiency efforts and provide financial assistance to help low-income families switch to more affordable heating systems.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 6/7/13; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1559, Roll Call #397, [6/20/13](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1559, [6/26/13](#)]

LD 1559 Was An Omnibus Bill That Incorporated Energy Ideas From At Least Nine Other Bills. “The bill, L.D. 1559, the Omnibus Energy Bill, incorporates ideas from at least nine separate bills and would encourage the expansion of natural-gas pipelines into New England, increase funding for energy-efficiency efforts and provide financial assistance to help low-income families switch to more affordable heating systems.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 6/7/13]

LD 1559 “Encourage[d] The Spread Of Natural Gas Infrastructure, Fund[ed] Energy Efficiency Projects And Allocate[d] Money For Heating System Conversions.” “Also hanging in the political balance is an energy bill that has already distinguished itself for proving veto-proof in the House by a vote of 121-11. LD 1559, which encourages the spread of natural gas infrastructure, funds energy efficiency projects and allocates money for heating system conversions, faces a deciding override vote Wednesday in the Senate, which previously supported it 28-7.” [*Sun Journal*, 6/26/13]

Republican House Minority Leader Kenneth Fredette On LD 1559: “This Bill Will Reduce The Cost Of Energy In Maine By At Least \$200 Million A Year. It Will Help Protect Jobs In Our Bills, Keep People Employed And Allow For Future Economic Development In The State Of Maine.” “‘This bill will reduce the cost of energy in Maine by at least \$200 million a year,’ said House Minority Leader Kenneth Fredette, R-Newport, on the House floor. ‘It will help protect jobs in our bills, keep people employed and allow for future economic development

in the state of Maine.’ The Legislature passed the omnibus energy bill, L.D. 1559, earlier this month by wide margins in both the House and Senate.” [Kennebec Journal, 6/21/13]

Governor LePage Opposed The Bill Because It Did Not Reduce Maine’s Wind Power Goals Or Lift The Cap On Renewable Generators. “The bill, L.D. 1559, the Omnibus Energy Bill, incorporates ideas from at least nine separate bills and would encourage the expansion of natural-gas pipelines into New England, increase funding for energy-efficiency efforts and provide financial assistance to help low-income families switch to more affordable heating systems. LePage said he doesn't like the bill because it does not scale back the state's ambitious wind power goals, and it doesn't lift the cap on renewable generators, an action that he believes would open the door to cheaper hydro power from Quebec.” [Portland Press Herald, 6/7/13]

POLLUTION & LITTER

Paul Lepage, In 2011, Proposed “Replacing Many Of Maine’s Air And Water Pollution Standards With Less- Stringent...Standards.” Paul LePage, in 2011, proposed “replacing the Board of Environmental Protection with a judiciary system; replacing many of Maine’s air and water pollution standards with less-stringent federal standards; and opening up 30 percent of the state’s Unorganized Territory for development.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/28/11)

Paul Lepage, In 2011, Proposed Weakening Pollution Laws So That In Many Cases Taxpayers Would Be Forced To Pay Cleanup Costs Instead Of Polluters. “Paul LePage’s initial regulatory reform package” included a proposal to “establish a five-year statute of limitations on environmental violations. The clock would start at the time of the violation, as opposed to the discovery of the violation, as in federal law. That would establish a system that punishes taxpayers rather than lawbreakers, because the state would be left to pay cleanup costs if violators made it through five years undiscovered, said Sean Mahoney, Maine director of the Conservation Law Foundation.” (Kennebec Journal, 03/02/11)

Under LePage, Maine Lost \$450,000 in EPA Pollution Prevention Funding.

GRANT/FEDERAL FUNDS LOST	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES FUNDED	YEAR FUNDING STOPPED	STATE MATCH REQUIRED TO ACCESS FEDERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS DOLLAR AMOUNT LOST CUMULATIVE 2011-2017*	FEDERAL FUNDS MONEY UNSPENT CUMULATIVE 2011-2017	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS LOST TO MAINE 2011-2017
EPA Pollution Prevention ¹⁰¹	pollution prevention technical assistance services and/or training for businesses	2012	50%	\$ 450,000		\$ 450,000

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

- **Maine Had Been Receiving the EPA Pollution Grant for a Decade, Since 2002.** According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Maine had been receiving this grant a decade, 2002-2011. Funding to Maine stopped, while continuing to be awarded to others states. MECEP research of grant awards available at: <https://www.epa.gov/p2/grant-programs-pollution-prevention>. MECEP used a 10-year average of funds received previously to estimate funds lost during the time period covered in this report.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill That Excluded from the Sales Tax Any Charge for a Paper or Plastic Carry-Out Bag. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD590 by a 102-38 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. LD590 “excludes from sales tax any amount charged for a paper or plastic carry-out bag.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD590, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD590, 2015](#)]

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation Making Small “Nip” Liquor Bottles Subject To A \$0.05 Refund If Returned. In June 2017, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD56 by a 114-31 vote and the Senate overrode it by a 29-6 vote. LD 56 provided that “50 milliliter and smaller wine or spirits bottles are included in the laws governing returnable containers and are subject to a refund value of not more than 5 cents.” The House and Senate passed the legislation on 5/18/17 and 5/23/17, respectively, and Governor LePage vetoed the legislation. [Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Summaries of Bills, LD 56, [August 2017](#); Maine State Legislature, LD 56, Roll Call #235, [6/6/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 56, [6/7/17](#)]

- **Maine Conservation Voters: “Maine Has One Of The Strongest Bottle Bills In The Country, And As A Result Of LD 56, It Is Even Stronger.”** “Maine has one of the strongest bottle bills in the country, and as a result of LD 56, it is even stronger. On January 1, 2019, a deposit of five cents will be charged for every ‘nip’ liquor bottle in an effort to reduce litter.” [Maine Conservation Voters, Legislative Scorecard, [2018](#)]
- **Maine Conservation Voters: Thanks To The Legislation, “A Deposit Of Five Cents Will Be Charged For Every ‘Nip’ Liquor Bottle In An Effort To Reduce Litter.”** “Maine has one of the strongest bottle bills in the country, and as a result of LD 56, it is even stronger. On January 1, 2019, a deposit of five cents will be charged for every ‘nip’ liquor bottle in an effort to reduce litter.” [Maine Conservation Voters, Legislative Scorecard, [2018](#)]

LePage’s 2011 Proposed Environmental Regulatory Reforms Would Have “Gut[ted] Product Recycling Legislation.” Ann Robinson is “a trusted advisor to Governor Paul LePage who simultaneously maintains her day job as a corporate lobbyist at Preti Flaherty Beliveau & Pachios.” She “was the author of the governor’s infamous ‘Phase I’ regulatory reform agenda, which sought to roll all of Maine’s environmental laws back to weaker federal standards, restore the endocrine disruptor Bisphenol-A to baby’s bottles and sippy cups, gut product-recycling legislation, and rezone 30 percent of the Maine North Woods for development.” She created this agenda “by cutting and pasting language provided by major North Woods landholders, the producers of many currently recycled products, the pulp and paper industry, and her colleagues at Preti...which represents PhRMA, Medco, Merck, the Toy Industry Association of America, and other interested parties.” (The Portland Phoenix, 09/07/11)

PUBLIC LANDS

In July 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation Enacting Recommendations For Improving Access To Public Reserved Lands,

Prioritizing Recreation Infrastructure Projects, And Clarifying How Timber Harvest Revenues Should Be Used. In July 2017, the Senate overrode Governor LePage’s veto of LD586 by a 29-2 vote and the House overrode Governor LePage’s veto by a 97-40 vote. “Public Reserved Lands Commission Recommendations Become Law (2017). LD 586: An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund. Sponsored by Sen. Tom Saviello. Public Reserved Lands are managed for a variety of resources including outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat conservation, and commercial timber harvesting. In 2015, a study commission developed a set of recommendations for improving access, prioritizing recreation infrastructure projects, and clarifying that timber harvest revenue should be used by the Bureau of Parks and Lands for stewardship and management. The bill was enacted, vetoed, and failed on the override vote in 2016.” [Maine Conservation Voters, Legislative Scorecard, [2018](#); Maine State Legislature, LD 586, Roll Call #431, [7/20/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 586, [7/20/17](#)]

The Bill Included Public Reporting On Forest Growth And Harvest Level, A Logger Education Program, And Infrastructure Improvements To Improve Recreation. “This bill — ‘An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund’ — carries out the recommendations of a legislative commission to study management of Maine’s Public Reserved Lands (620,000 acres that include gems like Donnell Pond, the Cutler Coast, Deboullie, and Nahmakanta). The bill required a forest inventory every five years, optimal fund balance to ensure the Bureau of Public Lands can meet its multiple use mandate, public reporting on forest growth and harvest level for each unit, a logger education program (ultimately key to support from the Maine Loggers Association), and infrastructure improvements to bolster recreation. The bill was unanimously adopted by the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, and strongly supported in amended form by both houses. It was vetoed by the Governor, but the Legislature handily overrode the veto so that it could become law.” [Maine Audubon, Legislative Summary, [2017](#)]

Press Herald Editorial Writer Greg Kesich: LePage “Flew Down To Washington, DC” To Testify In Favor Of Delisting Maine National Monuments. “LePage would have none of it. Conservation by land trusts is Maine’s No. 1 problem, the governor said last year. Voter-approved Land For Maine’s Future bonds sat on his desk for years. He flew down to Washington, D.C., to testify in favor of giving back the gift that made the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument possible.” [Portland Press Herald—Greg Kesich, 11/11/18]

Bangor Daily News Editorial Headline: “Contrary to LePage Claims, Land Conservation is Good for Maine.” [Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 3/17/18]

Non-Profit Land Conservation Groups, Including Land Trusts, Hold 2.5 Million Acres in Maine, 94.5% of Which is on the Tax Rolls. According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “A report from the Legislature’s Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, which was required as part of the state budget, shines light on the fallacy of LePage’s attacks. Non-profit conservation groups, including land trusts hold about 2.5 million acres in Maine, through both direct ownership and easements. Nearly all of this land -- 94.5 percent -- is on the tax rolls. The owners make payments in lieu of taxes on another 4 percent of this conserved land.” [Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 3/17/18]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “The ACF Committee’s Work Should Put an End to LePage’s False Claims That Land Trusts and Conserved Lands are a Detriment to Maine and its Taxpayers. This Report Shows Clearly That They are Not.” According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “The ACF Committee's work should put an end to LePage's false claims that land trusts and conserved lands are a detriment to Maine and its taxpayers. This report shows clearly that they are not.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 3/17/18]

LePage’s 2011 Proposed Environmental Regulatory Reforms Would Have “Rezone[d] 30 Percent of the Maine North Woods for Development.” Ann Robinson is “a trusted advisor to Governor Paul LePage who simultaneously maintains her day job as a corporate lobbyist at Preti Flaherty Beliveau & Pachios.” She “was the author of the governor’s infamous ‘Phase I’ regulatory reform agenda, which sought to roll all of Maine’s environmental laws back to weaker federal standards, restore the endocrine disruptor Bisphenol-A to baby’s bottles and sippy cups, gut product-recycling legislation, and rezone 30 percent of the Maine North Woods for development.” She created this agenda “by cutting and pasting language provided by major North Woods landholders, the producers of many currently recycled products, the pulp and paper industry, and her colleagues at Preti...which represents PhRMA, Medco, Merck, the Toy Industry Association of America, and other interested parties.” [Portland Phoenix, 9/7/11]

Headline: “LePage to Trump: Undo Monument; He Says the Designation Will Harm the Katahdin Region, But Presidents May Lack the Power to Rescind it.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 2/23/17]

REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Voted to Override LePage’s Veto of a Bill That Refunded \$3 Million from the RGGI Trust Fund Annually in Fiscal Years 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019 to Some Maine Electric Customers. In April 2016, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1398 by a 110-38 vote and the Senate by a 33-2 vote. LD1398 “provides that \$3,000,000 of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund revenue is to be returned to certain affected customers in the form of an annual disbursement during fiscal years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1398, 2016](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1398, 2016](#)]

- **The Bill Was “Designed to Off-Set the Electricity Costs of Certain Eligible Energy-Intensive Maine Manufacturing Businesses.”** According to Pierce Atwood, “In 2016, the Maine Legislature enacted ‘An Act to Reduce Electric Rates for Maine’s Businesses’ (2016 Act).[1] The 2016 Act was designed to off-set the electricity costs of certain eligible energy-intensive Maine manufacturing businesses by authorizing the MPUC to disburse up to \$3 million per year from the RGGI Trust Fund to manufacturing businesses located in Maine that meet the statutory eligibility criteria (referred to as Affected Customers).” [[Pierce Atwood LLP, Accessed 4/6/21](#)]
- **LePage Said in His Veto Letter for the Bill That it “Continues the Liberal Cap and Tax March.”** According to LePage’s veto letter for LD1398, “Americans have grown

skeptical of cap-and-trade programs. Their skepticism is rooted in concern that instead of reducing pollution, the program is used to tax ratepayers and grow government programs. Regrettably, LD 1398 continues the liberal cap and tax march.” [[Gov. LePage Veto Letter for LD1398, 4/20/16](#)]

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Establishing the Amount of Allowances Maine Could Auction as a Participant in the RGGI from Years 2021 Through 2030. In February 2018, LePage allowed LD1657 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without his signature. LD1657 “establishes for each year from 2021 to 2030 the amount of allowances the State can auction as a participant in the regional greenhouse gas initiative. It also establishes the adjustments for banked allowances that must be made to the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budgets for 2021 to 2025.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1657, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1657, 2018](#)]

REGULATORY REFORMS

LePage Environmental Reform Would Punish Taxpayers Over Lawbreakers. In 2011 “LePage’s initial regulatory reform package” included a proposal to “establish a five-year statute of limitations on environmental violations. The clock would start at the time of the violation, as opposed to the discovery of the violation, as in federal law. That would establish a system that punishes taxpayers rather than lawbreakers, because the state would be left to pay cleanup costs if violators made it through five years undiscovered, said Sean Mahoney, Maine director of the Conservation Law Foundation.” [Kennebec Journal, 3/2/11]

In 2011, LePage Had Pharma and Corporate Lobbyist Ann Robinson Draft His Environmental Regulatory Reforms “Wish List,” Which Included Policies That Could Help Her Clients. “Ann Robinson is still advising the governor on regulatory reform matters,” Demeritt” said. “Her computer is at Preti Flaherty, so that’s why it has their stamp on it.” “She’s helping us stay organized and to put stuff together for us,” Demeritt said. “Since the inauguration she’s re-registered as the official lobbyist for PhRMA, drug maker MERCK, the TOY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, and other corporations that will profit from the changes. Robinson...found herself in the enviable position of being able to ghost-write the governor’s regulatory policies on behalf of her paying clients, even though they don’t manufacture anything in Maine.” “Instead of developing a blueprint for rethinking rules and procedures that might hinder job growth, LePage appears to have outsourced the task to corporate lobbyists.” “Lobbying disclosures on file with the state Ethics Commission show both PhRMA and Merck paid Robinson to defeat the KID-SAFE PRODUCTS ACT, a 2008 law that phased out toxic chemicals in toys, car seats, baby clothes, and other children’s products.” “The governor’s wish list calls for ‘revisions to prohibitions of chemicals and materials in products’ saying that ‘if the state is going to regulate consumer products at all, it should only do so when clearly justified on risk-benefit or cost benefit basis.’” “Another of Robinson’s clients, the Toy Industry Association of America, was among the out-of- state interests that tried to stop the Bureau of Environmental Protection from banning the use of BISPHEENOL-A in baby bottles, sippy cups, and other food containers” in 2010. (The Boston Phoenix, 02/10/11)

LePage's 2011 Proposed Environmental Regulatory Reforms "Sought to Roll All of Maine's Environmental Laws Back to Weaker Federal Standards." Ann Robinson is "a trusted advisor to Governor Paul LePage who simultaneously maintains her day job as a corporate lobbyist at Preti Flaherty Beliveau & Pachios." She "was the author of the governor's infamous 'Phase I' regulatory reform agenda, which sought to roll all of Maine's environmental laws back to weaker federal standards, restore the endocrine disruptor Bisphenol-A to baby's bottles and sippy cups, gut product-recycling legislation, and rezone 30 percent of the Maine North Woods for development." She created this agenda "by cutting and pasting language provided by major North Woods landholders, the producers of many currently recycled products, the pulp and paper industry, and her colleagues at Preti...which represents PhRMA, Medco, Merck, the Toy Industry Association of America, and other interested parties." (The Portland Phoenix, 09/07/11)

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD

LePage Opposed Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard. The Associated Press reported of the energy video LePage released in October 2012, "It finds fault with Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard, the state law that sets minimums for power generated from renewable energy sources. LePage points to reports that conclude millions of dollars are wasted, jobs are on the line and electric bills could rise due to government mandates, such as the Renewable Portfolio Standard." [Associated Press, [10/17/12](#)]

Kennebec Journal Editorial: Mainers Should Consider Source When LePage Quotes the Kochs on His Opposition to Renewable Energy. The Kennebec Journal opined, "LePage went on the air last Saturday with a radio address touting the findings of a study that claimed renewable energy would cost jobs and hurt Maine's economy. It turns out that study was funded by oil companies, climate change deniers and the libertarian billionaires Charles and David Koch... Imagine if LePage prefaced his remarks by saying, 'an oil-industry funded study found ...' instead of just 'studies indicate? Wouldn't that change how people received the information?'" [Kennebec Journal editorial, [11/28/12](#)]

In July 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage's Veto Of Legislation That Extended Maine's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards Through 2022.

In July 2017, the House overrode LePage's veto of LD1447 by a 109-32 vote and the Senate overrode it by a 28-2 vote. LD 1147 "extends the new renewable capacity resources portfolio requirement through 2022." [Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, Summaries of Bills, LD 1147, [August 2017](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1147, Roll Call #427, [7/20/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1147, [6/20/17](#)]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill That Allowed Biomass Generators to be a Renewable Capacity Resource Under Maine's Renewable Portfolio Requirements. In June 2015, LePage allowed LD589 to become law without his signature after the bill passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD589 "allows a biomass generator that relies on anaerobic digestion of by-products of waste from animals or agricultural crops, food or vegetative material, algae or organic refuse to be a renewable capacity resource under the renewable resource

portfolio requirements.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD589, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD589, 2015](#)]

SOLAR POWER

Headline: “Towns are Turning to Solar Power Despite LePage’s Opposition to Renewable Energy.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 8/1/18]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: “Maine Ranks Last in New England for Solar Power Development and Jobs, Largely Because the State Does Not Have a Comprehensive Plan to Encourage it.”** According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News* “Maine ranks last in New England for solar power development and jobs, largely because the state does not have a comprehensive plan to encourage it.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 8/1/18]

Headline: “Bid to Reverse LePage Veto on Solar Bill Fails Again; Solar Advocates Suffer Their Third Straight Year of Defeat, Though Another Push is Likely in a Few Days.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 4/6/18]

LePage Vetoed Solar Reform Bills That Sought to Increase Solar Generation; Solar Supporters Argued His Stance “is Hurting a Clean-Energy Industry That is Thriving Elsewhere, Squelching Good-Paying jobs for Skilled Laborers.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “LePage has successfully vetoed two other bills in previous years that sought to encourage more solar generation in the state and preserve net metering. Solar energy supporters argue LePage's stance is hurting a clean-energy industry that is thriving elsewhere, squelching good-paying jobs for skilled laborers and merely sustaining Maine's reliance on fossil fuels.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 4/6/18]

Net Metering Reform

HEADLINE: “State To Study New Way To Reimburse Small Scale Solar Power Generators.” [*Bangor Daily News*, [6/30/15](#)]

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Directing the Creation of a Study of an Alternative to Net Energy Billing. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1263 by a 119-28 vote and the Senate by a 32-3 vote. “Solar power advocates are welcoming a decision by Maine lawmakers to override Gov. Paul LePage's veto of a bill to study an alternative to net energy billing. L.D. 1263 gives the Maine Public Utilities Commission until Jan. 30, 2016, to file a report about alternatives to net energy billing. Solar proponents said the resolve ‘represents an avenue for progress on a comprehensive solar policy next year, before federal solar tax credits set to expire at the end of 2016.’” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1263, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1263, 2015](#); SNL Power Daily, 7/3/15]

- **Kennebec Journal:** the “Far-Reaching Solar Bill...Was Reduced To A Study Process Of Alternative Ways To Compensate Solar Generation, Known As Net Metering.” “A far-reaching solar bill, championed by Rep. Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, the

assistant House majority leader, was reduced to a study process of alternative ways to compensate solar generation, known as net metering.” [Kennebec Journal, 6/28/15]

- **LD 1263 As Amended Required The Maine Public Utilities Commission To Create A Report About Alternatives To Net Energy Billing, Which Solar Proponents Said “Represents An Avenue For Progress On A Comprehensive Solar Policy.”** “Solar power advocates are welcoming a decision by Maine lawmakers to override Gov. Paul LePage's veto of a bill to study an alternative to net energy billing. L.D. 1263 gives the Maine Public Utilities Commission until Jan. 30, 2016, to file a report about alternatives to net energy billing. Solar proponents said the resolve ‘represents an avenue for progress on a comprehensive solar policy next year, before federal solar tax credits set to expire at the end of 2016.’” [SNL Power Daily, 7/3/15]
- **Bangor Daily News: “Lawmakers On Tuesday Directed State Utilities Regulators To Study And Create A New Way To Reimburse Homeowners Or Businesses That Generate A Portion Of Their Own Electricity.”** “Lawmakers on Tuesday directed state utilities regulators to study and create a new way to reimburse homeowners or businesses that generate a portion of their own electricity. LD 1263 picked up the two-thirds majorities in the House and Senate Tuesday afternoon to override a veto from Gov. Paul LePage, who blocked the bill alongside a batch of others he said the Legislature passed too hastily. The bill started the session as a major expansion of the current incentives for solar and other distributed power generation in the state and was amended as directing the Maine Public Utilities Commission to put together a new policy for small-scale generators. The current system gives customers who generate their own power a credit on their bills at the standard retail rate, which is known as ‘net metering.’” [Bangor Daily News, 6/30/15]
- **Maine Public Advocate Tim Schneider Said That The Current Net Metering Systems “Can Create Unfair Costs For Other Power Customers As More Net-Metered Capacity Comes Online.”** “The current system gives customers who generate their own power a credit on their bills at the standard retail rate, which is known as ‘net metering.’ Tim Schneider, the public advocate representing ratepayers in utilities cases before the PUC, helped lead the bill toward a study of alternatives to net metering, starting with a proposal his office issued earlier this year. That proposal will form a starting point for the PUC's study. Schneider said net metering can create unfair costs for other power customers as more net-metered capacity comes online.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/30/15]

LePage Opposed Solar Despite Benefits For Maine’s Economy

March 2015: Maine PUC Study Found Solar Energy In Maine Would Have Greater Total Value Than Conventional Power Generation. “If solar energy gained widespread use in Maine it would have a greater total value than conventional power generation, according to a state-sponsored study that analyzes the costs and benefits of generating power from the sun. Among the report's conclusions is that the long-term value of electricity produced from solar panels is roughly 33 cents per kilowatt hour. That's more than twice the 15 cents or so that most Mainers

pay for power that is conventionally generated and delivered on the grid.” [Press Herald—Tux Turkel, 3/12/15]

- **Press Herald Writer Tux Turkel: Report’s Conclusions Contradict LePage’s Views, Citing Lower Costs For Renewable Energy.** “A new PUC study finds great value from solar energy in Maine. The conclusions contradict the view of the LePage administration and top Republicans. How are they reacting to a key study that will influence upcoming bills on boosting solar? If solar energy gained widespread use in Maine it would have a greater total value than conventional power generation, according to a state-sponsored study that analyzes the costs and benefits of generating power from the sun. [...] The report also said that solar power would help lower the high cost of supplying the electric grid on the hottest days of the year, when solar panels could meet the demand created by air conditioning.” [Press Herald—Tux Turkel, 3/12/15]

Kennebec Journal: LePage’s “Hostility Towards Subsidies For Renewable Energy” Had Solar Installers Re-Thinking Business Investments In Maine; Opting To Expand In New Hampshire Instead. “In Maine, however, doubts about the federal tax credit and the future of net metering, and LePage’s hostility toward subsidies for renewable energy, have solar installers pondering their business plans. One strategy is to expand elsewhere. ‘We’re trying to respond to a strong marketplace demand,’ said Phil Coupe, co-founder of the state’s largest solar company, ReVision Energy in Portland. ‘But there’s uncertainty on the horizon, between the tax credit and net metering, and we’re reluctant to buy more trucks and hire employees. If we had a stable environment, we could double our business in the next 24 months.’ Coupe has 60 workers in Maine. He said he’s backed up 10 weeks on installation jobs. The lack of support in Maine has ReVision expanding in New Hampshire, which offers a rebate up to \$3,750 on top of the federal credit. The company has an office there with 40 workers.” [Kennebec Journal—Tux Turkel, 6/28/15]

Kennebec Journal: Maine’s “Ambivalence” Towards Solar Hurt Related Economic Activity; Maine Ranked 43rd In Solar Jobs Nation Wide. In June 2015, Tux Turkel reported, “Maine’s ambivalence toward solar is reflected in related economic activity. Perhaps not surprisingly, California leads the nation in solar industry jobs, with 54,700 workers, according to The Solar Foundation. But the second-place state might be unexpected -- Massachusetts, with 9,400 jobs at 353 companies. Maine ranks 43rd, with 400 jobs at 43 companies. Nationally, companies are racing to finance and build projects before the federal tax credit expires. Much of the effort involves giant installations in the West, notably in California and Texas.” [Kennebec Journal—Tux Turkel, 6/28/15]

Bangor Daily News Writer Darren Fishell: LePage Planned Continued Support For Company That Took Millions In Tax Subsidies, Defrauded Maine-Based Suppliers, Large Debts. “Gov. Paul LePage continues to back a company that, despite having access to millions in taxpayer subsidies, has failed to pay its Maine-based suppliers and left behind a trail of debt, unpaid taxes and broken promises. Stored Solar LLC is now seeking a fresh round of taxpayer support for a set of new, multimillion-dollar business ventures to turn Maine forests into energy. Later this month, the governor is scheduled to travel to a San Francisco conference, where the company says he will make an announcement about “the latest activities in the State of Maine for

the bioeconomy," according to a website for its affiliate, Born Global." [Bangor Daily News—Darren Fishell, 10/4/17]

- **October 2017: LePage Planned To Travel To San Francisco To Speak Favorably About Stored Solar LLC.** "Later this month, the governor is scheduled to travel to a San Francisco conference, where the company says he will make an announcement about "the latest activities in the State of Maine for the bioeconomy," according to a website for its affiliate, Born Global. A presentation posted online recently by Born Global describes its intentions for two Maine plants that burn wood to make electricity. The plants have sat idle as the company has failed to pay several loggers for wood shipments, even though the state Legislature last year authorized direct taxpayer subsidies for those facilities." [Bangor Daily News—Darren Fishell, 10/4/17]
- **Stored Solar LLC Failed To Pay Several Loggers For Wood Shipments.** "A presentation posted online recently by Born Global describes its intentions for two Maine plants that burn wood to make electricity. The plants have sat idle as the company has failed to pay several loggers for wood shipments, even though the state Legislature last year authorized direct taxpayer subsidies for those facilities." [Bangor Daily News—Darren Fishell, 10/4/17]
- **LePage Continued To Support Stored Solar LLC Despite "Failures In Maine."** "Despite the signs of financial trouble and concerns from regulators and the industry, LePage's administration has continued to support Stored Solar's grand, glossy-brochure vision of its plans that clashes with its financial picture and failures in Maine." [Bangor Daily News—Darren Fishell, 10/4/17]

Bangor Daily News: Job Growth In Maine's Solar Energy Sector Was "Stunted" By "Longtime Critic Of Renewable Energy" Paul LePage. "Although Maine has the potential to develop a lot more solar energy -- and accompanying jobs -- that potential has been stunted by state policies that impede renewable energy. Gov. Paul LePage is a longtime critic of renewable energy, who has repeatedly and erroneously said that solar energy only benefits rich people, at the expense of the elderly and poor." [Bangor Daily News, 8/8/18]

April 2016: LePage "Lashed Out" At Republicans For Supporting Measures Designed To Increase Solar Production. In April 2016, Steve Mistler wrote in the Morning Sentinel, "During the same interview with WVOM, the governor foreshadowed vetoes of a bill designed to increase solar energy production in Maine and another aimed at assisting recruitment of mental health workers at state-run psychiatric hospitals by giving current employees there pay raises. LePage took a dim view of both proposals and lashed out at Republicans in the Senate for backing them. The Senate voted 35-0 to support the solar proposal, prompting LePage to declare that Republican lawmakers "ought to be ashamed of themselves" for supporting a bill that he believes will increase electricity rates." [Morning Sentinel—Steve Mistler, 4/20/16]

WATER QUALITY & POLLUTION

Paul LePage, In 2011, Proposed “Replacing Many Of Maine’s Air And Water Pollution Standards With Less- Stringent...Standards.” Paul LePage, in 2011, proposed “replacing the Board of Environmental Protection with a judiciary system; replacing many of Maine’s air and water pollution standards with less-stringent federal standards; and opening up 30 percent of the state’s Unorganized Territory for development.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/28/11)

Paul LePage, In 2012, Opposed Funding For Drinking Water And Sewer Improvements. Voters were asked in 2012, “do you favor a \$7,925,000 bond issue to be expended over 2 years for revolving loan funds for drinking water systems and for wastewater treatment facilities, which will make the State eligible to secure \$39,625,000 in federal grants?” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 10/15/12) Paul LePage opposed this bond issue. He said in reference to this and other bond issues, “I cannot personally support any of these bonds and will not vote for them at the polls.” (Paul LePage, Press Release, 05/25/12) He did not “embrace the idea of adding more to the state’s debt, his press secretary, Adrienne Bennett, said.” “‘He doesn’t have a credit-card mentality,’ Bennett said.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 10/15/12)

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation To Improve The Safety Of Maine’s Drinking Water. In June 2017, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD454 by a 113-33 vote and the Senate overrode his veto by a 35-0 vote. “LD 454 will raise awareness about the need to test for arsenic and will establish the Private Well Safe Drinking Water Fund. The Fund will help low-income Mainers purchase well water test kits. The bill also requires the creation of one simplified, state-recommended water test for contaminants.” The House and Senate passed LD 454 on 6/5/17 and 6/6/17, respectively and Governor LePage vetoed the legislation. [Maine Conservation Voters, Legislative Scorecard, [2018](#); Maine State Legislature, LD 454, Roll Call #335, [6/19/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 454, [6/19/17](#)]

- **The Legislation “Raise[d] Awareness About The Need To Test For Arsenic And [Established] The Private Well Safe Drinking Water Fund” To Help Low-Income Mainers Purchase Well Water Test Kits.** “LD 454 will raise awareness about the need to test for arsenic and will establish the Private Well Safe Drinking Water Fund. The Fund will help low-income Mainers purchase well water test kits. The bill also requires the creation of one simplified, state-recommended water test for contaminants.” [Maine Conservation Voters, Legislative Scorecard, [2018](#)]
- **The Legislation Created One Simplified, State-Recommended Water Test For Contaminants.** “LD 454 will raise awareness about the need to test for arsenic and will establish the Private Well Safe Drinking Water Fund. The Fund will help low-income Mainers purchase well water test kits. The bill also requires the creation of one simplified, state-recommended water test for contaminants.” [Maine Conservation Voters, Legislative Scorecard, [2018](#)]

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Appropriating \$500,000 to Treat Private Drinking Water Wells for Low-Income Families. In August 2017, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1263 by a 100-34 vote and the Senate by a 27-7 vote. LD1263 “provides for a one-time appropriation of \$500,000 from the General

Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority for treatment of contaminated private drinking water wells for families with household incomes no greater than 120% of the area median income. Resolve 2017, chapter 28 also requires the State Controller to transfer \$500,000 by June 30, 2018, from the Medical Use of Marijuana Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to offset the one-time General Fund appropriation of \$500,000. The authority may use up to 15% of the total funds for program administration and up to \$50,000 of the funds for targeted marketing and outreach to connect households with contaminated well water to appropriate professional services for assessing and installing well water treatment systems.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1263, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1263, 2017](#)]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Prohibited Fertilizers Containing Phosphorus or Nitrogen to be Used Within 25 Feet of the High Water Line of a Great Pond. In May 2015, LePage allowed LD586 to become law without his signature after it passed the House by a 145-1 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. LD568 “creates a prohibition on the application of fertilizers containing phosphorus or nitrogen within 25 feet of the normal high-water line of a great pond, except that a person may apply a fertilizer within 25 feet but not closer than 10 feet of the normal high-water line of a great pond using a drop spreader, rotary spreader with a deflector or targeted spray liquid.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD568, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD568, 2015](#)]

Portland Press Herald: LePage Did Not Reapply For 2015 Federal Grant To Boost Well-Water Testing For Arsenic, Toxic Chemicals. “In mid-2015, the LePage administration opted not to reapply for a federal grant awarded earlier to the Maine Center for Disease Control aimed at boosting well-water testing for arsenic and other toxic chemicals because it said parts of the program were inefficient and it didn't think the state should compete with private industry. About the same time, lawmakers failed to override a LePage veto of a bill that would have promoted well-water testing by imposing a fee on water tests performed at a state lab to fund arsenic education programs.” [Press Herald, 3/3/16]

- **March 2016: Coalition Of Maine Public Health Groups Feared Maine Would Fail To Meet Benchmark Of 65 Percent Of Wells Being Tested For Arsenic By 2020.** “The Environmental Health Strategy Center, the Maine Public Health Association, the Maine chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Maine Children's Alliance, the Learning Disabilities Association of Maine and Physicians for Social Responsibility want more outreach and education to increase well-water testing; dedicated state resources to support outreach, testing and treatment; and a timeline with specific benchmarks. [...] The coalition fears Maine will fail to meet a benchmark of having at least 65 percent of its drinking water wells tested for arsenic by 2020. To date, only 45 percent have been tested.” [Press Herald, 3/3/16]
- **Portland Press Herald: 29 Percent Of Wells In Kennebec Had Higher Arsenic Levels Than Federal Standard Between 2005 And 2009.** “Arsenic contamination is a widespread problem in several areas across Maine, but especially in Kennebec County, where 29 percent of private wells tested by the state from 2005 to 2009 had higher concentrations of arsenic than the federal standard.” [Press Herald, 3/3/16]

- From 2011 to 2017, Maine Lost \$300,000 in Federal Funding for the Safe Water Program to Test for Arsenic in Well Water.

GRANT/FEDERAL FUNDS LOST	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES FUNDED	YEAR FUNDING STOPPED	STATE MATCH REQUIRED TO ACCESS FEDERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS DOLLAR AMOUNT LOST CUMULATIVE 2011-2017*	FEDERAL FUNDS MONEY UNSPENT CUMULATIVE 2011-2017	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS LOST TO MAINE 2011-2017
Public Health						
Safe Water Program ⁷⁸	arsenic testing in well water	2016		\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

- **Headline: “Maine Advocates Decry LePage Administration Move to End Well Water Grant.”** [[Kennebec Journal, 7/11/15](#)]
- **The \$300,000 Federal Award Had Been Maine’s “Only Steady Funding to Promote Testing for Chemicals Including Arsenic.”** According to the *Kennebec Journal*, “The \$300,000 award, won in 2013, has been the state's only steady funding to promote testing for chemicals including arsenic, but the state has changed its tune on the grant, calling parts of it inefficient.” [[Kennebec Journal, 7/11/15](#)]

2014: LePage Refused to Sign Bonding Legislation That Benefits Infrastructure Projects Across Maine

In 2014, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Approving a \$10 Million Bond To Help Manage Maine’s Water Resources, Protect Drinking Water, Safeguard Against Extreme Weather And Flooding, And Restore Fisheries. In 2014, LePage allowed LD1455 to become law without his signature. According to Maine Conservation Voters, “Water Bond (LD 1455) [...] Maine’s water resources are critical assets that support our economy and quality of life. Recognizing this, the legislature approved a \$10 million bond to help manage our state’s water resources, protect clean drinking water sources, help communities safeguard themselves against extreme storms and flooding, and restore our fisheries.” The House voted to enact the bill by a 126-19 vote. The Senate voted to enact the bill on 4/17/14 by a 30-2 vote and the bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Maine Conservation Voters, 2014 Conservation Scorecard, [2014](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1455, Roll Call #739, [4/17/14](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1455, [4/17/14](#)]

In 2015, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Announced Funding for 28 Projects Across the State of Maine:

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
Mattawamkeag River Road	\$95,000
Gardner Creek Road, Wade	\$95,000
Black Lake Road, Fort Kent	\$15,000
Blackstone Brook, Piscataquis County	\$31,575
Porter, Kennard Hill Road	\$70,000
Brunswick, Hacker Road	\$95,000
Chub Cove Road Association (Cooper)	\$40,000
Dayton, Buzzell Road	\$95,000

Porter, Sarah Bridge Road	\$60,000
Auburn, Hotel Road	\$95,000
Monmouth, Sanborn Road	\$90,000
Willimantic, Wilson Stream Road	\$50,000
York, Cider Hill Road	\$95,000
Durham Auburn Pownal Road	\$95,000
Cumberland, Mill Road	\$47,500
Yarmouth, Ledge Road	\$95,000
Buckfield, Shedd Hollow Road	\$95,000
Chelsea, Nelson Road	\$95,000
Pittston, Parker Road	\$95,000
Phillips, Bridge Street	\$95,000
Grand Lake, Stream Water Street	\$25,000
Madison, Shusta Road	\$65,000
China, Pleasant View Ridge Road	\$95,000
Farmington, Front Street	\$75,000
Warren, Sandy Shores Road	\$95,000
Hallowell, Outer Central Street	\$95,000
Orono, Main Street	\$42,209.82
Rockland, Thompson Meadow Road	\$42,209.82

[Maine Biz, [9/3/15](#); Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Press Release, [4/18/17](#)]

2017: LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Bonding Legislation to Help Winterport Upgrade its Wastewater Treatment System

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign a \$30 Million Bipartisan Bonding Proposal That Included Funding Earmarked To Help Towns Replace Malfunctioning Septic Systems That Are Polluting Watersheds Or Creating A Public Nuisance. The bonding proposal as put to the voters read: “Do you favor a \$30,000,000 bond issue to improve water quality, support the planning and construction of wastewater treatment facilities and assist homeowners whose homes are served by substandard or malfunctioning wastewater treatment systems?” Of the \$30 million, \$2 million was earmarked for the “Small Community Grant Program,” to “provid[e] funds for grants to towns to help replace malfunctioning septic systems that are polluting coastal watersheds or causing a public nuisance.” The House passed the bill by a 124-2 vote and the Senate without a roll call vote, and became law without Gov. LePage’s signature. [Maine State Legislature, LD1510 Bill Text, [2017](#); Maine State Legislature, LD1510, Roll Call #688, [6/25/18](#)]

2019: The Winterport Water District Got \$5.65 Million From State Wastewater Bonding Funds Passed By Voted In Nov. 2018 To Upgrade Winterport’s Wastewater Treatment System. “The Winterport Water District, a good example of USDA-state collaboration, Hobbs said. The town, in September, got a Water and Waste Disposal direct loan of \$1.5 million and a grant of \$6.25 million. In addition to the \$7.725 million the USDA funded, Maine DEP provided \$1.1 million in State Revolving Funds, and \$5.65 million came from in state bond funds. The project included major upgrades to Winterport’s Wastewater Treatment collection system, which was built in 1984. Specifically, money was used to assist Winterport Water District with a proposed upgrade from a primary treatment facility to a secondary treatment facility. Primary

treatment removes solids and floating materials, secondary treatment takes it a step further, removing dissolved substances. Upgrades ranged from equipment to upgrading existing buildings.” [Maine Business, [1/14/20](#)]

WIND POWER

Paul LePage “Doesn’t Support Land-Based Wind Power.” Paul LePage “doesn’t support land-based wind power, because the industry requires taxpayer subsidies to reduce the true cost of generation. ‘While I believe wind may have future promise as a commercially viable source of energy,’ he said, ‘it clearly is not there at this time.’” [Kennebec Journal, 05/02/10]

LePage Called Wind a “Boutique Energy Source.” In 2012 LePage “said wind could not support the baseload energy needs of the state, and called it a “boutique energy source.” [Bangor Daily News, [8/3/12](#)]

LePage Hold on Bonding Funds Affected an Offshore Wind Power Demonstration Site. In 2012 “LePage placed a hold on \$40 million in bonds in an attempt to rein in state borrowing. On that list was about \$7.3 million in funding for the offshore wind demonstration site... Members of LePage’s administration have questioned the feasibility of the offshore wind project in the past.” [Bangor Daily News, [12/9/12](#)]

LePage Claimed That a Motor Was Used to Spin the Wind Turbine of a Turbine on UM Presque Isle’s Campus “to Give People the Impression That it is Generating Electricity Even on Days When it Isn’t Gusty.” LePage “claimed that a motor spins the blades of a wind turbine located on the campus of the University of Maine at Presque Isle to give people the impression that it is generating electricity even on days when it isn’t gusty.” [Talking Points Memo, [4/18/13](#)]

LePage Wanted to Rewrite State Wind Energy Act to Remove Wind Energy Goals. The Bangor Daily News reported, “LePage wants to strip from state law goals for increasing the state’s wind energy capacity over the next two decades. LePage’s energy director, Patrick Woodcock, made recommendations Thursday to rewrite the state’s 2008 Wind Energy Act, shifting focus from growing wind energy capacity to lowering electricity costs and making sure Maine sees an economic return on its wind energy investments.” [Bangor Daily News, [5/9/13](#)]

Headline: “Effort to Build Offshore Wind Industry May Hinge on 73 Cents; Gov. LePage Imperils a 2014 Power Contract for Floating Turbines Off Monhegan Island That Would Raise Consumer Bills Less Than \$1 a Month.” [Portland Press Herald, 4/1/18]

LePage’s Opposition To Wind Power Hurt Maine’s Economy

Kennebec Journal Editorial: In 2013, LePage Killed a Plan to Have Norwegian Energy Company Statoil Test an Ocean Wind Concept Off of the Coast of Maine – the Company Moved to and Invested \$2.5 Billion in Scotland, Taking its Employees and Business With it. According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, “He has repeatedly vetoed bills to modernize solar power regulation, which had been a dynamic job creator until the Trump administration put

a tariff on Chinese solar panels. And he used his veto of the omnibus energy bill of 2013 as leverage to tear up a previous power purchase contract with the Norwegian energy giant Statoil, which planned to test its own ocean wind concept off the coast of Maine. Statoil pulled up stakes here and invested \$2.5 billion in Scotland, where its offshore project is beating projections for production. When the company left, it took its employees with it, along with any business it would have done with local vendors.” [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 6/13/18](#)]

Kennebec Journal Editorial: LePage “Overlooks the Value in Attracting Investment to the State That Will Build an Industry Here to Replace Some of the Jobs Lost When the Paper Companies Downsized Their Workforce.” According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, “The governor’s hostility toward clean energy is based on his belief that nothing matters about energy policy except the price. He doesn’t consider that the state can help people conserve energy, lowering their bills even if the per-unit price goes up. He also overlooks the value in attracting investment to the state that will build an industry here to replace some of the jobs lost when the paper companies downsized their workforce.” [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 6/13/18](#)]

Headline: “Other East Coast States Capitalizing On Wind; While Maine's Priorities Shifted After 2010 With The Election Of Paul LePage, Massachusetts Is Leading In Ocean Energy.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 6/13/18]

Before LePage Took Office, “Maine Aspired to be a Leader in Ocean Energy by Passing Legislation That Set Ambitious Goals for Wind Power,” But Priorities Shifted After LePage Took Office. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Nearly 10 years ago, Maine aspired to be a leader in ocean energy by passing legislation that set ambitious goals for wind power. But those priorities shifted after 2010 with the election of Republican Gov. Paul LePage, a strident critic of the above-market costs that have underpinned many major renewable energy projects.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 6/13/18]

Policies to Attract Wind Power Were Attracting “Billions of Dollars in Global Investment” to East Coast States from Massachusetts to Virginia. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Tuesday’s decision by the Maine Public Utilities Commission to further review the terms of the power-contract for the Maine Aqua Ventus wind farm comes as offshore wind energy, refined for decades in Europe, is poised to become a major new industry in the United States. Policies by state governments from Massachusetts to Virginia are attracting billions of dollars in global investment to the East Coast.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 6/13/18]

Kennebec Journal Editorial Headline: “PUC Carries Out LePage’s Shortsighted Agenda.” [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 6/13/18](#)]

In June 2018, Three LePage Appointees on the Public Utilities Commission Voted to Get Rid of a Previously-Negotiated Power Purchase Agreement With Maine Aqua Ventus, a Move “Likely to Kill a First-of-its-Kind Floating Wind Farm.” According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, “The three members of the Public Utilities Commission, all LePage appointees, voted Tuesday to toss out a previously negotiated power purchase agreement with the University of Maine’s public-private partnership, known as Maine Aqua Ventus. The move is

likely to kill a first-of-its-kind floating wind farm, planned to be built off Monhegan Island.”
[[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 6/13/18](#)]

Kennebec Journal Editorial: “Gov. Paul LePage’s Leadership, or Lack of Leadership, Has Hampered Clean-Energy Development Throughout His Time in Office.” According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, “Gov. Paul LePage’s leadership, or lack of leadership, has hampered clean-energy development throughout his time in office.” [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 6/13/18](#)]

Morning Sentinel Editorial: Maine’s Energy Policy Failures “Can Largely Be Traced Back To One Man, Gov. Paul LePage.” “OVER THE LAST six years, there have been several bipartisan policy failures -- notably, on tax policy, where Republicans and Democrats collaborated to deprive Maine of the revenue it needs to run its basic programs and adequately support schools, colleges and local government. On energy policy, though, the failures can largely be traced back to one man, Gov. Paul LePage, whose hidebound, backward-looking ideas have left the state far behind the curve, particularly when it comes to economic and business development.” [Morning Sentinel—Editorial, 4/14/16]

- **LePage Vetoed Omnibus Energy Act, “Chased Off The \$120 Statoil Million Offshore Wind Project” Reneging On Signed Contract.** “It started early. LePage, notoriously, vetoed the Omnibus Energy Act of 2013, the Legislature’s major achievement in this area, which was overridden, but he then chased off the \$120 Statoil million offshore wind project by reneging on an already signed contract. The Hywind project is now being built off the coast of Scotland.” [Morning Sentinel—Editorial, 4/14/16]
- **LePage Appointees Reneged On Contracts With Two Wind Developers, Caused One Developer To Drop Maine As Investment Partner.** “LePage has been equally short-sighted about land-based wind, where Maine was already the identified leader in the burgeoning Northeast market for renewable energy. His appointees to the Public Utilities Commission also reneged on contracts with two wind developers; while one project finally went ahead, the other was dropped. And LePage appointees at the Department of Environmental Protection have used decidedly thin rationales to veto wind projects, undoubtedly prompting other developers to take their business elsewhere.” [Morning Sentinel—Editorial, 4/14/16]
- **“Fellow Republican, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker” Told LePage More Natural Gas Wasn’t Coming To New England Without “Expensive New Pipeline Capacity.”** “More natural gas isn’t coming here without expensive new pipeline capacity, and even a fellow Republican, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, has told LePage it’s not going to happen. As for Quebec, LePage leaves out the fact that we have no adequate transmission lines, which could cost up to \$1 billion to build, certainly canceling out LePage’s ‘cheap power.’ His alternatives are utter fantasy, and it’s about time lawmakers started saying so.” [Morning Sentinel—Editorial, 4/14/16]

2013: LePage Drove Norwegian Company Statoil to Back Off from Plans to Invest \$120 Million in Maine for Wind Energy Development Projects. According to an editorial from the *Bangor Daily News*, “Likewise, LePage has driven wind energy development away from Maine. In 2013, Statoil, a Norwegian company that said it planned to invest \$120 million in the state, withdrew its plans after LePage and lawmakers worked to have the utilities commission change the terms of an agreement with the company.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 8/8/18](#)]

WBUR: “ [LePage] Has Also Stymied Development Of Renewable Energy Sources While Pursuing And Attempting To Revive The State’s Traditional Industries In Forest Products.” According to WBUR, “He [LePage] has also stymied development of renewable energy sources while pursuing and attempting to revive the state’s traditional industries in forest products.” [[WBUR, 1/2/19](#)]

AP Headline: “Governor Wants To Know If Wind Turbines ‘Truly’ Help Maine.” [[AP, 6/16/18](#)]

AP: “Maine’s Republican Governor Wants To Know If What He Calls ‘Massive’ Wind Turbines Help The Rural State’s Economy.” According to the Associated Press, “Maine’s Republican governor wants to know if what he calls ‘massive’ wind turbines help the rural state’s economy. Gov. Paul LePage has prohibited state agencies from permitting new wind energy projects in western and coastal Maine, on coastal islands and along certain avian migratory pathways.” [[Associated Press, 6/17/18](#)]

Associated Press: “Gov. Paul LePage Has Prohibited State Agencies From Permitting New Wind Energy Projects In Western And Coastal Maine, On Coastal Islands And Along Certain Avian Migratory Pathways.” According to the Associated Press, “Gov. Paul LePage has prohibited state agencies from permitting new wind energy projects in western and coastal Maine, on coastal islands and along certain avian migratory pathways. He also created a secretive commission that is seeking public comment through Aug. 15 from communities, organizations and residents. The commission is not subject to Maine’s public meetings law.” [[Associated Press, 6/16/18](#)]

- **In 2018, LePage Issued an Executive Order Halting New Wind Projects in Parts of Maine.** According to the *St. John Valley Times*, “LePage, who has derided subsidies for ‘boutique’ wind energy, issued an executive order last year ordering a halt to new wind projects in certain areas of Maine. He also launched the wind energy advisory commission to investigate the impact of turbines on central and coastal areas of Maine.” [*St. John Valley Times*, 1/16/19]

LePage’s Wind Energy Advisory Commission

Headline: “Report Shows How Badly LePage’s Wind Energy Panel Fizzled.” [*St. John Valley Times*, 1/16/19]

***St. John Valley Times*: “A Maine Commission Created as Part of the Former Republican Governor’s Efforts to Hinder Wind Projects Has Released a Report Drawing Few**

Conclusions About the Impact of Wind Turbines.” According to the *St. John Valley Times*, “A Maine commission created as part of the former Republican governor's efforts to hinder wind projects has released a report drawing few conclusions about the impact of wind turbines.” [*St. John Valley Times*, 1/16/19]

St. John Valley Times: The Report “Had Limited Information” and “Was Unable to Draw Conclusions” About Wind Power in Maine. According to the *St. John Valley Times*, “The commission's report said it had limited information and was unable to draw conclusions. The commission, whose members included the manager of a sporting camp and LePage's technical adviser Jim LaBrecque, recommended additional research on issues such as the impacts of wind turbines on health.” [*St. John Valley Times*, 1/16/19]

HEALTH CARE

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Criticism

Paul LePage Compared Obamacare “To The Holocaust,” And He Called The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) The Gestapo For Its Role In Obamacare. In 2012, “Paul LePage...compared the health care reform law [signed by President Obama] to the Holocaust.” (The New York Times, 07/18/12) In reference to ObamaCare he said, ““you must buy health insurance or pay the new Gestapo – the IRS.”” (Bangor Daily News, 07/09/12) “The Gestapo was the secret police force of German dictator Adolf Hitler before and during World War II. It was notorious for ruthless and brutal actions against Hitler’s political opponents.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 07/07/12) “It imprisoned and murdered thousands of people.” (Kennebec Journal, 07/08/12)

- **Bangor Daily News Editorial: “LePage ‘Gestapo’ comment embarrasses Maine.”** [*Bangor Daily News*, 07/09/12]
- **Bangor Daily News Editorial: It Is “Not Unusual For Gov. Paul LePage To Say Something Offensive Off-The-Cuff. But What’s Disturbing About” The “Blunder” In Which He Called “The Internal Revenue Service ‘The New Gestapo,’ Is That It Wasn’t A Slip-Up. He Purposefully Put The Language Into His...Radio Address After It Was Drafted By Staff.”** According to a Bangor Daily News editorial titled, “LePage ‘Gestapo’ comment embarrasses Maine,” it is “not unusual for Gov. Paul LePage to say something offensive off-the-cuff. But what’s disturbing about” the “blunder” in which he called “the Internal Revenue Service ‘the new Gestapo,’ is that it wasn’t a slip-up. He purposefully put the language into his...radio address after it was drafted by staff.” In reference to ObamaCare he said, ““you must buy health insurance or pay the new Gestapo – the IRS.”” “The coverage of LePage’s comments has been widespread and embarrassing to Maine – no way to encourage businesses to move here.” “As common as it is for LePage to blurt out some attacking remark, the Gestapo comment was planned insensitivity. It did nothing to further real debate about the

Affordable Care Act and brought embarrassment to the state.” (Bangor Daily News, 07/09/12)

- **LePage on His Comments: “It Was Never Intended to Offend Anyone, and if Someone’s Offended, Then They Ought to be Goddamned Mad at the Federal Government.”** After these comments, Paul “LePage told WMTW- TV in an interview...that ‘it was never intended to offend anyone, and if someone’s offended, then they ought to be goddamned mad at the federal government.’” (Kennebec Journal, 07/10/12)
- **Days Later Lepage Said He Thinks “The IRS...[Is] Going To Kill A Lot Of People,” Much Like The Gestapo Did.** Days later he “attempted to clarify his...comment comparing the Internal Revenue Service to the Gestapo” in “an interview with a reporter from the Burlington weekly Seven Days.” He “said that the IRS wasn’t as bad as the Gestapo, the Nazi police force that imprisoned and murdered millions during World War II, but that the agency was headed in that direction.” “‘What I am trying to say is the Holocaust was a horrific crime against humanity and, frankly, I would never want to see that repeated,’ LePage said. ‘Maybe the IRS is not quite as bad – yet.’” “Seven Days reporter Paul Heintz asked, ‘but they’re headed in that direction?’ LePage responded, ‘they’re headed in that direction.’ Heintz then asked LePage if he knew what the Gestapo did during World War II. LePage said, ‘yeah, they killed a lot of people.’ Heintz asked if he thought the IRS was going to kill a lot of people. ‘Yeah,’ LePage said. ‘They’re headed in the direction of killing a lot of people? Are you serious?’ Heintz asked. LePage said he was ‘very serious,’ adding that the agency would be rationing health care.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 07/13/12)

Paul LePage Opposes Obamacare. “Gov. Paul LePage used his weekly radio address ...[on July 7, 2012] to further his long-running criticisms of the federal Affordable Care Act,” which is commonly known as ObamaCare. “LePage said the measure ‘raises taxes, cuts Medicare for the elderly, gets between patients and their doctors, costs trillions of taxpayer dollars and kills jobs.’ LePage also took a shot at the individual mandate part of the law, which requires everyone to purchase health insurance or face penalties, by calling the Internal Revenue Service ‘the new Gestapo.’” (Bangor Daily News, 07/07/12)

LePage Said the ACA Was a “Degradation of Our Nation’s Premier Health Care System.” The Kennebec Journal reported that LePage said “he will not implement a state-customized insurance exchange or participate in an expansion of Medicaid for an estimated 37,000 uninsured Mainers. LePage called the federal health care law provisions the ‘degradation of our nation’s premier health care system.’ Both moves were met with disappointment, but not surprise, from the incoming Democratic legislative majority... According to an analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation, states that run their own exchanges or partner with the federal government will have more control over which coverage plans will be available to consumers. Additionally, states can customize the plans to their residents’ health care needs. Last year, an advisory panel comprising insurers and hospitals unanimously recommended that the state create its own exchange.” [Kennebec Journal, [11/16/12](#)]

LePage Said ACA was Going to Send the Country “Into a Spiral.” The Portland Press Herald reported, “LePage lashed out against President Obama's health care initiative... ‘I think the ACA is going to put this country into a spiral,’ said LePage.” [Portland Press Herald, [4/30/13](#)]

Insurance Exchanges

LePage Would Rather Let The Federal Government Set Up Exchanges Mandated By Obamacare For Maine Than Have Maine Run Its Own Health Care System. “Maine will let the federal government take the reins on setting up a mandated online health insurance market, according to comments Gov. Paul LePage made” in 2012. “‘I’m not lifting a finger,’ he said in an interview with Bloomberg at a Republican Governors Association meeting in Las Vegas. ‘We’re not going to get involved. We’re going to let Mr. Obama do a federal exchange. It’s his bill.’” (Bangor Daily News, 11/15/12)

Lawsuit

Headline: “LePage Joins New Lawsuit Designed to Overturn Obamacare.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 2/27/18]

In Feb. 2018, LePage Signed Onto the Texas Lawsuit to Overturn the ACA as an Individual Because He Can’t Represent Maine in Lawsuits Without Permission from the Attorney General. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Gov. Paul LePage has signed onto a Texas-led lawsuit to overturn the Affordable Care Act, saying it's unconstitutional now that Congress has moved to repeal the key tax at the heart of the health care law enshrined by former President Barack Obama. The Republican governor and 19 Republican-led states filed the lawsuit on Monday in a Texas federal court against the administration of President Donald Trump -- an Obamacare opponent -- alleging that the 2010 law now ‘forces an unconstitutional and irrational regime’ onto states. [...] LePage signed on as an individual because he can't represent Maine in lawsuits without permission from Attorney General Janet Mills, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate who the governor sued unsuccessfully last year over refusing to represent him in another lawsuit.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 2/27/18]

Preventive Care Requirements

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode Governor LePage’s Veto Of Legislation To Codify The Affordable Care Act’s Preventive Care Coverage Requirements In Maine Law. In March 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1476 by a 115-34 vote and the Senate by a 30-4 vote. LD 1476 “incorporates current requirements under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for coverage of preventive health services, including services for women, into state law.” [State of Maine Legislature, LD 1476, Roll Call #530, [3/22/18](#); Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1476, [October 2018](#)]

- **The Legislation Required Health Insurers To Cover Preventive Services Without Cost-Sharing Requirements As Mandated Under The Affordable Care Act.** “The Affordable Care Act mandates that all health insurance policies include certain preventive services without the burden of cost-sharing requirements, creating consistency in a kind of care shown to improve health. That requirement, however, could go away through the rule-making process with a stroke of President Trump’s pen, adding uncertainty where it is not welcome or needed. Maine lawmakers took a step toward eliminating that uncertainty by passing with bipartisan support L.D. 1476, which would put the ACA preventive mandate in state law.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [3/19/18](#)]
- **Covered Preventive Services Included Immunizations, Pregnancy Screenings, STD Screenings, Preventive Medications, And Blood Pressure And Diabetes Screenings.** “L.D. 1476, from Rep. Joyce McCreight, D-Harpswell, follows on the heels of a law passed last year that put in state statute the ACA’s requirement of no-copay birth control. It would require all health insurance policies to include without cost-sharing requirements all preventive services given an A or B rating by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, a longstanding, independent panel of national experts in prevention and medicine that makes evidence-based recommendations. Included in the task force’s recommendations are services that cover Mainers from birth to old age, and which can identify health problems well before they get too difficult – and costly – to treat. Immunizations and screenings for infants, children and adolescents are included, as are screenings for pregnant women. Breast-feeding services and supplies make the grade, as do Pap tests and screenings for sexually transmitted infections and the BRCA gene mutation, which are linked to the risk of cervical and breast cancer. Blood pressure and diabetes screenings are also included in the bill, as well as preventive medications for older adults such as aspirin and statins.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [3/19/18](#)]
- **Maine Family Planning’s Kate Brogan: “By Ensuring This Baseline Level Of Preventive Services, LD 1476 Will Protect The Public Health, Reduce Health Care Costs, And Build A Healthier, Brighter Future For Maine.”** “Codifying these required health care services at the state level will provide Mainers with the security of knowing that they will be able to maintain coverage of essential preventive health care, regardless of what happens with the federal health care debate. By ensuring this baseline level of preventive services, LD 1476 will protect the public health, reduce health care costs, and build a healthier, brighter future for Maine.” [Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, Maine Family Planning’s Kate Brogan Testimony on LD 1476, [4/25/17](#)]
- **Planned Parenthood’s Nicole Clegg: “Instead Of Worrying About What May Or May Not Be Repealed, LD 1467 Establishes Continuity For The Consumer By Codifying These Basic Preventive Measures Into Maine Law.”** “LD 1467 is intended to take some of the guessing game out of insurance coverage. Instead of worrying about what may or may not be repealed, LD 1467 establishes continuity for the consumer by codifying these basic preventive measures into Maine law.” [Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, Planned Parenthood’s Nicole Clegg Testimony on LD 1476, [4/25/17](#)]

- Maine Women’s Lobby’s Danna Hayes: Requiring Preventive Services Coverage Would Allow Maine Women And Mothers To Obtain Necessary Preventive Health Care “Without Concerns About Cost.”** “Guaranteeing the same coverage in Maine statute that currently exists federally would provide a level of confidence to Mainers that they can see a doctor, get regular cancer screenings, have healthier pregnancies and postpartum experiences, and moms can choose to breastfeed if they want, without concerns about cost.” [Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, Maine Women’s Lobby’s Danna Hayes Testimony on LD 1476, [4/25/17](#)]
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network: “Including Preventive Services As Standard Benefits In Health Insurance Has Benefits To Overall Public Health, Saves Lives And Can Reduce Health Care Spending.”** “Coverage of preventive services such as cancer screenings helps to prevent some forms of cancer and can help detect other cancers at an earlier stage when the individual has a higher likelihood of more treatment options and a better overall health outcome. Including preventive services as standard benefits in health insurance has benefits to overall public health, saves lives and can reduce health care spending.” [Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Networks’ Hilary Schneider Testimony on LD 1476, [4/25/17](#)]
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network: “Given The Uncertainty At The Federal Level, Passing LD 1476 Is Imperative To Ensure That We Are Continuing To Prevent Cancer And Detect It Early For Mainers Covered By Individual And Small Group Health Plans.”** “Given the uncertainty at the federal level, passing LD 1476 is imperative to ensure that we are continuing to prevent cancer and detect it early for Mainers covered by individual and small group health plans.” [Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Networks’ Hilary Schneider Testimony on LD 1476, [4/25/17](#)]
- American Heart And Stroke Associations’ Becky Smith: “Cardiovascular Disease Can Be Prevented If Individuals Modify Their Risk Factors For The Disease. Screening And Preventative Services Are Crucial To Individuals’ Ability To Know Their Risks And To Assure They Have The Tools To Make Healthy Lifestyle Changes.”** “Cardiovascular disease (CVD), including heart disease and stroke, is the leading cause of death and disability in the U.S. Unfortunately, the disease process can start early in life and is influenced over time by lifestyle behaviors, the environments where people live, and modifiable risk factors, including smoking, overweight and obesity, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, elevated blood cholesterol, and Type 2 diabetes. In many instances, CVD can be prevented if individuals modify their risk factors for the disease. Screening and preventative services are crucial to individuals’ ability to know their risks and to assure they have the tools to make healthy lifestyle changes.” [Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, American Heart Association and American Stroke Association’s Becky Smith Testimony on LD 1476, [4/25/17](#)]

HEADLINE: “Preventive Care Mandate Should Not Be Controversial.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [3/19/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “The Evidence Is Clear – Preventive Care Makes A Difference In People’s Lives, And All Mainers Should Have Access To It.” “But the preventive care aspects of the ACA have been a success by any measure, and legislators can make sure they don't disappear from Maine at a moment's notice. The evidence is clear - preventive care makes a difference in people's lives, and all Mainers should have access to it.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [3/19/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “It Is Clear That When More People Have Access To [Preventive] Services, More People Use Them, And More People Have Their Health Problems Diagnosed Before They Are Too Far Along.” “Prevention and early detection can make all the difference. Detecting cancer in its early stages, for instance, increases greatly the five-year survival rate for colorectal, cervical and breast cancer. Finding and removing pre-cancerous polyps can literally mean the difference between life and death. It is clear that when more people have access to these services, more people use them, and more people have their health problems diagnosed before they are too far along.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [3/19/18](#)]

BUREAU OF INSURANCE

Lobbyists “From The State’s Most Powerful Law Firms” Were Placed By Paul Lepage “In The Envious Position Of Being Able To Oversee The Drafting Of The Governor’s Policies On Behalf Of The Corporate Clients They” Represent. “Top attorneys from the state’s most powerful law firms – Pierce Atwood managing partner Gloria Pinza and, especially, Ann Robinson, head of lobbying at Preti Flaherty – were placed in the enviable position of being able to oversee the drafting of the governor’s policies on behalf of the corporate clients they are paid to represent.” The “two Portland-based firms wrote at least 28 of the 50 environmental rollbacks the governor’s office submitted to the legislature in January” 2011. “In most cases, language from the industry and lobbyist’s memos was copied word-for-word into LePage’s reform proposal.” “These include rolling back Maine’s civil rights and wage and tip sharing laws to weaker federal standards (proposed by Portland restaurateur STEVE DIMILLO)” and “weakening child labor laws (MAINE INNKEEPERS ASSOCIATION),” as well as “directing the Bureau of Insurance to ease oversight over insurance rates (MAINE ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS).” (The Portland Phoenix, 07/20/11)

- **In Most Cases, “Language From The Industry And Lobbyist’s Memos Was Copied Word-For-Word Into Lepage’s Reform” Proposals, Including “Directing The Bureau Of Insurance To Ease Oversight Over Insurance Rates.”** “Top attorneys from the state’s most powerful law firms – Pierce Atwood managing partner Gloria Pinza and, especially, Ann Robinson, head of lobbying at Preti Flaherty – were placed in the enviable position of being able to oversee the drafting of the governor’s policies on behalf of the corporate clients they are paid to represent.” The “two Portland-based firms wrote at least 28 of the 50 environmental rollbacks the governor’s office submitted to the legislature in January” 2011. “In most cases, language from the industry and lobbyist’s

memos was copied word-for-word into LePage’s reform proposal.” “These include rolling back Maine’s civil rights and wage and tip sharing laws to weaker federal standards (proposed by Portland restaurateur STEVE DIMILLO)” and “weakening child labor laws (MAINE INNKEEPERS ASSOCIATION),” as well as “directing the Bureau of Insurance to ease oversight over insurance rates (MAINE ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS).” (The Portland Phoenix, 07/20/11)

CHIP & CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Paul LePage Proposed Cuts In The Children’s Health Insurance Program. Paul LePage, in 2012, made numerous proposals to cut social programs, including “decreases in the Children’s Health Insurance Program and for smoking-cessation programs, as well as a two-year limit on taxpayer-funded methadone treatments.” (www.themainewire.com/2012/05/governor-lepage-prepares-final-push-dhhs-budget)

Maine Center for Economic Policy: “Maine Failed to Budget the Matching Funds Needed to Maximize Children’s Health Insurance Funds (CHIP) and Lost \$59.5 Million in Federal Funds in the Process.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Maine failed to budget the matching funds needed to maximize children’s health insurance funds (CHIP) and lost \$59.5 million in federal funds in the process.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

Under LePage, Maine Lost \$8 Million in Federal Funds for Project Launch, to Fund “Coordination of Child-Serving Programs to Ensure That All Children Enter School Ready to Learn and Able to Succeed.”

GRANT/FEDERAL FUNDS LOST	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES FUNDED	YEAR FUNDING STOPPED	STATE MATCH REQUIRED TO ACCESS FEDERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS DOLLAR AMOUNT LOST CUMULATIVE 2011-2017*	FEDERAL FUNDS MONEY UNSPENT CUMULATIVE 2011-2017	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS LOST TO MAINE 2011-2017
Project Launch ⁹⁵	coordination of child-serving programs to ensure that all children enter school ready to learn and able to succeed	2014	none	\$ 4,000,000*		\$ 4,000,000
Project Launch Expansion ⁹⁶	coordination of child-serving programs to ensure that all children enter school ready to learn and able to succeed	2015	none	\$ 4,000,000*		\$ 4,000,000

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

- **Maine Center for Economic Policy Claimed That LePage’s DHHS Leaders “Chose Not to Apply to Renew” the Project Launch Funds, Totaling \$4 Million Over 5 Years.** According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “While initially supportive of this project, DHHS leaders changed their mind and chose not to apply to renew these funds. The grant was for \$4 million over 5 years and the state will also lose this funding in 2018. Conversation with Marjorie Withers, retired director, Community Caring Collaborative, Washington County.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]
- **LePage’s DHHS Submitted a Proposal for a Project Launch Expansion But it Was “Discarded by the Federal Agency as an Incomplete Grant.”** According to the Maine

Center for Economic Policy, “The grant was completed by project staff, but when DHHS submitted it, they did not include additional pieces needed from the state and it was discarded by the federal agency as an incomplete grant. The grant was for 4 years for up to \$4 million and the state will also lose this funding in 2018. Conversation with Marjorie Withers, retired director, Community Caring Collaborative, Washington County.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

Adolescent Health

In 2013 Under LePage, He Gave Up \$4 Million in Federal Funds for an Adolescent Health Grant Meant to Support High-Risk Teen Parents to Become Educated and Successful Parents:

GRANT/FEDERAL FUNDS LOST	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES FUNDED	YEAR FUNDING STOPPED	STATE MATCH REQUIRED TO ACCESS FEDERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS DOLLAR AMOUNT LOST CUMULATIVE 2011-2017*	FEDERAL FUNDS MONEY UNSPENT CUMULATIVE 2011-2017	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS LOST TO MAINE 2011-2017
Adolescent Health Grant ⁶⁴	Health and support programs for high risk teen parents to become educated and be successful parents	2013	none	\$ 4,000,000		\$ 4,000,000

***Source: This grant was written by project staff and the department refused to submit it. Conversation with Marjorie Withers, retired director, Community Caring Collaborative, Washington County.*

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Appropriated \$150,000 To The Jackman Community Health Center. In July 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1762 by a 141-1 vote and the Senate by a 32-1 vote. LD1762 “appropriates \$150,000 to the Jackman Community Health Center to ensure sustainable health care access in the Jackman region.” [Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1762, [October 2018](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1762, Roll Call #723, [7/9/18](#)]

- **2019: Allocation Of \$150,000 By The Maine State Legislature Allowed The Jackman Community Health Center To Maintain Its 24/7 Acute Care.** “Please consider a donation to support 24/7 Acute Care for the Moose River Region. Annually, there is approximately a \$250,000 shortfall to continue this vital service. In 2018, we were able to raise \$252,809 in total to sustain this 24/7 acute care thanks to generous donations from those who live, work, or visit in Jackman and surrounding communities and with \$150,000 in support from the State Legislature.” [Penobscot Community Health Care, [5/16/19](#)]

Community Paramedicine Services

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Removing the Time Limitation of Three Years for Community Paramedicine Pilot Projects and the Limit on the Number of Projects. In May 2015, LePage allowed LD629 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD629 “removes the time limitation of three years for community paramedicine pilot projects and the limit on the number of pilot projects.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD629, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD629, 2015](#)]

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill That Made Community Paramedicine Services Permanent, Rather Than Just a Pilot Project. In June 2017, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1477 by a 130-14 vote and the Senate by a 34-1 vote. LD1427 “makes community paramedicine services established by the Emergency Medical Services' Board permanent, no longer pilot projects.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1427, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1427, 2017](#)]

DENTAL CARE

“A Portland Dental Clinic That Serves Thousands Of Mentally Ill And Intellectually Disabled People Across Southern Maine Is Scheduled To Close,” Because “The 2014-2015 Biennial State Budget Proposed By Gov. Paul LePage” Eliminated Funding For This Clinic. “A Portland dental clinic that serves thousands of mentally ill and intellectually disabled people across southern Maine is scheduled to close in June [2013] unless state funding is restored. Funding for Clinical Services was eliminated in the 2014-2015 biennial state budget proposed by Gov. Paul LePage. Portland legislators are sponsoring a bill that would appropriate \$1.6 million to keep the clinic’s doors open for two more years. Independent state Rep. Ben Chipman told The Portland Press Herald the clinic that serves about 3,000 patients is critical for the entire state. He says the clinic provides specialized care not available at other dental practices. It was founded in 1996.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 03/11/13)

LePage Refused to Re-Apply for \$400,000 in Federal Funding for Support for Telemedicine and Dental Workers to Meet the Dental Health Needs of Rural and Underserved Populations Ended.

GRANT/FEDERAL FUNDS LOST	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES FUNDED	YEAR FUNDING STOPPED	STATE MATCH REQUIRED TO ACCESS FEDERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS DOLLAR AMOUNT LOST CUMULATIVE 2011-2017*	FEDERAL FUNDS MONEY UNSPENT CUMULATIVE 2011-2017	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS LOST TO MAINE 2011-2017
Oral Health Workforce Development ⁸⁵	Support for telemedicine and dental workers to meet oral health needs of rural, underserved populations	2013	40%	\$ 400,000		\$ 400,000

***Source: Maine had received this grant previously in 2013 and 2015, but the state CDC refused to re-apply. Conversation with Judith Feinstein, former Director of the (former) Office of Oral Health.*

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

DIRIGO HEALTH

Paul LePage, In 2010, Said He Would Eliminate A Health Insurance Program That Helped “More Than 32,000 Mainers Obtain Health Insurance Since It Began” In 2005. Dirigo Health is “the state-administered health insurance program initiated by Gov. John Baldacci.” “Dirigo, signed into law in 2003 and implemented in 2005, aimed to expand the availability of affordable health insurance to businesses and individuals. But the program was plagued by funding woes and failed to live up to its promise.” “Trish Riley, director of Baldacci’s Office of Health Policy and Finance, said Dirigo has been successful at helping more than 32,000 Mainers obtain health insurance since it began” and boasted an “enrollment of about 14,000” in 2010. “‘There is no general fund money spent on Dirigo,’ she said. ‘In fact, it covers 6,700 hundred parents that would have been coming out of the general fund through MaineCare. But you would either cut 6,700 people off Medicaid or the general fund would have to come up with the roughly \$6 million, if you eliminate Dirigo.’” “Dirigo is about 50 percent funded by private insurance companies through a complicated formula called a savings offset payment, which is a state calculation of the money saved from Dirigo covering unpaid hospital care that otherwise would have been charged back to the insurance company.” “Other funding comes from member and employer payments, the federal government and tobacco company settlement dollars.” “Since Congress enacted the federal health care reform law...Riley said Dirigo has been providing the framework for implementing the new legislation.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 11/09/10) Paul LePage, in 2010, “said he would get rid of the state’s Dirigo Health program.” (Kennebec Journal, 04/22/10)

FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE

Paul LePage, In 2011, Proposed Slashing Funding For “Prenatal And Young Children’s Care, Prescription Drugs For The Elderly And Disabled, Substance Abuse Prevention And Treatment And School Health Programs.” Paul LePage “proposed a budget to close an estimated \$221 million shortfall over...18 months. In total, his plan would eliminate MaineCare benefits for 65,000 people.” (Kennebec Journal, 01/10/12) The plan included cutting “by more than 50 percent state subsidies for a Fund for Healthy Maine, which allocates money for a national settlement with tobacco companies for smoking prevention, prenatal and young children’s care, prescription drugs for the elderly and disabled, substance abuse prevention and treatment and school health programs.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 12/06/11)

Paul LePage, In 2011, Proposed Cutting Funding For Dental Health, Family Planning, “Cancer Screenings, Diabetes Tests And Detection Of Heart Disease.” Paul LePage, in 2011, proposed “a shift of nearly \$18 million from the Fund for a Healthy Maine to the state Medicaid fund.” This proposal included taking “money away from programs such as oral and dental health, bone marrow screening, substance abuse services and family planning. Kate Brogan, vice president for public affairs for the Family Planning Association of Maine, said the group is poised to lose more than \$400,000 a year, which is about one-third of its state funding. They also get about \$3 million from the federal government. The association runs clinics in Augusta and in the midcoast, and provides funding for other health care centers across the state. In addition to contraceptives, it provides cancer screenings, diabetes tests and detection of heart disease, she said. The centers serve about 28,000 women, men and teens each year.” “The result of a \$400,000-a-year funding cut would mean clinics would have to close, and those that do remain would have to cut hours, she said.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 02/21/11)

HOSPITALS

LePage Continued Call for Hospital Debt Resolution. In March 2013 LePage “reiterated his call for the state to pay off the \$484 million it owes its hospitals for MaineCare services and again detailed his plan for doing so with revenues from the state’s wholesale liquor business... a bill offered by LePage before the Legislature would involve the state renegotiating and putting back out for bid a contract that allows a private company to run the state’s liquor business.” [Bangor Daily News, [3/8/13](#)]

- **Sun Journal Editorial: Cutting Cost of Liquor not the Answer to Revenue Fix for Hospitals.** The Sun Journal opined, “we should speak loudly and clearly that cutting the cost of hard liquor in order to boost state revenue would be foolish and counterproductive... Most studies have found, meanwhile, that alcohol consumption does increase and decrease depending upon cost.” [Sun Journal editorial, [9/7/12](#)]
- **Editorial Headline: Governor's Veto Threats No Way to do Business.** The Portland Press Herald opined, “LePage has proposed having the state take over some aspects of the liquor business, which he says will let Maine keep more revenue... Anything short of bipartisan compromise will be gridlock, and anyone trying to accomplish anything without give and take will bring on a government shutdown. The governor has said that he is willing to pay that price if he doesn't get what he wants on the liquor contract, but Republican legislators should be more responsible than that.” [Portland Press Herald editorial, [3/2/13](#)]

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Requiring DHHS to Reimburse Non-Critical Access Hospitals for Each Day After 10 Days That a MaineCare-Eligible Individual Was in Hospital Care While Awaiting Placement in a Nursing Facility. In July 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD401 by a 139-3 vote and the Senate by a 33-0 vote. LD401 “directs the Department of Health and Human Services to provide reimbursement to hospitals other than critical access hospitals for each day after the 10th day that a MaineCare-eligible individual is in the care of a hospital while awaiting placement in a nursing facility. The reimbursement is to be paid prospectively at the statewide average rate per MaineCare member day for nursing facility services. The requirement begins January 1, 2019 and is repealed on December 31, 2023.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD401, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD401, 2018](#)]

IMMUNIZATIONS & VACCINATIONS

Paul LePage Proposed Slashing Funding For Immunizations. In 2013, Maine will have “\$54 million in tobacco settlement money, which comes from tobacco companies that were sued by 46 states in 1998.” Paul LePage proposed taking “\$29 million out of the fund in 2013” and moving “it to MaineCare, which is the state’s Medicaid program. That way, the \$29 million will be eligible for federal matching funds that will nearly double the amount, said LePage spokeswoman Adrienne Bennett.” A transfer out of the fund would mean “the elimination of the home visiting program in which new and adolescent parents learn about child development.” It

would reduce “funding for Head Start,” eliminate “all funds for a dental program for low-income individuals” and take “\$1 million out of a fund that pays for immunizations. The \$1 million represents 10 percent of the money in the immunization fund.” (Kennebec Journal, 12/17/11)

HEALTH INSURANCE

Health Insurance Coverage Requirements

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Requiring Insurance Carriers to Provide Doctors With Their Requirements for Inpatient Coverage Following Breast Cancer Treatment, and for the Physicians to Provide the Same Information to Their Patients. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD359 by a 145-0 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote. LD359 “requires carriers to provide written notice regarding the requirements for inpatient coverage following treatment of breast cancer to physicians participating in the carrier’s provider network and requires attending physicians to provide a similar notice to patients when consulting with patients about breast cancer treatment. The requirements of Public Law 2015, chapter 227 apply to all individual and group health insurance policies and contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2016.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD359, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD359, 2015](#)]

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Requiring Health Insurance Companies to Provide Enrollees With Information About Prescription Drug Coverage and Formularies. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD636 by a 126-12 vote and the Senate by a 31-3 vote. LD636 “requires all health insurance carriers offering individual and group health plans to provide certain information with respect to prescription drug coverage to prospective enrollees and enrollees on its publicly accessible website consistent with the requirements of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The law requires carriers to post each prescription drug formulary for each health plan in a manner that allows enrollees to determine whether a particular prescription drug is covered under a formulary. The law also requires carriers to provide information about utilization review, prior authorization or step therapy, cost-sharing, exclusions from coverage and the amount of coverage for out-of-network providers or noncovered health care services.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD636, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD636, 2015](#)]

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of Legislation Requiring Health Insurers to Cover Services Provided by a Licensed Naturopathic Doctors if the Patient Would be Reimbursed if the Services Had Been Provided by Other Licensed Providers. In March 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1030 by a 135-11 vote and the Senate by a 32-2 vote. LD1030 “requires health insurance carriers to cover services provided by licensed naturopathic doctors if those services are within the scope of the naturopathic doctors’ license and would be reimbursed if the services were provided by other licensed providers. The law also prohibits carriers from excluding a naturopathic doctor from their provider networks as long as the naturopathic doctor is willing to meet the same terms and conditions as other participating providers.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1030, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1030, 2018](#)]

Paul LePage Supported Eliminating Maine’s Health Insurance Mandates Not Required By The Federal Government. Paul LePage, in 2010, said he would “aim at reducing health care mandates, which he said put Maine companies at a competitive disadvantage.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 04/18/10) “Maine cannot afford a health care system ‘saddled with Cadillac mandates,’ so he would reduce minimum coverage guidelines to federally established levels,” Paul LePage said. “That would allow Maine people to buy coverage that makes sense for them.” (Portland Press Herald, 05/09/10)

- **Maine Requires Coverage Above And Beyond Federal Requirements, Including Coverage For Diabetes Supplies And Autism.** Historically, Maine has placed requirements on health insurers – such as making them provide plans to people with pre-existing conditions and not allowing them to base premiums on an individual’s health status – that other states have not, making costs higher in Maine.” (Kennebec Journal, 08/24/10)
- **Maine Required Insurance Coverage For Autism.** “In 2010...Maine...enacted legislation requiring insurance coverage for autism.” The federal government does not require such coverage. (www.ncsl.org/issues-research/health/autism-and-insurance-coverage-state-laws.aspx)
- **Maine Required Insurance To Cover Diabetic Supplies.** Maine also requires insurance to cover diabetes supplies. The federal government does not require such coverage. (Bangor Daily News, 05/10/96)

Health Insurance Across State Lines

Paul LePage “Supports Allowing Individuals And Businesses To Purchase [Health] Insurance Across State Lines,” Even Though The End Result Of Such A Change Would Likely Be The Elimination Of Insurance Mandates In The State. Paul LePage “supports allowing individuals and businesses to purchase [health] insurance across state lines.” (Portland Press Herald, 05/09/10) If health insurance could be sold across state lines health insurers would likely “cluster in one state, follow that state’s regulations and sell the product to everyone in the country. In practice, that means we will have a single national insurance standard. But that standard will be decided by South Dakota. Or, if South Dakota doesn’t give the insurers the freedom they want, it’ll be decided by Wyoming. Or whoever. (*Washington Post Blogs*, 02/17/10)

“The Maine State Chamber Of Commerce, Anthem Blue Cross And Blue Shield And Other Groups Said” Allowing “Mainers To Purchase Insurance Across State Lines...could Hurt Maine businesses.” “The Maine State Chamber of Commerce, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and other groups said a slate of proposals that would allow Mainers to purchase insurance across state lines would have far-reaching consequences that could hurt Maine businesses and create an uneven playing field among insurers.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 04/12/11)

Insurance Coverage Stats Under LePage

Headline: “New Census Data Reveal Maine is the Only State That Has Not Experienced an Increase in the Percentage of People with Health Insurance Since ACA Passage.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, Press Release, 9/16/15](#)]

- **Subheadline: “Maine has Fallen from 10th to 24th in the Nation for the Percentage of People with Health Coverage Since 2010.”** [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, Press Release, 9/16/15](#)]

In 2014, 10.1% of Mainers (134,000) Did Not Have Access to Health Insurance, “Statistically the Same as in 2010 When Congress Passed the ACA.” According to a press release from the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “The Census Bureau today released the country’s official data on health insurance rates, which showed that 134,000 or 10.1% of Mainers lacked access to health insurance in 2014, statistically the same as in 2010 when Congress passed the ACA.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, Press Release, 9/16/15](#)]

In 2018, Maine’s Uninsured Rate Was 8.1%, Ranking it 26th Nationally. [[United Health Foundation, America’s Health Rankings, 2018](#)]

Small Group Insurance

LePage Signed a Health Insurance Overhaul Bill Into Law, “An Attempt To Spur More Competition In Maine’s Health Insurance Market By Making It Easier For Insurers To Offer New Plans For Small Groups And Individuals And By Allowing Small Businesses To Band Together And Negotiate More Favorable Rates.” Paul LePage, in 2011, signed into law and has since defended LD 1333, which became Public Law 90. “The insurance overhaul bill – called Public Law... 90 – was an attempt to spur more competition in Maine’s health insurance market by making it easier for insurers to offer new plans for small groups and individuals and by allowing small businesses to band together and negotiate more favorable rates. The bill also created a high-risk pool – or reinsurance program – to protect insurance companies from the high costs of covering patients who require the most medical care. The law funds the program in part through a \$4 assessment on the monthly premium of anyone with private insurance.” (Bangor Daily News, 11/23/12)

Legislation Was “Funded By A Tax On Premiums Of As Much As \$4 Per Person Per Month On Almost Every Policyholder In Maine.” More specifically, it is “funded by a tax on premiums of as much as \$4 per person per month on almost every policyholder in Maine.” (Kennebec Journal, 05/17/11)

- **The Monthly Tax Was “to Help Cover The Cost Of Those In The High-Risk Pool...Shifts The Risk Of Insuring These People From Insurance Companies To Thousands Of Maine Residents.”** The “monthly tax of at least \$4...assessed on all other policyholders to help cover the cost of those in the high-risk pool...shifts the risk of insuring these people from insurance companies to thousands of Maine residents.” (Bangor Daily News, 05/19/11)

The Law “Allows Insurers to Charge Different Rates Based on Patients’ Age, Geography and Health Status.” “In addition, the law allows insurers to charge different rates based on patients’ age, geography and health status. Proponents say that part of the bill is an attempt to woo more young, healthy patients into the marketplace by allowing insurers to charge them less.” (*Bangor Daily News*, 11/23/12)

The Law Allowed “Insurance Companies To Raise Rates In The Small-Group Market – Which Includes Small Employers – By 10 Percent Or Less Without Approval From The State’s Bureau Of Insurance.” It also changed state law to allow “insurance companies to raise rates in the small-group market – which includes small employers – by 10 percent or less without approval from the state’s Bureau of Insurance.” (*Bangor Daily News*, 11/23/12)

Consumers for Affordable Health Care Study Found That 54% of Individual Health Insurance Policyholders in Maine Saw Premium Increases, as Did 90% of Small Business Policholders. According to a study by Consumers for Affordable Health Care, since this bill became law “54 percent of individual policyholders in Maine saw premium increases, while 90 percent of small business policyholders saw rates go up. Small-group plans cover up to 50 employees.” (*Bangor Daily News*, 11/23/12)

The Bill Was “Enthusiastically Endorsed by Insurance Companies.” In addition to the abovementioned rate increases, under this bill, which was “enthusiastically endorsed by insurance companies...many consumer protections enacted over two decades disappeared. Especially hard hit: people living in rural areas and folks over 40. Among other things, the new law abolished protections for rural families that had required insurers to have at least one doctor in their provider networks within 30 miles of where those families lived and at least one hospital within 60 miles. The law also allows insurance companies to effectively double rates for older residents. That provision is affecting not only individuals and families, but also small businesses that employ older workers. Within months of the bill’s passage, insurers began jacking up the rates they charged businesses with older workers by 90 percent or more.” “As consumer advocates had feared, hardest hit were indeed older workers and people living in rural areas, most of whom saw good coverage options previously available to them disappear.” (*Politics Daily*, 09/10/12)

The Bill “Abolished Protections For Rural Families That Had Required Insurers To Have At Least One Doctor In Their Provider Networks Within 30 Miles Of Where Those Families Lived And At Least One Hospital Within 60 Miles.” In addition to the abovementioned rate increases, under this bill, which was “enthusiastically endorsed by insurance companies...many consumer protections enacted over two decades disappeared. Especially hard hit: people living in rural areas and folks over 40. Among other things, the new law abolished protections for rural families that had required insurers to have at least one doctor in their provider networks within 30 miles of where those families lived and at least one hospital within 60 miles. The law also allows insurance companies to effectively double rates for older residents. That provision is affecting not only individuals and families, but also small businesses that employ older workers. Within months of the bill’s passage, insurers began jacking up the rates they charged businesses with older workers by 90 percent or more.” “As consumer advocates had feared, hardest hit were indeed older workers and people living in rural areas,

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Former Cigna Health Communications Expert Said Health Insurance Companies “Hit the Jackpot” When the Law Was Passed. “Wendell Potter, a former communications expert for Cigna Health...wrote that the insurance companies ‘hit the jackpot’ when LePage and the Legislature pushed through the law.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 10/06/11)

LIVING DONORS

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Prohibiting Insurers From Limiting or Refusing to Issue New Coverage to Living Organ Donors, Precluding Individuals from Donating an Organ, or Considering an Individual’s Status as a Donor in Determining the Rate for Coverage, or Otherwise Discriminating Against Such Individuals. In April 2017, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD12 by a 146-0 vote and the Senate by a 32-2 vote. LD12 “prohibits an insurer authorized to do business in this State from: 1. Limiting coverage or refusing to issue or renew coverage of an individual under any life insurance, disability insurance or long-term care insurance policy due to the status of an individual as a living donor; 2. Precluding an individual from donating all or part of an organ as a condition of receiving coverage under a life insurance, disability insurance or long-term care insurance policy; 3. Considering the status of an individual as a living organ donor in determining the premium rate for coverage of that individual under a life insurance, disability insurance or long-term care insurance policy; or 4. Otherwise discriminating in the offering, issuance, cancellation, amount of coverage, price or other condition of a life insurance, disability insurance or long-term care insurance policy based solely and without any additional actuarial justification upon the status of an individual as a living organ donor.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD12, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD12, 2017](#)]

LONG-TERM CARE

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill That Clarified That the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Had the Authority to Act as a

Resource During Hospital Discharges to Help Patients With Complex Medical Needs. In April 2016, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1617 by a 129-18 vote and the Senate by a 34-1 vote. LD1617 “amends the law governing the long-term care ombudsman program to clarify that the long-term care ombudsman has the authority to act as a resource during the hospital discharge process to assist patients with complex medical needs who experience significant barriers to admission to a residential care facility, nursing facility, assisted living facility or to home and community-based services. It also provides funds to allow the program to contract for two new full-time positions within the program.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1617, 2016](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1617, 2016](#)]

- **LePage Said He Vetoed the Bill Because in a Government the Size of Maine’s With “Many Employees and Unfilled Positions,” it Was Not “Necessary” to Appropriate Funding to Hire Two Additional People.** According to LePage’s veto letter for LD1617, “This bill puts an additional \$150,000 per year into the budget baseline to hire two new positions to help the Long-Term Ombudsman find placement for difficult to place patients. While I support the work of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, it is not necessary in a government of this size, which already has many employees and unfilled positions, to appropriate additional spending to hire two people.” [[Gov. LePage veto Letter for LD1617, 4/22/16](#)]

MENTAL ILLNESS

Federal Funding

Headline: “With No Explanation, Maine Rejects Scarce Funds For Young People With Mental Illness.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/8/16](#)]

In 2014, Maine Had Won a \$1 Million/Year, Five-Year Grant to Help Teenagers and Young Adults at Risk of Mental Illness. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “In 2014, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services won a \$1 million-per-year, five-year grant to help teenagers and young adults at risk for serious mental illness. But without explanation, the department recently turned away the remaining three years of federal funding, giving providers a month to wrap up services.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/8/16](#)]

LePage Lost \$3 Million in Federal Funding for the “Healthy Transitions” Program, Which Treats Teens With Severe Mental Illness to Prevent Homelessness, Suicide, and School Drop Outs:

Why These Lost Dollars Matter	Dollars Lost to Maine	The Facts
Healthy Transitions: Treats teens with severe mental illness	\$3 million	✓ Prevents school drop outs, homelessness, and suicide¹² ✓ Services not eligible for Medicaid or private insurance¹³

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

In 2016, “Without Explanation,” Maine “Turned Away the Remaining Three Years of Federal Funding, Giving Providers a Month to Wrap Up Services.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “In 2014, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services won a \$1 million-per-year, five-year grant to help teenagers and young adults at risk for serious mental illness. But without explanation, the department recently turned away the remaining three years of federal funding, giving providers a month to wrap up services.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/8/16](#)]

Maine Didn’t Have to Contribute Any Funding in Order to Receive the Federal Funds.

According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The letter from Barrows offered no explanation for the state’s decision to end the grant and forfeit the last three years of funding. Maine didn’t have to put up any of its own money to receive the federal funds.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/8/16](#)]

Mental Health Services Eligibility

2016: LePage Cut Eligibility For Mental Health Services That Resulted In “Nearly 5,500” People Losing Vital Services. The Press Herald wrote in August 2019, “Our mental health care system is fractured, causing some of our most vulnerable citizens to slip through the cracks. It’s a problem that has gotten worse, not better, in recent years. In 2016, under then-Gov. Paul LePage, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services drastically cut eligibility to Section 17 community support services under MaineCare. These services — including community integrative case management, daily living supports and more, for folks with chronic and persistent mental health challenges — play a crucial role in the health and well-being of the people and families who depend on them. LePage’s cuts resulted in nearly 5,500 people losing the critically important services they rely on daily.” [Morning Sentinel, 8/14/19]

Mental Health Institutions Staffing

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation Increasing Wages For Staff At State Mental Health Institutions. In April 2016, the House overrode Governor LePage’s veto of LD1645 by a 116-25 veto. The Senate overrode his veto by a vote of 34-1. LD 1645 “provides that wages for select personnel at the state mental health institutions must be increased beginning with the first pay period commencing on or after July 1, 2016 and provides for the funding of the General Fund costs of the wage increases through transfers from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Salary Plan program, General Fund account up to \$944,379 in fiscal year 2016-17.” [State of Maine Legislature, LD 1645, Roll Call #654, [4/29/16](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1645, [4/29/16](#); Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Summaries of Bills, LD1645, [May 2016](#)]

- **Maine AFL-CIO: Maine’s Mental Health Hospitals Were Understaffed, Forcing Workers To Work Overtime.** “Direct care workers at Maine’s mental health hospitals - Riverview and Dorothea Dix Psychiatric [sic] Centers – have been struggling in recent years due to severe understaffing. Workers were frequently being forced to work mandated overtime shifts to cover for staff shortages. The work they do is dangerous and difficult, and being understaffed was unsafe for workers and patients alike. AFSCME 1814 & 1825 and MSEA-SEIU 1989 represent the workers at Riverview and Dorothea

Dix. One of the biggest barriers to recruiting and retaining staff was low wages. Mental health worker pay started at less than \$12 an hour. Staff turnover was high, which negatively impacted the care they were able to provide their patients.” [Maine AFL-CIO, 2016 Legislative Scorecard, [2016](#)]

- **Maine AFL-CIO: Mental Health Hospitals’ Paid Their Workers Less Than \$12 An Hour, Leading To High Staff Turnover And Difficulties Recruiting Staff.** “Direct care workers at Maine’s mental health hospitals - Riverview and Dorothea Dix Psychiatric [sic] Centers – have been struggling in recent years due to severe understaffing. Workers were frequently being forced to work mandated overtime shifts to cover for staff shortages. The work they do is dangerous and difficult, and being understaffed was unsafe for workers and patients alike. AFSCME 1814 & 1825 and MSEA-SEIU 1989 represent the workers at Riverview and Dorothea Dix. One of the biggest barriers to recruiting and retaining staff was low wages. Mental health worker pay started at less than \$12 an hour. Staff turnover was high, which negatively impacted the care they were able to provide their patients.” [Maine AFL-CIO, 2016 Legislative Scorecard, [2016](#)]
- **Maine AFL-CIO: Passing LD 1645 Gave Mental Health Hospitals’ Workers “Well Deserved Raises,” Resulting In Decreased Overtime Shifts, Bettering Staffing, And Better Morale.** “Senator Roger Katz and other legislators heard from workers speaking up on this issue and submitted a bill to increase wages for front line staff including mental health workers and nurses. Increasing wages for mental health workers, nurses, and other direct care staff at Riverview and Dorothea Dix means they’ll be able to better compete for and keep good staff. LD 1645 passed both the House and Senate with strong bipartisan majorities, but was vetoed by Governor LePage. Both chambers overrode the veto and LD 1645 became law, giving these workers well deserved raises. Since implemented, workers at Riverview have seen a decrease in mandated overtime shifts, better staffing levels, and increased morale.” [Maine AFL-CIO, 2016 Legislative Scorecard, [2016](#)]

July 2016: LePage Issued Executive Order To Stop Spending Authorized By Legislature Because He Disagreed With Way Money Was Appropriated. “MAINE IS IN the midst of a constitutional crisis, a quiet one that nobody wants to talk about, but a crisis nonetheless. The latest episode involves Gov. Paul LePage's executive order to halt spending authorized by the Legislature, and to reallocate funding from other accounts, because he doesn't like the way lawmakers appropriated money, and after legislative leaders declined -- appropriately -- to reconvene a special session.” [Morning Sentinel, 7/7/16]

- **Morning Sentinel: LePage Instituted Hiring Freeze To Pay For Mental Health Workers’ Raises Rather Than Release Funding From Appropriations.** “Augusta Sen. Roger Katz, a fellow Republican who is one of the few legislators to stand up to LePage, referred to the governor's "Alice in Wonderland reasoning" in preferring to fund pay raises for the depleted corps of mental health workers through a hiring freeze to prevent recruiting any more employees. Editorial writers deplored, legislators criticized, but no

one, to date, has done anything effective to reverse these unconstitutional actions.”
[Morning Sentinel, 7/7/16]

- **Morning Sentinel: LePage “Hijacked” Ability To Issue Bonds Passed By Legislature From State Treasurer.** “Republicans upheld his Medicaid vetoes, and Democrats caved in to LePage's unconstitutional tactics on bonds. He didn't even issue all the bonds he promised to release, blocking Land for Maine's Future funding until a legislative uprising, led by Sen. Katz, forced him to back down -- although House Republicans still refused to approve a bill explicitly removing the governor from bonding procedures. LePage is still blocking other bonds, and signs only for ones he likes. As a result, news stories routinely refer to the governor ‘issuing bonds.’ That's not the governor's job; it's the treasurer's. He has hijacked it.” [Morning Sentinel, 7/7/16]

Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board

August 2018: LePage Left Board Tasked With Overseeing Adult Mental Disability Services Short 10 Members. “An independent board charged with overseeing the state's services for adults with intellectual disabilities has just five of the 15 members it's supposed to have under state law. And Gov. Paul LePage's administration hasn't been sharing much of the data to which the board is entitled under the law. The volunteer Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board is tasked with independent oversight of the state's developmental services system, which provides services to about 6,000 adults with intellectual disabilities and autism. Those adults, under state and federal laws, are generally entitled to state-funded services that allow them to remain in their communities. But a lack of members and a lack of information about the developmental services system are complicating the board's ability to oversee it.”
[Bangor Daily News, 8/22/18]

- **Bangor Daily News: LePage “Ignored Or Rejected” Nominations To Fill Board Charged With Oversight Of State’s Adult Mental Disability Services.** “LePage hasn't made any appointments to the board since January 2016, and he has either ignored or rejected the last two slates of nominations the board sent to his office, according to the panel's annual report released earlier this month. In addition, since 2016, the state Department of Health and Human Services has shared little of the data on services to which the board is entitled under state law.” [Bangor Daily News, 8/22/18]

Riverview Psychiatric Center

2013: Riverview Psychiatric Center Lost Federal Certification And \$20 Million in Federal Funding After Federal Regulators Discovered Safety Violations. “It’s been a tumultuous few years for the Riverview Psychiatric Center in Augusta. The hospital lost federal certification - and \$20 million in annual funding - after federal regulators discovered a number of safety violations, including corrections officers' use of stun guns and handcuffs and handguns to subdue patients back in 2013.” [Maine Public Radio, [1/2/15](#)]

- **2013: Riverview Psychiatric Center Was Decertified By The Centers For Medicaid Services.** “The proposed 21-bed, high-security forensic facility is crucial to the state's

efforts for Riverview to be recertified by the federal Centers for Medicaid Services and preserve \$20 million in annual federal funding. The facility was decertified in 2013.” [Bangor Daily News, 11/30/16]

- **2013: Center For Medicaid Services Revoked Riverview’s Federal Funding After Finding The Use Of Stun Guns, Pepper Spray, And Handcuffs On Patients And Improper Records Keeping And Commingling Of Patients.** “The federal agency that oversees Riverview funding revoked the hospital's certification in 2013 after regulators found many problems during an audit, including the use of stun guns, pepper spray and handcuffs on patients, improper record-keeping, medication errors and failure to report progress made by patients. That agency, the Center for Medicaid Services, also determined Riverview was improperly commingling patients that needed intense hospital treatment with those that no longer required hospitalization.” [Kennebec Journal, 12/1/16]

2015: LePage’s DHHS Tried To Move The New Riverview Psychiatric Center Project Through The Legislature, But It “Was Defeated Amid Concerns For Advocates For The Mentally Ill And Lawmakers Who Said The Project Was Not Fully Vetted.” “Construction of a crucial forensic psychiatric unit in Augusta was dealt a blow by Democratic legislative leaders who, using an oft-overlooked oversight power, voted against Gov. Paul LePage's administration's plan on Wednesday. LePage and the Department of Health and Human Services have been trying for months to start work on the building, which would house forensic patients -- who are mostly people referred to the custody of Riverview Psychiatric Center by the courts -- who don't need acute care. DHHS tried to move the project through the Legislature last year, but the bill was defeated amid concerns for advocates for the mentally ill and lawmakers who said the project was not fully vetted. That led the LePage administration to identify alternative, internal funding -- outside of legislative oversight -- and move forward with the project.” [Sun Journal, 11/30/16]

Spring 2016: Legislature Killed Governor LePage’s Plan To Build A New Psychiatric Center At Riverview Psychiatric Center For Forensic Patients. “Construction of a crucial forensic psychiatric unit in Augusta was dealt a blow by Democratic legislative leaders who, using an oft-overlooked oversight power, voted against Gov. Paul LePage's administration's plan on Wednesday. LePage and the Department of Health and Human Services have been trying for months to start work on the building, which would house forensic patients -- who are mostly people referred to the custody of Riverview Psychiatric Center by the courts -- who don't need acute care. DHHS tried to move the project through the Legislature last year, but the bill was defeated amid concerns for advocates for the mentally ill and lawmakers who said the project was not fully vetted. That led the LePage administration to identify alternative, internal funding - outside of legislative oversight -- and move forward with the project.” [Sun Journal, 11/30/16]

September 2016: Governor LePage’s Administration Proposed Building A New 21-Bed Rehabilitation Facility Next To Riverview Psychiatric Center To Treat Patients “Found Not Criminally Responsible For Committing Crimes By Reason Of Mental Defect Or Insanity.” “A state proposal to build a new 21-bed rehabilitation facility next to Riverview Psychiatric Center to treat patients who have committed crimes will go to a public hearing

Tuesday before the Augusta Planning Board. Application materials for the proposal state it would house patients ‘found not criminally responsible for committing crimes by reason of mental defect or insanity and, therefore, cannot be housed within either a state prison or a state psychiatric facility.’ The proposal is part of an effort by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to regain federal certification for Riverview and the \$20 million annual federal funding reimbursement that comes with it.” [Portland Press Herald, 9/12/16]

After The Legislative Avenue Was Killed, Governor LePage’s Administration Moved Forward “Outside Of Legislative Oversight” To Move The Project Forward Using Internal Funds. “Construction of a crucial forensic psychiatric unit in Augusta was dealt a blow by Democratic legislative leaders who, using an oft-overlooked oversight power, voted against Gov. Paul LePage’s administration’s plan on Wednesday. LePage and the Department of Health and Human Services have been trying for months to start work on the building, which would house forensic patients -- who are mostly people referred to the custody of Riverview Psychiatric Center by the courts -- who don’t need acute care. DHHS tried to move the project through the Legislature last year, but the bill was defeated amid concerns for advocates for the mentally ill and lawmakers who said the project was not fully vetted. That led the LePage administration to identify alternative, internal funding -- outside of legislative oversight -- and move forward with the project.” [Sun Journal, 11/30/16]

- **Bangor Daily News: Maine DHHS Assumed It Could Move Forward With The Project Without Legislative Approval.** “DHHS had assumed it could proceed with the \$3 million to \$5 million project without legislative approval, until Attorney General Janet Mills, a Democrat, notified the executive branch last month of a long-overlooked law that requires the Legislative Council to approve building projects in the Capitol Area, which is a designated development zone in Augusta.” [Bangor Daily News, 9/30/16]
- **Proposed 21-Bed Facility Would Treat Forensic Patients Who Had Been Deemed Incompetent To Stand Trial Or Not Criminally Responsible For Their Actions, And Help Free Up Space At Riverview Psychiatric Hospital.** “The administration was proposing the new 21-bed, secure facility to treat forensic patients who have been deemed by the courts to be either incompetent to stand trial or not criminally responsible for their actions. The administration says this is the best way to free up space and alleviate safety issues that have plagued Riverview, a 92-bed psychiatric hospital managed by the state Department of Health and Human Services.” [Kennebec Journal, 12/1/16]
- **Proposed 21-Bed Facility Would Treat Forensic Patients Who Had Been Deemed Incompetent To Stand Trial Or Not Criminally Responsible For Their Actions, And Help Free Up Space At Riverview Psychiatric Hospital.** “The administration was proposing the new 21-bed, secure facility to treat forensic patients who have been deemed by the courts to be either incompetent to stand trial or not criminally responsible for their actions. The administration says this is the best way to free up space and alleviate safety issues that have plagued Riverview, a 92-bed psychiatric hospital managed by the state Department of Health and Human Services.” [Kennebec Journal, 12/1/16]

The Proposed High-Security Psychiatric Unit Was “Crucial To The State’s Efforts For Riverview To Be Recertified By The Federal Centers For Medicaid Services” And Maintain \$20 Million In Federal Funding. “The proposed 21-bed, high-security forensic facility is crucial to the state's efforts for Riverview to be recertified by the federal Centers for Medicaid Services and preserve \$20 million in annual federal funding. The facility was decertified in 2013.” [Bangor Daily News, 11/30/16]

- **August 2015: Health And Human Services Commissioner Mary Mayhew Said Building A Separate Treatment Facility For Mentally Ill Patients Who Had Committed Crimes Could Be The Only Way For Riverview To Regain Its Federal Certification.** “In August 2015, Health and Human Services Commissioner Mary Mayhew said creating a new, separate treatment facility for mentally ill patients who have committed crimes might be the only way for the state hospital to regain that certification.” [Portland Press Herald, 9/12/16]
- **Associated Press: “Advocates For The Mentally Ill Have Called The [LePage] Administration’s Proposals ‘Vague’ And Worried That The Facility Would Operate More Like A Prison Than A Treatment Center.”** “Advocates for the mentally ill have called the administration's previous proposals ‘vague’ and worried the facility would operate more like a prison than a treatment center. But now, the leader of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Maine, says the group supports the plan.” [Associated Press, 12/8/16]

Bangor Daily News: “Maine Department Of Health And Human Services Is Moving Toward Building A New Forensic Unit Near The State-Run Riverview Psychiatric Center Without Sharing Its Plans With Lawmakers Or The City Of Augusta.” “The Maine Department of Health and Human Services is moving toward building a new forensic unit near the state-run Riverview Psychiatric Center without sharing its plans with lawmakers or the city of Augusta.” [Bangor Daily News, 9/30/16]

October 2016: Augusta Planning Board Approved The New Psychiatric Center By A 5-0 Vote After Requiring That All Entrances And Exits At The Facility Have Two Locked Doors. “The Planning Board approved plans for a new, secure 21- bed rehabilitation facility next to Riverview Psychiatric Center to treat patients who have committed crimes despite concerns about the security of the building and safety of nearby neighborhoods. Board members approved the new building in a 5-0 vote after adding a condition that all entrances and exits at the facility have at least two locked doors to prevent patients from escaping.” [Portland Press Herald, 10/12/16]

HEADLINE: “Democratic Leaders Block Gov. LePage’s \$3 Million Riverview Plan.” [Sun Journal, 11/30/16]

November 2016: The Legislative Council Voted Against Approving A \$3 To \$5 Million Project To Build A 21-Bed, High-Security Psychiatric Facility At The Riverview Psychiatric Center. “Construction of a crucial forensic psychiatric unit in Augusta was dealt a

blow by Democratic legislative leaders who, using an oft-overlooked oversight power, voted against Gov. Paul LePage's administration's plan on Wednesday. LePage and the Department of Health and Human Services have been trying for months to start work on the building, which would house forensic patients -- who are mostly people referred to the custody of Riverview Psychiatric Center by the courts -- who don't need acute care. [...] DHHS had assumed it could proceed with the \$3 million to \$5 million project without legislative approval, until Attorney General Janet Mills, a Democrat, notified the executive branch last month of a long-overlooked law that requires the Legislative Council to approve building projects in the Capitol Area, which is a designated development zone in Augusta. [...] The Democrats -- outgoing House Speaker Mark Eves of North Berwick and House Majority Leader Jeff McCabe of Skowhegan, and Assistant House Minority Leader Sara Gideon of Freeport, the incoming speaker of the House -- voted against approving the project." [Bangor Daily News, 11/30/16]

- **Aug. 2016: Attorney General Janet Mills Told Governor LePage's Administration "Of A Long-Overlooked Law That Requires The Legislative Council To Approve Building Projects In The Capitol Area," Where The Psychiatric Facility Was To Be Built.** "DHHS had assumed it could proceed with the \$3 million to \$5 million project without legislative approval, until Attorney General Janet Mills, a Democrat, notified the executive branch last month of a long-overlooked law that requires the Legislative Council to approve building projects in the Capitol Area, which is a designated development zone in Augusta." [Bangor Daily News, 9/30/16]
- **The Psychiatric Unit's Construction Required Approval By The Legislative Council, A 10-Member Council Consisting Of Legislative Leadership.** "DHHS had assumed it could proceed with the \$3 million to \$5 million project without legislative approval, until Attorney General Janet Mills, a Democrat, notified the executive branch last month of a long-overlooked law that requires the Legislative Council to approve building projects in the Capitol Area, which is a designated development zone in Augusta. The Legislative Council consists of 10 members of legislative leadership. On Wednesday, with four members absent, Democrats and Republicans on the council deadlocked along party lines, 3-3, on the construction. Six votes are required for approval. In favor were the Republicans -- Senate President Mike Thibodeau of Winterport, House Minority Leader Ken Fredette of New-port and Assistant House Minority Leader Ellie Espling of New Gloucester." [Bangor Daily News, 11/30/16]
- **Kennebec Journal: "A 3-3 Party-Line Vote By Lawmakers On The Legislative Council Wednesday Essentially Killed A Bid By The LePage Administration To Build A New \$3.5 Million Health Facility Next To The State-Run Riverview Psychiatric Center."** "A 3-3 party-line vote by lawmakers on the Legislative Council Wednesday essentially killed a bid by the LePage administration to build a new \$3.5 million mental health facility next to the state-run Riverview Psychiatric Center." [Kennebec Journal, 12/1/16]

Associated Press: In December 2016, "Maine Residents In Need Of Psychiatric Care Are Being Hurt By A Shortage Of Beds As Legislators Deadlock On A Proposal To Free Up Space By Building A New Facility, According To A Leading Mental Health Advocate."

“Maine residents in need of psychiatric care are being hurt by a shortage of beds as legislators deadlock on a proposal to free up space by building a new facility, according to a leading mental health advocate in the state.” [Associated Press, 12/3/16]

- **Associated Press: “Maine Residents In Need Of Psychiatric Care Are Being Hurt By A Shortage Of Beds As Legislators Deadlock On A Proposal To Free Up Space By Building A New Facility, According To A Leading Mental Health Advocate.”**
“Maine residents in need of psychiatric care are being hurt by a shortage of beds as legislators deadlock on a proposal to free up space by building a new facility, according to a leading mental health advocate in the state.” [Associated Press, 12/3/16]

HEADLINE: “LePage Accuses Democrats Of Playing Politics With Psych Unit.”
[Associated Press, 12/1/16]

Governor LePage Accused Democrats Of “Playing Politics” With The Psychiatric Unit Construction Project After Democratic Attorney General Janet Mills Notified The Administration Of An “Obscure” Law That Required The Project Obtain Legislative Council Approval, After That Law Had Been Ignored For Years. “DHHS had assumed it could proceed with the \$3 million to \$5 million project without legislative approval, until Attorney General Janet Mills, a Democrat, notified the executive branch last month of a long-overlooked law that requires the Legislative Council to approve building projects in the Capitol Area, which is a designated development zone in Augusta. [...] LePage pointed out that the ‘obscure’ law that triggered Wednesday’s vote was ignored in some 30 other construction projects around the State House over the years, and he accused the opposing party of playing politics. ‘Democrats have been using Riverview’s challenges as a tool to attack my administration for years,’ said LePage. ‘All Democrats needed to do today was vote ‘yes,’ and Maine’s mental health system would be much better off, freeing up beds in Maine hospitals and delivering the appropriate level of care to all who need it.’” [Bangor Daily News, 11/30/16]

- **Governor LePage: “My Administration Has Been Working For Years To Regain Federal Certification Of Riverview Psychiatric Center, And Democrats In The Legislature Have Opposed Virtually Every Effort We Have Made.”** “Gov. Paul LePage issued a statement Wednesday saying the administration would simply move the project outside of the Capitol Area. ‘My administration has been working for years to regain federal certification of Riverview Psychiatric Center, and Democrats in the Legislature have opposed virtually every effort we have made,’ the governor said. ‘They just don’t care about Mainers with mental health issues.’” [Kennebec Journal, 12/1/16]

12/1/16: Governor LePage’s Administration Announced It Would Change The Location Of The Proposed Riverview Psychiatric Center Facility From The State Capitol Area In Order To Avoid The Legislative Council Approval Requirement Under State Law. “GOP Gov. Paul LePage said Wednesday his administration will change the location of a proposed mental health facility in Augusta following transparency concerns raised by Democratic lawmakers. The state Department of Health and Human Services wants to build a \$3 million forensic facility that would be a stepdown unit for mental health patients housed at Riverview Psychiatric Center in Augusta. The administration says the unit will help the facility regain the

federal accreditation it lost following concerns over overcrowding, inadequate staffing and improper use of control methods such as stun guns. But a long-overlooked state law says that a group of legislative leaders has to approve new construction within the state capitol area. Lawmakers failed to approve the plan on Wednesday with Democrats and Republicans at odds over the new facility. LePage said his administration would build the unit outside of the capitol area to avoid the Democrats' concerns." [Associated Press, 12/1/16]

HEADLINE: "House Speaker, LePage Agree To Cooperate On New Mental Health Facility." [Bangor Daily News, 12/9/16]

12/9/16: Sara Gideon And Governor LePage Announced An Agreement To Work Together On Building The Privately-Run Psychiatric Facility In Augusta, Thereby Requiring Approval From Legislative Leaders. "Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon said she and Republican Gov. Paul LePage have agreed to work together on a proposed privately run rehabilitation facility that has hit legislative roadblocks. Gideon's office said Friday that the two agree the facility should be built in Augusta, which requires approval from legislative leaders. LePage had suggested building the facility elsewhere after Democratic leaders blocked construction." [Associated Press, 12/9/16]

- **12/9/16: Sara Gideon Said The Legislative Council Could Meet Before January 2017 To Approve The Psychiatric Facility's Construction, Saying "Our Goal Is To Do Things As Quickly As Possible."** "But on Friday, House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, and the governor's office called their one-on-one meeting cooperative. Gideon said though she had to consult with other leaders, she and LePage agreed to 'a plan to share information' to address Democrats' concerns. She said the Legislative Council, which must approve construction on the state complex in Augusta, may reconvene in the next three weeks to approve the project if things go according to plan. 'Our goal is to do things as quickly as possible,' she said." [Bangor Daily News, 12/9/16]
- **Kennebec Journal: Sara Gideon "Said The Hourlong Meeting With LePage Produced A Tentative Agreement That The Administration Would Answer Lingering Questions Lawmakers Have About The Facility."** "Gideon, D-Freeport, said the hourlong meeting with LePage produced a tentative agreement that the administration would answer lingering questions lawmakers have about the facility, which LePage's Department of Health and Human Services wants to be operated privately." [Kennebec Journal, 12/10/16]
- **Kennebec Journal: "Gideon Would Not Say Exactly What Process She And The Governor Agreed To, But She Thinks Lawmakers Would Be Able To Move Quickly."** "Gideon would not say exactly what process she and the governor agreed to, but said she thinks lawmakers would be able to move quickly, and that the standoff between legislative Democrats and LePage would come to an end by Christmas. LePage's spokeswoman, Adrienne Bennett, agreed with Gideon's characterization of the meeting, saying LePage had agreed to get answers for Democrats and that he, too, viewed the meeting as productive." [Kennebec Journal, 12/10/16]

- **12/22/16: Governor LePage Said He Opposed Sara Gideon’s Proposal That She Would Fast-Track The Psychiatric Facility Project Through The Legislature: “She’s Insisting On Reopening The Whole Thing And I’m Not Going To Do That.”** “Gideon and LePage met earlier this month on this issue, and Gideon said she intends to put the proposal on a fast track through the legislative process. LePage doesn't like that idea. ‘She's insisting on reopening the whole thing and I'm not going to do that,’ said LePage. ‘The Maine people deserve better.’” [Bangor Daily News, 12/22/16]

After Meeting With Sara Gideon About The Psychiatric Facility Project, Governor LePage Announced That His Administration Was Still Looking At Alternate Locations That Would Avoid The Requirement To Obtain The Legislative Council’s Approval. “She [Gideon] and LePage then met Friday to discuss the matter, with Gideon emerging from that meeting to say she believed a path to compromise had been established. But LePage said Tuesday during his weekly chat in WVOM radio that his administration continues to look at locations for the facility outside the Capitol Area, where building projects require approval by the Legislative Council under part of an arcane set of rules that LePage says has largely been ignored in recent years. Under consideration are a parcel of land in Freeport as well as two existing buildings in Brunswick, one in Augusta and one in Bangor, the governor said Tuesday. ‘We're looking for a building right now. I'm not fighting with them anymore,’ said LePage. ‘You go down your path and I'll go down my path and whoever gets to the finish line wins.’” [Sun Journal, 12/13/16]

Bangor Daily News: “Lawmakers Have Submitted A Range Of Questions They Say Have Not Been Answered By The Administration, Ranging From How Patients Would Be Evaluated And Referred There To What Protections Would Be In Place For Patient, Staff And Public Safety.” “Democrats want LePage's proposal, which involves a private company leasing and operating the facility, vetted in public. Lawmakers have submitted a range of questions they say have not been answered by the administration, ranging from how patients would be evaluated and referred there to what protections would be in place for patient, staff and public safety.” [Bangor Daily News, 12/23/16]

Kennebec Journal Editorial: “The Best Way Forward For Riverview Psychiatric Center...Is For The State To Follow Through On Its Plan To Build A Separate Facility On The Riverview Campus In Augusta.” “The best way forward for Riverview Psychiatric Center -- the best path for the hospital, its workers and patients, and taxpayers in general -- is for the state to follow through on its plan to build a separate facility on the Riverview campus in Augusta.” [Editorial, Kennebec Journal, 12/27/16]

- **Kennebec Journal Editorial Argued That Building The Facility On The Riverview Campus In Augusta Would Allow Lawmakers’ Questions To Get Answered And The Highest Level Of Compromise Reached.** “The best way forward for Riverview Psychiatric Center -- the best path for the hospital, its workers and patients, and taxpayers in general -- is for the state to follow through on its plan to build a separate facility on the Riverview campus in Augusta. That's the path that has been reached by compromise -- that puts most of the stakeholders on the same page -- and brings the swiftest, most agreeable end to the years-long effort to find a solution to River-view's problems. The

plan has been held up as legislators on both sides of the aisle seek answers to legitimate questions regarding the construction and operation of a 21-bed 'step-down' facility. The new building would house patients under the state's care that cannot be released but who no longer require hospital-level care, opening much-needed beds at Riverview. Legislative leaders agree in general with the plan, but some have more specific questions for the LePage administration, including details on how a private company would be chosen to operate the new facility. Considering that legislators will have oversight of the facility once it is built, and that the creation of a privately run facility is a monumental change in how some patients are handled, it only makes sense to have lawmakers fully satisfied now with the administration's plan." [Editorial, *Kennebec Journal*, 12/27/16]

1/5/17: Maine Legislature Planned On Holding A Joint Committee Hearing On The Proposed Psychiatric Unit At Riverview In Augusta, But "LePage Said His Administration Has Abandoned Plans To Build The Unit In Augusta, Making The Scheduled Hearing Unnecessary." "One of the first items of business for the new Maine Legislature when lawmakers return to Augusta on Wednesday is a joint committee hearing on a proposed psychiatric treatment unit. But Gov. Paul LePage said his administration has abandoned plans to build the unit in Augusta, making the scheduled hearing unnecessary. [...] On Thursday, the Legislature announced that its Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Health and Human Services committees will hold a joint hearing on the originally proposed Augusta facility on Jan. 5 -- a day after lawmakers return in earnest for the 2017 session." [Bangor Daily News, 12/30/16]

HEADLINE: "State Moves Forward On Plan For Bangor Forensic Psychiatric Facility." [Bangor Daily News, 5/10/17]

***Kennebec Journal* Editorial: "Losing Accreditation Represented an Appalling Failure of the Administration to Fulfill its Duty to Care for People Who Are Seriously Ill. It Was Also a Huge Financial Kick in the Teeth for Maine."** According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, "A trip to the campus of the Riverview Psychiatric Center in Augusta would offer a powerful reminder on that score. That state facility lost its accreditation in 2013, when inspectors documented the use of pepper spray, electric stun guns and handcuffs on patients, among other examples of abuse and neglect exacerbated by short staffing, inadequate training and a lack of space to separate court-ordered forensic patients from those committed strictly for mental health treatment. Losing accreditation represented an appalling failure of the administration to fulfill its duty to care for people who are seriously ill. It was also a huge financial kick in the teeth for Maine." [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 2/11/18](#)]

Without Accreditation, Riverview Was Ineligible for Medicaid Reimbursements, Potentially Costing Maine \$20 Million a Year. According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, "Without accreditation, Riverview is ineligible for federal Medicaid reimbursements, potentially costing the state \$20 million a year. While many of the deficiencies found in the 2013 inspection have been improved, the state will not regain its good standing without building a free-standing addition to house low-security patients." [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 2/11/18](#)]

Headline: “Gov. Paul LePage Predicts Trump Administration Will Re-Certify Riverview.”
[*Sun Journal*, 3/14/17]

February 2019: CMS Recertified Riverview. “Governor Janet Mills and Commissioner of Health and Human Services Jeanne Lambrew announced today that the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has notified the State that Riverview Psychiatric Center has met all the conditions for re-certification and will resume receiving federal Medicare reimbursement. The facility lost its federal accreditation in 2013 due to overcrowding, inadequate staffing and mismanagement under then-Commissioner Mary Mayhew and Governor LePage. Speaker of the House Sara Gideon released the following statement: ‘For far too many years, the operations of Riverview have cast a dark cloud over the mental health systems of Maine. Today marks the incredible progress achieved by Superintendent Bouffard and the hardworking and devoted women and men who work at the facility. I’m certain that Governor Mills and Commissioner Lambrew will continue to work collaboratively with Riverview staff, administrators, legislators, patients, and advocates to set the highest standards of care.’” [Press Release, Maine House Democrats, 2/22/19]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Headline: “LePage Leaves Legacy of Bullheadedness on Mental Health.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 12/23/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “For Eight Years, Mainers With Mental Illness Have Been Waiting for Help While Their Governor Wants to Establish His Dominance Over the Legislature in a Constitutional System That is Supposed to Give Them Co-Equal Powers.” According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “For eight years, Mainers with mental illness have been waiting for help while their governor wants to establish his dominance over the Legislature in a constitutional system that is supposed to give them co-equal powers. When Maine families desperately needed him to put aside his ego and work with the opposition, he refused.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 12/23/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “When Maine Families Desperately Needed [LePage] to Put Aside His Ego and Work With the Opposition, He Refused.” According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “For eight years, Mainers with mental illness have been waiting for help while their governor wants to establish his dominance over the Legislature in a constitutional system that is supposed to give them co-equal powers. When Maine families desperately needed him to put aside his ego and work with the opposition, he refused.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 12/23/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: LePage “Plans to Leave Behind a Monument to His Legacy of Mismanagement in the Mental Health System,” a 16-Bed Psychiatric Facility in Bangor Run by an Out of State For-Profit Prison Health Care Contractor. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Gov. Paul LePage will soon be gone, but he plans to leave behind a monument to his legacy of mismanagement in the mental health system. It will be a 16-bed psychiatric facility in Bangor to be run by a for-profit prison health care contractor based in Tennessee. The so-called ‘step-down’ facility will cost the state \$5 million, and will not be part of any articulated strategy for meeting the state’s mental health needs. If completed, it will stand

as a testament to the governor's pettiness and an example for future state officials of exactly the wrong way to address a public health crisis.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 12/23/18](#)]

- **Portland Press Herald Editorial: “If Completed, [the Facility] Will Stand as a Testament to the Governor’s Pettiness and an Example for Future State Officials of Exactly the Wrong Way to Address a Public Health Crisis.”** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Gov. Paul LePage will soon be gone, but he plans to leave behind a monument to his legacy of mismanagement in the mental health system. It will be a 16-bed psychiatric facility in Bangor to be run by a for-profit prison health care contractor based in Tennessee. The so-called ‘step-down’ facility will cost the state \$5 million, and will not be part of any articulated strategy for meeting the state's mental health needs. If completed, it will stand as a testament to the governor's pettiness and an example for future state officials of exactly the wrong way to address a public health crisis.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 12/23/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Headline: “Riverview Fix Should Fall to Maine’s Next Governor; Paul LePage’s Half-Implemented Plan Should Not be Shoehorned Through as His Term Winds Down.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 8/15/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: the Next Governor and Legislature Will “Inherit [LePage’s] Half-Implemented Plan Created in Secrecy” Without the Help of Lawmakers, Providers, Patients, or Advocates. According an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “For five years, the LePage administration has tried unsuccessfully to fix the problems at the state-run Riverview Psychiatric Center all by itself. Even now, with its proposed solution - a new residential center to be built in Bangor - not expected to come online until after Gov. LePage has left office, the administration is turning away input and oversight. As a result, the next governor and Legislature will inherit a half-implemented plan created in secrecy and largely without the help of lawmakers, treatment providers, patients or patient advocates.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 8/15/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: LePage’s Efforts to Build a “Step-Down” Facility “Have Been Hindered by His Own Unwillingness to Collaborate or Compromise, and the Scattershot Tendencies of His Administration.” According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “There has been general agreement among policymakers that such a ‘step-down’ residence is necessary. Riverview has been operating without its federal certification since 2013, when news reports and a federal audit revealed a series of serious deficiencies in how the hospital was being operated. A second, less-intensive facility would relieve some of the stressors at Riverview, and lead to improved care for patients. LePage's efforts to build such a facility have been hindered by his own unwillingness to collaborate or compromise, and the scattershot tendencies of his administration.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 8/15/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: LePage Contracted With a For-Profit Florida Company to Run His Proposed Step-Down Facility That Redacted All of the Lawsuits it Was Involved in a Copy of the Contract Proposal Received Through an Open Records Request. According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “In keeping with that theme, the governor isn't answering questions from the media on the project. The company selected to

operate the new facility, Florida-based Correct Care Solutions, isn't either - a copy of its 2017 proposal, obtained by the Associated Press through an open-records request, was redacted at the company's request. Blacked out were a list of current and closed lawsuits filed against Correct Care, as well as details on staffing, costs and operations. That's no small matter. The rapidly growing for-profit treatment industry in general, and Correct Care specifically, have been under scrutiny in connection with a series of incidents in which profit motivation seemed to have won out over patient care, leading to injuries and poor treatment.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 8/15/18](#)]

- **Portland Press Herald Editorial: “The Redacted Portions of the Proposal May Contain Suitable Answers to the Many Questions Raised...But We Don’t Know Because We Can’t See Them, and it’s Hard to Trust the LePage Administration When it’s Been So Opaque.”** According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “The redacted portions of the proposal may contain suitable answers to the many questions raised by patients, advocates and lawmakers, but we don't know because we can't see them, and it's hard to trust the LePage administration when it's been so opaque, on this issue and many others.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 8/15/18](#)]

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Dentists

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Extended the Income Tax Credit for Dentists Practicing in Underserved Parts of the State. In July 2018, LePage allowed LD1287 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD1287 “extends through 2027 the income tax credit for eligible dentists who practice in underserved areas. The bill also increases the number of primary care professionals who practice in underserved areas who may be certified for the primary care access credit and allows that credit to remain in effect beyond January 1, 2019.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1287, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1287, 2018](#)]

- **The Bill Also Increased the Number of Primary Care Providers Who Practiced in Underserved Areas That Were Eligible for the Primary Care Access Credit.** In July 2018, LePage allowed LD1287 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD1287 “extends through 2027 the income tax credit for eligible dentists who practice in underserved areas. The bill also increases the number of primary care professionals who practice in underserved areas who may be certified for the primary care access credit and allows that credit to remain in effect beyond January 1, 2019.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1287, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1287, 2018](#)]

Doctors

In 2014, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Created A Student Loan Repayment Credit For Primary Care Professionals Practicing In Underserved Areas Of Maine. In May 2014, the House overrode

LePage's veto of LD440 by a 111-35 vote and the Senate by a 30-5 vote. LD 440 "creates a credit for primary care professionals practicing in underserved areas for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014 but before January 1, 2019 with a graduated schedule for claiming the credit allowing an eligible primary care professional to claim an amount equal to the annual payments made on the professional's student loan not to exceed \$6,000 in the first year, \$9,000 in the second year, \$12,000 in the third year, \$15,000 in the fourth year and \$18,000 in the fifth year." [Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Summaries of Bills, LD 440, [May 2014](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 440, Roll Call #791, [5/1/14](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 440, [5/1/14](#)]

Home Health Care Workers

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage's Veto of a Bill Allowing New Graduates to Provide Home Health Care Nursing Services if They've Completed a Home Health Care Orientation Program. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage's veto of LD1129 by a 146-0 vote and the Senate by a 33-0 vote. LD1129 "requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend the rules governing the licensing and functioning of home health care services to allow nursing services to be provided by new graduates who have successfully completed a home health care orientation program approved by the department prior to commencing independent home health care nursing practice. The agency employing the nursing graduate would be required to provide the orientation." [[Summaries of Bills, LD1129, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1129, 2015](#)]

Midwives

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage's Veto of a Bill Creating a Licensing Scheme for Midwives and Giving Midwives Authority to Order and Interpret Lab Tests, Obtain Equipment and Supplies, and Administer Some Classes of Drugs. In April 2016, the House overrode LePage's veto of LD690 by a 127-17 vote and the Senate by a 28-7 vote. LD690 "makes changes to the makeup of the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers and establishes a new licensing scheme, under the authority of that board, for two categories of individuals practicing midwifery in the State. Among other things, it provides: 1. Criteria for licensure and oversight of midwives; 2. Procedures to allow other health care providers to consult with, collaborate with or accept transfer of care from a licensed midwife; 3. Joint rulemaking between the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers and the Board of Licensure in Medicine for certain categories of rules pertaining to midwives until January 1, 2021; 4. Authority for midwives to order and interpret medical laboratory tests, obtain necessary medical equipment and supplies and administer certain classes of drugs; 5. Limitations on one category of licensed midwife from providing birth services when the person giving birth has certain medical conditions; and 6. Guidelines for data collection by midwives in the State and submission to the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers for quality improvement purposes." [[Summaries of Bills, LD690, 2016](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD690, 2016](#)]

- **LePage Said He Vetoes the Bill Because it Was an "Unnecessary Expansion of Government."** According to LePage's veto letter for LD690, "I understand and appreciate the goals of this bill's proponents, and I believe their intentions to be good. I

see this bill, however, as an unnecessary expansion of government. It would require the licensing and regulation of a new profession – home birth midwives – under the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers. Only about 28 midwives would be licensed under this new law – not enough to justify the creation of a new regulatory regime. There are private midwife associations that offer membership, which can serve the purpose of setting standards within the profession. State licensing always opens the door to economic protectionism and over-regulation. These are some of the reasons why so many midwives have called my office urging me to veto this bill.” [[Gov. LePage Veto Letter for LD690, 4/27/16](#)]

Nurses

Paul LePage, In 2011, Vetoed A Bill To Protect The Public By Requiring Nurses “To Complete Criminal Background Checks.” Paul LePage, in 2011, vetoed a bill that “says nurses would have to be fingerprinted and subjected to complete criminal background checks to be licensed, a requirement LePage said is unnecessary and unfairly singles out nurses among other health care professionals.” (Bangor Daily News, 06/28/11)

Public Health Nurses

LePage “Halved” the Number of Public Health Nurses in Maine From 50 to 20 Between Taking Office in 2011 and 2017. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine's public health nurses, who served on the front lines of the 2009 influenza outbreak and scores of other public health emergencies, saw their ranks halved under the LePage administration. [...] When LePage took office in 2011, the state employed 50 public health nurses, who visited new and expectant mothers; trained local health providers on tuberculosis detection and vaccine storage; held immunization clinics; monitored treatment for patients with tuberculosis or latent TB; and contributed to emergency preparedness in the state's nine public health districts. By the spring of 2017, only 20 nurses remained in the field even as the Legislature continued to fund the positions.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/29/18]

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode Governor LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Restored Public Health Nursing Staffing After It Had Been Reduced From 50 Public Health Nurses When LePage Took Office To Only 20 In 2017. In August 2017, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1108 by a 101-34 vote and the Senate by a 29-5 vote. “The Maine House voted, 101 to 34, to override LePage's veto of LD 1108, sponsored by Sen. Brownie Carson, D-Harpswell, to restore public health nursing staffing to its needed levels. The vote in the Maine Senate was 29 to 5. When LePage took office in 2011, the state employed about 50 public health nurses across the state who held a long list of responsibilities: respond to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies; visit expectant and new mothers in their homes, especially mothers with drug-affected babies; monitor treatment for those infected with tuberculosis or latent TB; train local health-care providers on TB detection and vaccine storage; carry out immunization clinics; and provide school nurse services in rural schools that couldn't hire nurses of their own. [...] Instead of building up Maine's public health nursing program, especially in the face of the opiate epidemic, the LePage administration has not filled its vacancies -- to the point where ranks of nurses have dwindled to 20.” [State of Maine

Legislature, Actions for LD 1108, [8/2/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1108, Roll Call #462, [8/2/17](#); Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 8/5/17]

- **Bangor Daily News Editorial Board: Maine’s Public Health Nurses Helped Respond To Disease Outbreaks, Visited New Mothers And Pregnant Women In Their Homes, Monitored Tuberculosis Treatments, Conducted Immunization Clinics, And Provided School Nurse Services In Rural School Districts.** "When LePage took office in 2011, the state employed about 50 public health nurses across the state who held a long list of responsibilities: respond to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies; visit expectant and new mothers in their homes, especially mothers with drug-affected babies; monitor treatment for those infected with tuberculosis or latent TB; train local health-care providers on TB detection and vaccine storage; carry out immunization clinics; and provide school nurse services in rural schools that couldn't hire nurses of their own." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 8/5/17]
- **Bangor Daily News Editorial Board: The LePage Administration Did Not Fill Public Nursing Vacancies, Reducing The Program From 50 Nurses In 2011 When He Took Office To 20 Nurses In 2017.** "When LePage took office in 2011, the state employed about 50 public health nurses across the state who held a long list of responsibilities: respond to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies; visit expectant and new mothers in their homes, especially mothers with drug-affected babies; monitor treatment for those infected with tuberculosis or latent TB; train local health-care providers on TB detection and vaccine storage; carry out immunization clinics; and provide school nurse services in rural schools that couldn't hire nurses of their own. [...] Instead of building up Maine's public health nursing program, especially in the face of the opiate epidemic, the LePage administration has not filled its vacancies -- to the point where ranks of nurses have dwindled to 20. DHHS has eliminated their office space, and failed to ensure they have enough clerical support staff to purchase supplies, process travel reimbursements and help with patient referrals." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 8/5/17]

Bangor Daily News: LePage’s Administration Made “Special Efforts To Decimate” Maine’s Public Health Nursing Program. “19 job postings showed up on a state website advertising openings in the state's public health nursing program. That's a state program that Gov. Paul LePage's administration has made special efforts to decimate, even as lawmakers continued to fund most of the program's 50 nursing positions. When LePage took office, the state employed a corps of about 50 public health nurses who conducted home visits with new mothers with health risks, worked on the containment of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, and responded to public health emergencies such as botulism and influenza outbreaks. But the LePage administration tried to squeeze the life out of the program.” [Bangor Daily News, 9/17/18]

July 2018: Maine State Senator Sued LePage For Flouting Law To Hire Public Health Nurses; LePage Originally Vetoed Bill That Had “Substantial Bipartisan Support.” In July, 2018 the Morning Sentinel Wrote, “Sen. Brownie Carson of Brunswick filed suit in Kennebec County Superior Court on Monday, charging the LePage administration with failing to hire and

maintain a public health nursing staff of 48, as spelled out in a 2017 law. Carson said LePage is flouting the law because the governor does not believe in the value of public health nursing. The law, which garnered substantial bipartisan support, forced the LePage administration to increase public health nurse staffing after the workforce dwindled from 59 in 2011 to about 25 in early 2017. Republican Gov. Paul LePage vetoed the bill, but the Legislature overrode the veto in the summer of 2017. Joining Carson in the lawsuit are two nurses who applied for public health nursing positions but were told that the state was not hiring.” [Morning Sentinel, 7/31/18]

After the LePage Administration Missed a March Deadline to Hire the Nurses, the Sponsoring Lawmaker Sued LePage’s DHHS – a Month Later, DHHS Said it Would “Take Prompt Action” to Hire the Public Health Nurses. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The lawmaker who sponsored that bill sued DHHS in July 2018 after it missed a March deadline, set in the law, to hire the nurses. In August, a lawyer for the department said it would ‘take prompt action’ to comply with the law and restore its staff of public health nurses.” [Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18]

Public Health Nurses “Served on the Front Lines of the 2009 Influenza Outbreak and Scores of Other Public Health Emergencies.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine’s public health nurses, who served on the front lines of the 2009 influenza outbreak and scores of other public health emergencies, saw their ranks halved under the LePage administration.” [Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18]

- **Public Health Nurses Visited New and Expectant Mothers, Trained Local Health Care Providers on TB Detection and Vaccine Storage.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “When LePage took office in 2011, the state employed 50 public health nurses, who visited new and expectant mothers; trained local health providers on tuberculosis detection and vaccine storage; held immunization clinics; monitored treatment for patients with tuberculosis or latent TB; and contributed to emergency preparedness in the state’s nine public health districts.” [Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18]

In 2012, Maine Received a Four-Year, \$5.7 Million Grant Through the ACA to Expand Home Visiting Nurses for Newborns, “But the Number of Families Receiving Care Has Not Significantly Improved.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “In addition, the state received a four-year, \$5.7 million grant under the Affordable Care Act in 2012 to expand home visiting nurses for newborns, but the number of families receiving care has not significantly improved.” [Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17]

- **Headline: “Maine Got Millions to Help Moms and Babies, But Has Little to Show for it.”** [Bangor Daily News, 8/15/16]
- **In the Five Years Since Receiving the \$5.7 Million Grant, Data “Show Maine’s Home Visitors Aren’t Reaching More Families,” Despite Plans to Use the Funding to Expand the Home Visiting Program.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “With \$5.7 million, the state’s plan was to reach 72 percent more parents and babies through Maine Families, which has evolved over the past two decades to become Maine’s largest home visiting program. [...] But in the five years since Maine received \$5.7 million to

expand home visiting, the expansion hasn't happened and the collaborative spirit hasn't materialized. -- The latest available data show Maine's home visitors aren't reaching more families." [[Bangor Daily News, 8/15/16](#)]

NURSING HOMES

LePage Set and Holds the Record for Annual Nursing Home Closures

When LePage Was Elected in 2010, Maine Had 108 Nursing Homes – When He Left, It Had Just 94, a Loss of 14 Homes:

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF NURSING FACILITIES	# OF CLOSED HOMES OVER PRIOR YEAR
2020	93	0
2019	93	1
2018	94*	6
2017	100	1
2016	101	2
2015	103	0
2014	103	4
2013	107	1
2012	108	+2
2011	106	2
2010	108	--

*Kaiser did not have data for 2018, so this data for 2018 is based off of news reporting, cited below

[[Kaiser Family Foundation, Accessed 12/7/21](#); [Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

2021: Four Nursing Homes in Maine Closed. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Four long-term care homes in Maine have announced they will close, displacing 120 residents. The ominous trend also means overburdened hospitals are losing a key lifeline for discharged patients.” [[Portland Press Herald, 9/19/21](#)]

July 2019: Maine Had 94 Nursing Homes. According to the Associated Press, “Maine currently has 94 nursing homes, down from 102 in 2017, according to a Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman.” [[Associated Press, 7/19/19](#)]

2018: Six Nursing Homes in Maine Shut Down, Displacing About 200 Elderly Nursing Home Residents and “Accelerating a Trend of Closures in Rural Towns.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Ledgewick was one of half a dozen nursing homes that shut down in Maine this year, uprooting roughly 200 elderly residents across the state and accelerating a trend of closures in rural towns.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Record Number of Maine Nursing Homes Closed This Year, Displacing Hundreds.”** [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

- **The Six Nursing Homes That Closed Were in Jonesport, Patten, West Paris, Fryeburg, Bridgton, and Freeport, Housing About 200 People in Total.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “In 2018, six nursing homes closed in Jonesport, Patten, West Paris, Fryeburg, Bridgton and Freeport, according to the ombudsman program. Collectively, just over 200 people resided at those homes when each closure was announced.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

2014-2019: Maine Lost More Than a Dozen Nursing Homes. According to the Associated Press, “More than a dozen nursing homes have shuttered in Maine in past five years, and leaders representing them in the aging state plan to meet next week with the administration of Gov. Janet Mills to push for \$1 million in held-up funding.” [[Associated Press, 7/19/19](#)]

2018: Maine Had 94 Nursing Homes – Since 1995, it Has Lost Nearly 40 Nursing Homes. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine, the oldest state in the nation, is now home to 94 nursing homes. Since 1995, the state has lost nearly 40 of them.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

- **In 2018, Maine Had Fewer Nursing Home Beds Than Other States, Averaging 24 Per 1,000 Residents Over 65 – the National Average is 36 Beds Per 1,000 Residents Over 65.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “By 2030, nearly a third of Maine’s population is projected to be over age 65. Yet the state has fewer nursing home beds than other states, averaging 24 per 1,000 residents in the over-65 age group, said Richard Erb, president and CEO of the Maine Health Care Association, a trade group for long-term care providers. The national average is 36 beds.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

2017: One Nursing Home in Maine Shut Down. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine lost three more nursing homes in 2014, and one each in 2016 and 2017, before the significant uptick this year.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

2016: One Nursing Home in Maine Shut Down. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine lost three more nursing homes in 2014, and one each in 2016 and 2017, before the significant uptick this year.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

2014: Three Nursing Homes in Maine Shut Down. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine lost three more nursing homes in 2014, and one each in 2016 and 2017, before the significant uptick this year.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

- **In 2014, Maine Had 105 Nursing Homes.** [[CDC, Accessed 12/7/21](#)]

2013: Maine Had 107 Nursing Homes. [[CDC, Accessed 12/7/21](#)]

Maine’s Nursing Homes Struggled Throughout the Entirety of LePage’s Tenure

2018: *Bangor Daily News*: “Years of Pressures, from Underfunding to Struggles to Recruit Staff, Have Caught Up With the Facilities Housing Maine’s Oldest Residents, Leading Not Only to Closures But to Poorer Care Overall.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Years of pressures, from underfunding to struggles to recruit staff, have caught up with the facilities

housing Maine's oldest residents, leading not only to closures but to poorer care overall. That reality is beginning to emerge in federal data and is even acknowledged by the trade group that represents nursing homes in Maine." [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News: "Maine's Nursing Homes Have Been Fighting for Survival Since at Least 2012," When a Calais Nursing Home Shut Down, Leaving 100 People Unemployed and Forcing Some Residents to Move an Hour Away. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "Maine's nursing homes have been fighting for survival since at least 2012. That year, the shuttering of a Calais nursing home reverberated throughout its Washington County community, with some residents forced to move an hour away to Lubec and almost 100 people left jobless." [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

MaineCare Pays for 66% of Maine's 6,500 Nursing Home Residents, But Has "Underpaid Nursing Homes for Years," Stretching Nursing Homes' Bottom Lines. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "MaineCare, the state's Medicaid program, foots the bill for most — 66 percent — of Maine's roughly 6,500 nursing home residents. At some homes, the health insurance program for low-income people covers nearly every resident, stretching bottom lines even further. But the program has underpaid nursing homes for years, according to nursing home operators." [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

In 2014 and 2015, MaineCare Increased its Payments to Maine Nursing Homes, Preventing "Catastrophe," But Nursing Home Costs Increased Even More. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "MaineCare bumped up payments in 2014 and again in 2015, preventing an 'absolute catastrophe,' but nursing homes' costs escalated more, Erb said. Reimbursement policies also tend to favor larger facilities with a greater volume of residents, he said." [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

2011: LePage Proposed Eliminating State Funding for Institutions That Care for Thousands of Needy Elderly Before They Qualify for Nursing Homes

In 2011, LePage Proposed Eliminating State Funding, \$60 Million, for Private Nonmedical Institutions, Which Serve the Elderly, Mentally and Physically Disabled, and Patients of Substance Abuse Treatment Programs. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "One of the most controversial cuts in Gov. Paul LePage's proposal to overhaul MaineCare hit a roadblock Tuesday after Republican lawmakers refused to back the plan. Rep. Patrick Flood, House chairman of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, said his colleagues oppose the governor's proposal to save \$60 million by eliminating funding for private nonmedical institutions, facilities that serve the elderly, the mentally and physically disabled and patients of substance abuse treatment programs." [[Bangor Daily News, 1/3/12](#)]

- **Private Nonmedical Institutions Cared for 4,000 Seniors, Whose Homes Would Have Been Taken Away Had LePage Been Successful.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "Flood spoke at the second of two work sessions on LePage's proposal held by the Appropriations and Health and Human Services committees to determine its economic and public health impacts. About 6,000 people would be affected by the PNMI cuts, including 4,000 elderly residents who would need to find new housing if Maine's PNMI's

are forced to close. Under the plan, funding for the institutions would cease July 1.”
[[Bangor Daily News, 1/3/12](#)]

[2013: LePage Tried to Block or Refused to Support \\$38 Million in Funding for Nursing Homes](#)

2013: Maine’s Bipartisan Budget, Enacted Over LePage’s Veto, Increased Nursing Home Funding by \$26 Million in State and Federal Funding. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The Legislature pumped more money into nursing home funding as part of a bipartisan budget enacted in 2013. That budget - approved over LePage's veto - increased nursing home funding by \$26 million in state and federal funds beginning July 1, 2015.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/17/14]

Maine Legislature Enacted a Law Without LePage’s Signature That Increased Funding for Nursing Homes by \$12 Million and Increased the Reimbursement Rate to Medicaid Nursing Homes. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The Legislature pumped more money into nursing home funding as part of a bipartisan budget enacted in 2013. That budget - approved over LePage's veto - increased nursing home funding by \$26 million in state and federal funds beginning July 1, 2015. A separate bill - which became law without LePage's signature - added another \$12 million in state and federal funds and increased the reimbursement rate to nursing homes under MaineCare, the state's version of Medicaid and the primary funding source for most nursing homes.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/17/14]

- **2014: Legislature Passed \$12 Million for Nursing Homes for the Current Fiscal Year, in Addition to \$26 Million in New State and Federal Funding as Part of the Bipartisan Budget.** According to a press release from the Maine Senate Democrats, “The new funds will augment \$12 million in state and federal funds the Legislature allocated for the current fiscal year, which began July 1. The administration has delayed the release of those dollars for more than two weeks. Lawmakers also approved \$26 million in new state and federal funding for nursing homes as part of the bipartisan budget which the Legislature passed despite Governor LePage’s veto.” [[Maine Senate Democrats, Press Release, 7/17/14](#)]

[2014: LePage Tried to Block or Refused to Sign \\$24 Million for Nursing Homes](#)

In 2014, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bipartisan Supplemental Budget That Increased Nursing Home Reimbursements by \$13 Million in Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017. In May 2014, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1858 by a 134-12 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. “The politics of nursing home funding ramped up in the final days of the last legislative session. In mid-April, LePage vetoed a bipartisan supplemental budget, L.D. 1858, that would increase nursing home reimbursements by \$13 million in fiscal 2016 and 2017. It also would provide \$1.1 million when the funding mechanism started in June 2015, the last month of fiscal 2015. The Legislature easily overrode LePage's budget veto and passed another bill, L.D. 1776, that included an initial \$11.6 million to increase reimbursements in fiscal 2015, which started July 1.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/27/14; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1858, Roll Call #749, [5/1/14](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1858, [5/1/14](#)]

- ***Sun Journal* Editorial Board: “If The Legislature Overrides Both LD 1719 And LD 1858, The Nursing Homes Get The Funding They Need.”** “If the Legislature overrides both LD 1719 and LD 1858, the nursing homes get the funding they need and public health agencies can help teach thousands of Maine's "vulnerable citizens" how to prevent disease while they're young so they can be healthier as they age. You know, before they get to the nursing home.” [Editorial, *Sun Journal*, 4/29/14]
- ***Sun Journal*: “Lawmakers Considered The Budget Bill A Victory Because It Was The First Supplemental Budget In Recent Memory For Which There Was No Upfront Participation From The Governor’s Office.”** “LD 1858, which patched an approximately \$30 million hole in the current biennial budget, passed through the Legislature with votes of 136-8 in the House and 35-0 in the Senate. Lawmakers considered the budget bill a victory because it was the first supplemental budget in recent memory for which there was no upfront participation from the governor's office. LePage has been saying since last fall that he would not submit a supplemental budget because his original biennial budget proposal was amended by the Legislature to include tax increases and, in his view, was not balanced because it called for a study group to identify and close tax loopholes as a money-saving initiative.” [*Sun Journal*, 4/26/14]

In 2014, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill That Increased Nursing Home Reimbursements By \$11.6 Million For Fiscal Year 2015 And Increased Payments to Nursing Homes With 70 Percent MaineCare Residents. “The Legislature easily overrode LePage's budget veto and passed another bill, L.D. 1776, that included an initial \$11.6 million to increase reimbursements in fiscal 2015, which started July 1. The bill also would provide slightly higher payments to nursing homes with more than 70 percent MaineCare residents and would require the state to adjust reimbursement rates every two years to more closely reflect actual costs. LePage let L.D. 1776 become law without his signature, but he didn't let the Legislature's efforts go unchallenged.” The House voted to enact the bill by a 143-0 vote, the Senate by a 31-0 vote, and the bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Portland Press Herald, 7/27/14; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1776, Roll Call #712, [4/16/14](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1776, [5/1/14](#)]

- **The Bill’s Total Financial Benefit to Nursing Homes Was \$11.6 Million, \$4 Million in State Money Via Increased Medicaid Reimbursements and \$7.6 Million in Federal Matching Funds.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “L.D. 1776: A bill from a long-term care study commission that provides a one-time, \$4 million infusion of state money to increase Medicaid reimbursements to nursing homes in fiscal 2015. Most of the cash would come from computer-error Medicaid overpayments that the state hopes to recoup from nursing homes. With \$7.6 million in federal matching funds, the bill's total financial benefit to nursing homes is \$11.6 million. LePage lets the bill become law without his signature.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/27/14]
- **The Bill Required Maine To Adjust Nursing Home Reimbursement Rates Every Two Years To Keep Pace With Actual Costs.** “The Legislature easily overrode LePage's budget veto and passed another bill, L.D. 1776, that included an initial \$11.6

million to increase reimbursements in fiscal 2015, which started July 1. The bill also would provide slightly higher payments to nursing homes with more than 70 percent MaineCare residents and would require the state to adjust reimbursement rates every two years to more closely reflect actual costs. LePage let L.D. 1776 become law without his signature, but he didn't let the Legislature's efforts go unchallenged." [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/27/14]

2014: LePage Submitted a Bill That Would Have Used \$5 Million from the Fund for a Healthy Maine to Increase Nursing Home Reimbursements. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, "L.D. 1864: An emergency bill, submitted by LePage, that would use about \$5 million from the Fund for a Healthy Maine to increase nursing home reimbursements. The bill dies." [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/27/14]

- **The Bipartisan Budget Committee Killed LePage's Measure After They Were Told LePage Would Veto it if They Amended it.** According to the *Associated Press*, "LePage originally wanted to aid the nursing homes by taking \$5 million of tobacco settlement funds, which are meant for anti-smoking campaigns. The bipartisan budget-writing committee spiked that measure in the final hours of the session after lawmakers were told LePage would veto it if amended." [[Associated Press, 7/17/14](#)]
- **LePage Submitted His Proposal the Day Before the Legislative Session Was Scheduled to End.** According to the *Sun Journal*, "LePage's nursing home proposal was submitted to lawmakers the day before the session was scheduled to end. The one-time, \$5 million payment would have drawn roughly \$8 million in federal matching funds." [*Sun Journal*, 7/17/14]
- **After Legislative Democrats Did Not Want to Raid the Fund for a Healthy Maine to Pay for LePage's Proposal, and Instead Suggested Using Surplus Funds, LePage Said He'd Veto it.** According to the *Sun Journal*, "Lawmakers on the Appropriations Committee, which would have had to approve the reallocation of state funds, worked late into the morning to come up with a deal, but there was an impasse. Majority Democrats on the committee did not want to raid the Fund for a Healthy Maine, opting instead to use \$2 million from surplus for a one-time payment. Legislative leaders and Appropriations Committee members from both parties said the word came from LePage's office that the governor would veto that bill, so Democrats and Republicans agreed to kill the bill rather than push the measure through the House and Senate only to be vetoed by the governor." [*Sun Journal*, 7/17/14]

2014: After the Legislative Session Ended, LePage Announced That He'd Increase Nursing Home Reimbursement Rates Without the Legislature by Using \$4.6 Million of the MaineCare Surplus to Increase Reimbursement Rates for Nursing Homes in FY2015. According to the *Kennebec Journal*, "On May 1, in the final hours of the session, LePage submitted an emergency bill, L.D. 1864, that would use about \$5 million from the fund to increase nursing home reimbursements. Both bills died and the money remains in the fund, unspent. Then, a little over a week ago, the governor announced that he'd found a new revenue source to increase nursing home reimbursements without the Legislature. The Department of

Health and Human Services anticipates a \$10 million surplus in MaineCare programs in fiscal 2014, which ended June 30. The programs were \$100 million in the hole earlier this year. LePage said he plans to spend \$4.6 million of the surplus to increase nursing home reimbursements in fiscal 2015. With federal matching funds factored in, LePage's action will add a total \$13.1 million to nursing home reimbursements this year.” [*Kennebec Journal*, 7/27/14]

- **With the Addition of Federal Matching Funds, LePage’s Action Added \$13.1 Million to Nursing Home Reimbursements.** According to the *Kennebec Journal*, “On May 1, in the final hours of the session, LePage submitted an emergency bill, L.D. 1864, that would use about \$5 million from the fund to increase nursing home reimbursements. Both bills died and the money remains in the fund, unspent. Then, a little over a week ago, the governor announced that he'd found a new revenue source to increase nursing home reimbursements without the Legislature. The Department of Health and Human Services anticipates a \$10 million surplus in MaineCare programs in fiscal 2014, which ended June 30. The programs were \$100 million in the hole earlier this year. LePage said he plans to spend \$4.6 million of the surplus to increase nursing home reimbursements in fiscal 2015. With federal matching funds factored in, LePage's action will add a total \$13.1 million to nursing home reimbursements this year.” [*Kennebec Journal*, 7/27/14]

***Kennebec Journal* Editorial Board: On the Nursing Home Funding Issue, “LePage Never Really Worked With the Legislature Toward a Solution, Content to Veto One Bill” and the Demand the Last-Minute Bill He Offered Not be Amended or Else He’d Veto it.** According to a *Kennebec Journal* editorial, “Just because these measures make sense doesn’t mean they’re a shoo-in next legislative session. The spat over nursing home funding, for instance, shows how partisanship, particularly in the hands of LePage, can threaten to sink even the best of intentions. In that case, LePage never really worked with the Legislature toward a solution, content to veto one bill and then offer another of his own, at the last minute and with a demand that it not be altered. The governor spent much of the early summer criticizing Democrats for failing to follow his orders and call a special session to address the funding, even though the governor could have called the session himself. Then, with the Democrats attempting to negotiate with the governor, LePage announced that he would increase nursing home reimbursements using budget surplus funds.” [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 8/24/14](#)]

2014: Maine’s Nursing Homes Received an Additional \$25.8 Million in Medicaid Reimbursements – with the Legislature Providing Half of it and LePage the Other Half. According to the *Kennebec Journal*, “When the dust settles and the political rhetoric fades, Maine's nursing homes will get an additional \$25.8 million for Medicaid reimbursements this year. In the wake of recent vetoes, overrides and invective, the Democrat-led Legislature can take credit for about half of the money, and Republican Gov. Paul LePage can take credit for the other half. Both sides say they weren't playing politics and simply wanted to do the right thing.” [*Kennebec Journal*, 7/27/14]

2014: LePage Failed to Release \$12.3 Million in Funding to Nursing Facilities in a Timely Fashion

2014: LePage’s DHHS Failed to Complete Rulemaking in Time for Maine to Release \$12.3 Million in State and Federal Funds to Nursing Facilities Under a Law Passed the Year

Prior. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Democrats also questioned why the LePage administration was slow to complete a rulemaking process needed to release \$12.3 million in state and federal funds to nursing facilities under one of the laws approved in the last legislative session. DHHS has not completed the rulemaking in time to provide the additional funding by July 1, as prescribed in the new law.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/18/14]

- **July 2014: LePage Administration Had Been Delaying the Release of \$12 Million for Nursing Homes.** According to a press release from the Maine Senate Democrats, “The new funds will augment \$12 million in state and federal funds the Legislature allocated for the current fiscal year, which began July 1. The administration has delayed the release of those dollars for more than two weeks. Lawmakers also approved \$26 million in new state and federal funding for nursing homes as part of the bipartisan budget which the Legislature passed despite Governor LePage’s veto.” [[Maine Senate Democrats, Press Release, 7/17/14](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Board: “Funding for Maine Nursing Homes Has Been Held Up for Weeks Because of Gov. LePage’s Refusal to Compromise.” According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “Funding for Maine nursing homes has been held up for weeks because of Gov. LePage’s refusal to compromise.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 7/18/14](#)]

[2016: LePage refused to Sign a Bill That Funded a \\$4 Million Reimbursement Rate Increase for Home Care Workers](#)

2016: LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill That Funded at \$4 Million Reimbursement Rate Increases for Home Care Workers and Community-Based Services. On 4/27/16, LD866 “includes a General Fund appropriation of \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to fund 50% of rate increases for personal support and related services. Federal Expenditures Fund allocations will also be included for these changes that impact the FMAP match. The bill also includes a one-time offsetting reduction of \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a rate study of services in Section 40 Home Health Services and report back to the legislature by January 1, 2017. Any additional costs to the DHHS to perform the study and prepare a report are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.” [[Maine State Legislature, LD886 Fiscal Note, 4/13/16](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD886, 4/27/16](#)]

- **The Bill Used Federal Funds to Provide \$4 Million for Increased Reimbursements to Home Care Workers and Community-Based Services to Help Seniors and People With Disabilities Remain in Their Communities.** “The Maine Senate on Wednesday gave unanimous approval to a bill that increases state reimbursement for home care workers and community-based service providers. The bill, LD 886, was removed from the Appropriations Table, passed and funded unanimously by the Senate. It would help Maine seniors and people with disabilities remain in their communities by improving recruitment and retention efforts and raising wages for workers who provide their care. [...] As amended, the bill uses federal funds to provide \$4 million for increased reimbursements to home care workers and community-based services. The new rate

includes increases for wages, benefits and travel.” [[Maine Senate Democrats, Press Release, 4/13/16](#)]

[2018: LePage Tried to Block a Reimbursement Rate Increase for Direct Care Workers in Nursing Homes](#)

HEADLINE: “LePage Plans to Veto Bills That Would Raise Reimbursement Rates for Direct Care Workers.” [[Times Record, 7/2/18](#)]

July 2018: Bipartisan Majorities of the Maine Legislature Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill That Increased Reimbursements to Nursing Home Workers. In 2018, LePage vetoed LD925. On July 9, 2018, the House overrode his veto by a 139-4 vote and the Senate by a 32-1 vote, and it became law. LD925 “would have allowed for increased reimbursements to pay those who care for the elderly in nursing homes, has a better chance of being sustained since lawmakers didn’t give it their unanimous support.” [[Times Record, 7/2/18](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD925, 7/9/18](#)]

- **July 2018: Maine Lawmakers Overrode LePage’s Veto on a Supplemental Spending Bill That Earmarked Funding for Nursing Home Workers.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Lawmakers voted overwhelmingly Monday to increase reimbursement rates for group homes serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities over the protests of Gov. Paul LePage. Lawmakers approved the rate increase for ‘direct care’ workers while overriding LePage vetoes on two supplemental spending bills that also earmark additional funds for nursing home workers and for opiate addiction treatment programs.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/10/18]
- **The Bill Would Increase State Reimbursement Rate for 4,000 Direct Care Workers, Including Those Working in Nursing Homes.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Another \$21 million spending package consists of three bills that would set state funding for county jails and increase state reimbursement rates for some 4,000 direct care workers, including those working in nursing homes and group homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.” [[Portland Press Herald, 6/19/18](#)]
- **2018: The New Law Increased Nursing Home Workers’ Pay by 10% While a Rate Study Was Conducted.** According to *Maine Public*, “Maurer said a new state law may help ease the burden. It bumps direct workers’ pay up 10 percent while a rate study is conducted.” [[Maine Public, 7/31/18](#)]

[2018: LePage Tried to Block a \\$5.5 Million Infusion of Cash into Maine’s Nursing Homes](#)

2018: Maine Lawmakers Approved Over LePage’s Veto a One-Time, \$5.5 Million Infusion of Funds into Maine’s Nursing Homes. According to the Associated Press, “Lawmakers approved \$5.5 million in additional, one-time general funds for nursing homes in 2018, over the veto of Republican Paul LePage, the governor at the time. LePage, who unsuccessfully tried to roll back minimum wage increases, called the legislation a ‘short-term fix.’” [[Associated Press, 7/19/19](#)]

2018: LePage Tried to Block a Bill That Allowed Hospitals to be PAid While Patients Waited for Placement in Nursing Facilities

2018: LePage Vetoed, and Bipartisan Majorities of the Legislature Overrode His Veto of, a Bill That Allowed Hospitals to be Reimbursed for Each Day After 10 Days During Which a MaineCare-Eligible Patient Remained Hospitalized While Awaiting Placement in a Nursing Facility. In July 2018, LePage vetoed LD401, which the House then overrode by a 139-3 vote on 7/9/18 and the Senate on the same day by a 33-0 vote. LD401 “includes General Fund appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$17,690 in fiscal year 2018-19 to provide reimbursement to hospitals other than critical access hospitals for each day after the 10th day that a MaineCare-eligible individual is in the care of a hospital while awaiting placement in a nursing facility, beginning January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2023. Federal Expenditures Fund allocations are also included for the FMAP match.” [[Maine State Legislature, LD401 Fiscal Note, 6/29/18](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD401, 7/9/18](#)]

Maine Nursing Homes Under LePage Were Penalized for Their High Hospital Readmission Rates Under LePage

2018: Four Maine Nursing Homes Received the Lowest Possible Score for Their Staffing Levels, and Two of the Four Closed Later in 2018. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Earlier this year, four Maine nursing homes received the lowest possible score for staffing levels, according to an analysis of federal data by Kaiser Health News. Two of them, in Fryeburg and Bridgton, were among the half dozen that later closed in 2018.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

- **Headline: “Maine Nursing Homes Receive Lowest Score in New National Ranking.”** [[Maine Public, 7/31/18](#)]
- **August 2018: “Four Nursing Homes Received the Lowest Possible Score for Staffing Levels.”** According to *Maine Public*, “Four nursing homes in Maine have received the lowest possible score for staffing levels, according to an analysis of federal data by Kaiser Health News.” [[Maine Public, 7/31/18](#)]

2018: Nearly 70% of Maine’s 100 Nursing Homes That Provide Skilled Nursing Care Were Penalized for Their Rate of Patients Winding Up in the Hospital Repeatedly. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “In December, the federal government announced it would cut payments to nursing homes whose patients wind up in the hospital repeatedly. In Maine, nearly 70 percent of the 100 nursing homes that provide skilled nursing care were penalized. About 30 percent earned bonuses. That showing was roughly in line with national averages.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/12/18](#)]

2018: More Nursing Homes in Maine Were Penalized for the Quality of Their Care Than in Vermont and New York. According to the Kaiser Health Network, “The federal government has taken a new step to reduce avoidable hospital readmissions of nursing home patients by lowering a year’s worth of payments to nearly 11,000 nursing homes. It gave bonuses to nearly

4,000 others. These financial incentives, determined by each home's readmission rates, significantly expand Medicare's effort to pay medical providers based on the quality of care instead of just the number or condition of their patients."

STATE	BONUS	NO CHANGE	PENALTY	GRAND TOTAL	% PENALIZED
Maine	31	2	67	100	67%
New Hampshire	19	--	53	72	74%
Vermont	16	2	17	35	49%
Massachusetts	75	6	315	396	80%
Connecticut	56	--	168	224	75%
Rhode Island	21	2	60	83	72%
New York	202	10	409	621	66%

[[Kaiser Health Network, 11/30/18](#)]

The Average Number of Deficiencies Annually in Maine's Nursing Homes Decreased Under LePage, and Have Increased in Both of Mills' First Two Years in Office:

YEAR	AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEFICIENCIES
2020	6.7
2019	5.8
2018	--*
2017	4.0
2016	4.3
2015	4.8
2014	4.8
2013	4.7
2012	5.3
2011	5.6
2010	7.4

[[Kaiser Family Foundation, Accessed 12/7/21](#)]

In 2014, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage's Veto Of A Bipartisan Supplemental Budget That Increased Nursing Home Reimbursements By \$13 Million In Fiscal Years 2016 And 2017. In May 2014, the House overrode LePage's veto of LD1858 by a 134-12 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. "The politics of nursing home funding ramped up in the final days of the last legislative session. In mid-April, LePage vetoed a bipartisan supplemental budget, L.D. 1858, that would increase nursing home reimbursements by \$13 million in fiscal 2016 and 2017. It also would provide \$1.1 million when the funding mechanism started in June 2015, the last month of fiscal 2015. The Legislature easily overrode LePage's budget veto and passed another bill, L.D. 1776, that included an initial \$11.6 million to increase reimbursements in fiscal 2015, which started July 1." [Portland Press Herald, 7/27/14; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1858, Roll Call #749, [5/1/14](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1858, [5/1/14](#)]

- **Sun Journal Editorial Board: “If The Legislature Overrides Both LD 1719 And LD 1858, The Nursing Homes Get The Funding They Need.”** “If the Legislature overrides both LD 1719 and LD 1858, the nursing homes get the funding they need and public health agencies can help teach thousands of Maine's "vulnerable citizens" how to prevent disease while they're young so they can be healthier as they age. You know, before they get to the nursing home.” [Editorial, Sun Journal, 4/29/14]
- **Sun Journal: “Lawmakers Considered The Budget Bill A Victory Because It Was The First Supplemental Budget In Recent Memory For Which There Was No Upfront Participation From The Governor’s Office.”** “LD 1858, which patched an approximately \$30 million hole in the current biennial budget, passed through the Legislature with votes of 136-8 in the House and 35-0 in the Senate. Lawmakers considered the budget bill a victory because it was the first supplemental budget in recent memory for which there was no upfront participation from the governor's office. LePage has been saying since last fall that he would not submit a supplemental budget because his original biennial budget proposal was amended by the Legislature to include tax increases and, in his view, was not balanced because it called for a study group to identify and close tax loopholes as a money-saving initiative.” [Sun Journal, 4/26/14]

In 2014, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill That Increased Nursing Home Reimbursements By \$11.6 Million For Fiscal Year 2015 And Increased Payments To Nursing Homes With 70 Percent MaineCare Residents. “The Legislature easily overrode LePage's budget veto and passed another bill, L.D. 1776, that included an initial \$11.6 million to increase reimbursements in fiscal 2015, which started July 1. The bill also would provide slightly higher payments to nursing homes with more than 70 percent MaineCare residents and would require the state to adjust reimbursement rates every two years to more closely reflect actual costs. LePage let L.D. 1776 become law without his signature, but he didn't let the Legislature's efforts go unchallenged.” The House voted to enact the bill by a 143-0 vote, the Senate by a 31-0 vote, and the bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Portland Press Herald, 7/27/14; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1776, Roll Call #712, [4/16/14](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1776, [5/1/14](#)]

The Bill Required Maine To Adjust Nursing Home Reimbursement Rates Every Two Years To Keep Pace With Actual Costs. “The Legislature easily overrode LePage's budget veto and passed another bill, L.D. 1776, that included an initial \$11.6 million to increase reimbursements in fiscal 2015, which started July 1. The bill also would provide slightly higher payments to nursing homes with more than 70 percent MaineCare residents and would require the state to adjust reimbursement rates every two years to more closely reflect actual costs. LePage let L.D. 1776 become law without his signature, but he didn't let the Legislature's efforts go unchallenged.” [Portland Press Herald, 7/27/14]

PALLIATIVE CARE

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Creating the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council to Advise on Palliative Care Initiatives. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of

LD782 by a 132-15 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. LD782 “establishes the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council to advise the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and report to three legislative committees. It further establishes the membership, procedures and duties of the advisory council. Public Law 2015, chapter 203 requires the Maine Hospice Council, if resources permit, to establish an information and education program to maximize the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives by ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information and education are available and allows the council to seek outside funding for the advisory council. It further requires the executive director of the Maine Hospice Council to convene the first meeting of the advisory council by October 1, 2015.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD782, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD782, 2015](#)]

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

LePage Wanted to Restart Canadian Prescription Drug Program. In 2012 Kennebec Journal reported, “LePage wants to find a way to allow a Canadian company that sells mail-order prescription drugs at deep discounts to resume operations in Maine, his spokeswoman said... The Maine State Employees Association said Tuesday it looks forward to working with LePage and other elected officials so the company can resume deliveries in Maine. Sen. Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, plans to propose legislation to make it possible for CanaRx to do business here again.” [Kennebec Journal, [9/12/12](#)]

In 2013, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Allowing Mainers To Order Prescription Drugs From Certain Licensed Overseas Pharmacies Through The Mail. In June 2013, LePage allowed LD171 to become law without his signature. LD 171 as amended “amends the Maine Pharmacy Act to exempt from the licensure requirements of the Act licensed retail pharmacies that are located in Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Commonwealth of Australia or New Zealand that meet the respective foreign country's statutory and regulatory requirements, as well as entities that contract to provide or facilitate the exportation of prescription drugs from these licensed retail pharmacies, and authorizes these retail pharmacies and entities to provide prescription drugs by mail or carrier to a resident of this State for that resident's personal use. It also amends the Maine Pharmacy Act to provide that nothing in the Act may be construed to prohibit individuals from ordering or receiving prescription drugs for their personal use from licensed retail pharmacies in the above-mentioned countries or contracting entities or to prohibit such a licensed retail pharmacy or contracting entity from dispensing, providing or facilitating the provision of prescription drugs from outside the United States.” The House accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report by a 107-37 vote. The Senate accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report by a 29-5 vote on 6/11/13 and the bill became law without the governor’s signature on 6/27/13. [State of Maine Legislature, LD 171, Roll Call #305, [6/13/13](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 171, [6/27/13](#); Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, Summaries of Bills, LD 171, [July 2013](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Maine To Allow Prescription-Drug Imports.”** [Wall Street Journal, [10/11/13](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “New Maine Law Allows Importation Of Foreign Mail Order Prescription Drugs.”** [Sun Journal, 6/28/13]
- **Bangor Daily News: “First-In-The-Nation” Law Allowed For Residents To Purchase Prescription Drugs By Mail From Other Countries.** “A federal judge has overturned Maine’s first-in-the-nation law allowing residents to purchase medication by mail from other countries. U.S. Chief District Judge Nancy Torresen’s ruling Monday comes more than a year after several Maine pharmacy groups filed suit against the state over the 2013 law, arguing it jeopardizes the safety of the nation’s prescription drug supply and opens the door to counterfeit and tainted medications.” [Bangor Daily News, [2/24/15](#)]
- **Bangor Daily News: With The Law’s Passage, Maine “Became The First In The Nation To Formally Defy Federal Regulations Prohibiting U.S. Residents From Importing Drugs Through Foreign Pharmacies, Which Often Sell The Same Medications For Half The Cost.”** “When Maine passed its law in June 2013, the state became the first in the nation to formally defy federal regulations prohibiting U.S. residents from importing drugs through foreign pharmacies, which often sell the same medications for half the cost.” [Bangor Daily News, [2/24/15](#)]
- **The Law Allowed Maine Residents To Purchase Prescription Drugs Online From Pharmacies In Canada, The United Kingdom, Australia, And New Zealand.** “The law allowed Maine residents to buy prescription drugs from Internet pharmacies in Canada, the U.K., Australia and New Zealand, which the U.S. government deems to have equivalent or greater drug safety and licensing regulations. Those countries, among others, can sell prescription drugs more cheaply because their governments cap prices or negotiate prices with drug makers.” [Bangor Daily News, [2/24/15](#)]
- **Bangor Daily News Editorial: “Showing Rare Bipartisan Agreement On An Approach To Making Health Care More Affordable,” The Legislature Passed A Bill That Lifted The Ban On Using International Firms For Mail Order Prescription Drugs.** “With much less fanfare, legislators in recent days have taken positive actions to protect and enhance public health in Maine. Here are four examples: [...] Showing rare bipartisan agreement on an approach to making health care more affordable, the Senate on Friday gave final passage to LD 171, a bill that lifts the August 2012 prohibition imposed by former Attorney General William Schneider on the use of international firms to fill mail order prescriptions.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [6/16/13](#)]
- **Bangor Daily News Editorial: “The Bill Restores A Lower-Cost Medication Option” For State Workers, Portland City Workers, And The Employees Of Hardwood Products Co.** “The bill restores a lower-cost medication option that for as far back as eight years ago proved beneficial to state workers, Portland city staff and employees of Hardwood Products Co., a private business in Guilford. Before Schneider intervened, employees and employers -- including state and local governments reeling to afford basic workforce benefit packages -- realized significant savings through affiliation with CanaRx, an Ontario-based international pharmacy firm. The firm, which operates in

Illinois, Vermont, Rhode Island and other states, has a solid safety record and earned participants' praise for quality service. Concerns that broader use of mail-order prescription programs like those offered by CanaRx might harm Maine pharmacies aren't strong enough to warrant continuing to block a desperately needed route to savings for patients, government and health-plan administrators." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [6/16/13](#)]

- **Portland Press Herald: The Law “Was Passed To Address A 2012 Decision By Then-Attorney General William Schneider That Halted The Popular CanaRx Program, Which Allowed Mainers To Buy Cheaper Prescription Drugs Across The Northern Border.”** “Maine’s 2013 law was the first of its kind in the nation. It was passed to address a 2012 decision by then-Attorney General William Schneider that halted the popular CanaRx program, which allowed Mainers to buy cheaper prescription drugs across the northern border.” [Portland Press Herald, [2/24/15](#)]
- **Bangor Daily News Editorial: “Concerns That Broader Use Of Mail-Order Prescription Programs Like Those Offered By CanaRx Might Harm Maine Pharmacies Aren’t Strong Enough To Warrant Continuing To Block A Desperately Needed Route To Savings For Patients, Government And Health Plan Administrators.”** “The bill restores a lower-cost medication option that for as far back as eight years ago proved beneficial to state workers, Portland city staff and employees of Hardwood Products Co., a private business in Guilford. Before Schneider intervened, employees and employers -- including state and local governments reeling to afford basic workforce benefit packages -- realized significant savings through affiliation with CanaRx, an Ontario-based international pharmacy firm. The firm, which operates in Illinois, Vermont, Rhode Island and other states, has a solid safety record and earned participants' praise for quality service. Concerns that broader use of mail-order prescription programs like those offered by CanaRx might harm Maine pharmacies aren't strong enough to warrant continuing to block a desperately needed route to savings for patients, government and health-plan administrators.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, [6/16/13](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Judge Overturns Maine Law Allowing Prescription Drug Imports.”** [Bangor Daily News, [2/24/15](#)]
- **2015: Federal Judge Overturned 2013 Maine Law Allowing For Mail-Order Prescription Drug Importation.** “A federal judge has overturned Maine’s first-in-the-nation law allowing residents to purchase medication by mail from other countries. U.S. Chief District Judge Nancy Torresen’s ruling Monday comes more than a year after several Maine pharmacy groups filed suit against the state over the 2013 law, arguing it jeopardizes the safety of the nation’s prescription drug supply and opens the door to counterfeit and tainted medications.” [Bangor Daily News, [2/24/15](#)]

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill That Required Reporting Of The Top 25 Most-Prescribed Drugs In Maine, The 25 Most Expensive Drugs In Maine, And The 25 Drugs With The Highest Year-To-Year Cost Increases, For Both Generic And Name-

Brand Medications. On May 1, 2018, LD 1406 became law without Governor LePage's signature after passing both chambers of the Legislature without a roll call vote. "In Maine, lawmakers recently took an important step toward lowering drug prices. A first step in reducing drug prices is to let consumers know the cost of medications they are prescribed. Next, drug makers should explain how they set prices. LD 1406, which became law earlier this month, without Gov. Paul LePage's signature, does both of these things. It requires that the Maine Health Data Organization, starting Dec. 1, issue a report detailing: the 25 most frequently prescribed drugs in Maine; the 25 costliest drugs as determined by the total amount spent on those drugs in the state; and the 25 drugs with the highest year-over-year cost increases as determined by the total amount spent on those drugs. This is for both generic and brand-name medications." The legislation had bipartisan cosponsors. [Maine State Legislature, LD 1406, [5/1/18](#); Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 5/15/18]

- **The Legislation Required The Health Data Organization To Create A Plan To Collect Data From Drug Manufacturers On Their Drug Pricing Practices In An Effort To Increase Transparency Around The Costs Of Prescription Drugs.** "LD 1406, which became law earlier this month, without Gov. Paul LePage's signature, does both of these things. [...] It also requires the organization to develop a plan to collect data from manufacturers related to the cost and pricing of prescription drugs in order to provide transparency in and accountability for prescription drug pricing. It is also directed to consult with other state and national agencies and organizations to determine how best to do such data collection. Other states for example, are requiring information about marketing and advertising costs and research and development costs." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 5/15/18]
- **The Law Did Not Impose Reporting Requirements On Drug Manufacturers Themselves But Authorized The Maine Health Data Organization To Create A Plan To Collect Data From The Manufacturers.** "The Maine Law does not impose any specific reporting requirements on drug manufacturers, but it does authorize the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) to create a plan to collect data from manufacturers related to drug costs and pricing with the stated goal of increasing transparency and accountability. The MHDO must create the plan by April 2019, so manufacturers should expect specific reporting requirements to be released within the next year." [Press Release, Arent Fox, [5/1/18](#)]
- **Bangor Daily News Editorial: The Legislation Took The First Steps Toward Lowering Drug Prices In Maine By First, Letting Consumers Know The Cost Of Their Medications And Second, Forcing Drug Makers To Explain How They Set Their Prices.** "In Maine, lawmakers recently took an important step toward lowering drug prices. A first step in reducing drug prices is to let consumers know the cost of medications they are prescribed. Next, drug makers should explain how they set prices. LD 1406, which became law earlier this month, without Gov. Paul LePage's signature, does both of these things." [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 5/15/18]
- **Bangor Daily News Editorial: "Despite Opposition From The Pharmaceutical Industry, The Bill Was Unanimously Passed By Both The House And Senate,**

Showing That Lawmakers Can Address Problems When They Work Together.”

“Despite opposition from the pharmaceutical industry, the bill was unanimously passed by both the House and Senate, showing that lawmakers can address problems when they work together.” [Editorial, Bangor Daily News, 5/15/18]

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Required Any Prescription Drug Distributed In Maine Be Available To A Generic Drug Manufacturer That Was Trying To Develop A Cheaper Alternative. On July 4, 2018, LD 1280 became law without Governor LePage’s signature after passing the Senate by a 18-13 vote and the House without a roll call vote. “The bill, L.D. 1280, would amend the Maine Pharmacy Act to require that any drug distributed in Maine be made available for sale to an FDA-approved generic drug manufacturer who is seeking to develop a cheaper alternative.” [Maine State Legislature, LD 1280, [2018](#); Morning Sentinel, 6/24/17]

- **HEADLINE: “Senate OKs Bill Aiming To Cheapen Prescription Drugs.”** [Morning Sentinel, 6/24/17]
- **HEADLINE: “Lawmakers Endorse Bill To Cut Prescription Drug Cost.”** [Portland Press Herald, 6/23/17]
- **Morning Sentinel: “The Maine Senate Narrowly Endorsed A Bill Thursday That Would Lower Prescription Drug Prices By Requiring Brand-Name Pharmaceutical Producers To Provide Samples Of Their Drugs To Generic Producers.”** “The Maine Senate narrowly endorsed a bill Thursday that would lower prescription drug prices by requiring brand-name pharmaceutical producers to provide samples of their drugs to generic producers.” [Morning Sentinel, 6/24/17]
- **National Conference Of State Legislatures: “The New Law ‘Ensures Increased Competition In The Market For Drugs And Biological Products, Which Will Lower The Cost Of Prescription Drugs For Maine Residents And For The State.’** “The new law ‘ensures increased competition in the market for drugs and biological products, which will lower the cost of prescription drugs for Maine residents and for the State.’ Amends the Maine Pharmacy Act to require that a drug distributed in this state must be made available for sale in this state to a person seeking to develop an application for the approval of the drug under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or the licensing of a biological product under the federal Public Health Service Act; establishes disciplinary actions for noncompliance.” [National Conference of State Legislatures, [5/29/19](#)]
- **Sens. Troy Jackson (D) And Brian Langley (R): “If Passed, This Bill Would Guarantee Mainers Have Access To Affordable Prescription Drugs By Compelling All Drug Makers To Comply With Federal Laws Designed To Lower The Cost Of Medicine.”** “L.D. 1280, AN ACT to Require Drug Manufacturers to Comply with Federal Law, is one of the most important bills the Maine Legislature is considering this session, and we’re urging our colleagues to enact it. If passed, this bill would guarantee Mainers have access to affordable prescription drugs by compelling all drug makers to comply with federal laws designed to lower the cost of medicine. This bipartisan measure

received a positive vote of 11-2 from the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce and Economic Development and has no cost to taxpayers.” [Column – Sens. Troy Jackson (D) and Brian Langley (R), Kennebec Journal, 6/5/17]

- **Sens. Troy Jackson (D) And Brian Langley (R): The Legislation “Ensures Competition In The Marketplace By Not Allowing Licensed Manufacturers To Impose Any Restriction On The Sale That Would Block Or Delay Eligible Generic Companies From Engaging In The Testing They Need To Enter The Market.”** “L.D. 1280 ensures competition in the marketplace by not allowing licensed manufacturers to impose any restriction on the sale that would block or delay eligible generic companies from engaging in the testing they need to enter the market. The Maine attorney general would be empowered to enforce the law if a company were to avoid selling their samples to a generics company, and compel the brand-name producer to sell its product at a fair market value to the generic company.” [Column – Sens. Troy Jackson (D) and Brian Langley (R), Kennebec Journal, 6/5/17]
- **Sens. Troy Jackson (D) And Brian Langley (R): The Legislation “Empowered [The Maine Attorney General] To Enforce The Law If A Company Were To Avoid Selling Their Samples To A Generics Company, And Compel The Brand-Name Producer To Sell Its Product At A Fair Market Value To The Generic Company.”** “L.D. 1280 ensures competition in the marketplace by not allowing licensed manufacturers to impose any restriction on the sale that would block or delay eligible generic companies from engaging in the testing they need to enter the market. The Maine attorney general would be empowered to enforce the law if a company were to avoid selling their samples to a generics company, and compel the brand-name producer to sell its product at a fair market value to the generic company.” [Column – Sens. Troy Jackson (D) and Brian Langley (R), Kennebec Journal, 6/5/17]

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Required Health Insurers To Provide 60 Days Advance Notice To Enrollees About Adverse Changes To Their Prescription Drug Formularies. LD 696 “requires a carrier to provide notice of an adverse change to an enrollee’s prescription drug formulary. At least 60 days’ notice is required, except in instances in which a prescription drug is removed from the formulary because of concerns about safety. The amendment defines ‘adverse change to a formulary’ as a change that removes a drug currently prescribed for that enrollee from the formulary applicable to the enrollee’s health plan or a change that moves the prescribed drug to a tier with a higher cost-sharing requirement if the carrier uses a formulary with tiers.” The House enacted the bill by a 135-0 vote and the Senate without a roll call vote, and the bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Maine State Legislature, LD 696, Roll Call #672, [6/19/18](#)]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Required Health Insurers to Allow for Prescriptions to be Dispensed for Less Than a 30-Day Supply if in the Best Interest of the Patient. In May 2015, LePage allowed LD810 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD810 “requires that, if a health plan provides coverage for prescription drugs, a carrier must allow prescriptions to be dispensed by a pharmacist for less than a 30-day supply if it is in the best interest of the patient. The law

excludes prescriptions for solid oral doses of antibiotics and solid oral doses dispensed in their original container from the requirement.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD810, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD810, 2015](#)]

PRICE TRANSPARENCY

In 2014, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Required Health Care Entities To Maintain Prices And Inform Their Patients Of Their Ability To Obtain Cost Estimates Form The Maine Health Data Organizations. In April 2014, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1642 by a 138-4 vote and the Senate by a 31-3 vote. LD 1642 “amends the law governing the public disclosure of health care prices. It defines ‘health care entity’ to mean a health care practitioner, a group of health care practitioners or a health care facility. It requires a health care entity to maintain prices rather than a price list to reflect that prices are typically retained in databases and to display a notice informing patients of their ability to obtain estimates of costs from the Maine Health Data Organization. It allows health care entities that do not render their services directly to patients in an office setting to satisfy the requirements of notice by providing information on their publicly accessible websites.” [Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1642, [May 2014](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1642, Roll Call #642, [4/4/14](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 1642, [4/3/14](#)]

In 2014, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Required Health Care Practitioners/Facilities To Provide Uninsured Patients With An Estimate Of The Total Cost Of A Medical Encounter If Asked, As Well As Any Charity Care Policy. In 2014, LePage allowed LD1760 to become law without his signature. LD 1760 “requires that health care practitioners and health care facilities provide uninsured patients, upon request, with an estimate of the total price of a single medical encounter, and notification of any charity care policy adopted by the practitioner or facility. If the practitioner or facility is unable to provide an accurate estimate of the total price because the amount of a medical service to be consumed during the medical encounter is unknown in advance, the practitioner or facility must provide a brief description of the basis for determining the total price. If a single medical encounter will involve medical services to be rendered by one or more third-party health care practitioners or facilities, the practitioner or facility must identify each third-party practitioner or facility to enable the uninsured patient to seek an estimate of the total price of medical services to be rendered directly by each practitioner or facility.” The House accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report by a 140-0 vote. The Senate passed the bill and it became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1760, [May 2014](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1760, Roll Call #684, [4/9/14](#)]

- **The Legislation Required Hospitals And Surgical Centers To Display A Notice Informing Consumers Of Their Ability To Receive Information On The Average Charges For Inpatient And Outpatient Procedures Provided By The Facility.** LD1760 “amends the laws governing the information that hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers are required to make available to consumers by adding a requirement that these entities prominently display a notice informing consumers of their ability to request

and receive information on the average charges for any inpatient service or outpatient procedure provided by the hospital or center upon request. In addition, if a single medical encounter will involve medical services to be rendered by one or more third-party health care practitioners or facilities, the hospital or ambulatory surgical center must identify each third-party practitioner or facility to enable an individual to seek an estimate of the total price of medical services to be rendered directly by each practitioner or facility.” [Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1760, [May 2014](#)]

- **The Legislation Required The Maine Health Data Organization To Report On Its Collaborative Efforts With Other Health Data Organizations To Improve Consumer Access To Information On Health Care Pricing.** LD 1760 “amends the annual statutory reporting requirement for the Maine Health Data Organization to include language requiring the Maine Health Data Organization to include in its report an update on its collaborative efforts with other health data organizations to improve consumer access to information on health care quality and price and health care transparency initiatives in this State. The law also amends the statutory provisions governing the Maine Health Data Organization annual report to require that the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance and financial services matters, in addition to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, be provided with the annual report.” [Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1760, [May 2014](#)]

PUBLIC HEALTH

Maine's lab was neglected for years. Now it's getting revamped during a pandemic.

As Maine responds to a pandemic, a key public health workforce remains understaffed

From 2010 to 2018, Maine Fell from the 8th Healthiest State to the 16th Healthiest State in Nationwide Health Rankings. According to the Maine Children’s Alliance, “Maine has fallen from 8th healthiest in 2010 to 22nd in 2015 in America’s health rankings.” According to the United Health Foundation’s 2018 America’s Health Rankings report, Maine was ranked number 16 nationally. [[Maine Children’s Alliance, 2020](#); [United Health Foundation, America’s Health Rankings, 2018](#)]

Between 2015 and 2018, the Percentage of Maine Adults Who Avoided Health Care Due to Cost Increased by 31%, from 9.4% to 12.3%. [[United Health Foundation, America’s Health Rankings, 2020](#)]

Maine Public Health System

Portland Press Herald: LePage Left Maine Public Health System “Decimated” Upon Leaving Office; Left More Than 20 Public Health Nursing Positions Unfilled. The Press herald Noted in March, 2020, “Gov. Janet Mills' administration is rebuilding a public health

system decimated under her predecessor, but key positions vital to confronting the coronavirus crisis - such as public health nurses, epidemiologists and lab technicians - remain vacant. A state law enacted in 2017, when Paul LePage was governor, requires the governor to staff all public health nursing positions approved by the Legislature, which at the time was 59 positions, including 48 front-line nurses. But when LePage left office Jan. 1, 2019, just over 20 nurses were employed.” [Portland Press Herald, 3/18/20]

- **Maine DHHS Spokeswoman: LePage Failed To Fill “Variety Of Public Health Positions” And Eliminated 111 Positions Within Maine CDC.** “Unlike other states, Maine does not have county public health programs, and only two municipalities - Bangor and Portland - have public health departments. That leaves the lion's share of public health duties - which include disease prevention, education, investigation and response - to state government. During his two terms, LePage failed to fill a variety of public health positions. He eliminated 111 positions within the Maine CDC, while refusing to hire for vacant positions, Farwell said.” [Portland Press Herald, 3/18/20]

HEADLINE: “LePage Ends Last Remaining State Investment in Local Public Health Groups.” [[Bangor Daily News, 7/27/17](#)]

2017: LePage Administration Ended State Funding for the “Last Remaining State-Funded Groups That are Responsible for Tackling Local Health Problems and Ensuring Local Areas Can Respond to Public Health Emergencies.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The LePage administration has cut off funding for the last remaining state-funded groups that are responsible for tackling local health problems and ensuring local areas can respond to public health emergencies such as disease outbreaks.” [[Bangor Daily News, 7/27/17](#)]

- **The Groups Were the Public Health District Coordinating Councils in Maine’s Nine Public Health Districts.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The end of funding for public health district coordinating councils in Maine’s nine public health districts comes less than a year after the LePage administration dissolved a set of 27 local public health groups, known as Healthy Maine Partnerships, and shifted some of their funding and responsibilities to the district councils.” [[Bangor Daily News, 7/27/17](#)]
- **In 2016, the LePage Administration Dissolved 27 Local Public Health Groups Called Healthy Maine Partnerships and Shifted Some of Their Funding to the Nine Public Health District Coordinating Councils.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The end of funding for public health district coordinating councils in Maine’s nine public health districts comes less than a year after the LePage administration dissolved a set of 27 local public health groups, known as Healthy Maine Partnerships, and shifted some of their funding and responsibilities to the district councils.” [[Bangor Daily News, 7/27/17](#)]

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

***Bangor Daily News:* “Maine’s Public Health Nurses, Who Served On The Front Lines Of The 2009 Influenza Outbreak And Scores Of Other Public Health Emergencies, Saw Their**

Ranks Halved Under The LePage Administration.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine’s public health nurses, who served on the front lines of the 2009 influenza outbreak and scores of other public health emergencies, saw their ranks halved under the LePage administration.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News*: “When LePage Took Office In 2011, The State Employed 50 Public Health Nurses, Who Visited New And Expectant Mothers; Trained Local Health Providers On Tuberculosis Detection And Vaccine Storage; Held Immunization Clinics.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “When LePage took office in 2011, the state employed 50 public health nurses, who visited new and expectant mothers; trained local health providers on tuberculosis detection and vaccine storage; held immunization clinics; monitored treatment for patients with tuberculosis or latent TB; and contributed to emergency preparedness in the state’s nine public health districts.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

- ***Bangor Daily News*: “By The Spring Of 2017, Only 20 Nurses Remained In The Field Even As The Legislature Continued To Fund The Positions.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “By the spring of 2017, only 20 nurses remained in the field even as the Legislature continued to fund the positions.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News*: “After The BDN Reported On The Dismantling Of The Public Health Nurses Program, The Legislature Passed A Bill — Over A LePage Veto — That Directed The Maine Department Of Health And Human Services, Which Oversees The Program, To Restore The Ranks Of Public Health Nurses.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “After the BDN reported on the dismantling of the public health nurses program, the Legislature passed a bill — over a LePage veto — that directed the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the program, to restore the ranks of public health nurses.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

RURAL HOSPITALS

2013 HEADLINE: Rural Hospitals, Prescription Aid for Seniors Suffer Cuts in LePage’s Proposed Budget. The *Bangor Daily News* reported of LePage’s budgets, “Both the supplemental and two-year budget packages released Friday eliminate funds for the “Drugs for the Elderly” program, saving \$1.75 million for the last quarter of the budget year and \$7 million annually after that. The two-year budget proposal also scales back the Medicare Savings Plan to the minimum levels mandated by the federal government.” [*Bangor Daily News*, [1/11/13](#)]

Paul LePage, In Early 2013, Proposed Reducing Payments To “Hospitals In Rural Areas That Provide 24-Hour Emergency Care.” Paul “LePage’s supplemental and two-year budgets...[proposed in late 2012 and early 2013] reduce reimbursement rates for the state’s 16 Critical Access Hospitals, which are hospitals in rural areas that provide 24-hour emergency care.” (*Bangor Daily News*, 01/11/13)

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Extending the Sales and Service Provider Tax Exemption for Nonprofit Rural Community

Health Centers to Include Nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Centers and “Look-Alikes.” In April 2016, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1521 by a 139-10 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote. LD1521 “extends the sales tax exemption and service provider tax exemption for incorporated nonprofit rural community health centers to include incorporated nonprofit federally qualified health centers and federally qualified health center ‘look-alikes.’” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1521, 2016](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1521, 2016](#)]

- **LePage Said the Bill as Initially Introduced Sought to Eliminate the Requirement That a Nonprofit Health Center be Classified as “Rural” in Order to Receive the Tax Exemption, in Order to Help a Single Health Center in Portland Qualify, Which He Opposed.** According to LePage’s veto letter for LD1521, “Current law provides a sales, use and service provider tax exemption for sales to ‘incorporated nonprofit rural community health centers.’ Whether a health center is designated as ‘rural’ in this exemption is determined by U.S. Census data. When this bill was proposed, supporters explained the intent of the bill was to eliminate the requirement that a nonprofit health center be ‘rural’ to receive the exemption. This change was sought so that a single health center in Portland could qualify for the exemption. At a time when job creators are considering downsizing and moving jobs out of Maine, I do not support amending our tax laws to benefit a single, nonprofit entity.” [[Gov. LePage Veto Letter for LD1521, 4/25/16](#)]

SPECIFIC ILLNESSES

Allergies

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Allowing Entities Where Allergens Capable of Causing an Allergic Shock Might be Present to Stock Epi-Pens and Administer Them to People Believed to be in Anaphylactic Shock. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1125 by a 143-4 vote and the Senate by a 26-9 vote. LD1125 “allows entities, organizations and places of employment at which allergens capable of causing anaphylaxis may be present, other than schools, to stock prescribed epinephrine autoinjectors and administer them to persons believed in good faith to be experiencing anaphylaxis and provides that those entities, organizations and places of employment may not be held liable for any injuries or related damages that may result. It requires training for employees or agents of such entities, organizations or places of employment.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1125, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1125, 2015](#)]

Colon Cancer

LePage Lost \$1 Million in Federal Funding for Colorectal Cancer Screenings for Low-Income People, Despite Colon Cancer Being the Third Leading Cause of Cancer Death in Maine:

Why These Lost Dollars Matter	Dollars Lost to Maine	The Facts

Colorectal Cancer: Provides life-saving screenings for low-income people	\$1 million	✓	Colon cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death for both men and women in Maine ¹⁰
		✓	Rural Mainers are most at risk for colon cancer ¹¹

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

Lyme Disease

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Allowing Licensed Physicians to Prescribe, Administer, and Dispense Long-Term Antibiotic Therapy for Patients with Lyme Disease. In June 2015, LePage allowed LD422 to become law without his signature after it passed the House by a 106-34 vote and the Senate without a roll call. LD422 “provides that a licensed physician may prescribe, administer or dispense long-term antibiotic therapy for a therapeutic purpose to eliminate infection or to control a patient's symptoms upon making a clinical diagnosis that the patient has Lyme disease or displays symptoms consistent with a clinical diagnosis of Lyme disease. It requires the clinical diagnosis and treatment to be documented in the patient's medical record by the prescribing licensed physician.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD422, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD422, 2015](#)]

TOBACCO

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Raised The Minimum Age To Purchase Tobacco In Maine To 21 Years Old. In August 2017, the House overrode Governor LePage’s veto of LD1170 by a 90-44 vote, and the Senate by a 29-5 vote. LD 1170 “raise the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18 years of age to 21 years of age, unless the person was 18 years of age as of July 1, 2018. It expands the definition of ‘tobacco product’ to include additional forms of tobacco and materials and devices used in the consumption of tobacco, including electronic smoking devices.” [State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1170, [8/2/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1170, Roll Call #463, [8/2/17](#); Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1170, [August 2017](#)]

- **The Legislation Included In The Definition Of “Tobacco Product” Vaping Devices.** LD 1170 “raise the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18 years of age to 21 years of age, unless the person was 18 years of age as of July 1, 2018. It expands the definition of ‘tobacco product’ to include additional forms of tobacco and materials and devices used in the consumption of tobacco, including electronic smoking devices.” [Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1170, [August 2017](#)]

LABOR

CHILD LABOR PROTECTIONS

Lobbyists “From The State’s Most Powerful Law Firms” Were Placed By Paul LePage “In The Enviably Position Of Being Able To Oversee The Drafting Of The Governor’s Policies On Behalf Of The Corporate Clients They” Represent. “Top attorneys from the state’s most powerful law firms – Pierce Atwood managing partner Gloria Pinza and, especially, Ann Robinson, head of lobbying at Preti Flaherty – were placed in the enviable position of being able to oversee the drafting of the governor’s policies on behalf of the corporate clients they are paid to represent.” The “two Portland-based firms wrote at least 28 of the 50 environmental rollbacks the governor’s office submitted to the legislature in January” 2011. “In most cases, language from the industry and lobbyist’s memos was copied word-for-word into LePage’s reform proposal.” “These include rolling back Maine’s civil rights and wage and tip sharing laws to weaker federal standards (proposed by Portland restaurateur STEVE DIMILLO)” and “weakening child labor laws (MAINE INNKEEPERS ASSOCIATION),” as well as “directing the Bureau of Insurance to ease oversight over insurance rates (MAINE ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS).” (The Portland Phoenix, 07/20/11)

- **In Most Cases, “Language From The Industry And Lobbyist’s Memos Was Copied Word-For-Word Into LePage’s Reform” Proposals, Including “Wage and Tip Sharing Laws” and Child Labor Laws.** “In most cases, language from the industry and lobbyist’s memos was copied word-for-word into LePage’s reform proposal.” “These include rolling back Maine’s civil rights and wage and tip sharing laws to weaker federal standards (proposed by Portland restaurateur STEVE DIMILLO)” and “weakening child labor laws (MAINE INNKEEPERS ASSOCIATION),” as well as “directing the Bureau of Insurance to ease oversight over insurance rates (MAINE ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS).” (The Portland Phoenix, 07/20/11)

Paul LePage Supported Repealing The Child Labor Law That Restricts The Number Of Hours Per Day And Week That Children Can Work. “Groups representing restaurants and hotels sparred with worker advocates...[in 2011] over a bill that would ease work restrictions within the state’s 20- year-old child labor law. The legislation...[was] sponsored by Sen. Debra Plowman, R-Hampden, and backed by Gov. Paul LePage. Both believe high school-age students should be allowed to work longer hours and more often during the school year.” At the time 16- and 17-year-olds could “work a maximum of 20 hours per week when school is in session. On school days, students...[could] work a maximum of four hours a day and no later than 10 p.m. Plowman’s bill would increase the weekly limit by 12 hours, from 20 to 32 hours. It would also allow minors to work six-hour days, up until 11 p.m. Plowman originally proposed reverting to federal law by removing the limits altogether. That proposal was [also] supported by LePage, but Plowman changed it amid pressure from worker advocates.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 03/10/11)

LePage Signed Into Law A Bill That “Dials Back Child-Labor Protections Enacted In 1991.” Paul LePage, in 2011, signed LD 516, which “allows 16- and 17-year-olds to work more often and longer hours during the school year.” It “increases the maximum number of hours 16- and 17-year-olds can work in a week from 20 to 24 and allows them to work until 10:15 p.m. on a school night. The bill also increases the number of hours these students can work on a school day from four hours to six.” “Labor advocates said the bill dials back child- labor protections enacted in 1991 to prevent employers from pressuring minors into working longer hours.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 05/28/11)

- **Paul LePage “Said Employers Could Benefit” If It Were Easier For Children Under 16 Years Old To Get Jobs.** Paul LePage, in January 2013, “said employers could benefit if it were easier for young people to get jobs earlier in life so they can gain workplace experience and pick up basic job skills. ‘Allowing a child to wait until 16 years old to get their first job in life is too late in life,’ he said. ‘It’s like my trying to learn Russian.’” (Bangor Daily News, 01/28/13)

EQUAL PAY

In 2017, LePage Vetoed Legislation That Would Have Prohibited Employers From Seeking Information About A Prospective Employee’s Prior Wage History Before An Offer Of Employment. LD 1259 “amends the Maine Human Rights Act to provide that evidence of discrimination with respect to compensation includes an employer seeking information about a prospective employee’s prior wage history before an offer of employment, including all compensation, to the prospective employee has been made. It provides that this discrimination is also evidenced by an employer requiring that a prospective employee’s prior compensation history meet certain criteria. The bill broadens a provision in the current equal pay law to prohibit an employer from preventing employees from discussing or disclosing other employees’ wages and makes the practice evidence of discrimination with respect to compensation under the Maine Human Rights Act as well.” The House adopted the majority “ought to pass as amended” report by a vote of 79-68 on 6/19/17. The Senate adopted the “ought to pass as amended” report the same day. The House and Senate passed the bill to be enacted on 6/20/17 and Governor LePage vetoed the legislation. On 7/20/17, the Senate failed to override his veto by a 20-11 vote and the bill was killed. [Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, Summaries of Bills, LD 1259, [August 2017](#); Maine State Legislature, LD 1259, Roll Call #350, [6/19/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1259, [7/20/17](#)]

JOB TRAINING

The LePage Administration Opposes Encouraging Builders Of Affordable Housing To Offer Their Workers Access To Job Training Programs. In 2011, the Maine State Housing Authority board “was asked to approve the scoring criteria housing authority staff uses to determine what affordable housing proposals will get tax credits and approval.” State Treasurer Bruce “Poliquin recalled looking through 45 pages of criteria, wondering why extra points were awarded to projects that included solar hot water heaters. Or why extra points went to construction companies that offered their workers health insurance. Or job training programs.” “They reflected priorities not shared by Poliquin and, the treasurer said, the new administration of Republican Gov. Paul LePage.” ““It was the policy of the last administration and the last board to try to hold down insurance premiums and Medicaid costs for everyone by encouraging the builders and contractors who build affordable housing with taxpayer money to offer health insurance,” said [Maine State Housing Authority Executive Director Dale] McCormick. LePage, said McCormick, made it clear he didn’t support those criteria.” (Bangor Daily News, 01/27/12)

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill Creating The “Higher Opportunity For Pathways To Employment Program,” Which Helped Low-Income Individuals Enrolled In An Education Or Training Program With The Program’s Expenses. In April 2018, LD1774 became law without Gov. LePage’s signature after passing both chambers without a roll call vote. LD 1774 “establishes the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program. A person eligible to participate in the program must qualify for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families but is not receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash assistance and must be enrolled in an education or training program that results in an industry-recognized certificate, a postsecondary undergraduate two-year degree or a postsecondary four-year degree in a health care, technology or engineering field.” The legislation passed the House on 4/2/18 and the Senate on 4/3/18 and became law without the governor’s signature on 4/15/18. [State of Maine Legislature, Actions of LD 1774, [4/15/18](#); Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 1774, [October 2018](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Bill To Help Low-Income Families With Education Costs Becomes Law Without LePage Signature.** [Portland Press Herald, [4/17/18](#)]
- **Maine DHHS: “The Higher Opportunity For Pathways To Employment (HOPE) Program Is Committed To Helping You Reach Your Educational Goals. Whether You Are Seeking A Short-Term Training Certificate Or An Associate Or Bachelor’s Degree, The HOPE Program Has The Tools And Resources To Help You.”** “The Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment (HOPE) Program is committed to helping you reach your educational goals. Whether you are seeking a short-term training certificate or an associate or bachelor's degree, the HOPE Program has the tools and resources to help you.” [Maine Department of Health and Human Services, HOPE, accessed [11/24/19](#)]
- **The HOPE Program Could Help An Individual Pay For Tuition, Fees, Books And Supplies, Tools And Equipment, Child Care, Transportation, Or Other Costs Associated With The Educational Goal.** “Once an individual is found eligible, the HOPE Program may help pay for cost such as: Tuition and Fees; Books and Supplies; Tools and Equipment; Child Care; Transportation; Other costs that may help you to achieve your education goal.” [Maine Department of Health and Human Services, HOPE, accessed [11/24/19](#)]
- **The \$2.1 Million “Leveraging Investments In Families Today” (LIFT) Act Would Help Parents Who Were Eligible For TANF Benefits, But Not Receiving Benefits, To Pay For Higher-Education Costs.** “A \$2.1 million bill to help low-income Maine parents pay their higher-education costs passed into law Tuesday without the signature of Republican Gov. Paul LePage. The LIFT Act, or an Act To Reduce Child Poverty by Leveraging Investments in Families Tomorrow, can be used by parents in households earning 185 percent or less of the federal poverty level, or about \$46,000 a year for a family of four. The funds would be available to those who are eligible for, but do not receive, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families benefits. [...] House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, who sponsored the bill, says it is meant to help families out of

poverty and address Maine’s workforce shortages by providing employers with qualified workers.” [Portland Press Herald, [4/17/18](#)]

- **The Program Funding Could Be Used On Health Care, Technology, Or Engineering Degrees, Or A “High-Value, Industry-Recognized Certificate Or Similar Credential.”** “Eligible degree programs include those in health care, technology and engineering. The funds can also be used to pay for other postsecondary programs that result in a ‘high-value, industry-recognized certificate or similar credential.’” [Portland Press Herald, [4/17/18](#)]
- **Portland Press Herald: The “Bill Received Broad Bipartisan Support In Both Houses Of The Legislature.”** “The bill received broad bipartisan support in both houses of the Legislature.” [Portland Press Herald, [4/17/18](#)]

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation To Allow Minors In Vocational Training Programs To Work In The Occupations In Which They Were Trained Became Law. On July 9, 2017, LD1564 became law without Governor LePage’s signature and without a roll call vote in either chamber. “The bill also allows for the modernization of the work permit process, clarifies that graduates of vocational programs who are under 18 years of age can work in the occupations for which they were trained, grants the department, not just superintendents, the ability to revoke a permit and allows the department to make rules governing employment. Included as well are restrictions in employment relating to legalized marijuana.” [Maine State Legislature, LD 1564, [7/9/17](#); Bangor Daily News, 7/11/17]

- **Portland Press Herald Editorial: Bill Passed Allowing Maine Students Ages 16 To 18 Enrolled In A Cooperative Or Vocational Training Program To Work With Hazardous Machinery Provided They Met Basic Educational And Safety Requirements.** “Too few Maine students take advantage of career and technical training. Too many high school graduates lose their way after leaving school. Too many well-paying jobs go unfilled. Each of those problems hurts the Maine economy and holds back its workers. They are also related. But they are not unaddressed. Thanks to a bill passed last summer, students ages 16 to 18 who are enrolled in a cooperative or vocational training program are allowed to work with hazardous machinery at jobs outside of school as long as they satisfy basic safety and educational requirements.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [2/28/18](#)]
- **Bill Changed The Hazardous Occupations Law For Minors To Allow Students Under 18 Enrolled In A Career/Technical Program To Work Under The Supervision Of A Fully Qualified Adult.** “The revisions to the Hazardous Occupations Law for Minors allow students to work and earn money while enrolled in a cooperative or vocational training program. The changes added an exemption for students under 18 enrolled in a career and technical education – or CTE – program to work for short periods of time under the direct supervision of a fully qualified and experienced adult. The rules require the CTE program to provide basic safety training to students and to continue to oversee students’ education.” [Portland Press Herald, [2/26/18](#)]

- **Bill Sponsor Sen. Amy Volk: “We Felt It Was Important To Do Everything We Could To Enable The Next Generation Of Students Interested In A Technical Career Path Such As Engineering, Plumbing, Automotive Or Nursing, To Name A Few, To Succeed.”** “Sen. Amy Volk of Scarborough, who proposed the amendment with Reps. Martin Grohman and Ryan Fecteau of Biddeford, said the changes benefit both students and local businesses like DeepWater Buoyancy that are trying to attract skilled workers. ‘Welding is a talent that is incredibly important to industry in Maine. That’s why, as a committee, we felt it was important to do everything we could to enable the next generation of students interested in a technical career path such as engineering, plumbing, automotive or nursing, to name a few, to succeed,’ said Volk, Senate chairwoman of the Legislature’s Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee.” [Portland Press Herald, [2/26/18](#)]
- **Portland Press Herald: The Bill’s “Changes Were Necessary To Give Students The Experience They Need To Enter The Workforce And Fill In Gaps In Trades That Have A Hard Time Attracting New Workers.”** “The concept of matching students with local companies isn’t new at the Center of Technology or at the 26 other career and technical education schools around the state, but educators and tradesmen say changes were necessary to give students the experience they need to enter the workforce and fill gaps in trades that have a hard time attracting new workers. ‘In the past 20 years, I’ve seen such a great need for skilled labor,’ said Jim Godbout, owner of Jim Godbout Plumbing and Heating. ‘There used to be a lot of families going into the same trade for generations, but you don’t see much of that anymore.’” [Portland Press Herald, [2/26/18](#)]

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of the Budget That Created The “Put ME To Work Program,” Which Created Job Training Programs At Community Colleges In Maine. “SEC. AAAA-1. 20-A MRSA 12730 is enacted to read: 12730. Put ME to Work Program 1. Establishment; purpose. The Put ME to Work Program, referred to in this section as ‘the program,’ is established within the centers. The program must facilitate the establishment of job training programs at community colleges in this State by working with private businesses and community colleges.” The House overrode the veto by a 109-37 vote and the Senate by a 25-10 vote, and the budget was enacted. [State of Maine Legislature, LD 1019 Text, [2015](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1019, Roll Call #396, [6/30/15](#)]

- **Put ME To Work Invested State Funds, Matched By Private Funds, In Job Training Programs For High-Demand Fields Like Logging, Health Care, And Precision Manufacturing.** “The speaker’s Put ME to Work law will invest \$1 million from state funds, matched by \$1 million in private funds in job training programs that create public-private partnerships to develop a trained workforce in high-demand fields, such as logging, health care and precision manufacturing. Some of the funds will be used for scholarships. The \$2 million will be allocated over the two years.” [Maine Insights, accessed [11/24/19](#)]
- **The Put ME To Work Program “Helps Pay For The Cost Of Training Partnerships Between Maine Businesses, Or Industry Associations, And A Maine Community College To Develop Or Strengthen Programs That Support In-Demand And High-**

Wage Occupations.” “Funded by the Maine Legislature, the program helps pay for the cost of training partnerships between Maine businesses, or industry associations, and a Maine Community College to develop or strengthen programs that support in-demand and high-wage occupations and/or occupations in transition due to changes in work practices or technology. Program guidelines include the following: Training can be provided to new hires or a company’s current work force. Projects should result in recognized training outcomes that add to the competitiveness of both the worker and industry. The program requires a direct or in-kind match by the business applicant of 50% of the total project costs. The business must agree to hire trainees who complete the program at a rate at least \$2.50 above the minimum wage. The business must agree to pay incumbent workers who complete the program at or above the median wage for that occupation.” [Maine Community Colleges, accessed [11/24/19](#)]

- **Put ME To Work Programs “Should Result In Recognized Training Outcomes That Add To The Competitiveness Of Both The Worker And The Industry.”** “Funded by the Maine Legislature, the program helps pay for the cost of training partnerships between Maine businesses, or industry associations, and a Maine Community College to develop or strengthen programs that support in-demand and high-wage occupations and/or occupations in transition due to changes in work practices or technology. Program guidelines include the following: Training can be provided to new hires or a company’s current work force. Projects should result in recognized training outcomes that add to the competitiveness of both the worker and industry. The program requires a direct or in-kind match by the business applicant of 50% of the total project costs. The business must agree to hire trainees who complete the program at a rate at least \$2.50 above the minimum wage. The business must agree to pay incumbent workers who complete the program at or above the median wage for that occupation.” [Maine Community Colleges, accessed [11/24/19](#)]
- **Put ME To Work Programs “Requir[e] A Direct Or In-Kind Match By The Business Applicant Of 50% Of The Total Project Costs.”** “Funded by the Maine Legislature, the program helps pay for the cost of training partnerships between Maine businesses, or industry associations, and a Maine Community College to develop or strengthen programs that support in-demand and high-wage occupations and/or occupations in transition due to changes in work practices or technology. Program guidelines include the following: Training can be provided to new hires or a company’s current work force. Projects should result in recognized training outcomes that add to the competitiveness of both the worker and industry. The program requires a direct or in-kind match by the business applicant of 50% of the total project costs. The business must agree to hire trainees who complete the program at a rate at least \$2.50 above the minimum wage. The business must agree to pay incumbent workers who complete the program at or above the median wage for that occupation.” [Maine Community Colleges, accessed [11/24/19](#)]
- **Put ME To Work Programs “Must Agree To Hire Trainees Who Complete The Program At A Rate Of At Least \$2.50 Above The Minimum Wage.”** “Funded by the Maine Legislature, the program helps pay for the cost of training partnerships between

Maine businesses, or industry associations, and a Maine Community College to develop or strengthen programs that support in-demand and high-wage occupations and/or occupations in transition due to changes in work practices or technology. Program guidelines include the following: Training can be provided to new hires or a company's current work force. Projects should result in recognized training outcomes that add to the competitiveness of both the worker and industry. The program requires a direct or in-kind match by the business applicant of 50% of the total project costs. The business must agree to hire trainees who complete the program at a rate at least \$2.50 above the minimum wage. The business must agree to pay incumbent workers who complete the program at or above the median wage for that occupation." [Maine Community Colleges, accessed [11/24/19](#)]

- **Former Democratic House Speaker Mark Eves: "Put ME To Work Aims To Invest \$5 Million Over Five Years For Job Training In Growing Job Sectors Like Health Care, Manufacturing And Agriculture."** "We've got to do better as a state. That's why I'm working with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to pass a job training initiative called "Put ME to Work." It brings employers, workers and the public sector together to grow good jobs and strong wages in our state. While Democrats and Republicans don't always agree on the ways we can improve our economy, job training is an area where we can find common ground. Put ME to Work aims to invest \$5 million over five years for job training in growing job sectors like health care, manufacturing and agriculture." [Mark Eves Op-Ed, Portland Press Herald, [5/23/15](#)]

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Expanding the Responsibilities of the State Workforce Investment Board to Include Supporting a Goal of Having 60% of Working-Age Adults Hold Certificates, Degrees, Vocational Education, or Industry-Recognized Credentials. In June 2017, LePage allowed LD1638 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD1638 "adds supporting an attainment goal of increasing the percent of working-age adults holding a high-value certificate, college degree, vocational education or other industry-recognized credential to 60% by 2025 with a focus on meeting future workforce needs to the list of responsibilities of the State Workforce Investment Board. The board may seek information from the Maine Workforce and Education Coalition in regards to an attainment goal. It also directs the Workforce Investment Board to track the State's progress toward the attainment goal and to annually report on the progress to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, business, research and economic development matters." [[Summaries of Bills, LD1638, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1638, 2017](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial Headline: "If LePage Has His Way, Maine's Job Seekers Will Keep Losing Out." [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 3/26/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: LePage Administration Sought Federal Approval to Require That Maine's Three Regional Workforce Boards Spend 70% of Their Funds on Worker Training. According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, "But the LePage administration has been working on yet another way to undermine the three regional, business-led workforce

boards. Now, his administration is seeking federal approval to require that they spend 70 percent of the funds they receive directly on worker training. It sounds logical for three boards that exist for the purpose of training unemployed workers and others having a tough time in the job market. But there's more to it. The policy means that the three boards would have to spend 70 percent of their funding essentially on tuition that allows job seekers to enroll in adult education, community college and other career training programs. And there's a lot more to the worker training system than tuition." [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 3/26/18](#)]

- ***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: This Requirement Would Force the Boards to Spend 70% of Their Funding on Tuition to Help Job Seekers to Enroll in Education Program, But “There’s a Lot More to the Worker Training System Than Tuition.”** According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “But the LePage administration has been working on yet another way to undermine the three regional, business-led workforce boards. Now, his administration is seeking federal approval to require that they spend 70 percent of the funds they receive directly on worker training. It sounds logical for three boards that exist for the purpose of training unemployed workers and others having a tough time in the job market. But there’s more to it. The policy means that the three boards would have to spend 70 percent of their funding essentially on tuition that allows job seekers to enroll in adult education, community college and other career training programs. And there’s a lot more to the worker training system than tuition.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 3/26/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: “Requiring That 70 Percent of the Funding Meant to Sustain a Statewide Training Program be Spent on Only One of its Functions Will Undermine That Very System, Limiting the Help Available to Those Who Need it Most.”** According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “Requiring that 70 percent of the funding meant to sustain a statewide training system be spent on only one of its functions will undermine that very system, limiting the help available to those who need it most. Without the career coach to help an unemployed worker find his way into a new field, that worker is less likely to find his way into the training program to which LePage wants to devote more of the federal funds.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 3/26/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: LePage “Could Constructively Engage in Improving the [Job Training] System. But Instead, in His ‘My Way or the Highway’ Approach to Governing, He Persists in an Effort to Win the Latest Round of the Battle, Even When He Loses at Every Turn.”** According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “LePage is tirelessly pursuing an agenda of undermining a government structure he doesn’t like but provides valuable services. He could constructively engage in improving the system. But instead, in his ‘my way or the highway’ approach to governing, he persists mindlessly in an effort to win the latest round of the battle, even when he loses at every turn.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 3/26/18](#)]

In 2017, LePage Refused to Accept \$8 Million in Federal Funding for Job Training

Headline: “LePage Rejects \$8M, Jeopardizing Job Training for Thousands of Unemployed.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/8/17](#)]

Headline: “Trump Asks LePage to Reconsider Rejection of Millions in Job Training Funds.” [[Bangor Daily News, 10/16/17](#)]

2017: LePage Moved to Withhold \$8 Million in Federal Funding from Three Regional Board That Oversee Job Training Services. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Gov. Paul LePage has decided to withhold what is likely more than \$8 million in federal funding from three regional boards that oversee job training services for low-income adults, laid-off workers and struggling young adults, according to a workforce development official.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/8/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: LePage’s Refusal to Accept Job Training Funds “Cost Maine Workers. The Worker Training Boards Had to Lay Off Their Counselors, and They Stopped Paying Tuition for Job Seekers Enrolled in Training.” According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “His refusal last year to release federal job training funds to the entities that could actually put them to good use cost Maine’s workers. The worker training boards had to lay off their counselors, and they stopped paying tuition for job seekers enrolled in training. Only now are they starting to rebuild. The people who most need the help lost out because of LePage’s actions. If he has his way in his next battle, LePage will win as job seekers lose out again.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 3/26/18](#)]

2015-2016: Job Training Programs Provided Services to Over 2,100 Mainers Including 987 Low-Income Adults, 546 Laid-Off Workers and 599 Youth. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Between July 2015 and June 2016, 2,132 job seekers — 987 low-income adults, 546 laid-off workers and 599 youth — received some type of free, personalized help with learning a marketable skill.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/8/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “Our View: LePage’s Refusal Of Federal Job Funds Could Have High Cost For Maine.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 10/25/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “Finding A Job When You Don’t Have A Job Is Tough. And It’s Going To Get Even Tougher, Thanks To Gov. Le-Page’s Meddlesome And Uninformed Decision To Reject Millions Of Dollars In Federal Workforce Training Funds.” “Finding a job when you don’t have a job is tough. And it’s going to get even tougher, thanks to Gov. Le-Page’s meddlesome and uninformed decision to reject millions of dollars in federal workforce training funds.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 10/25/17](#)]

- **Bangor Daily News Editorial: “At Issue Are Three Business-Led Regional Workforce Development Boards, In Bangor, Brunswick And Lewiston, Which Administer Over \$8 Million A Year In Federal Funds For Job Search Assistance, Career Counseling, And Classroom And On-The-Job Training.”** According to a *Bangor Daily News* editorial, “At issue are three business-led regional workforce development boards, in Bangor, Brunswick and Lewiston, which administer over \$8 million a year in federal funds for job search assistance, career counseling, and classroom and on-the-job training. The money helps support Maine’s 12 regional career centers as well.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 10/25/17](#)]

- **Bangor Daily News Editorial: “LePage Pulled Out Of The Program After Federal Officials Rejected His Proposal To Reorganize It, Prompting One Of The Boards – Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc. In Brunswick – To File Suit Tuesday In U.S. District Court.”** According to a *Bangor Daily News* editorial, “LePage pulled out of the program after federal officials rejected his proposal to reorganize it, prompting one of the boards – Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc. in Brunswick – to file suit Tuesday in U.S. District Court, asking the court to compel the state to make the money available. (Although the lawsuit doesn’t include the other two nonprofits, it would ideally result in funds being released to all three, Coastal Counties’ attorney told the *Bangor Daily News*.)” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 10/25/17](#)]

October 2017: LePage Was Sued By Organization That Promoted Job Training In Southern Maine For Failing To Release \$9 Million In Federal Funding To Help Laid-Off Workers. “An organization that oversees job training in coastal and southern Maine is suing Gov. Paul LePage and Maine Department of Labor Commissioner John Butera for failing to release millions in federal funds meant to help laid-off workers, low-income adults and struggling young adults find work. Coastal Counties Workforce Inc., based in Brunswick, filed a lawsuit in federal court Tuesday to compel the LePage administration to provide it with federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding for the 2016 and 2017 program years.” [Bangor Daily News, 10/24/17]

Bangor Daily News Headline: “LePage Leaves Hundreds Of Unemployed In The Dark On Future Of Job Training.” [Bangor Daily News, 9/14/17]

- **Bangor Daily News: LePage’s Administration Pushed To Consolidate Regional Workforce Boards Against US DoL Wishes; Risked \$9.4 Million In Job Training Funding.** “A Maine Department of Labor official alerted the Northeastern workforce board's executive director Friday, Sept. 8, that the state had sent a letter to the federal government stating that it was withdrawing from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act-funded program, which last year brought \$9.4 million to Maine for 2,132 job seekers. [...] ‘We will work with the U.S. Department of Labor to identify the manner in which the federal government can continue to provide this job training funding to Maine with only one layer of administrative costs.’ The U.S. Department of Labor, however, has twice rejected LePage's bid to eliminate Maine's three regional workforce boards -- which oversee job training services for low-income adults, laid-off workers and struggling youth -- in favor of one statewide board.” [Bangor Daily News, 9/14/17]

Headline: “After Losing in Court, LePage Agrees to Release Millions in Job Training Funds.” [*St. John Valley Times*, 3/2/18]

LABOR COMMENTS, GENERALLY

Paul LePage, In 2004, Said, “I Don’t Care About Labor Laws Or Protections.” In 2004, “Municipal Employees, Council 93, filed a complaint with the Maine Labor Relations Board alleging the mayor [of Waterville] violated labor laws when he held a meeting March 11 [2004] with city employees, asking them to consider a wage freeze.” “When asked...about union

contract and labor law protections such as seniority, LePage replied: ‘I don’t give a damn about the contract or the union. You can take the contract out, throw it out the window for all I care, and I don’t care about labor laws or protections.’ LePage said his comments were taken completely out of context.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 04/03/04)

Paul LePage Ordered The Removal Of A “36-Foot Labor- History Mural” That “Depicts The History Of Organized Labor In Maine And The Country, With Images Of Rosie The Riveter And A Shoe-Worker Strike In Lewiston,” Because He Said “He Did Not Want To Send The Wrong Message To Employers In Maine.” “A federal judge ruled...that Gov. Paul LePage was within his right to ‘government speech’ when he removed a mural depicting labor history from a state office building.” (Portland Press Herald, 03/24/12) “The \$60,000 artwork, purchased with federal funds, was installed in the lobby of the Maine Department of Labor offices in 2008, shortly after its move into the leased office complex on Commerce Drive in Augusta. But after what administration officials characterized as a handful of...complaints about the perceived message behind the mural, the governor ordered its removal. ‘When you walk into that lobby, there’s a clear message that comes across,’ said the governor’s press secretary, Adrienne Bennett, citing complaints about the pro-union themes in the artwork. ‘There’s a new message in Augusta, and that’s that the governor works for the people, all the people, not just a single group.’” (Bangor Daily News, 03/24/11) “The controversy surrounding the...[36-foot labor- history] mural began...when LePage ordered it removed from a small waiting room and stored in a secret location. The mural depicts the history of organized labor in Maine and the country, with images of Rosie the Riveter and a shoe-worker strike in Lewiston.” “At the time, LePage called the mural ‘one-sided’ and said he did not want to send the wrong message to employers in Maine.” (Portland Press Herald, 03/24/12)

- **It Turns Out He Ordered The Removal Of The Mural “Because An Anonymous Letter Writer Likened It To North Korean ‘Brainwashing.’”** It turns out he ordered the “mural illustrating the history of Maine’s labor movement taken out of a Department of Labor waiting room because an anonymous letter writer likened it to North Korean ‘brainwashing.’” (Washington Monthly, 07/12/12)
- **The Bangor Daily News Said This Action “Is Straight Out Of Orwell’s World.”** The Bangor Daily News said this action “is straight out of Orwell’s world.” (Bangor Daily News, 03/23/11)

MINIMUM WAGE

Opposition to Minimum Wage Increase

Paul LePage, In 2006, Implied That He Opposes A Minimum Wage Increase, At Least In Part Because It “Likely Would” Force Employers To Adjust... [The] Entire Pay Scale In Order To Keep...Veteran Workers” Happy. Paul LePage, in 2006, “said that politics – more than compassion – was the driving force behind the latest [minimum] wage hike. ‘It’s nothing more than a political feel-good during an election year,’ LePage said. ‘It certainly does nothing to show that you are business friendly.’ LePage...[was] quick to note that starting pay at Marden’s...[was] already \$7 an hour. But he said that doesn’t mean his company, which

employs about 850 people, won't feel the effects of the increase. He predicted the company likely would adjust its entire pay scale in order to keep its veteran workers. 'If you increase the minimum, you've got to increase everybody,' said LePage, describing what is known in economic circles as the 'spillover effect' of a wage increase. 'People want to maintain their distance from the minimum wage.'" (Bangor Daily News, 07/22/06)

Paul LePage Does Not Support Raising The State Minimum Wage, And He Does Not Support Raising "The State's Minimum Wage Each Year To Match The Cost Of Inflation." Maine "has raised its minimum wage 30 times since 1959 and nine times since 1996. In 2008 the Legislature raised the rate to \$7.50, the current rate." According to an article with the headline, "Effort to raise Maine's minimum wage meets opposition by business groups, LePage," the governor did not support a bill "to raise the state's minimum wage each year to match the cost of inflation" and a bill to "raise the current minimum wage of \$7.50 an hour by 50 cents over the next two years." His administration, "through testimony from the Bureau of Labor Standards, said the state's economy was too fragile to increase the burden on businesses. Mike Rowland told the panel that the administration would prefer that Maine's minimum wage conform with the federal rate of \$7.25 an hour." (Lewiston Sun Journal, 03/12/11)

LePage Opposed Legislation to Raise the Minimum Wage From \$7.50 to \$9 an Hour by 2016 and Index it to Inflation Thereafter. Paul LePage opposes legislation to "raise the minimum wage from \$7.50 to \$9 an hour by 2016 and index it to inflation thereafter." In fact, "representatives of the state Department of Labor and Department of Economic and Community Development testified against the bill." (Portland Press Herald, 03/29/13)

- **LePage Ultimately Vetoed the Legislation.** In 2013 LePage vetoed a bill that "would incrementally increase the minimum wage from the current \$7.50 per hour to \$9 an hour by 2015, followed by annual increases tied to inflation... LePage wrote in his veto letter that Maine should focus on creating better jobs rather than improving its lowest-paying jobs." [Bangor Daily News, [7/8/13](#)]

LePage Opposed Legislation to Increase Maine's Minimum Wage to \$8.50 and Raise it Annually Thereafter by the Same Percentage as the CPI. Paul LePage's administration also opposes LD 611, which is a bill to "increase Maine's minimum wage to \$8.50...and raise it annually by the same percentage as the Consumer Price Index." (Bangor Daily News, 03/14/13)

2013: Called Minimum Wage Raise a Job Killer. The Portland Press Herald reported, "Gov. Paul LePage is calling the minimum wage bill that awaits final disposition a job killer. In his weekly radio address, the Republican governor said the bill to raise Maine's minimum wage to \$9 an hour by 2016 and then automatically adjust it for inflation each year after that has a cost. To absorb the cost of higher wages, LePage said, businesses will hire fewer workers and increase prices on their products and services. And he said consumers will pay that cost." [Portland Press Herald, [4/28/13](#)]

"Training" Wage

The LePage Administration, In 2011, Supported Cutting The Minimum Wage For Many Teenagers By Creating A Training Wage For Them That Is Lower Than The Minimum Wage. A representative from the Maine Department of Labor, in 2011, said the LePage “administration was in favor of a training wage.” A bill, in 2011, by Republican Representative David Burns would have established “a low ‘training wage’ for teens starting a new job.” “According to a summary of the bill, it would establish a training wage for new workers 20 years old or younger of \$5.62 per hour for their first 90 days of employment.” (Bangor Daily News, 04/16/11)

Opposition to Voter-Passed Minimum Wage Increase

2016: Maine Voters Passed Referendum Raising Minimum Wage to \$9 in 2017 and \$12 in 2020. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Maine voters decided Tuesday to raise the state’s minimum wage for the first time since 2009, bumping it to \$9 per hour next year, from \$7.50, and to \$12 by 2020 as part of a national push by progressive groups. [...] The Maine referendum raises the state’s minimum wage to \$9 in 2017 and by \$1 each year until 2020. After that, it will be tied to inflation.” [[Bangor Daily News, 11/9/16](#)]

Governing Headline: “Maine Governor: Advocates Should Be Jailed For Supporting Minimum-Wage Hike.” [[Governing, 10/17/16](#)]

LePage “Loudly Opposed” Statewide Minimum Wage Hike in 2016. According to the *Bangor Daily News* “The governor also tried and failed to block Portland and Bangor from raising their local minimum wages in 2015, and loudly opposed a statewide wage hike to similar effect the next year.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/19/18](#)]

October 2016: LePage Threatened To Jail Proponents Of Referendum On Raising The Maine Minimum Wage To \$12 An Hour. “LePage, speaking to the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, said Mike Tipping and Ben Chin, both officials with the Maine People's Alliance, should be jailed because increasing the minimum wage will lead to higher prices and potentially harm elderly residents on fixed incomes. The MPA is a progressive organization that frequently backs Democratic initiatives and is one of the major groups pushing for a stepped increase in the minimum wage, which would rise to \$12 an hour by 2020 if voters approve the question.” [Kennebec Journal, 10/14/16]

- **Sun Journal: Minimum Wage Hike Would Lift Incomes Of 181,000 Maine Residents, Including One In Three Working Seniors.** “The referendum, if approved, would gradually raise the state's minimum wage, boosting the incomes of 181,000 Maine residents, including more than one in three working seniors, according to the National Employment Law Project.” [Sun Journal, 10/13/16]

LePage Said Two Advocates for Minimum Wage Increase “Should Be Thrown in Jail for What They’re Doing to the Elderly.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Blasting a ballot measure that would hike Maine’s minimum wage, Gov. Paul LePage said Thursday that two proponents of the increase — Ben Chin and Mike Tipping of the Maine People’s Alliance — ‘should be thrown in jail for what they’re doing to the elderly.’” [[Bangor Daily News, 10/13/16](#)]

LePage Called for Two Advocates of Ballot Measure to Increase Minimum Wage to Be Jailed, Saying They Were Guilty of “Attempted Murder” of Senior Citizens. According to Governing, “Gov. Paul LePage affirmed his statement Friday that two advocates of a state ballot question to increase the minimum wage should be jailed, saying they are guilty of the ‘attempted murder’ of senior citizens because of the alleged impact of a wage increase.” [[Governing, 10/17/16](#)]

- **LePage: “To Me When You Go Out And Kill Somebody, You Go To Jail. Well, This Is Attempted Murder In My Mind Because It Is Pushing People To The Brink Of Survival,” LePage Said Of The Proposed Minimum Wage Increase.** According to Governing, “‘To me when you go out and kill somebody, you go to jail. Well, this is attempted murder in my mind because it is pushing people to the brink of survival,’ LePage said of the proposed minimum wage increase.” [[Governing, 10/17/16](#)]
- **LePage On Two Advocates For A Minimum Wage Increase: “They Are Deliberately And Knowingly Hurting Mainers.”** According to Governing, “LePage, who first suggested Mike Tipping and Ben Chin should be jailed for supporting the ballot question during an appearance before the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, repeated that during a phone-in interview on the South Portland-based WGAN radio, saying, ‘They are deliberately and knowingly hurting Mainers.’” [[Governing, 10/17/16](#)]

Governing: “LePage Has Argued The Wage Increase Will Push The Prices Of Consumer Goods And Services Beyond The Reach Of Retirees On Fixed Incomes.” According to Governing, “LePage has argued the wage increase will push the prices of consumer goods and services beyond the reach of retirees on fixed incomes and said he believed Tipping and Chin were committing a moral crime.” [[Governing, 10/17/16](#)]

LePage Tried and Failed to Block Minimum Wage Increases in Portland and Bangor. According to the *Bangor Daily News* “The governor also tried and failed to block Portland and Bangor from raising their local minimum wages in 2015, and loudly opposed a statewide wage hike to similar effect the next year.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/19/18](#)]

June 2018: LePage Continued “Fight Against The Minimum Wage” With Introduction Of Bill To Slow Increase And Eliminate Future Increases. “The Legislature reconvened to continue work on a number of bills that were left in limbo when a vote to extend the session in April failed. The impasse at that time was over Medicaid funding and Republicans' demand that scheduled increases in Maine's minimum wage, which would go to \$12 an hour by 2020, be slowed. Gov. Paul LePage continued his fight against the minimum wage Tuesday with the introduction of another bill to slow the increases and eliminate future bumps related to increases in the cost of living.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 6/19/18]

Tip Sharing

Lobbyists “From The State’s Most Powerful Law Firms” Were Placed By Paul Lepage “In The Envable Position Of Being Able To Oversee The Drafting Of The Governor’s Policies On Behalf Of The Corporate Clients They” Represent. “Top attorneys from the state’s most powerful law firms – Pierce Atwood managing partner Gloria Pinza and, especially, Ann Robinson, head of lobbying at Preti Flaherty – were placed in the enviable position of being able to oversee the drafting of the governor’s policies on behalf of the corporate clients they are paid to represent.” The “two Portland-based firms wrote at least 28 of the 50 environmental rollbacks the governor’s office submitted to the legislature in January” 2011. “In most cases, language from the industry and lobbyist’s memos was copied word-for-word into LePage’s reform proposal.” “These include rolling back Maine’s civil rights and wage and tip sharing laws to weaker federal standards (proposed by Portland restaurateur STEVE DIMILLO)” and “weakening child labor laws (MAINE INNKEEPERS ASSOCIATION),” as well as “directing the Bureau of Insurance to ease oversight over insurance rates (MAINE ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS).” (The Portland Phoenix, 07/20/11)

- **In Most Cases, “Language From The Industry And Lobbyist’s Memos Was Copied Word-For-Word Into Lepage’s Reform” Proposals, Including “Wage and Tip Sharing Laws” and Child Labor Laws.** “In most cases, language from the industry and lobbyist’s memos was copied word-for-word into LePage’s reform proposal.” “These include rolling back Maine’s civil rights and wage and tip sharing laws to weaker federal standards (proposed by Portland restaurateur STEVE DIMILLO)” and “weakening child labor laws (MAINE INNKEEPERS ASSOCIATION),” as well as “directing the Bureau of Insurance to ease oversight over insurance rates (MAINE ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS).” (The Portland Phoenix, 07/20/11)

RIGHT TO WORK

Paul Lepage, In 2011, “Praised Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker...And Expressed His Support For Right-To-Work Legislation.” Paul LePage, in 2011, “praised Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who...[was] trying to eliminate collective bargaining rights for public employees, and expressed his support for right-to-work legislation.” “LePage also remarked that workers shouldn’t have to join a union.” “‘I believe that the Declaration of Independence says ‘life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,’ he said. ‘Whenever someone forces me to do something against my will, they’re infringing upon my freedoms and my liberties. And that’s what I think we’re doing in Maine when we have fair share, which means that you are required to belong to a union, you’re required to pay dues but you don’t want to participate. I find that to be against everything the United States of America stands for.’” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 02/28/11)

STATE WORKERS

Paul Lepage, In 2011, Hired A High-Priced “Out-Of-State Attorney To Help His Administration Negotiate New Labor Contracts.” Paul LePage, in 2011, “hired an out-of-state attorney to help his administration negotiate new labor contracts for nearly 10,000 state workers. Louis DiLorenzo, a managing partner with Bond Schoeneck & King, which has offices in New York, Florida and Kansas,” was “at the table... when administration officials and leaders of the Maine State Employees Association...[met] to discuss ground rules for upcoming contract

negotiations.” Louis DiLorenzo was paid “\$295 an hour.” “Joyce Oreskovich, acting director of the Bureau of Human Resources...said LePage believes that a labor expert from outside of Maine will bring a national perspective to the union contracts.” “Howard Reben, a Portland-based attorney who represents workers and unions, said it’s unusual to have lawyers attend negotiation sessions because of the high cost. He said lawyers typically get involved at the end of the talks, to craft contract language. He said there are plenty of skilled attorneys in Maine who represent employers. He said LePage’s decision to hire DiLorenzo will just add costs because the state will pay his travel expenses.” (Kennebec Journal, 04/27/11)

- **This “Decision To Hire A Private Attorney For The Negotiations, Rather Than Rely On Staff Attorneys...[Was] Highly Unusual” And Expensive.** “The decision to hire a private attorney for the negotiations, rather than rely on staff attorneys... [was] highly unusual but not unprecedented.” (Kennebec Journal, 04/27/11)

UNEMPLOYMENT

Paul LePage, In 2011, Suggested “That Some Collecting Unemployment Insurance Were Lazy.” Paul LePage, in 2011, suggested “that some collecting unemployment insurance were lazy.” (Bangor Daily News, 12/05/11)

HEADLINE: Emails Reveal Friction, Political Pressure On Unemployment Hearing Examiners. The Sun Journal reported, “The chief hearing officer at the Maine Department of Labor’s Division of Administrative Hearings said in an email she was ‘totally shocked’ after attending a luncheon hosted by Gov. LePage at the Blaine House last month where he reportedly scolded hearing officers for doing their jobs poorly in the wake of complaints by businesses... Sources in a Sun Journal investigation who said pressure to find more cases in favor of employers was applied to hearing officers beginning in 2011 after an employer complained following an unfavorable appeals hearing.” [Sun Journal, [4/17/13](#)]

- **LePage Administration Fought for Change to Appointment for Unemployment Bureau Head.** The Sun Journal reported, “A top Maine Democratic lawmaker said this week that Gov. Paul LePage orchestrated a change last year at the Department of Labor in an effort to wrest greater control over hearing officers who decide appeals of unemployment claims. The administration proposed last year changing the designation of the job of director at the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation from a civil service position to a political appointment... Peter Steele, director of communications for LePage, said the administration’s actions last year were simply an effort to achieve consistency within the Maine Department of Labor where all bureau directors — except [current director Laura] Boyett — are political appointees and have been since before LePage took office.” [Sun Journal, [4/25/13](#)]
- **Kennebec Journal Editorial: LePage Crossed Line at Meeting with Labor Officials.** In an editorial noting how LePage “trips, falls over line he shouldn’t cross” in the headline, the Kennebec Journal opined in 2013 that, “Gov. Paul LePage invited the people who decide unemployment claims to the Blaine House and told them that he had heard reports that they were being too hard on employers when they decide cases... that

meeting never should have happened. The governor has no more business telling hearing officers how to decide cases than he would assembling a group of umpires to tell them to call more strikes.” [Kennebec Journal, [4/23/13](#)]

- **Sun Journal Editorial: Investigation Yielded Confirmation of Pressure.** The Sun Journal wrote in an editorial, “We knew this involved the hearing officers, the people who decide unemployment claim disputes between employees and employers, but they were afraid to talk for fear of losing their jobs. By teasing out bits and pieces here and there, double checking accounts against each other and then rechecking those accounts, we were finally able to establish what they were so "disgruntled" about. The same reason came up time and time again: The hearing officers felt the governor was pressuring them to decide fewer cases in favor of employees.” [Sun Journal editorial, [4/19/13](#)]

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Exempting Individuals Receiving Unemployment Benefits Because They Were Temporarily Laid Off From Their Job But Had a Definite Recall Date from the Job Search Requirement to Receive Benefits. In July 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD700 by a 140-3 vote and the Senate by a 32-1 vote. LD700 “creates an exemption from the eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits dealing with work search. Under this new exemption, an individual who has been temporarily laid off by an employer with a definite recall date and is otherwise eligible for unemployment benefits is exempt from the requirement to search for work while receiving benefits, as long as the individual remains in contact with and is able and available to work for that employer. This exemption may be used up to six weeks during an individual’s unemployment benefit year, and may be used beyond six weeks subject to approval by the Department of Labor.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD700, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD700, 2018](#)]

July 2018: LePage Vetoed Bill That Exempted Laid-Off Employees From Work-Search Requirements While Receiving Maine Unemployment Benefit For 6 Weeks; Was Overridden On Bipartisan Vote. “Gov. Paul LePage is urging employers to push for the repeal of a new law that relaxes work-search requirements for Mainers who experience short-term job layoffs. The new law exempts laid-off employees from work-search requirements in Maine’s unemployment insurance law for up to six weeks, provided that their employers set a specific date for them to return to their jobs after no more than 12 weeks. LePage vetoed the bill in July but it was overridden on a bipartisan vote by the Legislature. This week, LePage sent a letter to employers calling on them to pressure lawmakers into repealing the new law. ‘You and I know that unemployment is insurance, not an entitlement,’ LePage wrote. ‘It is a safety net - not a means of subsidizing one industry’s or one employer’s payroll on the backs of all other employers.’” [*Portland Press Herald*, 8/24/18]

Portland Press Herald: GOP Maine Sen. Amy Volk Was Disappointed In LePage’s Veto Level Of Her Bill To Exempt Laid-Off Employees From Work-Search Requirement In UI Benefits. “The key sponsor of the new law, Sen. Amy Volk, R-Scarborough, said the measure is meant to help employers such as construction and logging companies, who regularly use temporary layoffs to get through seasonal shifts in the weather. [...] ‘If we were not at such very low unemployment levels we obviously would have considered this bill in a very different light,’

Volk said. Volk, who has sided with LePage on other legislation, said she's disappointed in the letter, but doesn't see it as improper. LePage contends in his letter that the new law will increase costs for all businesses, and that it turns unemployment compensation into an entitlement.” [Portland Press Herald, 8/24/18]

Measure Was Meant to “Help Employers Such as Construction and Logging Companies, Who Regularly Use Temporary Layoffs to Get Through Seasonal Shifts in the Weather.”

According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Gov. Paul LePage is urging employers to push for the repeal of a new law that relaxes work-search requirements for Mainers who experience short-term job layoffs. The new law exempts laid-off employees from work-search requirements in Maine's unemployment insurance law for up to six weeks, provided that their employers set a specific date for them to return to their jobs after no more than 12 weeks. [...] The key sponsor of the new law, Sen. Amy Volk, R-Scarborough, said the measure is meant to help employers such as construction and logging companies, who regularly use temporary layoffs to get through seasonal shifts in the weather.” [Portland Press Herald, 8/24/18]

Republican Bill Sponsor Said Logging Workers “Go Through the Motions of the Work Search” Knowing They’ll be Returning to Employment. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The key sponsor of the new law, Sen. Amy Volk, R-Scarborough, said the measure is meant to help employers such as construction and logging companies, who regularly use temporary layoffs to get through seasonal shifts in the weather. ‘We have a mud season in Maine when roads are often posted, three weeks, four weeks, and they can't get their large equipment in and out to do jobs,’ said Volk, who is the Senate chairwoman of the Legislature's Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee. Volk said logging and construction workers frequently go through the motions of the work search knowing they will be returning to work with the employer they recently left. ‘It is just an exercise they had to go through, they are not switching employers, these are truly temporary layoffs and they are going back to the exact same employer you were working for the month before,’ she said.” [Portland Press Herald, 8/24/18]

After the Legislature Overrode His Veto on the Bill, LePage Sent a Letter to Employers Urging Them to Call for a Repeal of the Law. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Gov. Paul LePage is urging employers to push for the repeal of a new law that relaxes work-search requirements for Mainers who experience short-term job layoffs. The new law exempts laid-off employees from work-search requirements in Maine's unemployment insurance law for up to six weeks, provided that their employers set a specific date for them to return to their jobs after no more than 12 weeks. LePage vetoed the bill in July but it was overridden on a bipartisan vote by the Legislature. This week, LePage sent a letter to employers calling on them to pressure lawmakers into repealing the new law. ‘You and I know that unemployment is insurance, not an entitlement,’ LePage wrote. ‘It is a safety net - not a means of subsidizing one industry's or one employer's payroll on the backs of all other employers.’” [Portland Press Herald, 8/24/18]

LePage Left Legacy Of Shrinking Government To Detriment Of Mainers

Bangor Daily News Editorial: Continuation Of LePage’s “Legacy” Of “Shrinking The Number Of People Served” As Measure Of Success Was Not In Maine’s Best Interest.

“Republican Shawn Moody, is a successful businessman who has built a growing chain of car repair facilities. As we've learned from LePage and President Donald Trump, a broader set of skills, beyond running a business, is needed to be a governor. Moody, who thankfully is more positive and less combative than LePage, has pledged to continue many of the current governor's policies. We don't believe a continuation of the LePage legacy of measuring government success solely based on shrinking the number of people served and dollars spent instead of whether residents' lives have improved is in Maine's best interest.” [Bangor Daily News—Editorial, 10/19/18]

UNIONS

LePage Said Unions in Maine Infringing on Freedoms. LePage said of unions, “Whenever someone forces me to do something against my will, they're infringing upon my freedoms and my liberties. And that's what I think we're doing in Maine when we have fair share, which means that you are required to belong to a union, you're required to pay dues but you don't want to participate. I find that to be against everything the United States of America stands for.” [Sun Journal, 2/28/11]

HEADLINE: LePage Accuses Union of Lying, ‘Manufacturing a Crisis’ Over Shutdown Planning. The Bangor Daily News wrote that LePage, “said he has no plans to shut down state government and accused Maine’s state employees union of ‘lying’ and ‘manufacturing a crisis’ by claiming state agencies have been instructed to prepare for a shutdown.” The Daily News reported that he dispute “between the union and LePage” started when the Maine State Employee Association’s chief negotiator, Rodney Hiltz, wrote to the state’s employee relations office that executive branch agencies “were directed to prepare plans for an ‘inevitable’ shutdown of all nonessential functions of state government for the month of July.” [Bangor Daily News, [5/13/13](#)]

Paul LePage Opposes “Requiring Nonunion State Workers To Pay A Portion Of Union Dues.” Paul LePage, in 2011, said “he will push...for legislation to stop requiring nonunion state workers to pay a portion of union dues.” “LePage backed a bill to end the practice of having the state automatically take money out of state workers’ paychecks for the Maine State Employees Association.” “The union argues that it negotiates contracts on behalf of all state workers, so all of them should pay at least a portion of union dues to cover the cost of negotiations.” (Portland Press Herald, 06/30/11)

LePage Opposed Gas Pipeline Contracted Company’s Use of Union Workers. In March 2013 Bangor Daily News reported that LePage and two major construction trade groups “criticized Summit Natural Gas of Maine for requiring contractors that want to bid on a portion of company’s project to install a natural gas pipeline in central Maine to abide by collective bargaining labor contracts.” LePage wrote, “This action not only increases the cost of the project, but more importantly, it shuts out Maine’s construction workers and their families from good job opportunities.” [Bangor Daily News, [3/22/13](#)]

WAGES & WORKFORCE UNDER LEPAGE

While Raw Incomes Rose Under LePage, Maine's Per Capita Incomes Fell From 92 Percent To 90 Percent Of The National Average From 2011 To 2017. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “In 2011, Mainers earned around \$39,000 in per capita personal income, which was actually about 92 percent of the national average, according to federal data. Amid a better national economy, the state’s per capita income was up above \$46,000 by 2017, though Maine was down around 90 percent of the U.S. average.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/31/18](#)]

2014-2018: Maine's Workforce Shrunk By 2,900. According to MaineBiz, “Workforce: The workforce shrank by 2,900 people between 2014 and 2018.” [[MaineBiz, 12/10/20](#)]

2013: Politifact Rated LePage's Claim That 47 Percent Of Able-Bodied People In The State Of Maine Don't Work As "Pants On Fire." “On Oct. 22, 2013, a blogger for the *Bangor Daily News* posted an audio clip from a speech LePage made in Falmouth, Maine. Here's what the blogger wrote: ‘Informed that the event was wrapping up, LePage said he had two more points to make. The first was just one word: ‘energy.’ The second was, he said, in reference to ‘workforce development.’ ‘About 47 percent of able-bodied people in the state of Maine don't work,’ said LePage. ‘On the recording you can hear a member of the audience ask, ‘What?’ LePage repeats himself. ‘About 47 percent. It's really bad.’” [[Politifact, 10/14/13](#)]

WORKER PRIVACY

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Restricted Employers from Requiring Workers or Applicants to Provide Access to Their Social Media Accounts. In 2015, LePage allowed LD921 to become law without his signature. “LD 921, PL 2015 Ch. 343 allows the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking to take reasonable leave from work and still qualify for benefits. ‘If you voluntarily leave, you may not be disqualified from receiving benefits if your leaving was necessary to protect yourself from domestic abuse and you made all reasonable efforts to keep your job,’ she said. Another provision of the same new law expressly restricts employers from requiring workers or applicants to provide access to social media accounts.” The legislation as amended passed the House and Senate on 6/30/15 and the bill became law without Governor LePage's signature. [Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, Summaries of Bills, LD 921, [August 2015](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 921, [7/12/15](#); Bangor Daily News, 10/15/15]

WORKPLACE SAFETY

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage's Veto of a Bill That Ensured Maine Department of Labor Was in Compliance With Recent OSHA Changes Related to its Injury and Illness Recordkeeping Requirements. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage's veto of LD699 by a 131-11 vote and the Senate by a 32-3 vote. LD699 “ensures that the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards is in compliance with recent changes made by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration to its injury and illness recordkeeping requirements. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires state plan states to implement these changes to conform to the new requirements no later than July 1, 2015, or risk a loss of federal reimbursement. Under current law, a person in charge of a workplace is required to report in writing or by telephone to the Director of the Bureau of

Labor Standards the death of any person in the workplace or a serious physical injury requiring hospitalization sustained by a person in the workplace. Chapter 138 replaces the requirement to report in writing or by telephone with a requirement to report by telephone or electronically and provides that the report may be made to the director or the director's designee. It amends the definition of 'serious physical injury.' It also authorizes the director and any authorized agent of the bureau to enter a public sector workplace for the purpose of examining the safety and health of

LOW-INCOME MAINERS

CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE

Tea Party-Backed Paul LePage “Has Targeted... Programs For Low-Income People Such As Head Start And Child-Care Assistance.” Paul “LePage, a Tea Party-backed insurgent who won the governorship in a five-person general election in 2010...has targeted...programs for low-income people such as Head Start and child-care assistance.” (Stateline, 10/03/12, www.kaiserhealthnews.org/stories/2012/october/03/maine-medicaid-cuts.aspx)

LePage Supported Cuts to “Child Care Subsidies for Parents Who Are Either Working or Continuing Their Education.” He pushed for cuts to “the Head Start program, child care subsidies for parents who are either working or continuing their education and funding for home visits for children in low-income families.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 05/14/12)

Paul LePage, In 2011, Proposed Cutting Subsidies “That Help Cover The Cost Of Child Care For Low-Income Families.” Paul LePage, in 2011, “proposed the elimination of collective bargaining rights for” some child care providers, “along with a corresponding cut in the subsidy rates that help cover the cost of child care for low-income families. Both ideas were rejected by lawmakers.” (Kennebec Journal, 03/27/12)

- **LePage Put Forth A Budget Bill That “Reduced Child-Care Subsidies By \$1.9 Million.”** Paul LePage, in a supplemental budget bill, “reduced child-care subsidies by \$1.9 million in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which is funded from the Fund for a Healthy Maine. At the time, child-care advocates said that particular cut would affect approximately 1,700 Maine families – all of whom have parents who either were working or continuing their educations.” (Bangor Daily News, 09/11/12)
- **Child-Care Advocates Said This Cut Impacted “Approximately 1,700 Maine Families – All Of Whom Have Parents Who Either Were Working Or Continuing Their Educations.”** Paul LePage, in a supplemental budget bill, “reduced child-care subsidies by \$1.9 million in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which is funded from the Fund for a Healthy Maine. At the time, child-care advocates said that particular cut would affect approximately 1,700 Maine families – all of whom have parents who either were working or continuing their educations.” (Bangor Daily News, 09/11/12)

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage's Veto Of Legislation That Required Additional Federal Funding Through A Child Care And Development Block Grant To Be Applied To Increasing Reimbursement Rates For child Care Centers Up To The 75th Percentile Of Local Market Rates. In May 2018, the House overrode Gov. LePage's veto of LD166 by a 119-29 vote and the Senate by a 31-3 vote. "This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, requires that any additional federal funding received in a child care and development block grant due to the passage of the federal Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, PL 115-123, and any subsequent funding legislation, must be applied to increasing reimbursement rates to child care centers up to the 75th percentile of local market rates for child care services. Payment rates for children with special needs may be higher. Family child care providers are already being reimbursed at the 75th percentile. This amendment increases rates to child care centers, according to the amount of increased discretionary funding received, up to the 75th percentile." [Maine State Legislature, LD 166 Bill Text, [2018](#); Maine State Legislature, LD166, Roll Call #659, [5/2/18](#)]

- **The Bill Directed DHHS To Increase Childcare Reimbursement Rates As Soon As New Federal Child Care And Development Block Grant Funding Was Made Available.** "The amended version of LD 166, 'An Act To Increase Reimbursement for Child Care Services' directs the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to increase childcare reimbursement rates as soon as new federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds are made available. The two year federal budget passed in Congress earlier this month doubled the CCDBG funds available in both of the next two years." [Maine Senate Democrats, Press Release, [2/15/18](#)]
- **Maine Reimbursed Child Care Providers For Child Care Provided To Working Parents Receiving Child Care Assistance Through TANF.** "The state reimburses child care providers for services provided to working parents receiving limited child care assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. The two year state budget enacted in 2011 reduced the reimbursement rate from the 75 percentile of a county's local market rate to the 50th percentile, where it has remained flat for the last seven years." [Maine Senate Democrats, Press Release, [2/15/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News: LePage Redirected \$1.7 Million From Low-Income Family Assistance Program To Fund After-School Programs. "This school year, Gov. Paul LePage's administration is spending \$1.7 million on after-school programs that once would have gone to low-income families with children in the form of cash assistance. The administration has described the change as a way to 'better support our youth,' but anti-poverty program experts decried it as an ineffective way to keep kids clothed and fed at a time when the rate of Maine children living in deep poverty has been rising." [Bangor Daily News, 1/4/18]

In 2016, Maine Risked Losing \$800,000 Of Funding Through The Child Care And Development Block Grant Program If It Did Not Develop Rules To Comply With Federal Background Check Laws For Child Care Workers. "The Legislature's Judiciary Committee voted unanimously Monday to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to develop rules that comply with federal fingerprinting and background check laws for child care workers. The new federal mandate was enacted in 2014 as part of the Child Care and Development Block

Grant program, which funnels some \$17 million to Maine to help low-income families afford child care. According to members of the Judiciary Committee, about \$800,000 of that money could be at risk if Maine doesn't implement fingerprinting and background checks for employees at child care centers licensed or certified by DHHS by September of 2017. In its Child Care and Development Fund state plan, DHHS stated Maine does not plan to implement the fingerprint check as part of its background check program. Rep. Joyce Maker, a Republican from Calais, has introduced legislation to compel the department to do so. If enacted, LD 1689 would force DHHS to develop rules -- which would then come back to the Legislature for a second approval - to implement the fingerprinting program, which would be similar to what public school teachers have been required to do since 1999.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/5/16]

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Requiring DHHS to Develop a Plan for Increasing the Supply of Child Care Providers Participating in Steps 3 and 4 of the Quality Rating System. In April 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD383 by a 136-12 vote and the Senate by a 33-2 vote. LD383 “requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan for increasing the supply of child care providers participating in steps 3 and 4 of the child care quality rating system established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3737, subsection 3. The department is required to include stakeholders in the process of developing the plan, including those involved in the Quality for ME Revision Project. The plan must include determining whether sufficient funding in the federal child care and development fund block grant exists. It must examine federal and state statutory and regulatory frameworks to determine what is allowable, factors that present barriers and if the state child care and development fund plan must be amended.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD383, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD383, 2018](#)]

- **Steps 3 and 4 of the Maine Quality Rating System for Child Care Included More Parent Conference, More Recording of Children’s Interests and Skills, Surveys, Staff Meetings, Program Evaluation, National Accreditation, and the Highest/Higher Amounts of Staff Training.** [[Quality for ME Steps, Accessed 4/7/21](#)]

Portland Press Herald: LePage Failed To Implement Requirements For Fingerprinting That Resulted In Losses Of \$800,000 In Child Care Development Grant Program For Maine’s DHHS. “Maine was supposed to start the fingerprinting by September 2017 as part of a federal grant program that subsidizes child care costs for lower-income families. But LePage never implemented a change that he described as "bureaucratic over-regulation," even after state lawmakers overrode his veto in 2018 of a bill that required the fingerprinting. As a result, Maine lost 5 percent - or \$800,000 - of the roughly \$25 million the state was slated to receive this fiscal year through the federal Child Care Development Block Grant program.” [Press Herald, 2/16/20]

- **2018: Lawmakers Overwhelming Rejected LePage’s Veto Of Fingerprinting Program, Overriding Veto 33-0 In Senate, 127-15 In Maine House.** “‘I did not support teachers being fingerprinted, and I do not support further expansion of fingerprinting in this instance,’ LePage wrote in his veto letter of the bill. ‘I cannot support overburdening businesses, and I cannot support invading people’s privacy by forcing them to give up biometric information without cause.’ Lawmakers

overwhelmingly rejected LePage's veto in July 2018, voting 33-0 in the Senate and 127-15 in the House to move forward with fingerprinting of child care workers.” [Press Herald, 2/16/20]

Under LePage, Maine Lost \$3 Million and Failed to Spend \$125,000 of its Child Care Development Block Grant Funding.

GRANT/FEDERAL FUNDS LOST	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES FUNDED	YEAR FUNDING STOPPED	STATE MATCH REQUIRED TO ACCESS FEDERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS DOLLAR AMOUNT LOST CUMULATIVE 2011-2017*	FEDERAL FUNDS MONEY UNSPENT CUMULATIVE 2011-2017	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS LOST TO MAINE 2011-2017
Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) ⁹⁴	early child care and after school programs for children of low-income working parents	2012	40%	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 3,125,000

Source: Note: Maine’s legislature cut \$1.9 million in state funds that would have drawn down \$3 million in federal funds; it partially restored state funds in 2013 and maximized all match 2014 and 2015. MECEP does not think the state is drawing down as much as it could in 2016-2017, but was unable to confirm it. In FFY 2015, Maine had an accumulated \$4 million in unspent CCDBG unspent, mostly state money.

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

In 2014, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Amended The Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program Through FAME To Increase The Cap On Total Loan Amounts For Daycares From \$100,000 To \$350,000. “This amendment strikes the bill and replaces it with changes to the laws regarding the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program of the Finance Authority of Maine. [...] It adds businesses engaged in commercial and mixed-use real estate and community facilities, businesses engaged in serving tourists and value-added natural resource enterprises to the list of businesses that are eligible for financial assistance under the program. It changes the program to allow participation by companies with 100 or fewer employees, instead of 50 or fewer, and by companies with annual sales of up to \$10,000,000, instead of \$5,000,000 or less. It also amends the total loan amount by increasing the cap from \$250,000 to \$350,000 for corporations and from \$100,000 to \$350,000 for quality child care projects.” The House overrode Gov. LePage’s veto by a 114-32 vote and the Senate by a 31-4 vote, and the bill became law. [Maine State Legislature, LD1043 Bill Text, [2014](#); Maine State Legislature, LD1043, Roll Call #751, [5/1/14](#)]

2017: Comfy Cape Child Care LLC In Cape Elizabeth Received A \$300,000 Loan Through The Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program Through FAME.
[FAME Annual Report, [2017](#)]

LePage Lost \$3.1 Million in a Child Care Block Grant to Help Families with Low Incomes Afford Child Care:

Why These Lost Dollars Matter	Dollars Lost to Maine	The Facts

Child Care Block Grant: Keeps children safe while their parents work and maximizes their future well-being	\$3.1 million	✓	Child care support helps families with very low incomes remain in the workforce ⁴³
		✓	In Maine child care is more expensive than college ⁴⁴

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

CHILD POVERTY

In LePage’s First Term, Child Poverty Increased. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “LePage campaigned on reining in welfare in 2010 and did so even more in 2014. At an event last month in Bangor, he called this ‘the greatest thing I have done,’ though child poverty increased during the first four years of his tenure, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/31/18]

From 2010 to 2014, the Number of Children Living in “Extreme Poverty” Rose From 17,000 Children to 23,000 Children. According to the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, “The number of children in ‘extreme poverty’ -- that is, living in families earning less than 50 percent of federal poverty level -- rose from 17,000 to 23,000 from 2010 to 2014 before dropping back down to 14,000 last year, according to the annual Kids Count report conducted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Additionally, Maine had the nation's ninth-highest percentage of ‘food insecure’ households -- at 15.8 percent -- from 2013 to 2015, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics. While that percentage has since fallen to 14.4 percent last year, Maine is still well above the national average of 11.8 percent.” [*Maine Sunday Telegram*, 12/30/18]

From 2008 to 2018, the Percentage of Maine Children Living in Extreme Poverty “Remain[ed] Virtually Unchanged.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “While the percentage of Maine children living in extreme poverty -- where family income is half the federal poverty level or lower -- has declined from a peak of 9 percent in 2014 to 6 percent in 2017, it remains virtually unchanged from where it was 10 years ago, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/29/18]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: Child Poverty Rate in Maine Increased by 13.6% Under LePage, While its Declined 4.2% Nationally. According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “The result has been more poverty and hunger, especially for children. The rate of children in deep poverty (less than \$800 a month income for a family of three) has increased 13.6 percent in Maine since 2011, while it's declined 4.2 percent nationally.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 5/8/18]

In 2017, Maine’s Children Were “Falling into Deep Poverty at Eight Times the National Average.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Maine’s economic policies are failing low-income households. Maine’s children are falling into deep poverty at eight times the national average, while 3,500 fewer children have health insurance coverage.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

FEDERAL FUNDING

Maine Center for Economic Policy: “Maine Has Lost...Funds Totaling Nearly \$390 Million That Would Have Kept Families Out of Poverty, Helped Improve Food Security, and Supported Early Education for Maine Children.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “All told, since 2011, Maine has lost these and other funds totaling nearly \$390 million that would have kept families out of poverty, helped improve food security, and supported early education for Maine children.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

HEATING ASSISTANCE

In 2013, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Expanded Natural Gas Pipelines, Increased Funding For Energy Efficiency Efforts, And Funded Affordable Heating Systems For Low-Income Maine Families. In June 2013, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1559 by a 121-11 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. “The bill, L.D. 1559, the Omnibus Energy Bill, incorporates ideas from at least nine separate bills and would encourage the expansion of natural-gas pipelines into New England, increase funding for energy-efficiency efforts and provide financial assistance to help low-income families switch to more affordable heating systems.” [Portland Press Herald, 6/7/13; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1559, Roll Call #397, [6/20/13](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1559, [6/26/13](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Major Maine Energy Bill Moving Quickly Through Legislature; The Bill Is Aimed At Lower Heating And Electricity Costs, Encourages Natural Gas And Aids Low-Income Families.”** [Portland Press Herald, 6/3/13]
- **The Bill Expanded The Number Of Mainers Who Could Participate In The Energy-Efficient Heat Pumps Pilot Program And Extended The Length Of The Pilot Period.** “This Part authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to extend the number of customers who may participate in the pilot program for efficient electric heat pumps and extend the length of the pilot period, allows more flexibility in the manner in which incentives are provided to customers and clarifies that nothing in the legislation related to the pilot program is intended to limit any currently existing authority of the Public Utilities Commission to establish special rates with respect to customers participating in the pilot program, as long as the costs of the pilot program are recovered only from customers participating in the program.” [Maine State Legislature, LD 1559, [2013](#)]
- **The Bill “Fund[ed] Energy Efficiency Projects And Allocate[d] Money For Heating System Conversions.”** “Also hanging in the political balance is an energy bill that has already distinguished itself for proving veto-proof in the House by a vote of 121-11. LD 1559, which encourages the spread of natural gas infrastructure, funds energy efficiency projects and allocates money for heating system conversions, faces a deciding override vote Wednesday in the Senate, which previously supported it 28-7.” [Sun Journal, 6/26/13]

SNAP

When LePage Took Office in 2011, 246,000 Mainers Received Food Stamps – By the Time He Left Office, That Number Was 176,000, Attributable to a Better Economy But Also the Tighter Eligibility Restrictions LePage Implemented. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “When LePage took office in 2011, there were 350,000 Mainers who received Medicaid, 25,000 children in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and 246,000 Mainers who received food stamps. By this fall, those figures were at 261,000, 7,600 and 176,000, respectively, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation and state data. That's attributable to a better national and state economy and the eligibility standards that the LePage administration tightened, largely during the governor's first term that made Maine a model for conservatives nationwide.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/31/18]

From 2011 to 2017, Food Stamp Participation Dropped by 20% Under LePage After He Tightened Eligibility Requirements. According to the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, “Participation in the food stamp program, for instance, fell 20 percent after eligibility requirements were tightened. The number of households receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, declined by more than 60 percent from 2012 to 2017 after the LePage administration tightened eligibility requirements and instituted a five-year lifetime cap on benefits.” [*Maine Sunday Telegram*, 12/30/18]

From 2013 to 2015 Under LePage, Maine Had the Nation’s Ninth-Highest Percentage of “Food Insecure” Households, at 15.8%. According to the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, “The number of children in ‘extreme poverty’ -- that is, living in families earning less than 50 percent of federal poverty level -- rose from 17,000 to 23,000 from 2010 to 2014 before dropping back down to 14,000 last year, according to the annual Kids Count report conducted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Additionally, Maine had the nation's ninth-highest percentage of ‘food insecure’ households -- at 15.8 percent -- from 2013 to 2015, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics. While that percentage has since fallen to 14.4 percent last year, Maine is still well above the national average of 11.8 percent.” [*Maine Sunday Telegram*, 12/30/18]

In 2017, the Number of Maine Households Classified as “Food Insecure” Was 14.4%, Above the National Average of 11.8%. According to the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, “The number of children in ‘extreme poverty’ -- that is, living in families earning less than 50 percent of federal poverty level -- rose from 17,000 to 23,000 from 2010 to 2014 before dropping back down to 14,000 last year, according to the annual Kids Count report conducted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Additionally, Maine had the nation's ninth-highest percentage of ‘food insecure’ households -- at 15.8 percent -- from 2013 to 2015, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics. While that percentage has since fallen to 14.4 percent last year, Maine is still well above the national average of 11.8 percent.” [*Maine Sunday Telegram*, 12/30/18]

[*Eligibility Requirements*](#)

***Bangor Daily News*: “LePage Slashed The Number Of Mainers Who Rely On State Assistance. Here Are The Results.”** [[*Bangor Daily News*, 12/29/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News: “In 2014, The LePage Administration Reinstated Work Requirements For Childless Adults Ages 18 To 49 Who Seek Help Under The Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Formerly Known As Food Stamps.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “In 2014, the LePage administration reinstated work requirements for childless adults ages 18 to 49 who seek help under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

- **Bangor Daily News: “The Change Required Recipients To Spend 20 Hours Per Week Working, Volunteering Or Undergoing Job Training In Order To Maintain Their Benefits. If They Are Unable To Do So, The Benefits End After Three Months.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The change required recipients to spend 20 hours per week working, volunteering or undergoing job training in order to maintain their benefits. If they are unable to do so, the benefits end after three months.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]
- **Bangor Daily News: “For Five Years Before That, Maine Had Received Permission From The Federal Government To Waive The Requirements Amid Growing Unemployment During The Great Recession.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “For five years before that, Maine had received permission from the federal government to waive the requirements amid growing unemployment during the Great Recession.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

In 2015, LePage Made Childless Adults Ineligible for SNAP if They Had Assets Greater Than \$5,000. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Mainers have also experienced other restrictions on food stamps under LePage, such as a rule change to make households without children ineligible for the program if they have assets greater than \$5,000. LePage unveiled the rule change in September and said people who receive taxpayer-funded welfare benefits should first sell non-essential assets, such as boats and recreational vehicles, and use their savings.” [[Portland Press Herald, 1/30/16](#)]

- **Two-Thirds of the Adults Who Lost Food Assistance Thanks to This Policy Change Stayed Unemployed.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “But about two-thirds of the adults who lost food assistance as the result of the policy change remained unemployed, and those with jobs had earnings close to the federal poverty level.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

Impact of LePage’s SNAP Restrictions

Bangor Daily News: Since LePage Implemented Work Requirements for SNAP Recipients in 2014, “Participation In SNAP Has Fallen From 227,666 In July 2014 To 169,638 In November 2018.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Since his administration announced the policy change, participation in SNAP has fallen from 227,666 in July 2014 to 169,638 in November 2018.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

From 2012 to 2017, Food Stamp Participation Dropped By 20 Percent After LePage Tightened Eligibility Requirements. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Participation in

the food stamp program, for instance, fell 20 percent after eligibility requirements were tightened. The number of households receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, declined by more than 60 percent between 2012 and 2017 after the LePage administration tightened eligibility requirements and instituted a five-year lifetime cap on benefits.” [[Portland Press Herald, 12/30/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News: “Every Day More People Go Hungry in Maine Than the Rest of New England and Much of the Nation.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The reduction in the SNAP rolls comes as more Mainers struggle with hunger. Every day more people go hungry in Maine than the rest of New England and much of the nation. About 16 percent of Mainers have a hard time putting food on their table, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More than 50,500 Maine children also struggle with hunger, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News: “About 16 Percent of Mainers Have a Hard Time Putting Food on Their Table...More Than 50,500 Maine Children Also Struggle With Hunger.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The reduction in the SNAP rolls comes as more Mainers struggle with hunger. Every day more people go hungry in Maine than the rest of New England and much of the nation. About 16 percent of Mainers have a hard time putting food on their table, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More than 50,500 Maine children also struggle with hunger, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel Editorial: “Our View: LePage’s Food-Stamp Cuts Making Mainers Go Hungry.” [[Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, Editorial, 9/14/17](#)]

- **2014-2016: Maine Was One of 15 States Where Food Insecurity Was Worse Than the National Average According To USDA.** According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel*, “A recent report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that 12.3 percent of American households are food insecure, meaning that they do not have enough food for a healthy, active lifestyle. That includes the 4.9 percent that have very low food security, meaning members have been forced to skip meals. That’s down from the high of 2011, when the troubles caused by the recession reached their peak. Maine, however, is one of 15 states where food insecurity is worse than the national average — 16.4 percent of households on average from 2014 to 2016.” [[Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, Editorial, 9/14/17](#)]
- **2014-2016: 16.4 Percent of Maine Households Were Food Insecure.** According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel*, “Maine, however, is one of 15 states where food insecurity is worse than the national average — 16.4 percent of households on average from 2014 to 2016.” [[Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, Editorial, 9/14/17](#)]

While Most of the Country Was Improving Food Insecurity, Maine Saw a Small Increase in Hunger from 2011-2013. According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel*, “That’s down from the high of 2011, when the troubles caused by the recession reached their peak. Maine, however, is one of 15 states where food insecurity is worse than the national

average — 16.4 percent of households on average from 2014 to 2016. And while most of the country has been improving, the state has actually seen a small increase in hunger since 2011-13.” [[Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, Editorial, 9/14/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News 2018: “The Reduction In The SNAP Rolls Comes As More Mainers Struggle With Hunger. Every Day More People Go Hungry In Maine Than The Rest Of New England And Much Of The Nation.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The reduction in the SNAP rolls comes as more Mainers struggle with hunger. Every day more people go hungry in Maine than the rest of New England and much of the nation. About 16 percent of Mainers have a hard time putting food on their table, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

Bangor Daily News: “More Than 50,500 Maine Children Also Struggle With Hunger, According To The Annie E. Casey Foundation.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “More than 50,500 Maine children also struggle with hunger, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

- **Bangor Daily News: “About Two-Thirds Of The Adults Who Lost Food Assistance As The Result Of The Policy Change Remained Unemployed, And Those With Jobs Had Earnings Close To The Federal Poverty Level.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “But about two-thirds of the adults who lost food assistance as the result of the policy change remained unemployed, and those with jobs had earnings close to the federal poverty level. As for the income gains, the economist who put the report together for the LePage administration didn’t attribute them to the work requirement policy.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

Maine Center for Economic Policy: “Due to State Policy Decisions, 42,600 Children Have Lost Food Assistance in Recent Years.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Due to state policy decisions, 42,600 children have lost food assistance in recent years and 16,000 have lost family assistance even as poverty rates remain high.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

In 2017, Maine Ranked the Seventh Hungriest in the Nation and the First Hungriest in New England. According to Bread for the World, “Based on data released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) earlier this month, the 10 hungriest states in the U.S. are: Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, New Mexico, Arkansas, Kentucky, Maine, Indiana and Oklahoma (tie), and North Carolina.” [[Bread for the World, 9/21/17](#)]

From 2017 to 2019, 12% of Mainers Experienced Low or Very Low Food Security, With 6.2% Of Those Experiencing Very Low Food Security. [[USDA, 2020](#)]

- **From 2017 to 2019, Maine and Mississippi Were Tied for the Second-Highest States With the Highest Percentage of Residents Experiencing “Very Low Food Security” at 6.2%.** [[USDA, 2020](#)]

Headline: “Maine Ranks Highest in New England for Food Insecurity.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/5/18](#)]

In 2018, Maine Was Ranked as the Seventh-Most Food Insecure, Including One out of Every Five Maine Children. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Every day more people go hungry in Maine than in any other New England state. Nationwide, Maine is ranked as the seventh most food insecure, a designation that means residents lack access to the quantity and quality of food necessary for an active and healthy lifestyle. These numbers mean that 16 percent of the state’s population is food insecure, including one out of every five children, according to data released in September 2017 by The United States Department of Agriculture.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/5/18](#)]

- **Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine’s President Blamed Food Insecurity on “Reduced Benefits and More Restrictive Guidelines” for SNAP.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “It doesn’t have to — nor should it — be this way, according to Kristen Miale, president of The Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine, the state’s largest hunger relief organization. [...] Miale pointed to reduced benefits and more restrictive guidelines placed on the federally funded and state operated Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, that are making it more difficult for residents on limited incomes to access good food.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/5/18](#)]

Maine Lost \$142 Million in Federal Food Assistance Funds by Restricting SNAP Eligibility. According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “By revoking eligibility, Maine lost \$142 million in federal food assistance funds.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

Managerial Errors in the SNAP Program

Mary Mayhew’s DHHS Also Made Major Managerial Errors In The Food Stamp Program That Cost The State Millions Of Dollars. According to a newspaper article titled, “Feds order Maine to pay for food-stamp error; A ‘systematic error’ in 2011 led to overpayment for about 70,000 Maine families, and now the state is on the hook for \$2.8 million,” recipients of food stamps “in Maine who received extra benefits...[in 2011 did] not have to repay the government after all, federal officials say, so the mistake could cost the state nearly \$3 million. In a letter sent...to Health and Human Services Commissioner Mary Mayhew, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said a ‘systematic error’ led to overpayments for about 70,000 Maine families under the federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as food stamps. The average overpayment totaled about \$70 per household over four months in 2011. ‘As a result, (the USDA) is establishing a claim of \$4,861,920 against Maine.’” From April through July in 2011 “about one-third of all food stamp recipients in Maine were given more than they were eligible to receive.” (Portland Press Herald, 09/27/12)

USDA Established \$4.8 Million Claim Against Maine Because of “Systematic Error” Under Mayhew of Overissuing Food Stamps. The Sun Journal reported, “In a letter sent Monday to Health and Human Services Commissioner Mary Mayhew, the U.S. Department of Agriculture

said a "systematic error" led to overpayments for about 70,000 Maine families under the federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as food stamps. The average overpayment totaled about \$70 per household over four months in 2011. 'As a result, (the USDA) is establishing a claim of \$4,861,920 against Maine and is prohibiting DHHS from collecting the overissuances from the households affected by the DHHS decisions,' according to the letter." [Kennebec Journal, 9/28/12]

Photo ID

LePage Attacked the USDA for Denial of Requiring Photo ID for EBT. The Bangor Daily News reported, "LePage will use his weekly radio address Saturday to rail against the U.S. Department of Agriculture for denying his request last year to require Electronic Benefits Transfer card users to show photo identification. LePage called the Department of Agriculture's denial "shocking," according to an advance copy of the radio address provided Friday by LePage's office... LePage also attacked the USDA for neglecting to notify his office or the Maine Department of Health and Human Services about the rejection last week before members of Maine's congressional delegation and the media knew about it." [Bangor Daily News, [3/1/13](#)]

Processing Times

In 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Said Maine Was the Slowest State in the Country at Processing Food Stamp Applications. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, "The U.S. Department of Agriculture said in December that Maine was the slowest state in the country at processing food stamp applications. Maine Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner Mary Mayhew said at the time that a drop in the state's response time stemmed from the rollout of a more modern processing system that will ultimately deliver swifter results." [*Portland Press Herald*, [1/30/16](#)]

Restrictions

Headline: "Trump Rebuffs LePage on Banning Soda, Candy Purchases With Food Stamps." [Bangor Daily News, 1/21/18]

LePage Proposed Bill to Allow DHHS to Prohibit the Use of Food Stamps to Buy Soda. The Portland Press Herald reported, "The administration has submitted a bill that could ban convicted drug felons from receiving public assistance. Another proposal could allow the Department of Health and Human Services to prohibit the use of food stamps to buy soda. A third proposal, which may be aimed at welfare fraud, could grant additional subpoena powers to the commissioner of the DHHS." [Portland Press Herald, [1/3/13](#)]

- **Bill Received Bipartisan Support.** "A proposal by Gov. Paul LePage that would bar food stamp recipients from spending their benefits on soft drinks and certain snack foods made its way to the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee... The LePage bill, LD 1411, is sponsored by Sen. Roger Katz of Augusta, the assistant Senate Republican leader, and is co-sponsored by five Democrats and four Republicans." [Bangor Daily News, [5/3/13](#)]

TANF

When LePage Took Office in 2011, 25,000 Children in the TANF Program – by the Time He Left, That Number Was 7,600, Attributable to a Better Economy But Also the Tighter Eligibility Restrictions LePage Implemented. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “When LePage took office in 2011, there were 350,000 Mainers who received Medicaid, 25,000 children in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and 246,000 Mainers who received food stamps. By this fall, those figures were at 261,000, 7,600 and 176,000, respectively, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation and state data. That's attributable to a better national and state economy and the eligibility standards that the LePage administration tightened, largely during the governor's first term that made Maine a model for conservatives nationwide.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/31/18]

From 2011 to 2017, the Number of Maine Households Receiving TANF Assistance Declined by More Than 60% After LePage Tightened Eligibility Requirements. According to the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, “Participation in the food stamp program, for instance, fell 20 percent after eligibility requirements were tightened. The number of households receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, declined by more than 60 percent from 2012 to 2017 after the LePage administration tightened eligibility requirements and instituted a five-year lifetime cap on benefits.” [*Maine Sunday Telegram*, 12/30/18]

LePage Proposed Bill to Grant Additional Subpoena Powers to the DHHS Commissioner, Which “May Be Aimed at Welfare Fraud.” The Portland Press Herald reported, “The administration has submitted a bill that could ban convicted drug felons from receiving public assistance. Another proposal could allow the Department of Health and Human Services to prohibit the use of food stamps to buy soda. A third proposal, which may be aimed at welfare fraud, could grant additional subpoena powers to the commissioner of the DHHS.” [Portland Press Herald, [1/3/13](#)]

LePage Proposed Bill to Ban Convicted Drug Felons From Receiving Public Assistance. The Portland Press Herald reported, “The administration has submitted a bill that could ban convicted drug felons from receiving public assistance. Another proposal could allow the Department of Health and Human Services to prohibit the use of food stamps to buy soda. A third proposal, which may be aimed at welfare fraud, could grant additional subpoena powers to the commissioner of the DHHS.” [Portland Press Herald, [1/3/13](#)]

LePage Proposed Making Drug Felons Ineligible for Benefits Via the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program. The Bangor Daily News reported, “The Health and Human Services Committee on Friday also heard testimony on another LePage bill, LD 1443, that would make drug felons ineligible for benefits through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, program. That measure is only sponsored by Republican legislators.” [Bangor Daily News, [5/3/13](#)]

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill That Gave a One-Time Employment Incentive of \$400 to Individuals Enrolled in TANF

That Entered Employment and Retained Employment for Four Months. In July 2017, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD481 by a 116-24 vote and the Senate by a 30-0 vote. LD481 “provides for a one-time employment incentive payment of \$400 to a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program recipient who enters employment and retains employment for the subsequent four months. This provision is repealed December 31, 2018.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD481, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD481, 2017](#)]

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign a Bipartisan Bill That Expanded Eligibility and Benefits for TANF Recipients. In June 2017, LePage allowed LD336 to become law without his signature after it passed the House by a 146-0 vote and the Senate without a roll call vote. LD336 “changes the laws governing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. 1. It establishes the same eligibility requirements for TANF and alternative aid benefits to two-parent families that apply to single-parent families. 2. It increases the special housing allowance for families receiving TANF benefits from \$200 to \$300. 3. It removes certain good cause provisions from the laws governing the ASPIRE-TANF program and instead transfers to the Department of Health and Human Services the responsibility to determine other good cause.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD336, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD336, 2017](#)]

- **The Bill Applied the Same Eligibility Requirements for TANF Benefits to Two-Parent Families That Applied to Single-Parent Families.** In June 2017, LePage allowed LD336 to become law without his signature after it passed the House by a 146-0 vote and the Senate without a roll call vote. LD336 “changes the laws governing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. 1. It establishes the same eligibility requirements for TANF and alternative aid benefits to two-parent families that apply to single-parent families. 2. It increases the special housing allowance for families receiving TANF benefits from \$200 to \$300. 3. It removes certain good cause provisions from the laws governing the ASPIRE-TANF program and instead transfers to the Department of Health and Human Services the responsibility to determine other good cause.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD336, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD336, 2017](#)]
- **The Bill Increased the Special Housing Allowance for Families Receiving TANF Benefits from \$200 to \$300.** In June 2017, LePage allowed LD336 to become law without his signature after it passed the House by a 146-0 vote and the Senate without a roll call vote. LD336 “changes the laws governing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. 1. It establishes the same eligibility requirements for TANF and alternative aid benefits to two-parent families that apply to single-parent families. 2. It increases the special housing allowance for families receiving TANF benefits from \$200 to \$300. 3. It removes certain good cause provisions from the laws governing the ASPIRE-TANF program and instead transfers to the Department of Health and Human Services the responsibility to determine other good cause.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD336, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD336, 2017](#)]

Eligibility Requirements

In 2012, LePage Implemented a 60-Month Limit for Families to Receive TANF Cash Benefits, After Maine Had Opted Out of That Provision Since 1996. According to the

Bangor Daily News, “Under the LePage administration, more than 8,700 Maine families, including nearly 15,350 children, have lost cash assistance since a policy change went into effect. In 2012, LePage successfully pushed to implement a 60-month lifetime limit for families to receive cash assistance under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Maine had previously opted out of that provision since the program’s inception in 1996.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

LePage Argued That His Five-Year Time Limit for TANF Benefits Helped Families Get Off Welfare; the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Found That “Most Families That Reached the Time Limit Have Not Been Able to Replace the Cash Assistance They Lost With Income from Work.” According to the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, “The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington, D.C.-based liberal think tank, also accused the LePage administration of issuing a ‘methodologically flawed report (that) cherry picks data and omits key findings’ to suggest the five-year TANF limit helped families get off welfare. ‘It hides facts that show that most families that reached the time limit have not been able to replace the cash assistance they lost with income from work, putting the children in these families at great risk of experiencing high levels of deprivation and stress, which have lifelong negative consequences,’ the center wrote in August 2017.” [*Maine Sunday Telegram*, 12/30/18]

Impact of LePage’s TANF Restrictions

Headline: “LePage Slashed the Number of Mainers Who Rely on State Assistance. Here are the Results.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/29/18]

2012-2017: Households On TANF Fell By More Than 60 Percent As LePage Tightened Requirements. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Participation in the food stamp program, for instance, fell 20 percent after eligibility requirements were tightened. The number of households receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, declined by more than 60 percent between 2012 and 2017 after the LePage administration tightened eligibility requirements and instituted a five-year lifetime cap on benefits.” [[Portland Press Herald, 12/30/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News*: “Under the LePage Administration, More Than 8,700 Maine Families, Including Nearly 15,350 Children, Have Lost Cash Assistance.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Under the LePage administration, more than 8,700 Maine families, including nearly 15,350 children, have lost cash assistance since a policy change went into effect. In 2012, LePage successfully pushed to implement a 60-month lifetime limit for families to receive cash assistance under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Maine had previously opted out of that provision since the program’s inception in 1996.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

From May 2012 to November 2018, TANF Caseloads Dropped from Just Over 12,700 to 4,000. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “TANF caseloads have dropped from just over 12,700 in May 2012 to about 4,000 in November 2018. At the same time, the number of children covered by TANF has fallen from 22,425 to 7,081 during that same period.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

From May 2012 to November 2018, the Number of Children Covered by TANF Dropped from 22,425 to 7,081. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “TANF caseloads have dropped from just over 12,700 in May 2012 to about 4,000 in November 2018. At the same time, the number of children covered by TANF has fallen from 22,425 to 7,081 during that same period.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: Since 2011, the Number of Low-Income Families With Children That Received Monthly Cash Assistance Fell by More Than Two-Thirds.**

According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “Gov. Paul LePage's administration has made a point of scaling back welfare in Maine. Since his administration's 2011 start, the number of low-income families with children receiving small amounts of cash assistance each month has fallen by more than two-thirds.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 1/5/18]

From December 2011 to December 2012, the Number of Children Under 18 with TANF Dropped “Dramatic[ally]” from 23,922 to 15,293, Attributed to LePage’s New 60-Month Lifetime Limit for the Program. According to the Maine Children’s Alliance, “In Maine, there was a dramatic one-year decrease from 23,922 children under 18 with TANF in December 2011 to 15,293 in December 2012 that resulted from a new 60-month lifetime limit and stricter policies related to meetings with TANF caseworkers.” [[Maine Children’s Alliance, 2020](#)]

LePage Cut TANF Spending Even as Poverty Remained High in Maine:

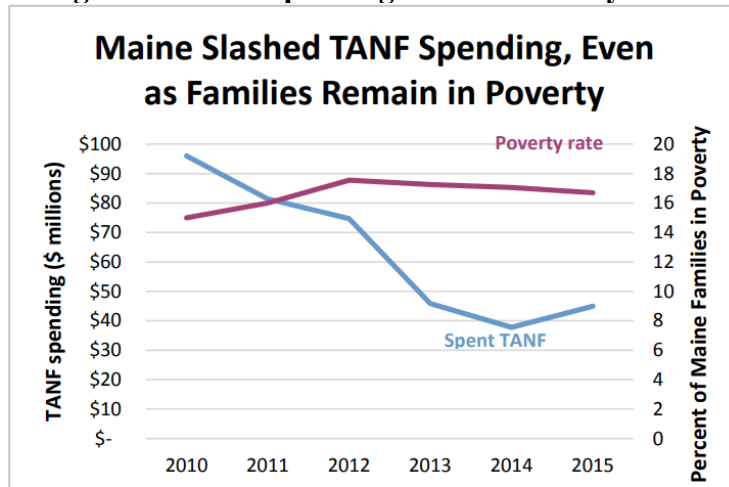


Figure 1: US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance, TANF financial data and US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009-2015 1-year estimates.

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

In 2017, Maine Was “Sitting on” \$200 Million in Unspent TANF Funding. According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “[Maine] is sitting on \$200 million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds intended to help Maine’s poorest families and even tried to divert these funds to other uses.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

Bangor Daily News: LePage’s Proposed Cuts To Government Workforce Met Resistance From GOP That Feared Cuts Would Hamstring Welfare Reform Efforts. Bangor Daily

News' Michael Shepherd wrote in July of 2016, "Some employees classified as "limited period" have been working for the state since the 1960s, and many of those positions intersect with some of the governor's top goals in government, including welfare fraud investigators. LePage can expect opposition from his usual critics -- Democrats and public sector unions -- but he might also have to fend off criticism from Republican legislative candidates and others concerned that his philosophical commitment to small government will hamstring efforts to reform Maine's welfare system, help unemployed workers find jobs or provide services their constituents have come to expect." [*Bangor Daily News*, 7/31/16]

Misspending of Federal Welfare Funds

Thanks to LePage's Restrictions on TANF Eligibility, Maine Experienced a Surplus of Federal Funding, Which Was Used to Illegally Spend \$13 Million in TANF Funds on Services for Elderly and Disabled Mainers Without Children. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "Even as the number of families receiving TANF has fallen, Maine continues to receive the same amount of funds — \$78.1 million per year — from the federal government for the program. The resulting surplus of those funds has been used to cover a range of existing state spending obligations, such as sheltering homeless youth and transportation for families involved in the child protection system, freeing up state money. In one notable episode, DHHS officials spent more than \$13 million of TANF funds on services for elderly and disabled Mainers without children, a violation of federal law. The department returned those funds to the TANF account after the BDN reported on the unlawful spending." [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/29/18]

***Bangor Daily News* Headline: "Auditor Finds DHHS Misspent \$13M In Welfare Funds."** [*Bangor Daily News*, 10/18/16]

***Bangor Daily News*: "The State Office Responsible For Ensuring Government Funds Are Used According To Law Has Determined That The Maine Department Of Health And Human Services Misspent \$13.4 Million In Federal Welfare Money."** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "The state office responsible for ensuring government funds are used according to law has determined that the Maine Department of Health and Human Services misspent \$13.4 million in federal welfare money." [*Bangor Daily News*, 10/18/16]

***Bangor Daily News*: "The State Auditor's Finding, Released Tuesday, Follows The *Bangor Daily News*' Reporting In June That Found DHHS Spent Funds Earmarked For Low-Income Families With Children On Seniors And Disabled Mainers."** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "The state auditor's finding, released Tuesday, follows the *Bangor Daily News*' reporting in June that found DHHS spent funds earmarked for low-income families with children on seniors and disabled Mainers." [*Bangor Daily News*, 10/18/16]

***Bangor Daily News*: "The Department 'Took An Overly Aggressive Approach' That Signals 'Troublesome' Practices When It Comes To Managing Federal Grant Awards."** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "The department 'took an overly aggressive approach' that signals 'troublesome' practices when it comes to managing federal grant awards, wrote Maine State Auditor Pola Buckley in a rare report highlighting 'improper management' of funds at the

agency level that should rise to the attention of the Governor, the Attorney General and the Legislature.” [[Bangor Daily News, 10/18/16](#)]

- ***Bangor Daily News*: “Federal Law Allows The State To Transfer Up To 10 Percent Of The \$78.1 Million Each Year To A Smaller But More Flexible Federal Grant, The Social Services Block Grant, Which States Can Use To Pay For A Wide Range Of Social Services.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Federal law allows the state to transfer up to 10 percent of the \$78.1 million each year to a smaller but more flexible federal grant, the Social Services Block Grant, which states can use to pay for a wide range of social services.” [[Bangor Daily News, 10/18/16](#)]
- ***Bangor Daily News*: “But They Are Required To Spend The Money On Low-Income Families With Children, Not The Elderly, As The LePage Administration Did.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “But they are required to spend the money on low-income families with children, not the elderly, as the LePage administration did.” [[Bangor Daily News, 10/18/16](#)]
- ***Bangor Daily News*: “Federal Law Specifies That The Transferred Funds ‘Shall Be Used Only For Programs And Services To Children Or Their Families Whose Income Is Less Than 200 Percent Of The Income Official Poverty Line.’”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Federal law specifies that the transferred funds ‘shall be used only for programs and services to children or their families whose income is less than 200 percent of the income official poverty line,’ which works out to about \$40,000 for a family of three.” [[Bangor Daily News, 10/18/16](#)]

LePage’s Administration Used Surplus TANF Money Freed Up By His Limitations on Eligibility Requirements to Spend \$1.7 Million in TANF Money on After-School Programs, Justifying it By Using a TANF Provision Allowing States to Use Their Funds to “Curb ‘Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies.’” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Even as the number of families receiving TANF has fallen, Maine continues to receive the same amount of funds — \$78.1 million per year — from the federal government for the program. The resulting surplus of those funds has been used to cover a range of existing state spending obligations, such as sheltering homeless youth and transportation for families involved in the child protection system, freeing up state money. [...] Later on, the department directed more than \$1.7 million in TANF funds to after-school programs, justifying it by using a provision in TANF law that allows states to spend their federal money to curb ‘out-of-wedlock pregnancies.’” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/29/18](#)]

WELFARE COMMENTS

LePage Touted His Efforts to Reign In Welfare As “The Greatest Thing [He] Had Done” But His Policies Drove An Increase In Child Poverty During First Four Years Of His Tenure. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “LePage campaigned on reining in welfare in 2010 and did so even more in 2014. At an event last month in Bangor, he called this ‘the greatest thing I have done,’ though child poverty increased during the first four years of his tenure, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation.” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/31/18](#)]

LePage’s Welfare Reform Measures “Dramatically Reduced the Number of Mainers Receiving Public Assistance.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “LePage also touts his administration’s ‘welfare reform’ measures that dramatically reduced the number of Mainers receiving public assistance.” [[Portland Press Herald, 12/30/18](#)]

MEDICAID

MAINECARE COVERAGE

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Directing DHHS to Develop a Strategy to Ensure That MaineCare-Eligible Children Have the Same Access to Dental, Hearing, and Vision Insurance as Children With Private Coverage. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD 649 by a 118-21 vote and the Senate by a 24-10 vote. LD649 “requires the Department of Health and Human Services, with input from stakeholders, to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure that MaineCare-eligible children have the same access to providers of dental, hearing and vision services as have children with private health insurance. It requires the department to submit the strategy and related recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 15, 2016.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD649, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD649, 2015](#)]

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Requiring DHHS to Conduct a Rate Study on Medicaid Rates for Ambulance Services. In April 2016, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1465 by a 139-10 vote and the Senate by a 33-1 vote. LD1465 “requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with a third-party consultant to conduct a rate study on Medicaid rates for ambulance services. The rate study must include the feasibility of developing community paramedicine reimbursement rates. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to submit a report on progress on developing a reimbursement rate for community paramedicine programs to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than January 1, 2017.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1465, 2016](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1465, 2016](#)]

- **LePage Said He Vetoed the Bill Because it Was Turned into a Study and Amounted to an Unfunded Mandate on the DHHS to Complete the Study.** According to LePage’s veto letter for LD1465, “This bill started out as a reimbursement rate increase for ambulance services under MaineCare. This is not an ignoble proposition, provided rate increases are necessary to maintain services. However, the bill in its demise was given the same soft landing afforded to too many bills before the Legislature: a transformation into the obligatory ‘study.’ I have no quarrel with the Legislature when it convenes study groups using its own personnel and resources, but the study called for in the final version of the bill is an unfunded mandate on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to ‘contract with a third-party consultant to conduct a rate study...’ It goes on to describe what the study must include for data and analysis. The Office of MaineCare Services projects that a study like this would cost \$75,000 to

\$100,000, yet this bill provides no funding for it.” [[Gov. LePage Veto Letter for LD1465, 4/25/16](#)]

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Creating the Medicaid Ombudsman Program, Duties of Which Included Providing Outreach for Members and Eligible Members of MaineCare and CHIP. In April 2016, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1498 by a 118-28 vote and the Senate by a 29-5 vote. LD1498 “establishes the Medicaid ombudsman program in statute. It establishes the duties of the ombudsman program, including providing services and outreach services and outreach for members and eligible members of the Medicaid program and the state children's health insurance program is also known as Cubcare, CHIP and S-CHIP. It requires the ombudsman program to provide annual reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The program, operated by contract, may only be contracted for with nonstate funding.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1498, 2016](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1498, 2016](#)]

- **LePage Said He Vetoed the Bill Because it “Proposes an Unnecessary and Inoperable Expansion of Government.”** According to Gov. LePage’s veto letter for LD1498, “Although I applaud the good intentions behind this bill, it proposes an unnecessary and inoperable expansion of government.” [[Gov. LePage Veto Letter for LD1498, 4/25/16](#)]

In 2014, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Required Maine’s Medicaid Program To Fully Fund Tobacco Cessation Programs. In January 2014, the House voted to override the LePage’s veto of LD386 by a 131-10 vote. The Senate overrode the veto by a 31-4 vote and the bill became law. “Last month, the Legislature voted 131-10 in the House and 31-4 in the Senate to override a LePage veto on a bill, LD 386, that requires the state's Medicaid program to fully fund tobacco cessation programs.” [Bangor Daily News, 2/14/14; State of Maine Legislature, LD 386, Roll Call #465, [1/16/14](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 386, [1/21/14](#)]

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of Bill Creating an Advisory Group in DHHS to Study Telehealth Through MaineCare and Requiring a Report on the Use of Telehealth in the MaineCare Program. In August 2017, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1485 by a 112-20 vote and the Senate by a 25-9 vote. LD1485 “establishes an advisory group within the Department of Health and Human Services to study telehealth and telemonitoring. It defines the services under MaineCare that are provided through telehealth. It allows the Department of Health and Human Services to solicit, apply for and receive grants that support telehealth and telemonitoring. It requires the Department of Health and Human services to report to the Joint Standing Committee of Health and Human Services annually beginning January 1, 2018, on the use of telehealth in the MaineCare program. The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rule relating to MaineCare coverage for services delivered through telehealth and provides guidance for rulemaking to the Department.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1485, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1485, 2017](#)]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Legislation To Expand Medicaid Coverage For Reproductive Health Care And Family Planning To Adults And Adolescents With Incomes Less Than 209 Percent Of The Federal Poverty Line, The Same Medicaid Coverage Level As For Pregnant Women. LD 319 “expands Medicaid coverage for reproductive health care and family planning services to adults and adolescents who have individual incomes less than or equal to 209 percent of the nonfarm income official poverty line as defined in accordance with federal law, which is the same Medicaid coverage level as for pregnant women.” The bill passed the House on 6/18/15 and the Senate on 6/30/15 and became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Summaries of Bills, LD 319, [August 2015](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 319, [7/12/15](#)]

- **Maine Equal Justice Partners Estimated That LD 319 Would Help 13,000 Uninsured Or Underinsured Women Receive Coverage For Birth Control, STD Testing And Treatment, Cancer Testing, And Annual Exams.** “Increased Access to Family Planning Services: The Legislature passed a bill that is estimated to help at least 13,000 uninsured or underinsured women and men receive coverage for birth control, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infection or cancer and annual exams. LD 319, An Act To Strengthen the Economic Stability of Qualified Maine Citizens by Expanding Coverage of Reproductive Health Care and Family Services was passed and has become law. This bill expands MaineCare coverage for certain family planning services to adults and adolescents who have incomes less than or equal to 209% of the federal poverty level (about \$23,500 annual income for an individual).” [Maine Equal Justice Partners, [August 2015](#)]

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Allowed Evidence-Based Parenting Skills Programs to Be Reimbursable Under MaineCare. In April 2018, LePage allowed LD384 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD384 “requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapters II and III, Sections 28, 65 and 90 to clarify that reimbursement is allowable for services provided to parents or guardians of children who are eligible for the MaineCare program but are not present when the service is being provided, as long as the service relates to the child's plan of care and is permitted by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These services may be provided to parents or guardians individually or in groups. Services reimbursed under these circumstances are evidence-based parenting skills programs.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD384, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD384, 2018](#)]

MAINECARE CUTS

2011: LePage Proposed Cutting Maine’s Medicaid Rolls by 65,000 People – 18% of the Total – by Removing Childless Adults and All 19- and 20-Year-Olds from the Program. According to the *New York Times*, “This month Mr. LePage announced a plan to reduce Maine’s Medicaid rolls by 65,000 people — about 18 percent of the total. He is asking the Republican-controlled Legislature to make childless adults and all 19- and 20-year-olds ineligible for the program, known as MaineCare, and to tighten income requirements for parents. He also wants to

eliminate an array of optional benefits, including dental care and room and board at assisted living centers.” [[New York Times, 12/24/11](#)]

MAINECARE ELIGIBILITY

During LePage’s First Months in Office, He Changed Medicaid Eligibility Requirements to Cut Childless, Able-Bodied Adults from Medicaid, Which Included People With Undiagnosed Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders. According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “It all started in the governor's first months in office, when he changed eligibility for Medicaid (known here as MaineCare) to cut adults from the program if they had no children and they were ‘able-bodied,’ a category that includes people with undiagnosed mental illness and substance use disorders, leaving providers with no way to pay to treat them.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 12/23/18]

Due to LePage’s 2012 Restrictive Eligibility Requirements for MaineCare, 25,000 Families and Adults Lost Their Health Care and Maine Lost \$164 Million in Federal Funds.

According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “In 2012, the state dropped childless adults and parents who earned up to 200% of the federal poverty level (the previous cut-off) and now covers only those below 100% of the poverty line. About 25,000 families and adults lost their health coverage and Maine lost \$164 million in federal health care funds.” [Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17]

When LePage Took Office in 2011, 350,000 Mainers Were on Medicaid – When He Left, That Number Was 261,000, Attributable to a Better Economy But Also the Tighter Eligibility Restrictions LePage Implemented. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “When LePage took office in 2011, there were 350,000 Mainers who received Medicaid, 25,000 children in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and 246,000 Mainers who received food stamps. By this fall, those figures were at 261,000, 7,600 and 176,000, respectively, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation and state data. That's attributable to a better national and state economy and the eligibility standards that the LePage administration tightened, largely during the governor's first term that made Maine a model for conservatives nationwide.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/31/18]

MAINECARE FUNDING

LePage Proposed a Budget that Would Eliminate MaineCare Benefits for 65,000 People.

Paul LePage “proposed a budget to close an estimated \$221 million shortfall over...18 months. In total, his plan would eliminate MaineCare benefits for 65,000 people.” (Kennebec Journal, 01/10/12)

Paul LePage, In 2011, Proposed Dropping “65,000 People From MaineCare, The State’s Version Of Medicaid,” Including Low-Income Senior Citizens And Veterans. Paul LePage, in 2011, proposed dropping “65,000 people from MaineCare, the state’s version of Medicaid, to close a projected shortfall of \$221 million...over...18 months” in DHHS. (Portland Press Herald, 01/20/12)

- **Veterans “Would Be Among Those Harmed.”** “Critics of that proposal say veterans and homeless men would be among those harmed.” (Portland Press Herald, 02/27/11)
- **19,000 Low-Income, Non-Disabled Adults Would Have Lost Coverage, 21,000 Parents of Children Enrolled in Mainecare, Non-Disabled 19- and 20-Year-Olds, and Low-Income Seniors Would Have Lost Coverage.** At the time of this proposal MaineCare provided “health insurance to 361,315 low-income and disabled residents.” Those who would have lost coverage under this proposal “include: • An estimated 19,000 low-income adults who are not disabled. • An estimated 21,000 parents of children enrolled in MaineCare, who would not meet tighter income guidelines. • Non-disabled 19- and 20-year-olds. • Low-income senior citizens who qualify for MaineCare to cover a portion of their Medicare premiums. Besides restricting access to the program, the proposal...[called] for saving \$80 million...[over] 18 months by restricting the services MaineCare covers. LePage...[wanted] to eliminate coverage for dental, chiropractic, podiatry, physical therapy and other services, and clinics for sexually transmitted diseases. The proposal also would end MaineCare support for Private Non-Medical Institutions. Such institutions include homes for the disabled and people in substance abuse treatment.” (Portland Press Herald, 12/07/11)
- **LePage’s Cuts Would Eliminate Dental, Physical Therapy Coverage.** Kennebec Journal reported of LePage’s proposed MaineCare cuts: “Besides restricting access to the program, the proposal calls for saving \$80 million in the next 18 months by restricting what services MaineCare covers. LePage wants to eliminate coverage for dental, chiropractic, podiatry, physical therapy and other services and clinics for sexually transmitted diseases.” [Kennebec Journal, 12/7/11]
- **LePage’s Proposal Could Increase The Number Of Uninsured Mainers By 50%, Bringing Maine’s Health Insurance Rate From One Of The Lowest In The Country To One Of The Higher Rates.** “LePage’s proposal could increase the number of uninsured Mainers by about 50 percent, said Joseph Ditre, executive director of Consumers for Affordable Health Care. ‘Our uninsured rate would go from one of the lowest in the country (10 percent) to one of the higher rates in the country (15 percent),’ he said. ‘More people will go to hospital emergency rooms after delaying care and the costs will be tacked onto every insured person’s premiums in the state.’ Joel Allumbaugh, who runs a commercial health insurance business and is a policy analyst with the Maine Heritage Policy Center, said the drop in hospital reimbursements would clearly shift costs onto private policyholders. ‘I don’t think there’s any way for that not to be shifted,’ he said.” “The costs of uninsured and underinsured Mainers already are passed on to people who have insurance and pay their bills.” (Kennebec Journal, 12/10/11)
- **HEADLINE: Republicans Reject Part Of Lepage Budget Cuts.** “Republican lawmakers have rejected the most controversial piece of Gov. Paul LePage's plan to balance the Department of Health and Human Services' budget, which would have cut funding for homes that serve the elderly, the mentally ill and people with substance abuse problems. With Democrats also opposing the Republican governor's plan, 4,300 elderly Mainers and close to 1,700 others who are mentally ill or being treated for addiction will

continue to get help at private non-medical institutions -- and \$60 million will have to be cut from other parts of the budget.” [Kennebec Journal, 1/4/12]

MAINECARE MISMANAGEMENT

Paul LePage Hired Mary Mayhew, A Corporate Lobbyist, To Run Maine’s Department Of Health And Human Services (DHHS). Under Her Watch DHHS “Was Providing Medicaid Benefits To 19,000 Ineligible People.” “All the time Gov. Paul LePage was insisting that 65,000 Mainers must be dropped immediately from the Medicaid rolls because the state couldn’t afford to pay for them, his administration was providing Medicaid benefits to 19,000 ineligible people.” “Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner Mary Mayhew told the Appropriations Committees that ‘computer problems’ were the culprit.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 04/05/11 and 03/25/12) “She said the bill paying computer system could not communicate with the eligibility system, so individuals were not being removed from the billing system after they were determined not to be eligible for benefits any more.” Mayhew said the problem “was not brought to the attention of her and other agency leaders until January” 2012. ““The magnitude of that incompetence is astounding to me,”” Democratic Representative Peggy Rotundo said. ““One of the things that is particularly disturbing to me is that someone in DHHS knew in January [2012] that there was a problem. This is at the same time we were meeting with the commissioner and her staff trying to figure out why we had a shortfall.”” (Kennebec Journal, 03/07/12)

- **It is not clear “if Mayhew had dark motives in concealing the depths of the department’s ineptitude. What matters is the sheer incompetence of the agency’s performance under her management. From the beginning, Mayhew was seriously unqualified for the job. She had no significant administrative credentials.”** Douglas Rooks, “a former daily and weekly newspaper editor who...covered the State House for 25 years,” said Paul LePage “must do something that only he can – fire Mayhew as DHHS commissioner. At this point, it doesn’t really matter if Mayhew had dark motives in concealing the depths of the department’s ineptitude. What matters is the sheer incompetence of the agency’s performance under her management. From the beginning, Mayhew was seriously unqualified for the job. She had no significant administrative credentials and her primary State House experience was as a lobbyist for the Maine Hospital Association.” “The only way Mayhew could have succeeded would be to lean on the department’s more experienced managers to learn the ropes and understand the system. She did the opposite. She fired 10 of the department’s top directors. She even sacked [the non-political] Dora Mills, the former DHHS public health director who, clearing the way for a new appointee, volunteered to help out with Medicaid – an offer LePage had accepted before Mayhew’s arrival.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 04/05/11 and 03/25/12)
- **Instead Of Leaning “On The Department’s More Experienced Managers To Learn The Ropes And Understand The System...She Fired 10 Of The Department’s Top Directors.”** “The only way Mayhew could have succeeded would be to lean on the department’s more experienced managers to learn the ropes and understand the system. She did the opposite. She fired 10 of the department’s top directors. She even sacked [the

non-political] Dora Mills, the former DHHS public health director who, clearing the way for a new appointee, volunteered to help out with Medicaid – an offer LePage had accepted before Mayhew’s arrival.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 04/05/11 and 03/25/12)

- **She “Was Flying Blind,” And As A Result Her “Crash Was Inevitable.” The LePage Administration Took Away Health Care From Thousands Of Mainers Because Of A Budget Problem That Was Caused At Least In Part By This Issue.** “According to Mayhew, the program managers who would have been notified of the problem were the director of MaineCare Services, the MaineCare finance director and the director for the Office of Family Independence. The directors are political appointments by the governor. Gov. Paul LePage, in an effort to implement his new policy initiatives...jettisoned a host of program directors from DHHS, including all three directors from the aforementioned offices. Two of the replacement directors were new to the agency. A third was promoted from within DHHS.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 03/08/12) “It isn’t an exaggeration to say that Mayhew was flying blind, and that the crash was inevitable. Seven years after DHHS’ computer woes were first identified, to blame machines for the problems the new commissioner has created is laughable.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 04/05/11 and 03/25/12) “The 19,000...[represented] 5 percent of the 361,000 Mainers enrolled in MaineCare,” which is Maine’s Medicaid program. (The Associated Press State & Local Wire, 03/07/12) “Democrats said that the LePage administration’s decision to withhold information about the inappropriate payments means lawmakers effectively removed health care services for 14,000 Mainers with a recently-enacted budget built on inaccurate data.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 03/08/12)

Paul LePage Argued That Mainers Needed To Be Cut From Mainecare Because Costs Were Spiraling Out Of Control Due To Enrollment Increases. However, Under Mary Mayhew’s Watch The “Shortfall Was Largely Driven By A Variety Of Budgeting Miscalculations...Made” By The Department She Runs. Paul “LePage has repeatedly argued” that the MaineCare revenue shortfall has been caused by an increase in the number of people enrolled in the program. (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/10/12) “Gov. Paul LePage...proposed a sweeping overhaul of the MaineCare program that would eliminate coverage for 65,000 residents and reduce services for many others to close the budget gap” because of a shortfall caused by “a big jump in MaineCare enrollment” and fraud. (Bangor Daily News, 12/07/11) “But according to the LePage administration’s own analysis, increased enrollment in MaineCare comprises only about 5 percent of the shortfall.” “Also, according to the administration’s analysis, the current shortfall was largely driven by a variety of budgeting miscalculations it made” in 2011. “For example, DHHS officials significantly under- budgeted for the state’s private, nonmedical institutions. It also didn’t sufficiently account for the loss of federal stimulus funds or increased Medicaid premiums by the federal government. According to DHHS, the biggest driver in...[the shortfall]...is...a new claims system that caused benefit payments that should have been settled” in 2011 to be paid in 2012. (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/10/12)

Paul LePage’s Reason For Wanting To Kick 65,000 Mainers Off Mainecare And Take Away Health Benefits From Mainers, Including Prescription Drugs For The Elderly, Turns Out Not To Be True. The Bangor Daily News Opined, “Miscasting A... Problem In Order To...Fulfill An Ideological Agenda Is Politically Disingenuous. Doing So At The Expense

Of The State's Most Vulnerable People – Without Plans To Help Them And Their Families Through The Changes – Is Callous.” “All the time Gov. Paul LePage was insisting that 65,000 Mainers must be dropped immediately from the Medicaid rolls because the state couldn't afford to pay for them, his administration was providing Medicaid benefits to 19,000 ineligible people.” “Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner Mary Mayhew told the Appropriations Committees that ‘computer problems’ were the culprit.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 04/05/11 and 03/25/12) “Those reasons are very different from the rationale used by the governor to try to justify major cuts he ...proposed. Gov. Paul LePage...proposed a sweeping overhaul of the MaineCare program that would eliminate coverage for 65,000 residents and reduce services for many others to close the budget gap” because of a shortfall caused by “a big jump in MaineCare enrollment” and fraud. The Bangor Daily News opined, “miscasting a budget problem in order to quickly make changes to fulfill an ideological agenda is politically disingenuous. Doing so at the expense of the state's most vulnerable people – without plans to help them and their families through the changes – is callous.” (Bangor Daily News, 12/07/11)

Mary Mayhew's Department, A Year After The Abovementioned Miscalculations, Miscalculated Medicaid Costs By Another \$100 Million. “These Miscalculations Are Mammoth.” According to former daily and weekly newspaper editor Douglas Rooks, “the shocker in...[a late 2012] Appropriations Committee presentation was the LePage administration's assertion that the Department of Health and Human Services is another \$100 million in the red for the...fiscal year. That's on top of \$200 million in shortfalls the administration ‘discovered’ in early 2012, which led to harsh cuts in...[the previous] year's supplemental budget, pushed through solely by Republican votes. These miscalculations are mammoth. They total 15 percent of all DHHS spending. Shortfalls of that amount in any department point to one thing – managerial incompetence.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 12/09/12)

- **According To Former Daily And Weekly Newspaper Editor Douglas Rooks, “Shortfalls Of That Amount In Any Department Point To One Thing – Managerial Incompetence.” He Continued, “There's No Excuse For Botching The Estimates This Badly, Particularly When It Involves The Largest State Department.”** Shortfalls of that amount in any department point to one thing – managerial incompetence.” “The administration has cranked out excuse after excuse for the unending shortfalls. It cites Medicaid match-rate cutbacks as federal stimulus spending expired.” “They cite growth in Medicaid spending in previous years. And they complain that federal authorities haven't approved cuts to existing Medicaid programs – waivers never granted to any state, and which won't be now, since the Affordable Care Act's thrust is to expand Medicaid (and privately-insured citizens) to approach universal coverage.” “The trouble with the administration's excuses is that all these facts were known when it signed off on the budget.” “There's no excuse for botching the estimates this badly, particularly when it involves the largest state department, in terms of both state and federal funding.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 12/09/12)
- **Douglas Rooks Said This Shows “The Administration Seems Utterly Clueless” And That LePage's DHHS Lacks “Credibility And Competence.”** Democratic “Rep. Peggy Rotundo...said after the shortfall bombshell dropped that she hoped for ‘an in-depth analysis.’ She won't likely get one, for the administration seems utterly clueless.”

“Democratic leaders should insist Mayhew be replaced with someone qualified to oversee DHHS, manage its programs, and explain its budget. It’s abundantly clear she can’t.” “Democrats can safely brush aside LePage’s trivial complaints about ‘trackers’ and ask him about something serious – restoring a DHHS with credibility and competence. It may be their first big test.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 12/09/12)

Sun Journal Editorial: LePage May be Intentionally Misinterpreting Relationship with Federal Government. The Sun Journal wrote of “LePage has shown a disconcerting tendency recently to either mishear, misinterpret or misquote important information he has been told by federal officials... the governor seems to have conflated or confused a conversation he had with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.” [Sun Journal, 1/11/12]

- **Administration May Have Knowingly Sought Budget Crisis in Getting Medicaid Waiver.** The Sun Journal wrote of LePage’s relationship with Secretary Sebelius, “The governor said he was told in April the state would have to make cuts to the program before Sebelius’ department would consider granting the waiver. That, as some legislators have pointed out, would be risky. The state could adopt a budget based upon the cuts, only to learn later that the cuts were not permitted. Contacted by the Sun Journal, federal sources refused to confirm Sebelius gave LePage such advice and declined to confirm that the DHHS cuts are necessary to obtain a waiver. Confronted with that information, a LePage spokesperson said the administration knew it could apply for the waiver at any time and that cutting the budget first was meant to ‘put pressure’ on the federal government to grant the waiver. If we understand that correctly, the idea would be to knowingly create a budget crisis and then shift the blame to the feds.” [Sun Journal, 1/11/12]

Kennebec Journal Headline: “As LePage Fights Medicaid, Mainers Apply.” [Kennebec Journal, 7/24/18]

- **July 2018: Mainers That Were Newly Eligible For Medicaid Signed Up Despite LePage Administration Failing To Implement Expansion.** “At least 25 Mainers who are newly eligible for Medicaid have applied for health insurance under the expanded program this month, and hundreds more have gone online to determine whether they qualify for coverage under the voter-approved law. It is unclear, however, whether anyone who signs up will obtain insurance because the LePage administration has balked at implementing the expansion, citing the lack of a sustainable funding source. Maine Equal Justice Partners, an Augusta advocacy group that has sued the LePage administration for failing to implement the expansion, is urging people to sign up and has created an online screening tool to help.” [Kennebec Journal, 7/24/18]
- **Kennebec Journal: LePage Refused To Expand Medicaid Despite Voters Approving Expansion By 59 To 41 Percent Margin.** “Voters approved Medicaid expansion by a 59 to 41 percent margin in 2017, but Republican Gov. Paul LePage has refused to implement the expansion, arguing that the Legislature needs to adequately fund it. LePage vetoed a

funding bill, and the Legislature failed to override the veto in a July 9 vote.” [Kennebec Journal, 7/24/18]

MAINECARE REIMBURSEMENT RATES

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Prohibited Any Medicaid Rate Changes Until A Legislative Study Could Be Completed, After “Mental Health Service Providers Raised The Alarm Over The Proposed Rules.” In April 2016, the House overrode Governor LePage’s veto of LD1696 by a 102-45 vote and the Senate overrode the veto by a 28-6 vote. According to the [Bangor Daily News](#), “Lawmakers also were able to curtail an attempt by the Department of Health and Human Services to overhaul how much providers of Medicaid services are paid. Mental health service providers raised the alarm over the proposed rules in March, leading to the proposal of LD 1696, which imposes a moratorium on any rate changes until a legislative study can be completed. The Senate voted 28-6 against LePage’s veto but the bill barely squeaked through the House, which on a 102-45 tally came within two votes of killing the bill.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/29/16; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1696, Roll Call #653, [4/29/16](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1696, [4/29/16](#)]

In 2018, the House and Senate Unanimously Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Increasing the Medicaid Reimbursement Rate Provided to Rehabilitation Hospitals, Funded Using Existing Hospital Reimbursement Resources. In April 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1778 by a 145-0 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote. LD1778 “directs the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate provided to rehabilitation hospitals retroactive to July 1, 2017. This increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate must be funded using existing hospital reimbursement resources and have no net cost to the General Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds or the Federal Expenditures Fund.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1778, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1778, 2018](#)]

MAINECARE STAFFING

Headline: “LePage Will Outsource Medicaid Staff, Even Though it Will Cost State More.” [Bangor Daily News, 2/23/18]

In Feb. 2018, LePage Announced He’d Outsource Part of Maine’s Medicaid Application Process to a Division of the University of Massachusetts Medical School “Even Though it Will Cost the State More Than Having State Employees Continue Doing the Work.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Gov. Paul LePage’s administration will outsource part of the state’s Medicaid application process to a Massachusetts organization even though it will cost the state more than having state employees continue doing the work. In June, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services will eliminate the positions of 10 state employees and enter into a \$5.6 million, 25-month contract with a division of the University of Massachusetts Medical School that determines whether people are disabled for the purpose of qualifying for state-funded health coverage.” [Bangor Daily News, 2/23/18]

Maine Chose the Vendor Without Asking for Other Bids; the \$2.7 Million Annually Was “Well More Than Double” The \$1.1 Million Budgeted for the First Year of the Contract. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The state chose the vendor without asking for bids from other potential providers. And the annual price tag of \$2.7 million is well more than double the \$1.1 million set aside in DHHS' budget for the first year of the contract. The \$1.1 million is a combination of state and federal funds.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 2/23/18]

MEDICAID EXPANSION

LEPAGE VETOED MAINECARE EXPANSION 5 TIMES

LePage Vetoed Medicaid Expansion Five Times. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “After LePage vetoed expansion bills five times, voters last year resoundingly approved an expansion that will extend health insurance to at least 70,000 Mainers, most of whom are working but don't currently have access to insurance.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 9/8/18]

- ***New York Times*: “[LePage] Vetoed Five Expansion Bills Before The Issue Made The Ballot.”** According to the *New York Times*, “He vetoed five expansion bills before the issue made the ballot, plus a spending bill this month that provided about \$60 million in funding for the first year.” [[New York Times](#), 7/24/18]

LePage Called His Vetoes of Medicaid Expansion “Among the Most Important Acts of [His] Governorship.” According to the *Associated Press*, “LePage said in vetoing the bill that it was the seventh time he'd used his veto power to thwart an expansion of Medicaid to 70,000 people. He described those vetoes as being ‘among the most important acts of my governorship.’” [*Associated Press*, 7/3/18]

- **Governor LePage Opposed Medicaid Expansion, Said That Maine Taxpayers Should Not Be Required To Pay For Health Care For “Able-Bodied” Adults Who “Elect Not to” Work.** “GOV. PAUL LEPAGE: ‘When able-bodied people, who are able and should be working, choose not to work, then I don’t think it’s society’s responsibility to cover their insurance, at the expense of our men-tally ill, our disabled, and our elderly. We’re asking hardworking Maine families to pick up the extra tab for people who should be working, but elect not to be.’” [PBS Newshour, 12/28/17]

In 2013, LePage Vetoed a Plan to “Link Medicaid Expansion to Repayment of the State’s Debt to its Hospitals.” In 2013, the House voted to enact LD 1546 by a 87-56 vote. The Senate voted to enact LD 1546 by a 20-15 vote. Governor LePage vetoed the bill and the Senate failed to override the veto on 5/29/13 by a 20-15 vote. “Democrats' plan to link Medicaid expansion to repayment of the state's debt to its hospitals was officially killed Wednesday when Republicans in the Senate voted to sustain , Gov. Paul LePage's veto of the plan. The 20-15 vote on L.D. 1546 virtually ensures that hospital debt payment and Medicaid expansion will be considered separately, as Republicans including LePage have demanded.” [Morning Sentinel, 5/30/13; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1546, Roll Call #126, [5/22/13](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1546, [5/29/13](#)]

- **Morning Sentinel: “The Bill Would Have Extended Medicaid Coverage To An Estimated 60,000 Mainers While Paying The Hospitals \$186 Million With Revenue From The State’s Next Wholesale Liquor Contract.”** “The 20-15 vote on L.D. 1546 virtually ensures that hospital debt payment and Medicaid expansion will be considered separately, as Republicans including LePage have demanded. [...] The bill would have extended Medicaid coverage to an estimated 60,000 Mainers while paying the hospitals \$186 million with revenue from the state's next wholesale liquor contract.” [Morning Sentinel, 5/30/13]

In 2013, LePage Vetoed Legislation That Would Have Expanded Medicaid In Maine. In June 2013, LePage vetoed LD1066. According to the Kennebec Journal, “House Democrats' last-ditch effort to extend health insurance to more than 60,000 low-income Mainers failed in the Legislature on Wednesday, ending, at least for now, one of the most contentious battles of the Legislative session. The outcome was sealed when a majority of Republicans sided with Gov. Paul LePage, upholding his veto of L.D. 1066, a bill that would have broadened Medicaid, the public insurance program for the poor, through the Affordable Care Act. The final 95-52 vote in the House was three votes shy of overriding the governor's veto.” The House failed to override the veto by a 95-52 vote. [State of Maine Legislature, LD 1066, Roll Call #390, [6/19/13](#); Kennebec Journal, 6/20/13]

- ***Bangor Daily News* Editorial Headline: LePage Fails to Surprise on Medicaid Expansion.** The Bangor Daily News opined, “In unsurprising fashion, Gov. Paul LePage on Monday vetoed legislation to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. We didn’t expect him to be open to the idea of extending health insurance to tens of thousands of Maine’s poorest... We are not surprised he discussed past efforts in Maine history to extend Medicaid to low-income adults and described the effect as ‘running up massive debts to our hospitals’ — even though the debts largely originated from a former payment system that wasn’t adjusted when more patients started visiting Maine hospitals. Can Maine cut health care costs? Of course — especially when it expands access in a way that stops costs from shifting onto those who carry insurance and improves the delivery of care.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, [6/18/13](#)]

In 2014, LePage Vetoed “Compromise” Medicaid Expansion Legislation That Included Cost-Control Measures And Would Have Required The Legislature To Revisit Medicaid Expansion In 2017. In April 2014, LePage vetoed LD1487. According to the Bangor Daily News, “The Maine Senate has sustained Gov. Paul LePage's veto of a bill that would have expanded Medicaid in Maine under the provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Friday's 22-13 vote at about noon fell two votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto. LD 1487 was developed as a compromise bill that included cost-control measures and a sunset provision that would have required the Legislature to revisit the issue in three years.” The House accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report on 3/18/14 by a 97-49 vote. The Senate accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report on 3/12/14 by a 22-13 vote. Governor LePage vetoed the legislation and the Senate failed to override his veto on 4/11/14 by a 22-13 vote, killing the bill. [Bangor Daily News, 4/11/14; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1487, Roll Call #537, [3/18/14](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1487, [4/11/14](#)]

- Maine People’s Alliance: The Legislation Was Considered The “Compromise” Legislation That Would Have Expanded Medicaid While Moving Almost Everyone To Managed Care Plans, Administered By A Private Corporation.** “LD 1487: ‘An Act To Implement Managed Care in the MaineCare Program’ Submitted by Sen. Roger Katz, this bill was seen as a compromise that would have expanded health care to 70,000 Mainers while also moving nearly everyone in MaineCare into managed care plans, where a private corporation would administer MaineCare and be reimbursed on a per-person rate, not based on how much health care each person uses. The bill failed to overcome a veto from Governor LePage.” [Maine People’s Alliance, 2014 Legislative Scorecard, [2014](#)]

In 2014, LePage Vetoed Legislation That Would Have Expanded Medicaid In Maine. In April 2014, LePage vetoed LD1640. According to the St. John Valley Times, “Senate Majority Leader Troy Jackson of Allagash introduced a bill Wednesday, Jan. 15 to accept federal government funds to provide health insurance to nearly 70,000 Mainers. This would include 3,000 veterans, according to a press release from the Maine Legislature Senate Majority Office. The federal government would cover 100 percent of the costs of Medicare expansion for the first three years, then gradually ratchet down to no less than 90 percent of the costs by 2020, according to the release. Aroostook County would see an additional 280 jobs and \$24 million in the local economy with this increased access to health care, according to the release. The Health and Human Services Committee was scheduled to hold a work session on the bill, LD 1640, ‘An Act to Enhance the Stability and Predictability of Health Care Costs for Returning Veterans and Others by Addressing the Issues Associated with Hospital Charity Care and Bad Debt,’ at 9.a.m. today, Wednesday, Jan. 22 in Augusta.” The House passed the bill by a 93-50 vote. The Senate accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report by a 21-14 vote. Governor LePage vetoed the bill and the Senate failed to override his veto on 5/1/14 by a 21-14 vote. [St. John Valley Times, 1/22/14; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1640, Roll Call #716, [4/16/14](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1640, [5/1/14](#)]

In 2014, LePage Vetoed What Was Effectively a Version of Medicaid Expansion That Would Have Used Federal Funds To Help Low-Income Mainers Purchase Private Insurance Coverage Rather Than Expanding Medicaid Eligibility. In April 2014, LePage vetoed LD1578. According to the Portland Press Herald, “The latest expansion bill would take federal money allocated for Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act and use it to help uninsured Mainers buy private insurance. The proposal, introduced as the legislative session draws to a close, differed from three other Medicaid expansion bills because the federal funds would be used to help low-income Mainers purchase private insurance coverage in the new federal marketplace rather than simply expanding eligibility for the state's Medicaid program, known as MaineCare. The proposal, L.D. 1578, is similar to an approach taken in New Hampshire and in Arkansas. Those efforts followed exhaustive study and debate and ultimately emerged as a compromise between Democrats, who support expansion, and Republicans, who have criticized Medicaid for inefficiencies and cost overruns.” The House failed to override Governor LePage’s veto by a 94-53 vote, killing the bill. [Portland Press Herald, 4/18/14; State of Maine Legislature, LD 1578, Roll Call #776, [5/1/14](#)]

- **Maine People’s Alliance: The Legislation Was “Seen As The ‘Private Option’ For Health Care Expansion” As It Would Have Used Affordable Care Act Funding To Help Low-Income Mainers Purchase Private Insurance Through The Exchange.** “LD 1578: ‘An Act To Increase Health Security by Expanding Federally Funded Health Care for Maine People’ Submitted by House Speaker Mark Eves, LD 1578 was seen as the “private option” for health care expansion. The bill would have used the health care dollars provided under the Affordable Care Act to subsidize purchasing insurance plans through the health care exchange. The bill was vetoed by LePage and his veto was sustained in the House.” [Maine People’s Alliance, 2014 Legislative Scorecard, [2014](#)]

AFTER VOTERS PASSED MAINECARE EXPANSION, LEPAGE BLOCKED IMPLEMENTATION

In 2017, Maine Voters Overwhelmingly Voted to Expand Medicaid

11/7/17: Maine Voters Voted To Expand Medicaid 59 Percent To 41 Percent. “Maine voters said clearly on Tuesday that they support expanding the state's Medicaid program despite uncertainty caused by President Donald Trump's and congressional Republicans' efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. With 70 percent of precincts reporting at 10:25 p.m. Tuesday, vote tallies showed support for expansion at 59 percent and opposition at 41 percent. The Medicaid expansion question came to the ballot after years of legislative debate and rejection, including five bills that were vetoed successfully by Republican Gov. Paul LePage. Tuesday's passage of Question 2 will leave an indelible mark on the termed-out governor's legacy. [Bangor Daily News, 11/7/17]

- **Voter-Approved Medicaid Expansion Law Increased The Qualifying Income To 138 Percent Of The Federal Poverty Level, Or \$16,643 For Singles, \$28,180 For A Family Of Three, And \$39,716 For A Family Of Five.** “Currently, Maine's Medicaid program, known as MaineCare, covers a range of groups, such as pregnant women, parents with children younger than 18 and disabled people. Qualifying income thresholds vary. Parents and disabled adults, for example, qualify if their incomes are below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. That's \$12,060 a year for a single person, \$20,421 for a family of three and \$28,780 for a family of five. The bill passed in November would raise the qualifying threshold to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. That's \$16,643 a year for a single person, \$28,180 for a family of three and \$39,716 for a family of five. The bill also expands coverage to adults who are not disabled and don't have children, which would be a change from current law.” [Bangor Daily News, 12/11/17]
- **Voter-Approved Medicaid Expansion Law Expanded Medicaid To Non-Disabled Adults Without Children, A Change From Current Law.** “Currently, Maine's Medicaid program, known as MaineCare, covers a range of groups, such as pregnant women, parents with children younger than 18 and disabled people. Qualifying income thresholds vary. Parents and disabled adults, for example, qualify if their incomes are below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. That's \$12,060 a year for a single person, \$20,421 for a family of three and \$28,780 for a family of five. The bill passed in November would raise the qualifying threshold to 138 percent of the federal poverty

level. That's \$16,643 a year for a single person, \$28,180 for a family of three and \$39,716 for a family of five. The bill also expands coverage to adults who are not disabled and don't have children, which would be a change from current law." [Bangor Daily News, 12/11/17]

NPR: "Medicaid Expansion Would Bring Health Coverage To About 70,000 People In Maine." "Medicaid expansion would bring health coverage to about 70,000 people in Maine." [NPR, 11/8/17]

NPR: "Medicaid Expansion Would Also Be A Win For Hospitals." "Medicaid expansion would also be a win for hospitals. More than half of them in Maine are operating in the red. Across the state, they provide more than \$100 million a year in charity care, according to the Maine Hospital Association. Expanding Medicaid coverage would bolster their fiscal health and give doctors and nurses more options to treat their formerly uninsured patients, says Jeff Austin, a spokesman with the association." [NPR, 11/8/17]

- **Maine Hospital Association Spokesman Said Expanding Medicaid In Maine Would Help Hospitals' Fiscal Health And Give Doctors And Nurses More Options To Treat Low-Income Patients.** "Medicaid expansion would also be a win for hospitals. More than half of them in Maine are operating in the red. Across the state, they provide more than \$100 million a year in charity care, according to the Maine Hospital Association. Expanding Medicaid coverage would bolster their fiscal health and give doctors and nurses more options to treat their formerly uninsured patients, says Jeff Austin, a spokesman with the association." [NPR, 11/8/17]

Governor LePage Called On The Legislature To Find Money To Implement Medicaid Expansion Without Raising Taxes Or Using State Savings "LePage triggered some gasps from lawmakers assembled in the House chamber when he said Maine should enact Medicaid expansion, which became the law following a 2017 referendum, before this November's election. But he quickly shifted to 'the bad news,' which isn't news at all: He wants the Legislature to appropriate funding to do it without raising taxes, relying on gimmicks or touching the state's accumulated savings -- and only after clearing waitlists for services to elderly and disabled Mainers. 'Appropriate the money so we can do it,' LePage said. Gideon bristled at LePage's demands in comments to reporters following the speech. She has argued that there is enough money in the state's Medicaid account to cover expansion costs until 2019. 'When the Legislature needs to appropriate the funds, we will absolutely do that, but we'll do it on our timetable,' Gideon said." [Bangor Daily News, 2/13/18]

Headline: "Maine's Governor is Trying to Block the State's Medicaid Expansion the Day After Voters Overwhelmingly Supported it." [[Business Insider, 11/8/17](#)]

Headline: "LePage Accuses Medicaid Expansion Supporters of Lying But Offers Scant Proof." [*Bangor Daily News*, 10/31/17]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Headline: “Gov. LePage Way Off Base on State Question 2: He’s Wrong About How Much Medicaid Expansion Costs, How it Works, and Who Gets it.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 10/30/17](#)]

Headline: “LePage: Medicaid Expansion Would ‘Kill’ Maine.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 8/15/17]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Headline: “LePage’s Medicaid Stance Subverts the Voters’ Will; He’s Had His Chance to Obstruct Expansion – Now it’s His Duty to See That it Takes Place.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 12/13/17](#)]

Headline: “LePage Digs in for Medicaid Expansion Funding Battle.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 12/11/17]

Alan Caron Column Headline: “Republicans Mess With Medicaid Expansion at Their Own Peril; Augusta Has Gotten into a Bad Habit, Under Gov. LePage, of Ignoring the Will of Maine Voters.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 11/14/17]

Headline: “LePage Erects High Hurdles for Medicaid Expansion After Maine’s Historic Vote.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 11/8/17]

In April 2018, LePage Missed a Deadline and Failed to Submit a Proposal to the Federal Government Indicating How Maine Would Expand Medicaid

April 2018: The Deadline For The Maine Department Of Health And Human Services To File A Plan With The Federal Government With How Maine Intended To Expand Medicaid Passed Without Governor LePage’s Administration Submitting Such A Proposal.

“Tuesday was the deadline for the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to file a plan with federal regulators for how the state planned to expand Medicaid coverage to an estimated 70,000 additional adults as part of a ballot initiative approved by Maine voters last November. But Gov. Paul LePage has said repeatedly that his administration would not move forward with implementation until the Legislature funds expansion fully, raising the specter of potential legal challenges. On Tuesday, expansion advocates held a news conference calling on LePage to submit the state's implementation plan to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.” [Kennebec Journal, 4/4/18]

LePage Fought Against Expansion Even After the Voters Passed it, Arguing That Since the Legislature Had Failed to Fund it, He Did Not Need to Implement it – Expansion Advocates Argued Expansion Could Have Been Paid for by Existing Surpluses. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “LePage has led the fight against expansion during his tenure, vetoing legislative expansion plans five times. Lawyers for his administration have argued that the state has not had to implement the law because it has not been funded by the Legislature, which failed earlier this year to pass a start-up funding package over the governor's veto. Advocates for expansion, led by the progressive Maine Equal Justice Partners, have shot back by saying that existing surpluses or Medicaid funds could be used fund it, at least in the interim. Murphy has

largely upheld their arguments so far and did so again in her Wednesday order.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 11/21/18]

***New York Times* Headline: “A Vote Expanded Medicaid In Maine. The Governor Is Ignoring It.”** [[*New York Times*, 7/24/18](#)]

***New York Times*: Despite Voter Approving Medicaid Expansion LePage “Refused To Expand The Program, Blasting It As A Needless, Budget-Busting Form Of Welfare.”**

According to the New York Times, “Brandy Staples, a 39-year-old breast cancer survivor, had expected to become eligible for Medicaid coverage this month after Maine voters approved an expansion of the program last fall. Instead, she found herself in a courtroom here on Wednesday, watching the latest chapter unfold in a rancorous, drawn-out battle over whether she and thousands of other poor people in the state will get free government insurance after all. Ignoring the binding vote, Gov. Paul LePage has refused to expand the program, blasting it as a needless, budget-busting form of welfare.” [[*New York Times*, 7/24/18](#)]

In May 2018, the LePage Administration Was Sued Over its Failure to Implement the Will of the Voters and Expand Medicaid

HEADLINE: “Maine Advocates Sue State Over Inaction On Medicaid Expansion.”
[Congressional Quarterly Healthbeat, 4/30/18]

May 2018: Maine Equal Justice Partners Sued The State Of Maine To Force It To Expand Medicaid As Approved By Maine Voters. “The advocacy group that led the successful ballot-box campaign to expand Medicaid in Maine filed a lawsuit Monday seeking to compel the state to implement the program. Maine Equal Justice Partners filed the suit in state Superior Court in Augusta, arguing that the failure to expand Medicaid is harming low-income Mainers who by law should be eligible to receive Medicaid insurance this year.” [Kennebec Journal, 5/1/18]

In June 2018, a Maine Court Ordered the LePage Administration to Implement Medicaid Expansion

Headline: “Court Orders Maine Governor to Expand Medicaid.” [[*Politico*, 6/4/18](#)]

Headline: “Judge Orders LePage to Submit Plan for Medicaid Expansion.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 6/4/18]

June 2018: The Maine Superior Court Ordered Maine To Implement Medicaid Expansion and File its Plan to Expand Medicaid With the Federal Government. “Today, the Maine Superior Court issued a decision ordering the LePage Administration to implement the voter-approved Medicaid Expansion law and file a State Plan Amendment. Speaker of the House Sara Gideon released the following statement: ‘Voters, and now the Maine Superior Court have made it clear - implementation of this law is a responsibility and obligation that needs to be fulfilled. No more delays. Thousands of Mainers cannot afford to wait any longer for the health care they need to be and stay well.’” [Press Release, Maine House Democrats, 6/4/18]

Headline: “LePage Files Appeal Over Court Order on Medicaid.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 6/8/18]

Headline: “LePage Asks Maine’s Top Court to Overrule Judge’s Order to Submit Medicaid Plan.” [*St. John Valley Times*, 6/19/18]

Headline: “LePage Again Ordered to File Medicaid Plan, So He Submits.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 6/19/18]

In July 2018, LePage Vetoed Legislation That Would Have Funded the First Year of Medicaid Expansion

Headline: “LePage Says He’ll Go to Jail Before He Let’s Maine Expand Medicaid.” [[*Portland Press Herald*, 7/12/18](#)]

Headline: “LePage Wins Latest Swipe Against Medicaid Expansion.” [[*Associated Press*, 7/9/18](#)]

Headline: “Veto Ends Any Chance LePage Will Follow Law; After Moving the Goalposts on Medicaid Expansion, He Blames Others for its Being Stalled.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/3/18]

Headline: “LePage Vetoes Medicaid Expansion Funding; Lawmakers Will Try an Override in July, and Supporters of Extending Benefits to 70,000 Mainers Still Urge Them to Enroll.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 6/30/18]

Headline: “LePage Says He’ll Veto Medicaid Expansion Funding Bill.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 6/29/18]

Headline: “LePage Foils Medicaid Expansion Again as His Veto Stands.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/10/18]

Headline: “House Republicans Back LePage Veto, Keeping Medicaid Expansion in Limbo.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 7/9/18]

Headline: “LePage Vetoes 23 Bills, Including One for Medicaid Expansion.” [*Morning Sentinel*, 7/3/18]

Headline: “Signups Start for Expanded Medicaid, But Path Still Rocky; Gov. LePage’s Veto of a Bill to Fund the Voter-Approved Law Raises Doubts, But Supporters Urge People to Apply Anyway.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 7/3/18]

In July 2018, LePage Vetoed Legislation That Would Have Funded The First Year Of Medicaid Expansion. In July 2018, LePage vetoed LD837. “The Maine Legislature doesn't plan to waste any time next week in dealing with Gov. Paul LePage's veto of a funding source for Medicaid expansion. House Speaker Sara Gideon's office anticipates the matter will come after

the long holiday weekend. LePage said in vetoing the bill that it was the seventh time he'd used his veto power to thwart an expansion of Medicaid to 70,000 people. He described those vetoes as being 'among the most important acts of my governorship.'" The House's attempt to override Governor LePage's veto failed by a vote of 85-58. [State of Maine Legislature, LD 837, Roll Call #698, [7/9/18](#); Associated Press, 7/3/18]

- **The Legislation Would Have Funded \$31 Million Claims Cost And \$3.8 Million In Administrative Costs.** "LD 837 "An Act To Provide Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government," was amended by Rep. Drew Gattine to allocate \$31 million in claims cost, in addition to the \$3.8 million in administrative costs. The bill passed the House 78-58." [Press Release, Speaker Sara Gideon, [6/19/18](#)]

Headline: "As LePage Fights Medicaid, Mainers Apply." [*Kennebec Journal*, 7/24/18]

Headline: "Maine's Top Court Backs Ruling That LePage Must Send Medicaid Expansion Plan to Feds." [*St. John Valley Times*, 8/26/18]

In September 2018, LePage Filed His Medicaid Expansion Plan with the Federal Government, But Urged the Federal Government to Reject the Plan

Headline: "LePage's Obstruction Continues as Thousands of Mainers Await Access to Health Insurance." [*Bangor Daily News*, 9/8/18]

Headline: "LePage Says He'll Deny Applicants Until Medicaid Expansion is Funded." [*St. John Valley Times*, 9/10/18]

Headline: "LePage to Feds: Deny Medicaid Plan." [*Kennebec Journal*, 9/5/18]

Headline: "LePage Files Medicaid Expansion Plan, But Asks Officials to Reject it; Even as He Complies With a Court Order to Submit a State Plan Amendment to Federal Authorities, He Undermines it." [Portland Press Herald, 9/5/18]

In Sept. 2018, LePage Complied With a Court Order to Submit Documentation to the Federal Government to Expand Maine's Medicaid Program, But Asked Federal Officials to Deny the Application. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, "The LePage administration complied with a court order Tuesday and finally submitted required documents to the federal government to expand Medicaid to 70,000 Mainers - but there's a catch. Gov. Paul LePage, an expansion opponent, is asking federal officials to deny the application." [Portland Press Herald, 9/5/18]

In November 2018, LePage Administration's Was Again Ordered by a Maine Court to Implement Medicaid Expansion

Headline: "LePage Requests Stay of Order to Implement Medicaid Expansion." [*St. John Valley Times*, 11/28/18]

Headline: “Mills’ Office Opposes LePage in Medicaid Expansion Court Fight That Will Drag Past Election Day.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 10/24/18]

Headline: “LePage Seeks Medicaid Expansion Delay.” [*Morning Sentinel*, 11/29/18]

In Nov. 2018, the Maine Superior Court Ordered LePage’s Administration to Implement Voter-Approved Medicaid Expansion. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “A judge ordered Gov. Paul LePage's administration on Wednesday to implement voter-approved Medicaid expansion, which could be one of the final steps in a monthslong court battle over whether the state must provide 70,000 Mainers with health coverage. The 21-page ruling from Superior Court Justice Michaela Murphy found that the Maine Department of Health and Human Services has ‘failed and refused to comply’ with the law passed by Maine voters in 2017 that would expand Medicaid under the federal Affordable Care Act.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 11/21/18]

- **Headline: “A Judge Ordered LePage to Expand Medicaid. He Plans to Keep Fighting It.”** [*Bangor Daily News*, 11/21/18]

In December 2018, a Maine Court Denied LePage’s Stay Request for Expansion

Headline: “Judge Rejects LePage Bid to Stall Medicaid Expansion.” [*St. John Valley Times*, 12/7/18]

December 2018: Maine Superior Court Denied LePage Administration’s Stay Request for Medicaid Expansion. “Judge Michaela Murphy of the Maine Superior Court has denied a stay request by the LePage Administration regarding implementation of voter-approved Medicaid expansion, but set a new February 1st deadline to being enrolling eligible Mainers. Speaker of the House Sara Gideon released the following statement: ‘The Court is yet again asserting that Medicaid expansion is the law of the land and Governor LePage and his Administration are being held accountable. While I’m deeply disappointed that this needless battle has delayed the 70,000 Mainers who are eligible from receiving access to healthcare, the end is in sight. I am eager to work in partnership with Governor-elect Mills to ensure this law is followed and that more Mainers are accessing the care they deserve to be and stay well.’” [Press Release, Speaker Sara Gideon, [12/6/18](#)]

LePage Fought Protracted Legal Battle to Block Medicaid Expansion Approved by Ballot Initiative in 2017, Pushing Implementation Until After His Departure From Office in 2018. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “A judge has denied Gov. Paul LePage’s administration’s request to stay an order forcing it to implement voter-approved Medicaid expansion, but pushed the deadline to do so back to after the Republican leaves office. The Thursday ruling effectively hands the long-running political and legal fight over implementing a policy that voters approved in 2017 to Gov.-elect Janet Mills, a Democrat who has said fully implementing the expansion plan is a top priority.” [*Bangor Daily News*, [12/6/20](#)]

GOP SUPPORT FOR MAINECARE EXPANSION

February 2016: GOP State Sen Saviello Pushed For Medicaid Expansion Despite “Chilly Reception” From LePage. “Sen. Tom Saviello's Medicaid expansion bill received a chilly reception from his fellow Republicans and the LePage administration Tuesday. The Wilton lawmaker received support from Democrats, however, and remained undeterred. ‘It's just the right thing to do,’ said Saviello.” [Press Herald, 2/24/16]

- **Saviello Pointed To 2015 Study That Showed Medicaid Expansion Would Result In Net Savings Of \$27 Million In Maine.** “Saviello said he is looking forward to the “fiscal note” that will be attached to the bill, which will be written in the coming weeks by the nonpartisan Office of Fiscal and Program Review, a state agency that works for the Legislature. He said the fiscal note - which he predicts will show a net savings - may cut through rhetoric by some Republicans who argue that Medicaid expansion would cause major problems in the state budget. Saviello pointed to a 2015 study by a New York health consulting firm, Manatt Health Solutions, that said Maine would realize a net savings of \$27 million by expanding Medicaid.” [Press Herald, 2/24/16]

Portland Press Herald: LePage Vetoed GOP-Led Bills To Expand Medicaid Due To View Of “Unworthiness Of The People Who Would Access Coverage.” “Republican Sen. Roger Katz proposed a bill that would accept federal funding only for the 100 percent reimbursement period and would have the program expire, requiring a new law to be passed before the state spent any money. LePage vetoed it and was upheld. Republican Sen. Tom Saviello tried a version in which people at the higher end of the eligibility scale could buy Medicaid coverage. LePage vetoed it again. By now his objection was with the unworthiness of the people who would access coverage, whom LePage described without evidence as people who refuse to work.” [Press Herald, 11/25/18]

MAINECARE EXPANSION STATS

Headline: “Medicaid Expansion Would Benefit Maine in Far-Reaching Ways, Contrary to Governor’s Claims.” [[Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 10/25/17](#)]

Expansion Was Expected to Save 180 Lives

Portland Press Herald Headline: “Medicaid Expansion in Maine Projected to Save 180 Lives Among Older Adults.” [[Portland Press Herald, 11/11/19](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: “Screenings Obtained Under Medicaid Caught Illnesses Early That Would Have Otherwise Led To Death, And People Were Able To Get Treatments And Medications That Held Off Illness That Would Have Otherwise Escalated,” Would Have Saved The Lives Of 180 Mainers Between 2014-2017. “According to a new study by the National Bureau of Economic Research, a Massachusetts-based think tank, Medicaid expansion in other states saved an estimated 19,200 lives among people ages 55 to 64 that would have otherwise been lost. In other words, screenings obtained under Medicaid caught illnesses early that would have otherwise led to death, and people were able to get treatments and medications that held off illness that would have otherwise escalated. Applying that research to

Maine shows about 180 Mainers who died from 2014 to 2017 could have been expected to live if MaineCare had been expanded at the time.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [11/12/19](#)]

2019 Study Concluded Maine Medicaid Expansion Would Save 180 Lives Over Next Four Years. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The lives of about 180 Mainers nearing retirement age will be saved over the next four years because the state expanded Medicaid, according to an analysis of a new study. That’s primarily because people in the expansion population – many of whom were previously uninsured – will have access to care. Mainers with chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and mental illness are now able to see a doctor, obtain medications and have regular checkups and preventive screenings. The study, conducted by scientists for the National Bureau of Economic Research, a Massachusetts-based think tank, found that across the nation, Medicaid expansion saved an estimated 19,200 lives in the 55-64 age group from 2014-17.” [[Portland Press Herald, 11/11/19](#)]

Center for American Progress Estimated That Expanding Medicaid in Maine Would Save One Infant Life Annually. [[Center for American Progress, 10/24/18](#)]

Expansion Was Expected to Cover 70,000 Mainers – as of April 2021, 76,000 Additional Mainers Had Enrolled for Health Insurance Coverage Through MaineCare Expansion and Accessed Life-Saving Preventive Care

As of April 2021, 76,167 Additional Mainers Had Enrolled in MaineCare Expansion, Including 64,702 Childless Adults and 11,465 Parents. [[Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 4/1/21](#)]

As of February 2021, 6,017 Additional Mainers Had Accessed Breast Cancer Screenings Thanks to MaineCare Expansion. [[Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 4/1/21](#)]

As of February 2021, 4,367 Additional Mainers Had Accessed Colorectal Cancer Screening Thanks to MaineCare Expansion. [[Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 4/1/21](#)]

As of February 2021, 6,565 Additional Mainers Had Accessed Treatment for Diabetes Thanks to MaineCare Expansion. [[Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 4/1/21](#)]

As of February 2021, 7,012 Additional Mainers Had Accessed Treatment for High Blood Pressure Thanks to MaineCare Expansion. [[Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 4/1/21](#)]

As of February 2021, 40,277 Additional Mainers Had Accessed Mental Health Treatment Thanks to MaineCare Expansion. [[Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 4/1/21](#)]

In 2019, Maine Health Access Foundation and University of Southern Maine Report Found That 28% of the Medicaid Expansion Population Reported Being in “Poor Health” Compared to 9% of the General Population. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The report on the enrollee population – conducted by the nonprofit Maine Health Access Foundation and the University of Southern Maine – combines five years of Maine residents’ responses to

health surveys for the federal U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the projected expansion population. [...] The report found that 28 percent of the expansion population reports being in “poor health” versus 9 percent of the general population. One in five Mainers in the expansion population hadn’t seen a doctor for a routine checkup in at least five years.” [[Portland Press Herald, 9/17/19](#)]

- **Medicaid Expansion Enrollees Were “Older, More Rural And More Likely To Have A Chronic Condition Than The General Population.”** “Overall, the new enrollees are older, more rural and more likely to have a chronic condition than the general population. They are far more likely to be in poor health, and many have not had a recent checkup with a doctor.” [Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [11/12/19](#)]

In 2019, Maine Health Access Foundation and University of Southern Maine Report Found 36% of the Medicaid Expansion Population Had Chronic Mental, Emotional, or Physical Limitations, Compared with 16% of Adult Mainers. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The report on the enrollee population – conducted by the nonprofit Maine Health Access Foundation and the University of Southern Maine – combines five years of Maine residents’ responses to health surveys for the federal U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the projected expansion population. [...] Other findings include: -46 percent of the expansion population is rural, compared with 32 percent of adult Mainers. – 29 percent of the expansion population smokes cigarettes, compared with 14 percent of adult Mainers. – 36 percent have chronic mental, emotional or physical limitations, compared with 16 percent of adult Mainers. – 45 percent have high blood cholesterol, compared with 32 percent of Mainers.” [[Portland Press Herald, 9/17/19](#)]

In 2019, Maine Health Access Foundation and University of Southern Maine Report Found 45% of the Medicaid Expansion Population Had High Blood Cholesterol Compared to 32% of All Adult Mainers. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The report on the enrollee population – conducted by the nonprofit Maine Health Access Foundation and the University of Southern Maine – combines five years of Maine residents’ responses to health surveys for the federal U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the projected expansion population. [...] Other findings include: -46 percent of the expansion population is rural, compared with 32 percent of adult Mainers. – 29 percent of the expansion population smokes cigarettes, compared with 14 percent of adult Mainers. – 36 percent have chronic mental, emotional or physical limitations, compared with 16 percent of adult Mainers. – 45 percent have high blood cholesterol, compared with 32 percent of Mainers.” [[Portland Press Herald, 9/17/19](#)]

Expansion Was Expected to Create Nearly 6,000 New Jobs Across the State

The Maine Center for Economic Policy Estimated That Medicaid Expansion Would Create Nearly 6,000 New Jobs Across the State:

COUNTY	ESTIMATED NEW JOBS CREATED
Androscoggin	389
Aroostook	290

Cumberland	1,346
Franklin	189
Hancock	262
Kennebec	560
Knox	194
Lincoln	166
Oxford	354
Penobscot	748
Piscataquis	113
Sagadahoc	85
Somerset	297
Waldo	173
Washington	136
York	678

TOTA: 5,980

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, Medicaid Expansion Fact Sheets, 2017](#)]

Expansion Was Expected to Have a Statewide Economic Impact of \$684 Million

The Maine Center for Economic Policy Estimated That Medicaid Expansion Would Have a Statewide Economic Impact of \$684 Million:

COUNTY	ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT
Androscoggin	\$46 million
Aroostook	\$33 million
Cumberland	\$173 million
Franklin	\$19 million
Hancock	\$27 million
Kennebec	\$63 million
Knox	\$21 million
Lincoln	\$16 million
Oxford	\$37 million
Penobscot	\$89 million
Piscataquis	\$10 million
Sagadahoc	\$9 million
Somerset	\$33 million
Waldo	\$18 million
Washington	\$14 million
York	\$76 million

TOTAL: \$684,000,000

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, Medicaid Expansion Fact Sheets, 2017](#)]

Expansion Was Expected to Cost “Far Less” Than LePage Claimed; Save \$40 Million Per Year

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: Medicaid Expansion in Maine Was “Likely to Cost Far Less Than Gov. LePage Claims,” Estimated \$128 Million Over Four Years as Opposed to LePage’s Estimate of \$315 Over Five Years. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “Medicaid Expansion Likely to Cost Far Less Than Gov. LePage Claims. Gov. LePage’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) projects that Medicaid expansion will cost Maine \$315 million over five years, which is substantially more than what the state’s nonpartisan Legislative Office of Fiscal and Policy Analysis and outside analysts project. [...] In comparison, the legislative fiscal office incorporates \$27 million in annual offsetting savings into its projections and finds that expansion will, on net, cost Maine about \$128 million over four years.” [[Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 10/25/17](#)]

Expanding Medicaid Was Expected to Save Maine \$40 Million a Year from the Use of Federal Funds for State Services. According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Under current law, Maine still has the ability to increase eligibility for its Medicaid program, and to accept the offer of federal funding, which would amount to \$246 million annually invested directly into Maine’s economy. The state itself would see savings of \$40 million a year from the use of federal funds for state services. The federal funding would also generate additional economic activity, and support or retain thousands in health care-related jobs.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

Federal Funding from Expanding Medicaid Was Expected to Total \$246 Annually. According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Under current law, Maine still has the ability to increase eligibility for its Medicaid program, and to accept the offer of federal funding, which would amount to \$246 million annually invested directly into Maine’s economy. The state itself would see savings of \$40 million a year from the use of federal funds for state services. The federal funding would also generate additional economic activity, and support or retain thousands in health care-related jobs.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

Expansion Was Expected to Help Catch Cancer Earlier

Center for American Progress Estimated That Expanding Medicaid in Maine Would Increase Early-Stage Cancer Diagnoses by 70 Annually. [[Center for American Progress, 10/24/18](#)]

Center for American Progress Estimated That Expanding Medicaid in Maine Would Increase Annual Cancer Diagnoses by 75. [[Center for American Progress, 10/24/18](#)]

Expansion Was Expected to Help Maine Fight the Opioid Epidemic

Headline: “Medicaid Expansion Improving Access to Treatment for Opioid Use.” [[Portland Press Herald, 8/21/19](#)]

In 2019, About 10% of the Medicaid Expansion Population Were Receiving Treatment for Opioid Use. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “About 10 percent of the 35,000 adults who have gained health care coverage since Maine expanded Medicaid in January are receiving treatment for opioid use disorder.” [[Portland Press Herald, 8/21/19](#)]

As of February 2021, 15,040 Additional Mainers Had Accessed Substance Use Disorder Treatment Thanks to MaineCare Expansion. [[Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 4/1/21](#)]

As of February 2021, 10,638 Additional Mainers Had Accessed Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Thanks to MaineCare Expansion. [[Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 4/1/21](#)]

Center for American Progress Estimated That Expanding Medicaid in Maine Would Reduce Uninsured Opioid-Related Hospitalizations by 430 Per Year. [[Center for American Progress, 10/24/18](#)]

Headline: “Expanded Medicaid Has Increased Access to Opioid Treatment, But Waitlists Have Ballooned.” [[Maine Public, 5/1/19](#)]

Expansion Was Expected to Benefit Rural and Older Mainers

Headline: “Medicaid Expansion Expected to Draw More Older, Rural Mainers.” [[Portland Press Herald, 9/17/19](#)]

Portland Press Herald: “A New Report Projects That Older, Rural Mainers With Chronic Health Problems Will Eventually Account for Most of the Medicaid Expansion Population.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Though many who have enrolled so far are young adults, a new report projects that older, rural Mainers with chronic health problems will eventually account for most of the Medicaid expansion population.” [[Portland Press Herald, 9/17/19](#)]

In 2019, Maine Health Access Foundation and University of Southern Maine Report Found 46% of the Medicaid Expansion Population Was Rural, Compared to 32% of Adult Mainers. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “The report on the enrollee population – conducted by the nonprofit Maine Health Access Foundation and the University of Southern Maine – combines five years of Maine residents’ responses to health surveys for the federal U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the projected expansion population. [...] Other findings include: -46 percent of the expansion population is rural, compared with 32 percent of adult Mainers. – 29 percent of the expansion population smokes cigarettes, compared with 14 percent of adult Mainers. – 36 percent have chronic mental, emotional or physical limitations, compared with 16 percent of adult Mainers. – 45 percent have high blood cholesterol, compared with 32 percent of Mainers.” [[Portland Press Herald, 9/17/19](#)]

Expansion Was Expected to Shore Up Maine’s Hospitals

Portland Press Herald Editorial: Of The \$700 Million In Federal Funding Maine Would Receive Through Medicaid Expansion, “A Lot” Of It Would “Go Toward Maine’s Struggling Rural Hospitals, Providing A Much-Needed Boost To These Large Employers And Regional Economic Engines.” “What’s more, the governor’s office says spending on the

new enrollees is within projections, and that Maine will receive nearly \$700 million in federal funding through fiscal year 2021. A lot of that will go toward Maine’s struggling rural hospitals, providing a much-needed boost to these large employers and regional economic engines.”
[Editorial, Portland Press Herald, [11/12/19](#)]

The Maine Center for Economic Policy Estimated That Medicaid Expansion Would Save Hospitals \$216.7 Million:

COUNTY	ESTIMATED REDUCED COSTS FOR HOSPITALS
Androscoggin	\$38.9 million
Aroostook	\$9.6 million
Cumberland	\$54 million
Franklin	\$2.6 million
Hancock	\$6.8 million
Kennebec	\$22.3 million
Knox	\$5.9 million
Lincoln	\$2.6 million
Oxford	\$4.2 million
Penobscot	\$29.6 million
Piscataquis	\$2.6 million
Sagadahoc	\$6 million
Somerset	\$6.3 million
Waldo	\$4.3 million
Washington	\$3.4 million
York	\$17.6 million
TOTAL: \$216,700,000	

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, Medicaid Expansion Fact Sheets, 2017](#)]

Expansion Was Expected to Help Thousands of Uninsured Workers

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Estimated Workers in the Following Industries Would be the Top Recipients of Expanded Medicaid Eligibility:

Top Ten Industries of Mainers Set to Gain Medicaid Eligibility

Uninsured Workers	15,290
Restaurants and other food services	2,220
Construction	1,770
Grocery stores	1,500
Building services (janitor, extermination)	890
Gasoline stations	770
Private household services (gardeners, cooks, caretakers)	700
Department stores	690
Retail bakeries	530
Automotive stores	520
Employment services (temp agencies)	460

[[Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 10/25/17](#)]

CRITICISM OF LEPAGE'S EFFORTS TO BLOCK MEDICAID EXPANSION

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “In the End, 70,000 Poor, Working Mainers Went Without Health Insurance Because of [LePage’s] Intransigence and Misrepresentations.” According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “He has stymied Medicaid expansion, which he vetoed five times before it was passed by voters last year, through the final days of his administration. He filed lawsuits to stop its implementation and exaggerated the cost of expansion. In the end, 70,000 poor, working Mainers went without health insurance because of his intransigence and misrepresentations.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 12/28/18]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: LePage Launched an “Assault” on Community-Based Mental Health Treatment by Vetoing Medicaid Expansion Repeatedly. According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “LePage continued his assault on community-based treatment by vetoing Medicaid expansion for the first time in 2013. He has continued to resist this reform ever since, including by appealing a court order requiring him to comply with the results of a 2017 referendum, delaying the distribution of much-needed funding until after he leaves office Jan. 2.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 12/23/18]

Bangor Daily News Editorial Headline: “LePage’s Continued Refusal to Implement Medicaid Expansion is Unfair, But Unsurprising.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 11/26/18]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Headline: “No Excuse to Delay MaineCare Expansion; Gov. LePage May Want a Big Fight With the Legislature, But the Battle is Long Over.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 2/18/18]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Headline: “By Stalling on Expansion, LePage is Breaking Maine Law.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 5/6/18]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Headline: “LePage is Exhausting Ways to Block Medicaid; Maine’s Highest Court Should Quickly Order the Governor to do His Duty and Execute the Law.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 6/11/18]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Headline: “LePage’s Jail Comment Shows Contempt for Courts; Obeying the Law on Medicaid Expansion Should Not be a Choice for the Governor.” [[*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 7/15/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald Editorial Headline: “No Good Reason for More Medicaid Delay; LePage is Dragging His Feet But He Can Only Postpone Expansion, He Can’t Kill it.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 11/25/18]

2018 WORK REQUIREMENT EFFORT

Headline: “Mills Rejects LePage Plan.” [*Morning Sentinel*, 1/23/19]

Headline: “Mills Reverses LePage Push for Medicaid Work Requirements.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 1/22/19]

***Morning Sentinel*: “The Mills Administration Has Rejected New Work Requirements for Medicaid Recipients That Were Requested by Former Gov. Paul LePage and Approved by the Trump Administration Just Days Before LePage Left Office.”** According to the *Morning Sentinel*, “The Mills administration has rejected new work requirements for Medicaid recipients that were requested by former Gov. Paul LePage and approved by the Trump administration just days before LePage left office.” [*Morning Sentinel*, 1/23/19]

Portland Press Herald Headline: “Trump Allows States To Require Work For Medicaid; The Move Pleases Gov. Paul LePage Because Maine Has Already Asked If It Can Make Benefits Dependent Upon Having A Job, Training Or Volunteering.” [[*Portland Press Herald*, 1/11/18](#)]

Headline: “LePage Push for Medicaid Work Requirement Gets Boost from Trump Administration.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 1/11/18]

LePage-Proposed Work Requirements Would Have Required Some Nondisabled, Non-Elderly Medicaid Recipients to Work, Volunteer, or Attend School for 80 Hours Per Month. According to the *Morning Sentinel*, “The work requirements were approved Dec. 21 and would have required some nondisabled, non-elderly Medicaid recipients to work, volunteer or attend school 80 hours per month or risk losing Medicaid benefits. Also, some would be required to pay premiums of up to \$40 per month to receive Medicaid.” [*Morning Sentinel*, 1/23/19]

In Arkansas, 18,000 People Lost Medicaid Coverage Over Just a Few Months Since Work Requirements Were Implemented. According to the *Morning Sentinel*, “In Arkansas, more than 18,000 people have lost Medicaid coverage since September when work requirements were implemented, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.” [*Morning Sentinel*, 1/23/19]

Headline: “LePage on Medicaid Work Requirements: ‘Wonderful, Wonderful, Wonderful.’” [*Bangor Daily News*, 1/12/18]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial Headline: “The Main Effect of LePage’s, Trump’s Medicaid Work Rules? Fewer People With Coverage.”** [[*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 1/12/18](#)]

Headline: “LePage Push for Medicaid Work Requirement Gets Boost from Trump Administration.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 1/11/18]

SENIORS

AGING CRISIS

***Portland Press Herald* Editorial Headline: “Our View: On Aging Crisis, LePage Offered No Leadership.”** [[*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 9/16/18](#)]

***Portland Press Herald* Editorial: Maine Required “Coordinated Action and Leadership from the Highest Level of State Government. But That’s Not What We’ve Gotten for the Last Eight Years.”** According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “Our changing demographics have implications for housing, health care and civic life that require coordinated action and leadership from the highest level of state government. But that’s not what we’ve gotten for the last eight years.” [[*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 9/16/18](#)]

***Portland Press Herald* Editorial: Under LePage, “We Have Lost Ground in Nearly Every Policy Area That is Implicated by Our Aging Population, Creating Unnecessary Suffering for Today’s Seniors and Guaranteeing More of the Same for Tomorrow’s.”** According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “Under the administration of Paul LePage, we have lost ground in nearly every policy area that is implicated by our aging population, creating unnecessary suffering for today’s seniors and guaranteeing more of the same for tomorrow’s.” [[*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 9/16/18](#)]

***Portland Press Herald* Editorial: LePage “Gives a Lot of Rhetorical Support for Older Mainers, But When it Comes Time to Get Anything Done, it’s Just Talk.”** According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “The governor gives a lot of rhetorical support for older Mainers, but when it comes time to get anything done, it’s just talk.” [[*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 9/16/18](#)]

Under LePage, the Number of Seniors Who Didn’t Have Enough Food in Maine Increased from 12.2% to 15.6%. According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “Perhaps the most damning statistic is the number of seniors living in poverty, which has grown even as the state’s economy has improved. The number of adults over age 60 who said they didn’t have enough food increased from 12.2 percent to 15.6 percent, according to America’s Health Rankings Senior Report 2018.” [[*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 9/16/18](#)]

***Portland Press Herald* Editorial Called LePage’s Record on Seniors “Appalling Because There is No Controversy Around Making Sure Seniors Have Enough to Eat, a Place to Sleep and Decent Health Care.”** According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “This record is all the more appalling because there is no controversy around making sure seniors have enough to eat, a place to sleep and decent health care. All the time that LePage has been in office, there have been bipartisan coalitions ready to find a way to take action.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 9/16/18](#)]

***Portland Press Herald* Editorial Wrote That LePage Had Failed to Deliver for Seniors While in Office; “Maine Seniors Can’t Afford to Stand Still for Another Eight Years.”** According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “As we enter the heat of another political season, it's important to remember that every politician loves seniors on Election Day, but they don't always deliver when they are in office. Maine seniors can't afford to stand still for another eight years.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 9/16/18](#)]

FEDERAL GRANTS

***Portland Press Herald* Editorial Called LePage’s Decision to Refuse a Five-Year, \$2.5 Million Federal Grant to Promote Colonoscopies Among Older Mainers “Inexplicable.”** According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “A number of equally inexplicable decisions have stood in the way of people in need getting help. In 2015, the administration turned back a five-year, \$2.5 million federal grant that would have promoted colonoscopies among older Mainers. The next year, his Department of Health and Human Services failed to apply for \$300,000 in federal aid to help the 28,000 Mainers with Alzheimer's disease and their unpaid family caregivers.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 9/16/18](#)]

***Portland Press Herald* Editorial Called LePage’s Failure to Apply for \$300,000 in Federal Funding to Help the 28,000 Mainers with Alzheimer’s “Inexplicable.”** According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “A number of equally inexplicable decisions have stood in the way of people in need getting help. In 2015, the administration turned back a five-year, \$2.5 million federal grant that would have promoted colonoscopies among older Mainers. The next year, his Department of Health and Human Services failed to apply for \$300,000 in federal aid to help the 28,000 Mainers with Alzheimer's disease and their unpaid family caregivers.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 9/16/18](#)]

***Portland Press Herald* Editorial Criticized LePage for Failing to Apply for Up to \$1 Million in Federal Funding for Dementia Programming, Without Explanation to the Families That Would Have Benefited.** According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “This year, the state failed to apply for as much as \$1 million in federal funds for dementia programming, offering no explanation to the families who would have benefited.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 9/16/18](#)]

LePage Lost \$300,000 for Alzheimer’s to Support Individuals with the Disease and Their Caregivers, Despite 69,000 Maine Alzheimer’s Caregivers Give 78 Million Hours of Unpaid Care Annually and Alzheimer’s Costs Maine’s Medicaid Program \$187/Year.

Why These Lost Dollars Matter	Dollars Lost to Maine	The Facts
Alzheimer's: Supports sufferers of the disease and their caregivers	\$300,000	✓ One in eight people aged 65 and older has Alzheimer's;⁶ the 6th leading cause of death in Maine⁷ ✓ 69,000 Maine Alzheimer's caregivers give 78 million hours of unpaid care each year⁸ ✓ Maine's Medicaid Alzheimer's cost is \$187 million annually⁹

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

In 2016, Maine Stopped Receiving \$300,000 in Federal Funds for the Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program.

GRANT/FEDERAL FUNDS LOST	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES FUNDED	YEAR FUNDING STOPPED	STATE MATCH REQUIRED TO ACCESS FEDERAL FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS DOLLAR AMOUNT LOST CUMULATIVE 2011-2017*	FEDERAL FUNDS MONEY UNSPENT CUMULATIVE 2011-2017	TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS LOST TO MAINE 2011-2017
Public Health						
Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program ⁸⁰	community-level supportive services for persons with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers	2016	25% cash or in-kind	\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

- **Maine Had Received a Three-Year Grant and Was Offered an 18-Month Extension, But Turned it Down.** According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, "Maine received a 3-yr grant for ending 9-30-16 and was offered 18-month extension of about \$275-\$325,000, but turned down. Conversations with Karen Heck, Senior Program Officer, Bingham Program and Jess Mauer, Executive Director, Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging." [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

CAREGIVERS

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Override LePage's Veto Of Legislation That Increased The Reimbursement Rate For Caregivers Who Cared For Seniors. In July 2018, the House overrode LePage's veto of LD925 by a 139-4 vote and the Senate by a 32-1 vote. "LePage's veto of L.D. 925, the bill that would have allowed for increased reimbursements to pay those who care for the elderly in nursing homes, has a better chance of being sustained since lawmakers didn't give it their unanimous support." [Portland Press Herald, 6/30/18; Maine State Legislature, LD 925, Roll Call #702, [7/9/18](#)]

- **2018: Maine Legislature Approved A "Slight Increase" In Reimbursement Rates For Caregivers.** "Last year, the Legislature did approve a slight increase in reimbursement rates for caregivers, but pay remains low and Maine's minimum wage is due to increase to \$12 an hour in 2020." [Portland Press Herald, 2/8/19]

- **Increasing The State Reimbursement Rate For Caregivers Benefited 4,000 Caregivers.** “Another \$21 million spending package consists of three bills that would set state funding for county jails and increase state reimbursement rates for some 4,000 direct care workers, including those working in nursing homes and group homes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.” [Kennebec Journal, 6/20/18]
- **2018: Governor LePage Vetoed Two Bills That Would Have Increased Reimbursement Rates For Direct Care Workers.** “Gov. Paul LePage vetoed two bills Friday night that would increase reimbursement rates for the agencies that hire direct care workers who provide key support for adults with intellectual disabilities, as well as those who care for the elderly in nursing homes.” [Portland Press Herald, 6/30/18]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Increasing Reimbursement Rates For Direct Caregivers. On July 12, 2015, LD 1350 became law without Governor LePage’s signature after passing both chambers without roll call votes. “Legislation proposed by House Speaker Mark Eves, D-North Berwick, and Rep. Ellie Espling, R-New Gloucester, would increase the hourly Medicaid reimbursement rate paid to home care agencies from \$15 to \$25.” [Morning Sentinel, 5/18/15; Maine State Legislature, LD 1350, [7/12/15](#)]

- **Democratic Rep. Mark Eves Column: Maine Legislature Passed A Law Increased Reimbursement Rates For Caregivers Who Took Care Of Seniors By \$4 Million.** “I am proud to report that lawmakers from both sides of the aisle were able to come together to pass new laws to help seniors and families, including: We doubled property tax relief for seniors; We passed an affordable senior housing bond to build energy efficient apartments for seniors across the state; We stepped up reimbursement rates by \$4 million for workers who provide direct care to seniors; We provided tax credits for caregivers; We stepped up efforts to protect seniors from financial fraud; And we stopped cuts to funding that help low-income seniors pay for medicine.” [Mark Eves Column, Sun Journal, [9/13/15](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Wages Of Care Workers Targeted; Bills Seek To Raise Pay From \$9 To \$15 As Need For Elderly Care Grows.”** [Morning Sentinel, 5/18/15]

In 2016, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Increased Reimbursement Rates For Direct Caregivers Like Registered and Licensed Practical Nurses Who Provide Home Care. On April 27, 2016, LD886 became law without Governor LePage’s signature. On April 13, 2016, Sara Gideon voted to concur with the Senate version of the bill. “Eves’ bill, L.D. 1350, would require 85 percent of the proposed \$10 increase to be spent on wages and employee benefits, including health insurance and mileage reimbursement. Espling’s bill, L.D. 886, also calls for rate increases for registered and licensed practical nurses who provide home care.” [Morning Sentinel, 5/18/15; Maine State Legislature, LD 886, [4/27/16](#)]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Appropriating Nearly \$250,000 in Additional Funds for the Family Caregiver Support Program. In July 2015, LePage allowed LD1337 to become law without his signature after passing both chambers without a roll call vote. LD1337 “provides additional General Fund appropriations of \$120,500 in fiscal year 2015-

16 and \$126,772 in fiscal year 2016-17 for the Department of Health and Human Services to fund the family caregiver support program within the department's office of aging and disability services.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1337, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1337, 2015](#)]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Requiring DHHS to Provide an Additional 15% MaineCare Reimbursement to Adult Family Care and Residential Care Facilities in Remote Island Locations in Maine. In July 2015, LePage allowed LD63 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD63 “requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules governing MaineCare reimbursement for both adult family care services and private nonmedical institution services to provide supplemental MaineCare reimbursement of an additional 15 percent to adult family care homes and residential care facilities in remote island locations. The rules must be amended by October 1, 2015. The department may adopt the rules as an emergency without the necessity of demonstrating that immediate adoption is necessary to avoid a threat to public health, safety or general welfare. The department must submit a state plan amendment to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to allow for the supplemental reimbursement.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD63, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD63, 2015](#)]

DHHS OUTREACH

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Requiring DHHS to Report on its Efforts to Reach Elderly, Disabled, or Mentally Ill Individuals in Rural Parts of the State. In May 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD525 by a 132-13 vote and the Senate by a 33-1 vote. LD525 “requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report on department efforts to reach in rural areas persons who are elderly, disabled or mentally ill. It requires the department, in developing its report, to have at least one public meeting in Piscataquis County and to particularly focus on elderly, disabled and mentally ill persons who are not able to use or who have no access to the Internet and other electronic forms of communication technology or who have limited contact with the department.” [[Summary of Benefits, LD525, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD525, 2015](#)]

DRUGS FOR THE ELDERLY AND MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM

2013 HEADLINE: Rural Hospitals, Prescription Aid for Seniors Suffer Cuts in LePage's Proposed Budget. The Bangor Daily News reported of LePage’s budgets, “Both the supplemental and two-year budget packages released Friday eliminate funds for the “Drugs for the Elderly” program, saving \$1.75 million for the last quarter of the budget year and \$7 million annually after that. The two-year budget proposal also scales back the Medicare Savings Plan to the minimum levels mandated by the federal government.” [Bangor Daily News, [1/11/13](#)]

Paul LePage, In 2012, Supported “Eliminating The Drugs For The Elderly And Medicare Savings Program.” Paul LePage, in May 2012, supported “eliminating the Drugs for the Elderly and Medicare Savings Program.” (Portland Press Herald, 05/08/12) The two-year budget Paul LePage proposed in January 2013 “includes cuts that could be felt by... senior citizens who

receive aid to help them pay for prescription drugs.” It would “eliminate funds for the ‘Drugs for the Elderly’ program” and scale “back the Medicare Savings Plan to the minimum levels mandated by the federal government.” (Bangor Daily News, 01/11/13)

- **The Medicare Savings Program Helps “An Estimated 72,000 Seniors And People With Disabilities” With “Medicare Expenses Such As Visits To Doctors, Preventive Care, Screenings And Outpatient Care,” As Well As Prescription Drugs.** The Medicare Savings Program “helps senior citizens pay for prescription drugs.” (Kennebec Journal, 04/19/12) Eliminating “the Medicare Savings Program... would affect an estimated 72,000 seniors and people with disabilities. They would lose some or all of the assistance they receive for Medicare and/ or prescription drugs, depending on their income.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 12/10/11) The Medicare Savings Program (MSP) covers “Medicare expenses such as visits to doctors, preventive care, screenings and outpatient care, for those in Maine who qualify. This is part of what is known as Medicare Part B. As part of the MSP, the federal government provides matching dollars to cover eligible Mainers with low-cost prescriptions so they can actually afford to take the prescription drugs their doctors prescribe for them. This covers what is known as Medicare Part D.” (www.aarp.org/giving-back/volunteering/info-01-2012/medicare-savings-program-me.html)
- **Drugs For The Elderly “Helps To Pay For Prescription Drugs” For Low- And Moderate-Income Senior Citizens.** “Maine’s Low Cost Drugs for the Elderly and Disabled Program (DEL) helps to pay for prescription drugs for people whose income is no more than 185% of the federal poverty level. You must be 62 or older or age 19 or older and medically qualified for Social Security Disability Income.” (www.maine.gov/dhhs/oads/aging/resource/lc_drugs.htm) If DEL is eliminated “5,000 to 6,000 low-income adults older than 62 and people who have disabilities would lose all of the money they now get for prescription drugs through the...program.” (Kennebec Journal, 12/10/11)

FINANCIAL ABUSE

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Requiring Individuals Opening a Multi-Party Account at a Financial Institution to Answer Whether They Intended for the Remaining Sum to Go to the Surviving Party in the Case of Their Death. In April 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD968 by a 135-9 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. LD968 “requires the form for opening a multiple-party account at a financial institution to have for each party to the account the question, ‘Do you intend for the sum remaining upon your death to belong to the surviving party or parties? Yes No.’ Each party to the account must answer the question in writing on the form prior to opening the account. The law includes language to clarify that the answers provided on the form for opening a multiple-party account do not have any effect on any legal presumptions or inferences in any civil or criminal matter. The provisions of Public Law 2017, chapter 390 apply to multiple-party accounts established or to single-party accounts changed to multiple-party accounts after January 1, 2019.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD968, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD968, 2018](#)]

- **The Bill’s Democratic Cosponsor Wrote That it Would Require Financial Institutions to Clarify an Older Mainer’s Intent When Opening a Joint Financial Account.** According to an op-ed written by Democratic Rep. Nadeau, “A bill presented by my friend and colleague, Rep. Thomas Longstaff, would help prevent some of that. I was proud to cosponsor the measure, L.D. 968, which earned the support of a legislative panel last week. It would require financial institutions to clarify an older Mainer's intent when opening a joint financial account. As the law is now, a joint account passes to the surviving account holder regardless of what the deceased party states in his or her will. Under this bill, financial institutions would have to include the question in straightforward language on the forms used to open a joint account. If we can spare one family the heartache too many experience because of a conflict over their loved one's final wishes, I believe we should. I hope readers and my colleagues at the State House will join me in supporting the bill.” [Rep. Catherine Nadeau Op-Ed, Morning Sentinel, 2/4/18]
- **Current Law Had Joint Accounts Pass to the Surviving Account Holder Regardless of What the Deceased Party Stated in His/Her Will.** According to an op-ed written by Democratic Rep. Nadeau, “A bill presented by my friend and colleague, Rep. Thomas Longstaff, would help prevent some of that. I was proud to cosponsor the measure, L.D. 968, which earned the support of a legislative panel last week. It would require financial institutions to clarify an older Mainer's intent when opening a joint financial account. As the law is now, a joint account passes to the surviving account holder regardless of what the deceased party states in his or her will. Under this bill, financial institutions would have to include the question in straightforward language on the forms used to open a joint account. If we can spare one family the heartache too many experience because of a conflict over their loved one's final wishes, I believe we should. I hope readers and my colleagues at the State House will join me in supporting the bill.” [Rep. Catherine Nadeau Op-Ed, Morning Sentinel, 2/4/18]

HOUSING

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign a \$15 Million Bonding Bill to Create Energy-Efficient, Affordable Housing for Low-Income Maine Seniors. In July 2015, LePage allowed LD1205 to become law without his signature after it passed the House by a 117-27 vote and the Senate without a roll call vote. LD1205 “provides for a bond issue in the amount of \$15,000,000 to be used to assist in the provision of energy-efficient affordable homes to low-income Maine seniors. The funds will be used as follows: \$14,500,000 will be used to construct new homes for seniors and to adaptively reuse existing structures to provide homes for seniors and \$500,000 will be used for home repair and weatherization. At least one project will be located in each of Maine's 16 counties and at least four homes must be located in counties having populations under 100,000. Preference will be given to home locations that have access to health care services, other essential goods and services and public transportation. The bond proceeds will leverage an estimated \$22,600,000 in private and other funds.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1205, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1205, 2015](#)]

2015: 69 Percent Of Maine Voters Approved Bonds To Be Spent On Building 200 Energy-Efficient Homes For Low-Income Seniors And Weatherization Projects For 100 Homes.

“The bond in question was approved by more than 69 percent of voters in a 2015 referendum. It called for the funding to be spent on building 200 energy-efficient homes for low-income seniors and conducting weatherization projects at 100 homes of low-income seniors. The money would be matched by \$22.6 million from other sources.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/8/17]

The \$15 Million General Obligation Bond Was To Be Used With \$22.5 Million In Leveraged Funds To Construct About 225 Affordable Homes For Maine Seniors, Doubling The Number Maine Was Currently Building Annually.

“In 2015, with broad bipartisan support, the legislature authorized the sale of a \$15 million general obligation bond, to be used in combination with \$22.5 million in leveraged funds, for the construction of affordable, highly energy efficient homes for Maine’s seniors in strategic locations across the state. In November of that year, this bond proposal was approved by an overwhelming majority of nearly 70% of Maine voters. The bond will build approximately 225 affordable senior homes, doubling the amount Maine is currently building each year. However, under the governor’s direction, the state treasurer has yet to issue the bonds.” [Press Release, Speaker Sara Gideon, [6/8/17](#)]

Voter-Approved Bonds Expired After Five Years. “Speaker Gideon is the lead cosponsor of LD 832, which removes the state requirement that the state treasurer issue the housing bonds under the governor’s direction. Voter-approved bonds expire in five years under the state constitution.” [Press Release, Speaker Sara Gideon, [6/8/17](#)]

In June 2017, LePage Vetoed a Bill That Aimed to Force Him To Release \$15 Million In Bonds For Senior Citizen Housing. In June 2017, LePage vetoed LD832. “The Maine House has failed to override the governor's veto of a bill aimed at forcing him to release \$15 million in bonds for senior citizen housing that voters approved two years ago. The Maine House vote on Thursday was 89-58, short of the two-thirds necessary to overturn the veto. That followed a Maine Senate vote a day earlier to override the veto.” The House failed to override Governor LePage’s veto by a 89-58 vote, killing the bill. [Associated Press, 6/8/17; State of Maine Legislature, LD 832, Roll Call #280, [6/8/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 280, [6/8/17](#)]

- **The Legislation Would Have Removed The Requirement Of Governor LePage’s Approval For Selling The Bonds So A Project To Build Affordable Senior Housing Could Move Forward.** “The issuance of \$15 million in voter-approved bonds to build affordable senior citizen housing in Maine will likely have to wait at least until Gov. Paul LePage leaves office following a House vote Thursday to uphold his veto of a bill designed to release the bond money. The bill in question, LD 832, would eliminate LePage's approval for selling the bonds so the projects could move forward. LePage argued in his veto letter that the bill would remove crucial safeguards around the issuance of all bonds in rough economic times, though his contention that the bill would affect all past and current bonds is not supported by the bill's language.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/8/17]
- **House Speaker Sara Gideon: “Right Now, There Are More Than 9,000 Senior Households On Waiting Lists For An Affordable Home. And Yet, The Shovel-Ready**

Projects Necessary To Get These Folks Into The Housing They So Desperately Need Will Continue To Remain Blocked.” “The Maine House failed to override a veto (89-58) Thursday of LD 832, An Act to Carry Out the Will of the People of the State of Maine by Ensuring the Issuance of Bonds to Support the Independence of Maine's Seniors. The bill would have forced Governor LePage to issue \$15 million in voter-approved bonds designated to build affordable housing for senior citizens. ‘Right now, there are more than 9,000 senior households on waiting lists for an affordable home,’ said Speaker of the House Sara Gideon. ‘And yet, the shovel-ready projects necessary to get these folks into the housing they so desperately need will continue to remain blocked. This bill was critical for ensuring that the executive branch recognize that it is time we provide our seniors with safe, accessible and affordable housing and I am disappointed in today's result.’” [Press Release, Maine House Democrats, 6/8/17]

LePage “Gave Differing Reasons for not Authorizing the Sale, From Saying He Was Worried About the State’s Credit Rating to Saying it Would be a Windfall for Developers.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “LePage gave differing reasons for not authorizing the sale, from saying he was worried about the state's credit rating to saying it would be a windfall for developers.” [Bangor Daily News, 1/9/19]

January 2019: Governor Mills Authorized Release Of \$15 Million In Senior Housing Bonds That Were Blocked By LePage. “Gov. Janet Mills later today plans to authorize the release of \$15 million in senior housing bonds approved by voters in 2015 but blocked by her predecessor, who isn't happy with many of her changes so far. The process to enact blocked Democratic initiatives and reshape policy-making is moving forward. The order will allow the immediate use of \$500,000 to help fund 200 new affordable housing units and the weatherization of 100 homes for low-income seniors across Maine. The rest will be earmarked for projects this summer and matched by \$22.5 million in federal funds.” [Bangor Daily News, 1/15/19]

- **Headline: “Mills to Release Senior Housing Bonds That LePage Blocked Since 2015.”** [Bangor Daily News, 1/9/19]
- **Morning Sentinel: LePage Failed To Issue \$15 Million In Authorized Bonds In 2015 To Provide Seniors With Affordable, Energy Efficient Housing.** In May, 2018 the Morning Sentinel wrote “, LePage has also worked against efforts that would build more affordable senior housing across the state, according to Gideon. In 2015, the Legislature gave bipartisan approval to a proposal to borrow \$15 million to help provide seniors with affordable, energy-efficient homes or for weatherization and "adaptive reuse" of existing structures. Nearly 70 percent of voters approved the bond package in November 2015. LePage has yet to issue those bonds, which expire in five years. Last June, the House Republicans blocked an effort to override the governor's veto of a bill that would have allowed the state treasurer to sell the bonds for the projects without any approval from LePage.” [Morning Sentinel, 5/23/18]

June 2017: LePage’s Veto Of Voter-Approved Bonds For Senior Citizen Housing Was Upheld By House Republicans. “House Republicans on Thursday blocked a bill that would have bypassed Gov. Paul LePage and allowed the state treasurer to sell \$15 million in voter-approved bonds for senior citizen housing projects. On a vote of 89-58, supporters of the bond

measure failed to muster the two-thirds majority needed to override LePage's veto, one day after the Republican-controlled Senate voted 29-6 to move forward with the bonds without the governor." [Morning Sentinel, 6/9/17]

- **Nearly 70 Percent Of Maine Voters Approved Release Of Bonds Withheld By LePage.** "Two years ago, the Legislature gave bipartisan approval to a proposal to borrow \$15 million to help provide seniors with affordable, energy-efficient homes or for weatherization and "adaptive reuse" of existing structures. Nearly 70 percent of voters approved the bond package in November 2015. But LePage has offered several reasons for his refusal to authorize the bond sale, including concerns about projects eligible for the revenue and allegations that the bond bill was written 'to help two or three people become millionaires overnight.'" [Morning Sentinel, 6/9/17]

2019: Gov. Janet Mills Signed An Executive Order Releasing \$15 Million In Senior Housing Bonds. On January 15, 2019, Sara Gideon posted on her political Facebook page, "Today, Governor Janet T. Mills signed a financial order to begin the release of the \$15 million senior housing bonds approved by Maine voters in 2015. Not only is this bond good for our seniors, it supports our economy, improves energy efficiency and increases municipal revenue. These projects should have started long ago when approved by the legislature and Maine voters, but I'm grateful they won't be held up any longer." [Speaker Sara Gideon Facebook, [1/15/19](#)]

The \$15 Million In Bonding Funding Would Help Generate \$45.8 Million With The Help Of Loans, Subsidies, Federal/Municipal Funds, And Private Funding To Build Affordable Senior Housing Developments. "The awards, combined with other funding, will generate \$45.8 million to build housing developments in Scarborough, Hartland, Ellsworth, Belfast and Farmington. The total funding is a mix of loans, subsidies, federal and municipal funds, and private funding." [Portland Press Herald, [1/6/20](#)]

- **Willow Springs In Farmington Was Awarded \$6 Million To Build 25 Affordable Housing Units.** "These are the new senior housing initiatives that received a total of \$14.5 million from a state bond. Willow Springs, Farmington, 25 units \$6 million." [Portland Press Herald, [1/6/20](#)]
- **2020: Maine State Housing Authority Awarded \$5.8 Million To Ellsworth Senior Housing In Ellsworth To Build 29 Affordable Senior Housing Units.** "These are the new senior housing initiatives that received a total of \$14.5 million from a state bond. Ellsworth Senior Housing, Ellsworth, 29 units, \$5.8 million." [Portland Press Herald, [1/6/20](#)]
- **2020: Maine State Housing Authority Awarded \$5.6 Million To Belfast Senior Housing In Belfast To Build 25 Affordable Senior Housing Units.** "These are the new senior housing initiatives that received a total of \$14.5 million from a state bond. Belfast Senior Housing, Belfast, 25 units, \$5.6 million." [Portland Press Herald, [1/6/20](#)]
- **2020: Maine State Housing Authority Awarded \$5.6 Million To Belfast Acres Estates In Belfast To Build 24 Affordable Senior Housing Units.** "These are the new

senior housing initiatives that received a total of \$14.5 million from a state bond. Belfast Senior Housing, Belfast, 24 units, \$5.6 million.” [Portland Press Herald, [1/6/20](#)]

- **The Uplands In Scarborough Was Awarded \$7.05 Million To Build 39 Affordable Senior Housing Units.** “These are the new senior housing initiatives that received a total of \$14.5 million from a state bond. The Uplands, Scarborough: 39 units, \$7.05 million.” [Portland Press Herald, [1/6/20](#)]
- **Bessey School II In Scarborough Was Awarded \$9.6 Million To Build 40 Affordable Senior Housing Units.** “These are the new senior housing initiatives that received a total of \$14.5 million from a state bond. Bessey School II, Scarborough: 40 units, \$9.6 million.” [Portland Press Herald, [1/6/20](#)]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: LePage “Hasn’t Exactly Prioritized Seniors.” [Bangor Daily News—Editorial, 9/30/18]

- **LePage’s Bill To Require Municipalities Help Homeowners Facing Foreclosure Omitted Provision That Allowed Seniors To Collect Extra Proceeds From Foreclosure Sale After Covering Taxes.** “The bill LePage signed lacked the provision that would require that municipalities use a real estate agent to sell the property -- and, presumably, sell the property at the maximum market price. Instead, senior homeowners caught up in the municipal foreclosure process would have the option of requiring that the town or city use a real estate broker. And the bill that will become law doesn't require that municipalities return any extra proceeds from the sale -- beyond the back taxes they're owed -- to the homeowner.” [Bangor Daily News—Editorial, 9/30/18]
- **LePage “With No Good Explanation” Stood In The Way Of Release Of \$15 Million Bonds To Construct Affordable Senior Housing.** “Nearly three years have passed since voters authorized the state to borrow \$15 million to fund construction of affordable senior housing. Yet LePage has, with no good explanation, stood in the way of the bonds' release, delaying the chance for seniors to move into safe, affordable housing units.” [Bangor Daily News—Editorial, 9/30/18]
- **LePage Attempted To Eliminate Municipal Revenue Sharing Program That Caused Municipalities To Raise Property Taxes To Fill Gaps; Exacerbated Senior Housing Problems.** “He has attempted to eliminate municipal revenue sharing, a program mandated by state law that sends towns and cities a small share of the state's sales and income tax revenue. If successful, that move would have eliminated a revenue source on which towns and cities rely. Without it, towns and cities would have to make up for it with higher property taxes, cuts to services or both. Property taxes that elderly homeowners can't afford are precisely why such homeowners would fall behind in paying their property taxes and have their homes foreclosed upon. It seems it would have been a better use of LePage's eight years as governor to try to rein in municipal property taxes. Instead, he fought for precisely the opposite.” [Bangor Daily News—Editorial, 9/30/18]

Portland Press Herald Editorial: the Senior Housing Bond “Would Have Been a Small Step in the Right Direction.” According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “While thousands of elderly Mainers are living in homes they can't afford to heat or maintain, the governor single-handedly stopped a \$15 million senior housing bond that had been approved by voters after getting two-thirds support in both houses of the Legislature. The program was much smaller than the \$65 million bond recommended by advocates, but it would have been a small step in the right direction.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 9/16/18]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “LePage Thwarts Affordable Housing for Seniors, Claims to be Looking Out for Them.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 3/28/18]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: “There’s More the Governor Could Do That Actually Would Help Larger Numbers of Seniors. To Start He Could Release Bonds Approved by Voters in 2015 Authorizing the State to Borrow \$15 Million to Fund Construction of Affordable Senior Housing.” According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “But there's more the governor could do that actually would help larger numbers of seniors. To start, he could release bonds approved by voters in 2015 authorizing the state to borrow \$15 million to fund construction of affordable senior housing. He has, with no good explanation, stood in the way of the bonds' release, delaying the chance for seniors to move into safe, affordable housing units.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 3/28/18]

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Lepage Administration Proposed Cuts In “Various Senior Citizen Services,” Including Meals On Wheels. In February 2013, “before casting the final vote to approve the budget package, the 13-member [Appropriations] panel restored \$1.75 million in cuts Gov. Paul LePage’s administration had proposed for the state’s ‘Drugs for the Elderly’ program and another \$173,000 in cuts the administration proposed for various senior citizen services, such as Meals on Wheels.” (*Bangor Daily News*, 02/13/13)

In 2018, Legislators “Dropped a \$500,000 Proposal to Finance Meals on Wheels Because Backers Did Not Believe They Could Get Enough Support to Pass it Over an Expected [LePage] Veto.” According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “The administration has cut back on prescription drug assistance and fought pay increases for direct-care workers. This year, legislators dropped a \$500,000 proposal to finance Meals on Wheels because backers did not believe they could get enough support to pass it over an expected veto.” [*Portland Press Herald*, Editorial, 9/16/18]

RESIDENTIAL CARE

Paul Lepage Proposed Elimination Of “State Funding For Residential Care For The Elderly, The Mentally Ill And People With Substance Abuse Problems.” Paul LePage “proposed a budget to close an estimated \$221 million shortfall over...18 months. In total, his plan would eliminate MaineCare benefits for 65,000 people.” This proposal included the

elimination of “state funding for residential care for the elderly, the mentally ill and people with substance abuse problems.” (Kennebec Journal, 01/10/12)

- **Republican Legislators Rejected The Proposal, Allowing 4,300 Elderly Mainers To Continue To Get Help At Private Non-Medical Institutions.** Republican legislators rejected this proposal to “cut funding for homes that serve the elderly, the mentally ill and people with substance abuse problems. With Democrats also opposing the Republican governor’s plan, 4,300 elderly Mainers and close to 1,700 others who are mentally ill or being treated for addiction will continue to get help at private non-medical institutions.” (Kennebec Journal, 01/04/12)
- **Eliminating Such Funding Would Release Onto The Streets People “Who Pose A Threat To The Public,” Including “Many With A History Of Criminal Behavior, From Trespassing To Homicide.”** Eliminating funding for private non-medical institutions and Governor LePage’s proposal to drop “childless adults from the MaineCare rolls... would affect more than 1,000 of the state’s most mentally ill patients, Guy Cousins, head of the DHHS Office of Adult Mental Health Services,” said. “More than 180 individuals with poor impulse and anger control, among other problems, would be released into the community without supervision, he said. That includes some who pose a threat to the public and many with a history of criminal behavior, from trespassing to homicide, Cousins testified.” (Bangor Daily News, 01/03/12)
- **6,000 Residents, Including Senior Citizens, “Would Have [Needed] To Find New Living Arrangements If LePage’s Plan ... [Was] Approved.”** There are approximately 470 private non-medical “facilities in Maine housing about 6,000 residents,” including senior citizens, “most of whom would have [needed] to find new living arrangements if LePage’s plan...[was] approved.” (Kennebec Journal, 12/10/11, and Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/13/12)
- **Some Of These Elderly Mainers That Could Have Been Impacted Have Alzheimer’s.** As a result of the proposal to “cut off state funding for various residential facilities and boarding homes known as private non-medical institutions... seniors, including those with Alzheimer’s, would be among the 6,000 disabled adults and others who may have to find new places to live.” (Kennebec Journal, 12/13/11)

SOCIAL SECURITY

Paul LePage, In 2011, Called Social Security A Failure. Paul LePage, in 2011, “said most government-run programs were failures, including Social Security. LePage said the program was ‘well-intended and well-designed,’ but that it had been raided by an overreaching Congress that expanded the system. ‘It’s now asked to provide benefits to noncitizens who have never participated in the system,’ said LePage, adding that Social Security was ‘headed for disaster’ while Congress was doing nothing.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 07/21/11)

Paul LePage Used The Line- Item Veto To Eliminate Funding To Help Mainers Collect Social Security And Their Veterans’ Benefits. Paul LePage, in 2012, used the line-item veto to

eliminate the section in LD 1903 that created a pilot program to “maximize and expedite the award of federal Supplemental Security income program benefits” and to “assist veterans...to access” benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. (Paul LePage’s Veto Message on LD 1903, 04/14/12) Supplemental Security Income is the part of the Social Security system “designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income” and provide “cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.” (<http://www.ssa.gov/ssi>)

Portland Press Herald Headline: “LePage Includes Social Security Among ‘Welfare’ Programs.” [[Portland Press Herald, 6/25/14](#)]

Paul LePage Described Social Security And Medicare As “Welfare.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Gov. Paul LePage has long cast a wide net for programs that he says fit the definition of welfare. On Wednesday, in a media release written as an alternative take on new personal-income data from the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis, he [LePage] lumped Social Security and Medicare into that definition.” [[Portland Press Herald, 6/25/14](#)]

- **LePage On Social Security And Medicare: “It Doesn’t Matter What Liberals Call These Payments, It Is Welfare, Pure And Simple.”** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “LePage said he chose not to follow the federal bureau’s definition because it conceals welfare benefits. ‘It doesn’t matter what liberals call these payments, it is welfare, pure and simple,’ LePage said in the statement.” [[Portland Press Herald, 6/25/14](#)]

TAXES

BUSINESS TAXES

Paul Lepage Proposed Raising Business Taxes On Retailers Like Shaws and LLBean. “The governor’s proposed budget [that was released in early 2013 would eliminate]...the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement, or BETR, program, a property tax relief program created by Gov. Angus King in 1995,” and move “all businesses – except retail – into the Business Equipment Tax Exemption, or BETE, program, which went into effect in 2008.” “While the retail sector has to date benefitted from its participation in the BETR program,” it would “be excluded from the BETE program for any property taxes paid on business equipment in a retail facility.” (Bangor Daily News, 01/17/13) The Lewiston Sun Journal opined in an editorial titled, “Governor has chosen tax increases,” retail businesses “like Shaw’s and L.L. Bean...would lose their equipment tax reimbursements under the governor’s plan. They are smart people and will quickly see that their taxes are going up.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 01/27/13)

Waterville Mayor Paul Lepage, In 2004, Supported The Repeal Of A Program That Reimburses Businesses For Personal Property Taxes Paid To Municipalities, “‘Because That’s Welfare.’” “The Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program (BETR) is designed to encourage new capital investment in Maine. The program reimburses local property taxes paid on most qualified business property.” (www.maine.gov/revenue/taxrelief/betr.htm) “The BETR program requires companies to pay personal property taxes to municipalities, which the state then refunds corporations.” In 2004, “Sen. Kenneth Gagnon, assistant majority leader and D-

Kennebec...got a surprising affirmative when he asked LePage...if he wanted to repeal BETR, 'because that's welfare.'" (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 02/05/04)

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities in the House and Senate Overrode LePage's Veto of a Bill That Suspended Reimbursements Under the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program if the Taxpayer Was Delinquent in Their Personal Property Taxes. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage's veto of LD279 by a 126-12 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote. LD279 "directs the State Tax Assessor to suspend reimbursement under the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program that would otherwise be issued if a taxpayer is delinquent in the payment of personal property taxes. If the taxpayer does not pay the tax due by the end of the reimbursement application period, the taxpayer's eligibility for the suspended reimbursement is terminated." [[Summaries of Bills, LD279, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD279, 2015](#)]

COMMENTS ON TAXATION, GENERALLY

Paul LePage "Said He Wants [Maine] To Be In The 'Middle Of The Pack' When It Comes To The Overall Tax Burden" Relative To Other States. In October 2012 Paul "LePage said he wants to be in the 'middle of the pack' when it comes to the overall tax burden. The Tax Foundation released its State Business Tax Climate Index...[in October 2012] moving Maine from 37th in the nation to 30th. But, LePage said, overall Maine's tax burden is ninth highest among the states and that has to be lowered for the state to compete with what he calls the prosperous states." "'To really claim that I was successful as a governor is to leave this office having Maine's taxes at 25th in the nation,' LePage said." (Lewiston Sun Journal, 10/12/12)

- **LePage Said He Could Only be Considered Successful if Maine Got to 25th.** LePage said of the national tax burden rankings, "To really claim that I was successful as a governor is to leave this office having Maine's taxes at 25th in the nation." [Kennebec Journal, 10/12/12]

In 2012, LePage Said: "We've Gonna Have to See Higher Taxes to Pay Down That Debt." In 2012, "Gov. Paul LePage and right-wing radio host Howie Carr rallied their troops...at Fort Knox, speaking before hundreds of conservative activists at the second annual 'Economic Freedom Festival.'" "The governor didn't earn points with supporters when he broke with the conservative 'no tax increase' line. 'We're gonna have to see higher taxes to pay down that debt,' he said. For many conservatives, cutting taxes is as much a moral imperative as it is a policy decision. Cheryl Parkman said that regardless of how high the debt is, she was surprised LePage seemed resigned to tax increases." (Lewiston Sun Journal, 07/08/12)

LePage: "Believe It Or Not, There Is Not Enough Money In This World When You're \$16 Trillion In Debt To Have The Federal Government Pick Up Everybody's Tab. There Were Only 50 Percent Of Americans That Paid Into The System. The 50 Percent Cannot Support 100 Percent." Paul LePage, in 2012, also said, "'believe it or not, there is not enough money in this world when you're \$16 trillion in debt to have the federal government pick up everybody's tab. There were only 50 percent of Americans that paid into the system. The 50 percent cannot support 100 percent.'" (Bangor Daily News, 07/12/12)

CORPORATE TAX RATE

LePage Said “He Wants to Further Overhaul Maine’s Tax Policy, Including a Flat, 4 Percent Personal Income Tax and a Lower Corporate Income-Tax Rate.” Paul LePage, in April 2012, “told participants at the Bush Institute Conference on Taxes and Economic Growth in New York City...that he wants to further overhaul Maine’s tax policy, including a flat, 4 percent personal income tax and a lower corporate income-tax rate.” (*Lewiston Sun Journal*, 04/11/12)

- **“He Told The Group He Wants To Lower The Top Corporate Income-Tax Rate From Nearly 8 Percent To 4 Percent.”** “‘In the state of Maine...we are trying...to go down to a 4 percent flat tax with no exemptions for anyone,’ LePage said.” “He told the group he wants to lower the top corporate income-tax rate from nearly 8 percent to 4 percent.” (*Lewiston Sun Journal*, 04/11/12)
- **“Rep. Gary Knight, R- Livermore Falls, The House Co-Chairman Of The Taxation Committee, Said He... Agreed With Berry’s Assessment That Lowering The Corporate Tax Would Mostly Benefit Large, Out-Of- State Corporations.”** “Rep. Gary Knight, R- Livermore Falls, the House co-chairman of the Taxation Committee, said he... agreed with Berry’s assessment that lowering the corporate tax would mostly benefit large, out-of- state corporations.” (*Lewiston Sun Journal*, 04/11/12)

Paul LePage Supports Eliminated Corporate Income Taxes In Maine And Slashing Federal Corporate Taxes. Paul LePage, in 2010, said “he’d support dropping the personal income tax to 5 percent, beginning at a gross family income of \$30,000. And he’d reduce corporate income taxes to 5 percent on pre-tax profit of \$30,000 to \$500,000 and 4 percent on profits above that.” (*Waterville Morning Sentinel*, 04/18/10) Paul LePage, in 2012, said he will propose “the elimination of the corporate income tax to spur job growth in the state.” “‘I think the state of Maine should have no corporate tax at all and that the United States of America should be around twenty percent,’ he said, ‘then we could compete worldwide.’” (*Lewiston Sun Journal*, 10/12/12)

ESTATE TAX

Paul LePage, In 2010, Said He Wants To Eliminate Estate Taxes And Cut “Taxes On Tobacco And Alcohol By 25 Percent.” Paul LePage, in 2010, “proposed removing taxes on pension income, eliminating the estate tax and reducing taxes on tobacco and alcohol by 25 percent.” (*Lewiston Sun Journal*, 10/14/10)

Paul LePage, In 2011, Signed Into Law “A Provision That Allows “Married Couples...To Shield \$4 Million Of Assets From Maine Estate Taxation.” Paul LePage, in 2011, signed into law “a reduction in the top income tax rate from 8.5 percent to 7.95 percent, and a bump in the threshold at which the estate tax kicks in from \$1 million to \$2 million.” “To give an idea of who benefits from the new estate tax policy, consider this advisory on the change from the Pierce Atwood law firm’s website: ‘Through proper estate tax planning, married couples essentially

will be able to shield \$4 million of assets from Maine estate taxation, and other techniques may also be used to further reduce the tax burden.” (Bangor Daily News, 01/31/12)

2020: Maine Center For Economic Policy Backed Legislation Rolling Back Of LePage-Era Expansion Of Estate Tax Exclusion Limit And Supported Lowering Exclusion To \$2 Million Limit. According to the Maine Center For Economic Policy, “LD 420 would lower the estate tax exclusion to \$2 million (double that for couples). Decreasing the exclusion amount will prevent high-wealth estates from avoiding the estate tax completely. [...] A \$2 million exclusion amount reverts the state’s estate tax back to the structure it had in place between 2013 through 2015, before the second round of estate tax cuts enacted under former Governor Paul LePage.” [[Maine Center For Economic Policy, 2/27/20](#)]

- **Maine Center For Economic Policy: “Since 2012, Maine Has Enacted a Suite of Tax Cuts That Primarily Benefited the Wealthy, Including Several Increases in the Estate Tax Exclusion Amount.”** According to the Maine Center For Economic Policy, “Between 1987 and 1997, Maine only allowed \$600,000 to be passed on tax free. After some modest raises to the exclusion amount, it was set at \$1 million where it stayed between 2002 and 2012. Since 2012, Maine has enacted a suite of tax cuts that primarily benefited the wealthy, including several increases in the estate tax exclusion amount.” [[Maine Center For Economic Policy, 2/27/20](#)]
- **Under Current Rates, Estates Up To \$5.8 Million Can Be Passed Onto Heirs Without Paying Maine Estate Tax.** According to the Maine Center For Economic Policy, “Right now, estates worth up to \$5.8 million can be passed on to heirs without a cent in estate tax.” [[Maine Center For Economic Policy, 2/27/20](#)]
- **Maine Center For Economic Policy Report: “Strengthening Maine’s Estate Tax Would Help Tackle Wealth Inequality.”** [[Maine Center For Economic Policy, 2/27/20](#)]

Maine Center for Economic Policy: Rolling Back Estate Tax Exemption To \$2 Million Limit “Would Secure \$14 Million” to Invest in Public Schools, Health Care, Infrastructure. According to the Maine Center For Economic Policy, “This year, Maine’s legislators can address inequality head on by enacting LD 420, a bill to roll back tax cuts so that the estate tax targets more of the wealth that has concentrated at the top. The bill would secure \$14 million of much needed resources to invest in public schools, health care, infrastructure and public services that build opportunity for poor and middle-class Mainers.” [[Maine Center For Economic Policy, 2/27/20](#)]

- **Rolling Back Estate Tax Exemption Rate to \$2 Million Would “Move Maine to the Middle of the Pack” in New England.** According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “A \$2 million exclusion amount reverts the state’s estate tax back to the structure it had in place between 2013 through 2015, before the second round of estate tax cuts enacted under former Governor Paul LePage. [...] Taxes on inherited wealth are very common in the Northeast. All New England states, except for New Hampshire, have an estate tax. But today, Maine does a poorer job of taxing inherited wealth than its New

England neighbors. Reducing the exclusion amount to \$2 million would move Maine to the middle of the pack.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 2/27/20](#)]

When Maine Had \$2 Million Limit, an Average of 95 State Residents and 65 Estates Held by Nonresidents Exceeded the Exclusion Limit and Had to Pay Estate Tax. According to the Maine Center For Economic Policy, “In those years, an average of 95 Maine residents left estates to heirs that were large enough to trigger the estate tax each year. That’s less than 1 percent of the roughly 14,000 deaths in any given year. An additional 65 Maine estates held by nonresidents owed Maine estate tax each year.” [[Maine Center For Economic Policy, 2/27/20](#)]

INCOME TAXES

Elimination

Bangor Daily News Headline: “LePage Says He Wants Maine Income Tax Gone By 2020.” [[Bangor Daily News, 3/12/15](#)]

American for Tax Reform: “In His 2015 State Of The State Address, Gov. Paul LePage (R-Maine) Called For An Elimination Of The State Income Tax ‘Once And For All.’”

According to Americans For Tax Reform, “In his 2015 State of the State Address, Gov. Paul LePage (R-Maine) called for an elimination of the state income tax ‘once and for all.’ A significant portion of LePage’s speech was dedicated to a tax reform proposal that he announced last month.” [[Americans For Tax Reform, 2/10/15](#)]

May 2015: LePage Vowed To Veto All Bills Sponsored By A Democrat Until Legislature Accepted His Proposal To Eliminate Maine’s Income Tax. “During a fiery news conference that lasted nearly an hour, Gov. Paul LePage pledged Friday to veto every bill sponsored by a Democrat until his opposition relents and accepts his constitutional amendment to eliminate Maine’s income tax. LePage this year has proposed a constitutional amendment that would eliminate the state’s income tax by the year 2020. Republicans, who have shied away from the governor’s more comprehensive tax reform efforts, have rallied around the amendment.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/29/15]

- **LePage Accused Democrats Of Trying To “Disenfranchise The Maine People” By Refusing To Allow Income Tax Elimination To Be Approved By Maine Voters.** “Efforts to amend the state’s Constitution require not only the support of two-thirds of the Legislature but the approval of Maine voters. LePage has said voters should be given the option of eliminating the income tax, which accounts for about half of all state revenue. ‘If the Democrats are going to disenfranchise the Maine people, then the governor of Maine is going to make sure that every bill that comes down from the House and the Senate with a Democrat sponsor will be required to have a two-thirds vote, because I’m going to veto every one, and I did a bunch this morning,’ LePage said.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/29/15]
- **Democrats Said LePage’s Plan To Eliminate Income Tax Was “Too Generous To The Wealthy And Unpaid For” While GOP Were “Skeptical” Of Sales Tax**

Increase.” “Democrats balked at LePage's income tax scheme, arguing it was too generous to the wealthy and unpaid for. Republicans were skeptical of a sales tax increase similar to one many of them had campaigned against in 2010.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/29/15]

LePage’s Plan To Eliminate Maine’s Income Tax “Failed To Garner The Support Of Either Republicans Or Democrats In The Legislature.” “The governor then launched a broadside against legislators for failing to authorize two initiatives: an aggressive tax overhaul plan that LePage embedded in his \$6.5 billion two-year budget proposal, and a separate constitutional amendment that would eliminate the income tax by 2020. The latter proposal has become LePage's focus as his tax overhaul in the budget has failed to garner the support of either Republicans or Democrats in the Legislature. The governor described the overhaul as "dead" a long time ago.” [Kennebec Journal, 5/30/15]

Flat Tax

LePage Said “He Wants to Further Overhaul Maine’s Tax Policy, Including a Flat, 4 Percent Personal Income Tax and a Lower Corporate Income-Tax Rate.” Paul LePage, in April 2012, “told participants at the Bush Institute Conference on Taxes and Economic Growth in New York City...that he wants to further overhaul Maine’s tax policy, including a flat, 4 percent personal income tax and a lower corporate income-tax rate.” (*Lewiston Sun Journal*, 04/11/12)

Income Tax Rates

Paul LePage, In 2011, Said, “‘I Would Love To Tax The Rich If We Had Any In Maine.’” “A talk to a University of Maine at Farmington class by Maine Gov. Paul LePage” in 2011 “was interrupted by a heckler yelling for LePage to ‘tax the rich,’ leading the governor to retort, ‘I would love to tax the rich if we had any in Maine.’” (The New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal, 03/26/11)

2011: LePage Proposed “Huge Tax Cuts for the Wealthy” Partially Paid for by Cutting the Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program, Which Provides Tax Relief to Low- and Moderate-Income Mainers. “Paul LePage, in 2011, proposed huge tax cuts for the wealthy, with some of the tax cuts offset by cutting the Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program, which provides tax relief to low- and moderate-income Mainers. (Bangor Daily News, 04/02/11)

- **The Proposed Change Would Have Lowered Maine’s Top Income Tax Rate from 8.5% to 7.95% and Doubled the Estate Tax Exemption.** Paul LePage, in 2011, “proposed changes to the tax code that would save Mainers an estimated \$203 million over the biennium.” This included lowering “Maine’s top income tax rate from 8.5 percent to 7.95 percent,” and “doubling the...estate tax exemption, meaning heirs would pay only the so-called ‘death tax’ on property or businesses once the value hits the \$2 million mark rather than the...threshold of \$1 million.” (Bangor Daily News, 04/02/11)

- **“To Finance His Tax Cuts, Lepage...Proposed Increasing The Amount That State Employees Contribute To Their Retirement Plans And Raising The Minimum Retirement Age For New Hires From 62 To 65.”** “Maine’s balanced budget requirement means any tax cuts have to be paid for in the current budget cycle.” “To finance his tax cuts, LePage...proposed increasing the amount that state employees contribute to their retirement plans and raising the minimum retirement age for new hires from 62 to 65,” as well as other budget cuts, such as cuts to the Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program. (Bangor Daily News, 04/02/11)
- **Maine Center for Economic Policy Said LePage’s Budget “Cuts by 20 Percent the Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program, Also Known as the ‘Circuit Breaker’ Program. That Program Provides Property Tax Relief to More Than 150,000 Families.”** Additionally, the center points out that LePage’s budget cuts by 20 percent the Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program, also known as the ‘Circuit Breaker’ program. That program provides property tax relief to more than 150,000 families.” (Bangor Daily News, 04/02/11)
- **Maine Center for Economic Policy Found the Wealthiest Top 10 Percent of Mainers Would Received Half the Tax Relief in LePage’s Proposal.** “According to an analysis by the Maine Center for Economic Policy, a liberal think tank, the wealthiest top 10 percent of Maine’s population would receive roughly half of the tax relief in the governor’s proposal. And only 20 percent of the relief would be absorbed by Mainers earning less than \$63,648. Additionally, the center points out that LePage’s budget cuts by 20 percent the Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program, also known as the ‘Circuit Breaker’ program. That program provides property tax relief to more than 150,000 families.” (Bangor Daily News, 04/02/11)

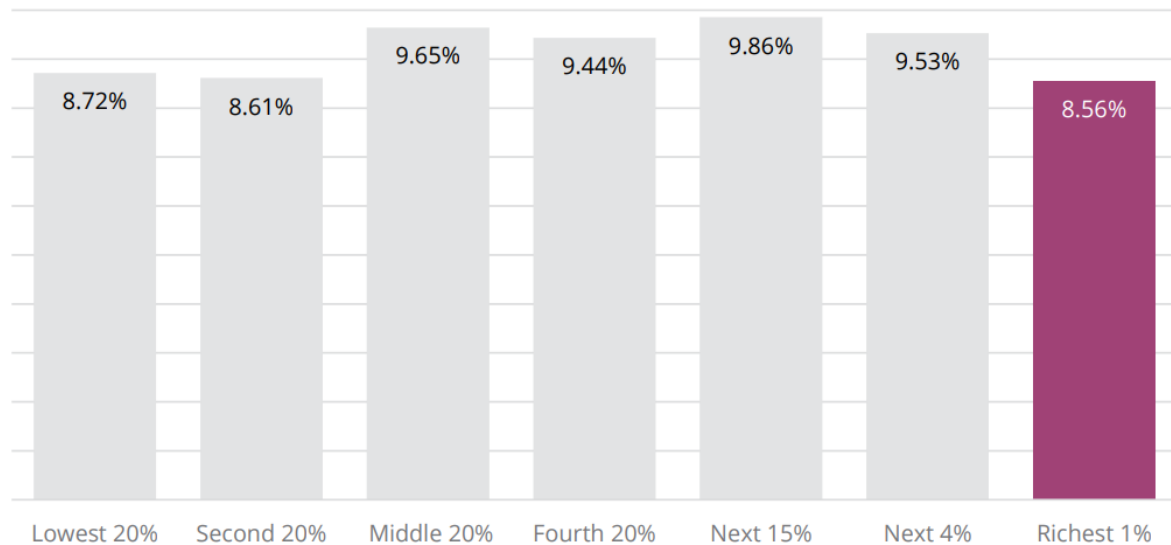
Paul Lepage, In 2011, Signed Into Law “A Reduction In The Top Income Tax Rate.” Paul LePage, in 2011, signed into law “a reduction in the top income tax rate from 8.5 percent to 7.95 percent, and a bump in the threshold at which the estate tax kicks in from \$1 million to \$2 million.” “To give an idea of who benefits from the new estate tax policy, consider this advisory on the change from the Pierce Atwood law firm’s website: ‘Through proper estate tax planning, married couples essentially will be able to shield \$4 million of assets from Maine estate taxation, and other techniques may also be used to further reduce the tax burden.’” (Bangor Daily News, 01/31/12)

***Portland Press Herald*: “During His Eight Years In Office, LePage Ushered In Some Of The Largest Income Tax Cuts In State History, Lowering Maine’s Top Tax Bracket From 8.5 Percent To 7.15 Percent.”** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “During his eight years in office, LePage ushered in some of the largest income tax cuts in state history, lowering Maine’s top tax bracket from 8.5 percent to 7.15 percent.” [[Portland Press Herald, 5/9/19](#)]

Impact of LePage’s Policies on Maine Income Taxes

When LePage Left Office, the Wealthiest Households Paid Less in Taxes Than Any Other Group in Maine, Including the Poorest Households in Maine:

Figure 1: Before 2019's tax changes, the wealthiest households paid less than any other group — including the poorest households



Note: Average effective state and local tax rate by income group
Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, October 2018

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 9/4/19](#)]

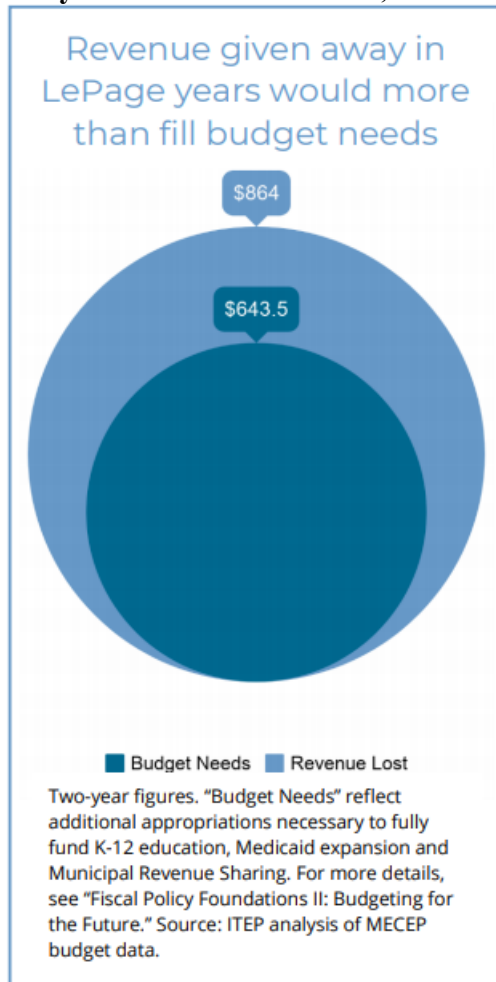
Maine Center for Economic Policy Analysis Determined That LePage's Tax Cuts Cost the State Nearly \$900 Million in Revenue. According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “‘We certainly feel there was a missed opportunity in the way that the state budgets have been handled by this administration,’ said Sarah Austin, a policy analyst with the left-leaning Maine Center for Economic Policy. Austin criticized LePage for prioritizing tax cuts that disproportionately benefited the wealthiest Mainers. An analysis by the policy center estimates that LePage’s tax cuts will result in nearly \$900 million less revenue flowing into state coffers over the next two fiscal years when compared to projections based on the tax code at the time he took office.” [[Portland Press Herald, 12/30/18](#)]

Maine Beacon Headline: “Report: LePage’s Tax Cuts Favoring The Wealthy Costing Maine \$864 Million In Revenue.” [[Maine Beacon, 9/13/18](#)]

Maine Beacon: “Maine Will Have \$864 Million Less In Revenue To Pay For Vital Commitments Such As Education And Health Care Over The Next Two Years Than It Would Have Had Before Governor Paul LePage Gave Away Income Tax Rewards Tilted Towards The Wealthy.” According to the Beacon, “Maine will have \$864 million less in revenue to pay for vital commitments such as education and health care over the next two years than it would have had before Governor Paul LePage gave away income tax rewards tilted towards the wealthy. Meanwhile, half of the state’s projected loss in revenue has been redistributed to the top one-fifth of Maine households.” [[Maine Beacon, 9/13/18](#)]

- **Maine Beacon: “Compensating For Shrinking State Budgets, All Mainers — Including Low- And Middle-Income Households — Have Had To Shoulder More Of The Burden To Fund Schools And Infrastructure, Collectively Paying An Average Of \$30 Million More Per Year.”** According to Beacon, “And compensating for shrinking state budgets, all Mainers — including low- and middle-income households — have had to shoulder more of the burden to fund schools and infrastructure, collectively paying an average of \$30 million more per year in local property taxes from 2011 to 2016 than in the previous six-year period.” [[Beacon, 9/13/18](#)]

LePage’s Nearly \$900 Million in Tax Cuts Would Have Paid for the \$643 Million Needed to Fully Fund K-12 Education, Medicaid Expansion, and Revenue Sharing.



[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, August 2018](#)]

Maine Center for Economic Policy: “Because of Income Tax Cuts for Those at the Top, the Total Resources Available to Invest in Helping Maine Communities Thrive Has Dropped by a Third of a Billion Dollars Annually – Even With Average Mainers Paying Higher Property Taxes.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “The bottom line is that, because of income tax cuts for those at the top, the total resources available to invest in helping Maine communities thrive has dropped by a third of a billion dollars annually — even with

average Mainers paying higher property taxes. (On average, Mainers paid \$30 million more per year in property taxes between 2011 and 2016 than in the previous six-year period.)” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, August 2018](#)]

From 2011 to 2017, the Wealthiest 20% of Mainers Benefited from \$163 Million in Income Tax Cuts Each Year. According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “For example, since 2011, the wealthiest 20 percent of Mainers have benefited from \$163 million in income tax cuts each year. Over the same period, communities have had to raise over a billion dollars in property taxes – an average of an additional \$180 million each year – toward education to compensate for the state underfunding its share of education costs.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

MISCELLANEOUS FEES

Paul LePage, In 2012, Supported Imposing A Fee On “Construction Demolition Debris Disposed Of In Landfills.” In February 2012, “the Legislature’s Environment and Natural Resources Committee endorsed a bill ...that would levy a new fee on waste going into landfills.” “The committee voted 12-1 in favor of a \$1 fee on every ton of construction demolition debris disposed of in landfills of 6 acres or more. The fee would increase to \$2 in 2014.” The bill was “intended to pump money into the Solid Waste Management Fund.” “The bill received support from Gov. Paul LePage in a Jan. 10 [2012] letter to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. He backed the \$4- per-ton fee called for in the original version of the bill.” (Bangor Daily News, 02/08/12)

Paul LePage, In 2011, Allowed “A Bill Dealing With Licensing Public Water System Operators” That Allows “Increased Fees” To Become Law. Paul LePage, in 2011, let “a bill dealing with licensing public water system operators, which will allow increased fees,” become law without his signature. “‘The governor’s not interested in putting his name next to something that raises fees,’ said [spokeswoman Adrienne] Bennett.” (The Associated Press State & Local Wire, 05/08/11)

PROPERTY TAXES

Waterville Property Taxes Under Mayor Paul LePage

Column: Waterville Taxes Under LePage Only Went Down Because State Bailed it Out. “The facts are, first, that Waterville’s tax rate actually declined less than in other Maine cities during his seven years as mayor, and, second, that Waterville’s tax rate declined only because taxpayers across the state bailed out LePage. Over the past six years, the property tax mill rate in Waterville declined by 13.46 percent. Other municipalities of similar size fared considerably better. Brewer’s mill rate dropped by about 18 percent, Windham’s by 17.49 percent, Biddeford’s by 15.3 percent and Bangor’s by 13.61 percent.” [Bangor Daily News, [7/30/10](#)]

Waterville Mayor Paul LePage, In 2004, Opposed A Referendum To Cap Property Taxes In Maine. Property Taxes In Maine Hit Low- And Moderate-Income Maine “Residents

Hardest,” According To Maine Revenue Services Data. “Of the different types of taxes, the property tax... [hits] lower-income [Maine] residents hardest,” according to Maine Revenue Services data. “The average property tax bill in 2009 for homeowners earning \$12,167 or less – the bottom 20 percent – was \$2,006, or 30.6 percent of income. The top 10 percent of homeowners – those earning \$108,724 or more – paid a larger average property tax bill, \$5,258, but it accounted for just 2.5 percent of income.” (Bangor Daily News, 02/22/13) “The [2004] Palesky tax cap proposal would cap property taxes at \$10 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation, based on 1996-97 values. It also would limit assessment increases to 2 percent a year while the property’s ownership remains in a family.” (Bangor Daily News, 09/11/04)

- **LePage: The Property Cap Legislation Was “A Less-Than-Stellar Piece of Legislation That Would Cripple Many Communities, Including Waterville.”** Waterville Mayor Paul LePage wrote in 2004, “the Palesky tax cap referendum...[was] a less-than- stellar piece of legislation that would cripple many communities, including Waterville.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 10/29/04)
- **Tax Cap Measure Failed on the Nov. 2004 Ballot.** “The Palesky tax cap measure failed on the November [2004] ballot.” (Bangor Daily News, 12/21/04)

Paul LePage, In 2012, Proposed A Change In State Law That The Mayor Of Portland Said “Will Increase Local Property Taxes And Make Hundreds Of People Homeless In Portland.” Paul LePage, in 2012, proposed limiting “housing assistance to 90 days per calendar year,” giving “all cities and towns a 50 percent reimbursement rate” instead of giving “bigger communities...90 percent reimbursement after they spend a set amount of money,” and eliminating “General Assistance for anyone who receives federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funds.” His “proposal to change the way General Assistance money is distributed in Maine would shift costs to property taxpayers and increase homelessness, say officials in Portland and other cities. The governor’s plan...[called] for the most far- reaching change to Maine’s General Assistance funding in 20 years, said Portland Mayor Michael Brennan. ‘It will increase local property taxes and make hundreds of people homeless in Portland,’ he said.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 03/17/12)

Waterville Mayor Paul LePage, In 2004, Supported Charging “Service Fees To Organizations Or Institutions Owning Tax-Exempt Residential Property That Generates Rental Income.” Waterville city councilors, in 2004, considered “an ordinance designed to allow the city to charge service fees to organizations or institutions owning tax-exempt residential property that generates rental income,” though it “would not apply to student housing or parsonages. It would be calculated according to the actual cost of providing municipal services to the properties and people using them. The services include fire and police protection, road maintenance and construction, traffic control, snow and ice removal, sanitation services and any services other than education and welfare,” with “the total service charge against any entity” not exceeding “two percent of its gross annual revenues.” “Mayor Paul R. LePage said...that the service-fee issue would apply only to places such as Seton Village, an elderly housing complex, and the Waterville Housing Authority. ‘We plow and pick up garbage there, but we get nothing in return,’ LePage said.” While “the service-fee issue would not apply to colleges,” it “would

affect places such as halfway houses where people stay for extended periods of time, according to LePage.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 03/02/04)

- **LePage Said Waterville Was Trying to Reverse the Growth of Tax Exempt Properties.** “Waterville is trying to reverse the growth of tax- exempt properties, LePage said, as the council took a small first step...[in June 2004] to impose a service fee on low-income rental housing.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 06/02/04)

LePage Changes to Property Taxes

Bangor Daily News Editorial: In 2013, LePage Eliminated the Circuit Breaker Refund, Which Provided Partial Property Tax Refunds to Low-Income Families, Replaced it With Less Generous Property Tax Fairness Credit. According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “On the other side of the ledger, the governor could restore property tax relief programs that he pushed to cut. LePage successfully pushed for the elimination of the Circuit Breaker, which provided partial property tax refunds to low income families, in 2013. Lawmakers replaced it with a less generous Property Tax Fairness Credit. Legislators also rejected LePage proposals to eliminate the Homestead Exemption and to limit it to only seniors.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 2/17/18]

- **The Circuit Breaker Property Tax Relief Program Maxed Out at \$1,600; its Replacement, the Property Tax Fairness Credit, Maxed Out at \$600 for Younger Filers and \$900 for Seniors.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The circuit breaker program became a casualty of budget negotiations last year. In his budget proposal, Gov. Paul LePage proposed gutting the program almost entirely. Ultimately, Democrats retained a broad property tax relief program, but at a much smaller level than before, with something they called the Property Tax Fairness Credit. Where circuit breaker maxed out at \$1,600, the maximum Property Tax Fairness Credit came in at \$400 for those older than 70 and \$300 for those younger. It was available to anyone earning less than \$40,000 annually who paid more than 10 percent of their income in property taxes or more than 40 percent of their income in rent. The credit also was applied through the state income tax filing -- so it meant no more separate process for property tax relief. The passage of LD 1751 doubled the maximum credit to \$600 for anyone younger than 65 and \$900 for senior tax filers. It also changed eligibility rules to account for more kinds of income, which means some will no longer receive the credit. About 112,000 Maine tax filers will likely be eligible next year, according to Maine Revenue Service.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 5/1/14]
- **The Elimination of the Circuit Breaker Program Was Expected to Save the State \$20-\$25 Million, Equating to a \$20-\$25 Million Tax Hike on Property Tax-Paying Mainers.** According to the *Morning Sentinel*, “The new program adopted by the Legislature is expected to save the state between \$20 million and \$25 million, but lawmakers are getting pushback from residents who came to rely on a circuit breaker benefit that provided a tax refund ranging from \$479 to \$1,600.” [*Morning Sentinel*, 8/9/13]

Bangor Daily News Editorial: LePage Pushed to Eliminate the Homestead Exemption and Limit it to Only Seniors. According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “On the other side of the ledger, the governor could restore property tax relief programs that he pushed to cut. LePage successfully pushed for the elimination of the Circuit Breaker, which provided partial property tax refunds to low income families, in 2013. Lawmakers replaced it with a less generous Property Tax Fairness Credit. Legislators also rejected LePage proposals to eliminate the Homestead Exemption and to limit it to only seniors.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 2/17/18]

Impact of Property Tax Changes Under LePage

Headline: “Property Taxes Hurt Low-Income Mainers More Than Ever, But a Fix Won’t be Easy.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 1/21/19]

In Fiscal Year 2016, Maine Was The Ninth Top State In Terms Of Its Reliance On Property Taxes. [Tax Foundation, [5/1/19](#)]

In Fiscal Year 2016, Maine Collected The Tenth-Highest Amount Of State And Local Property Taxes Per Capita Out Of All 50 States, At \$2,105 Per Capita. [Tax Foundation, [3/13/19](#)]

In 2019, the Year After LePage Left Office, 40% Of Taxes Collected From Maine Residents Were Property Taxes, With 20% From Sales Taxes, 22% From Income Taxes, 2% From Corporate Taxes, And 15% From Other Taxes. [Tax Foundation, [2019](#)]

In 2015, Municipalities Collected \$1 Billion More From Property Taxes Than The State Of Maine Did From The Sales Tax And \$600 Million More Than The State Of Maine Did From Income Taxes. “Cities and towns amassed nearly \$2.4 billion in property taxes in 2015, the Maine Municipal Association estimates. It’s far larger than the individual and corporate income tax or the sales tax, of which Maine collected \$1.8 billion and \$1.4 billion, respectively, in the 2018 fiscal year.” [*Bangor Daily News*, [1/21/19](#)]

Maine Center for Economic Policy: “On Average, Mainers Paid \$30 Million More Per Year in Property Taxes Between 2011 and 2016 Than in the Previous Six-Year Period.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “On average, Mainers paid \$30 million more per year in property taxes between 2011 and 2016 than in the previous six-year period.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, August 2018](#)]

Maine Center for Economic Policy: “Property Tax Rates Have Increased Across The State, Thanks In No Small Part To Previous Income Tax Cuts That Made It Harder For The State To Meet Its Fiscal Obligations To Communities, Most Visibly in Funding For Local Services And K-12 Education.” “Property tax rates have increased across the state, thanks in no small part to previous income tax cuts that made it harder for the state to meet its fiscal obligations to communities, most visibly in funding for local services and K-12 education. For example, payments to municipalities for local services such as public safety and road maintenance have been reduced by \$602 million between 2011 and 2019, and Maine has

underfunded its share of school funding by \$1.3 billion in the same period. As municipalities struggle to make up the difference from state funding cuts, property taxpayers have felt the crunch.” [Maine Center for Economic Policy, [August 2018](#)]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: “The Governor Could Also Focus on Keeping Property Taxes Low for All Who Pay Property Taxes. But He’s Stood in the Way of Those Efforts as Well.”** According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “The governor could also focus on keeping property taxes low for all who pay property taxes. But he's stood in the way of those efforts as well. He has attempted to eliminate municipal revenue sharing, a program mandated by state law that sends towns and cities a small share of the state's sales and income tax revenue. If successful, that move would have eliminated a revenue source on which towns and cities rely. Without it, towns and cities would have to make up for it with higher property taxes, cuts to services or both. The governor has also attempted to eliminate the circuit breaker property tax reduction program for low-income homeowners under age 65 as well as the homestead exemption for homeowners younger than 65.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 3/28/18]

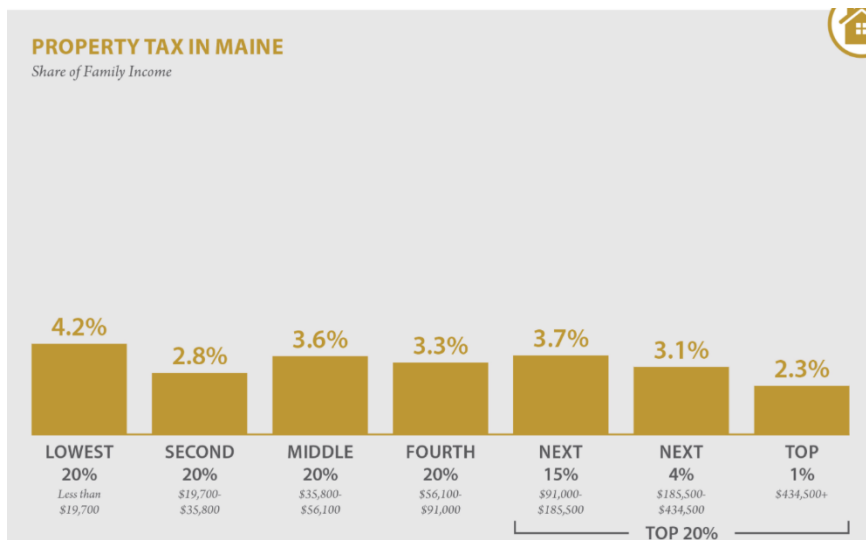
***Bangor Daily News* Editorial Headline: “LePage Policies, Not Land Trusts, Have Driven Up Property Taxes.”** [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 2/17/18]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: “If LePage is Serious About Lowering Property Taxes...He Could Restore Cuts to Municipal Revenue Sharing. LePage Pushed for Years to Eliminate Revenue Sharing.”** According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “So, if LePage is serious about lowering property taxes, he should stop blaming land trusts and look at what actions his administration could take. First, he could restore cuts to municipal revenue sharing. LePage pushed for years to eliminate revenue sharing, which has instead been pared back by the Legislature. According to an analysis by the Maine Center for Economic Policy, payments to municipalities have been reduced by \$602 million between 2011 and 2019 because of these cuts.” [*Bangor Daily News*, Editorial, 2/17/18]

Since 2011, Maine’s Property Tax Rates Went Up 33% on Average, “Largely as a Result of Having to Raise More Funds Locally for Municipal Services and to Fund Education.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Since 2011, Maine’s property tax rates, on average, have gone up by 33 percent, largely as a result of having to raise more funds locally for municipal services and to fund education.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

From 2011 to 2017, Maine Towns Had To Raise Over \$1 Billion in Property Taxes to Pay for Education in Order to “Compensate for the State Underfunding its Share of Education Costs.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “For example, since 2011, the wealthiest 20 percent of Mainers have benefited from \$163 million in income tax cuts each year. Over the same period, communities have had to raise over a billion dollars in property taxes – an average of an additional \$180 million each year – toward education to compensate for the state underfunding its share of education costs.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

In 2018 When LePage Left Office, the Wealthiest Top 1% of Mainers Paid the Smallest Share of Their Income on Property Taxes and the Poorest 20% Paid the Highest Share of Their Income on Property Taxes:



[[Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, 10/17/18](#)]

SALES TAXES

Exemptions

Paul LePage Vetoed A Bill To Exempt “Nonprofit Performing Arts Organizations From Sales Taxes.” Paul LePage vetoed “LD 205, a bill that exempted nonprofit performing arts organizations from sales taxes, sponsored by Sen. Stan Gerzofsky, D- Brunswick. In his veto letter, LePage said he supported performing arts organizations, just not tax incentives for them. ‘Simply because something is worthwhile and good does not mean it should enjoy tax free status,’ the governor wrote. ‘Exemptions from the sales tax should be saved for the necessities of life – food, shelter, medicine – as well as for important initiatives meant to foster growth and create good paying jobs in Maine industries, increasing our overall tax base.’” (Bangor Daily News, 01/10/12)

HEADLINE: LePage Bill Would Give Plane Buyers a Free Ride. The Portland Press Herald reported, “The LePage administration will seek a permanent sales tax exemption for people who buy airplanes or have them repaired in Maine... The tax exemptions will cost the state about \$608,000 a year in taxes, according to the Legislature's nonpartisan Office of Fiscal and Program Review. The agency estimated the current provision would cost \$2.5 million through its expiration in 2015.” [Portland Press Herald, [1/2/13](#)]

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Exempting Nonprofits That Help Provide Residential Heating Assistance to Low-Income Individuals from the Sales Tax. In April 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1755 by a 147-2 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. LD1755 “provides a sales and use tax exemption beginning October 1, 2018 to organizations that have been determined by the United States Internal Revenue Service to be exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and whose primary purpose is to provide residential heating

assistance to low-income individuals.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1755, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1755, 2018](#)]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation To Clarify The Sales Tax Exemption For Prosthetic Devices And Create And Exemption For Prescription Orthotic Devices. On March 19, 2015, the Committee on Taxation introduced LD 1000, sponsored by Sara Gideon. LD 1000 “creates definitions for ‘prosthetic or orthotic device’ and ‘prescription’ within the sales tax exemption laws. It attempts to clarify the sales tax exemption for prosthetic devices and exempts orthotic devices sold by prescription.” LD 1000 was carried over from the 2015 session on the Special Appropriations Table. The Senate passed the bill on 4/14/16 by a 35-0 vote, and the House passed the bill on 4/13/16 by a 111-37 vote. The bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature on 4/27/16. [State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 1000, [4/27/16](#); Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, Summaries of Bills, LD 1000, [August 2015](#), [May 2016](#)]

Internet Sales Tax

Paul LePage Supports Collecting “Sales Taxes From Businesses That Sell Items Online To Mainers But Don’t Have A Brick-And-Mortar Presence In The State. Currently Online Businesses, Such As Amazon.Com, Are Not Required To Collect And Remit Sales Tax.”

Paul LePage supports “a bill in Congress that would allow states to collect tax on Internet sales.” “The Marketplace Fairness Act would allow states to collect sales taxes from businesses that sell items online to Mainers but don’t have a brick-and-mortar presence in the state. Currently online businesses, such as Amazon.com, are not required to collect and remit sales tax, while businesses with a physical presence are. A significant benefit of the legislation is that it could provide a much-needed revenue boost for Maine. Since 2007, the state has lost \$146.6 million in state and local sales and use tax revenue, according to a study conducted by the University of Tennessee. Creating an even playing field could help more businesses compete.” “Local business owners lose out when customers browse through their items and then walk outside to purchase a slightly cheaper product on their smartphone. More power to intelligent shoppers, but at the very least businesses should be playing by the same rules.” “The bill would not affect small e-commerce sites, as it would exempt sellers with less than \$500,000 in annual sales.” “The legislation would not mean a tax hike but a way to collect money already owed. It’s a way for federal law to catch up with the reality of Internet sales.” (Bangor Daily News, 06/05/12)

LePage Supported Internet Sales Tax. LePage wrote of his support for the Marketplace Fairness Act, “State budget deliberations are well under way, and it would be quite helpful to have certainty about our future revenue streams... I have pledged to lower Maine's income taxes and stop wasteful government spending. One powerful tool in achieving these goals would be to have the ability to collect taxes that are due.” [Bangor Daily News, 3/20/12]

LePage Supported the Federal Marketplace Fairness Act in Congress. According to a newspaper story with the headline, “LePage wants state tax on Internet sales, urges Congress to pass bill,” Paul LePage said in reference to the Marketplace Fairness Act, “I have pledged to lower Maine’s income taxes and stop wasteful government spending. One powerful tool in

achieving these goals would be to have the ability to collect taxes that are due.” (Bangor Daily News, 03/20/12)

Tobacco and Alcohol

Paul LePage, In 2010, Said He Wants To Eliminate Estate Taxes And Cut “Taxes On Tobacco And Alcohol By 25 Percent.” Paul LePage, in 2010, “proposed removing taxes on pension income, eliminating the estate tax and reducing taxes on tobacco and alcohol by 25 percent.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 10/14/10)

LePage Does Not Support Higher Tobacco Taxes. The Portland Press Herald reported, “LePage wants everyone to know that he is not in favor of raising taxes on cigarettes and tobacco products.” [Portland Press Herald, [5/15/13](#)]

TAX CONFORMITY

Headline: “LePage Push to Align Maine With Trump’s Tax Cuts Won’t be an Easy Fix.” [St. John Valley Times, 3/19/18]

In September 2018, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Tax Conformity Legislation To Update Maine’s Tax Code After the Passage of Federal Tax Reform Legislation Was Approved Unanimously By Both Chambers Of The Legislature And Became Law Without Governor LePage’s Signature. “The Maine legislation, a compromise deal that included a combination of provisions sought by Republican and Democratic lawmakers, was approved unanimously by the Legislature in August and became law Tuesday without Gov. Paul LePage’s signature.” [Portland Press Herald, [9/11/18](#)]

- **Tax Conformity Legislation Was “Prompted By Republican-Led Changes To The Federal Tax Code Approved By Congress In December.”** “A law enacted Tuesday to conform Maine’s tax code to the federal code includes new benefits for the state’s lowest wage earners. Passage of the law was prompted by Republican-led changes to the federal tax code approved by Congress in December. Those changes included the elimination of the personal exemption coupled with a near-doubling of the standard deduction. The overall change to federal law is expected to save most taxpayers money, with the biggest savings for businesses and high earners.” [Portland Press Herald, 9/12/18]
- **2018: The Legislation Was “Prompted By Republican-Led Changes To The Federal Tax Code...With The Biggest Savings For Businesses And High Earners.”** “A law enacted Tuesday to conform Maine’s tax code to the federal code is expected to save taxpayers roughly \$75 million over the next four years, and it includes new benefits for the state’s lowest wage earners. Passage of the law was prompted by Republican-led changes to the federal tax code approved by Congress in December. Those changes included the elimination of the personal exemption coupled with a near-doubling of the standard deduction. The overall change is expected to save most taxpayers money, with the biggest savings for businesses and high earners.” [Portland Press Herald, [9/12/18](#)]

June 2018: Legislature Approved Tax Conformity Bill That Included “Smaller Corporate Tax Cut Than LePage Wanted.” “The Senate on Tuesday passed an altered and pared-down version of the conformity plan that LePage proposed in March that will cut taxes by \$26.8 million through June 2019, according to a state estimate. The bill faces further votes in both chambers. Both sides hailed the proposal in floor debate in the Senate. The compromise version includes a smaller corporate tax cut than LePage wanted, keeping current rates but increasing the income thresholds to which they apply. Democratic priorities in the package included the expansion of a property tax credit and a new family and medical leave credit.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/19/18]

Maine Center For Economic Policy Executive Director Garrett Martin: “In The Face Of Tremendous Pressure To Simply Revise The State Tax Code To Reflect The Lopsided Rewrite Of Federal Tax Law, Maine’s Legislators Opted To Chart Their Own Course.” “‘In the face of tremendous pressure to simply revise the state tax code to reflect the lopsided rewrite of federal tax law, Maine’s legislators opted to chart their own course,’ MECEP Executive Director Garrett Martin said in the release. ‘They rejected the worst policies handed down by Congress and proposed by the governor. And while the bill still contains some unnecessary and ineffective tax breaks for profitable businesses, the inclusion of an expanded Property Tax Fairness Credit will make a real difference for some of the low- and moderate-income Mainers left behind by the Trump tax cut.’” [MaineBiz, [8/31/18](#)]

Tax Conformity Legislation Was Expected to Save Maine Taxpayers \$75 Million

HEADLINE: “New Maine Law Expected To Save Taxpayers \$75 Million Over 4 Years.” [Portland Press Herald, [9/12/18](#)]

2018: Tax Conformity Legislation Was Expected To Save Maine Taxpayers \$75 Million Over Four Years. “A law enacted Tuesday to conform Maine’s tax code to the federal code is expected to save taxpayers roughly \$75 million over the next four years, and it includes new benefits for the state’s lowest wage earners. Passage of the law was prompted by Republican-led changes to the federal tax code approved by Congress in December. Those changes included the elimination of the personal exemption coupled with a near-doubling of the standard deduction. The overall change is expected to save most taxpayers money, with the biggest savings for businesses and high earners.” [Portland Press Herald, [9/12/18](#)]

Tax Conformity Bill Increased the Property Tax Fairness Credit

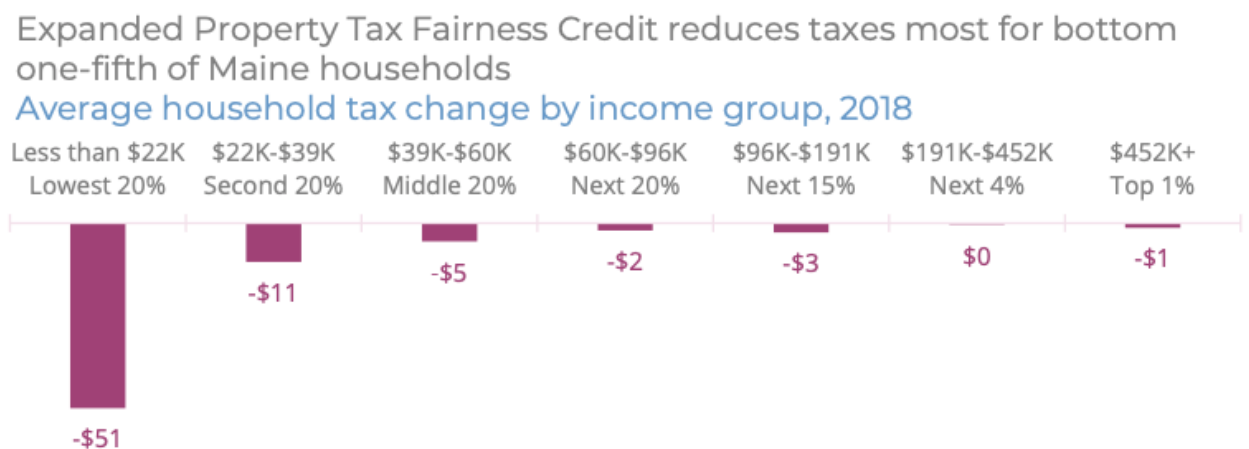
HEADLINE: “New Tax Law To Benefit Low-Income Mainers, Avoid Complications For Companies.” [Portland Press Herald, [9/11/18](#)]

Portland Press Herald: “Key Components Of The Compromise Tax Deal Include Property Tax Relief, Incentives For Paid Family Medical Leave And Child And Dependent Care Tax Credits.” “Key components of the compromise tax deal include property tax relief, incentives for paid family medical leave and child and dependent care tax credits.” [Portland Press Herald, [9/11/18](#)]

Maine Center For Economic Policy: The Compromise Tax Conformity Bill “Expands The Property Tax Fairness Credit – A Vital, Income-Based Property Tax Relief Program For Maine Homeowners And Renters.” ““The compromise contains elements of the Trump tax plan, but it rejects the worst policies proposed in Gov. Paul LePage's tax conformity bill — including expanded tax breaks for Maine's wealthiest estates, loopholes for businesses that make out-of-state investments, and giveaways to the state's largest profitable corporations,’ MECEP stated. ‘At the same time, it expands the Property Tax Fairness Credit — a vital, income-based property tax relief program for Maine homeowners and renters.’” [MaineBiz, [8/31/18](#)]

Tax Conformity Legislation Increased The Maximum Amount Of The Property Tax Fairness Credit From \$900 To \$1,200 For Senior Mainers And From \$600 To \$750 For Mainers Under 65. “The law also increases the maximum amount of the state's property tax fairness credit, from \$900 to \$1,200 for residents age 65 and over, and from \$600 to \$750 for residents under age 65.” [Portland Press Herald, 9/12/18]

Maine Center For Economic Policy: Expanding The Property Tax Fairness Credit Cut Taxes The Most For The Bottom One-Fifth Of Maine Households:



Source: The Insitute on Taxation and Economic Policy, June 2018

[Maine Center for Economic Policy, [August 2018](#)]

Democrats Said the Tax Conformity Bill Rejected the Federal Tax Bill's \$233 Million Tax Increase on Working Mainers and Larger Cuts for Maine's Wealthiest Families and Businesses

Democratic Chairman Of The Taxation Committee Said The Tax Conformity Compromise Bill “Rejected A \$233 Million Tax Increase On Working-Class Mainers That Would Have Resulted From Strictly Conforming To Last Year’s Changes To The Federal Tax Code.”

“Rep. Ryan Tipping, D-Orono, House chairman of the Taxation Committee, said the tax reform package supports the middle class, Maine-based businesses and property taxpayers. Tipping praised his Republican and Democratic colleagues for working across the aisle to get the compromise deal approved. ‘Mainers want to see a fairer tax code, one that helps average people and those who are struggling,’ he said. ‘Throughout the process, we kept our focus on

conforming to the federal tax code where it benefits our state, not out-of-state business interests, and how we can help working families and the elderly make ends meet.’ Tipping said the compromise package rejected a \$233 million tax increase on working-class Mainers that would have resulted from strictly conforming to last year’s changes to the federal tax code.” [Portland Press Herald, [9/11/18](#)]

Maine Center For Economic Policy: The Compromise Tax Conformity Bill “Rejects The Worst Policies Proposed In Gov. Paul LePage’s Tax Conformity Bill – Including Expanded Tax Breaks For Maine’s Wealthiest Estates, Loopholes For Businesses That Make Out-Of-State Investments, And Giveaways To The State’s Largest Profitable Corporations.” ““The compromise contains elements of the Trump tax plan, but it rejects the worst policies proposed in Gov. Paul LePage’s tax conformity bill — including expanded tax breaks for Maine’s wealthiest estates, loopholes for businesses that make out-of-state investments, and giveaways to the state’s largest profitable corporations,’ MECEP stated. ‘At the same time, it expands the Property Tax Fairness Credit — a vital, income-based property tax relief program for Maine homeowners and renters.’” [MaineBiz, [8/31/18](#)]

Tax Conformity Legislation Retained Maine’s Personal Exemption, Despite The Federal Elimination Of The Personal Exemption, Exempting The First \$4,150 For Individuals And The First \$8,300 For Couples From State Income Taxes. “A law enacted Tuesday to conform Maine’s tax code to the federal code includes new benefits for the state’s lowest wage earners. Passage of the law was prompted by Republican-led changes to the federal tax code approved by Congress in December. Those changes included the elimination of the personal exemption coupled with a near-doubling of the standard deduction. The overall change to federal law is expected to save most taxpayers money, with the biggest savings for businesses and high earners. One significant component of the state tax code is that it retains Maine’s personal exemption for taxpayers despite the recent elimination of the federal personal exemption. The first \$4,150 of income for individuals and the first \$8,300 of income for joint filers will remain exempt from state income taxes under the new law. In addition, Maine’s three personal income tax brackets of 5.8 percent, 6.75 percent and 7.15 percent remain largely unchanged.” [Portland Press Herald, 9/12/18]

Tax Conformity Legislation Rejected LePage Proposals to Double the Estate Tax Exemption and Create New Exemptions for Out-of-State Companies

Tax Conformity Legislation Did Not Include A LePage-Backed Proposal To Double The Estate Tax Exemption To \$11.2 Million. “The Maine legislation, a compromise deal that included a combination of provisions sought by Republican and Democratic lawmakers, was approved unanimously by the Legislature in August and became law Tuesday without Gov. Paul LePage’s signature. The law does not include LePage administration proposals that would have doubled the estate tax exemption to \$11.2 million and provided additional exemptions for out-of-state companies doing business in Maine.” [Portland Press Herald, 9/12/18]

Tax Conformity Legislation Did Not Include A LePage-Backed Proposal To Create Additional Exemptions For Out-Of-State Companies Doing Business In Maine. “The Maine legislation, a compromise deal that included a combination of provisions sought by Republican

and Democratic lawmakers, was approved unanimously by the Legislature in August and became law Tuesday without Gov. Paul LePage's signature. The law does not include LePage administration proposals that would have doubled the estate tax exemption to \$11.2 million and provided additional exemptions for out-of-state companies doing business in Maine.” [Portland Press Herald, 9/12/18]

TAX CREDITS

Adult Day Care, Respite Care, and Hospice Care

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Expanded The Income Tax Credit For Child/Dependent Care Expenses To Include Expenses Paid For Adult Day Care, Respite Care, And Hospice Care. In 2015, LePage let LD787 become law without his signature. LD 787 as amended by Committee Amendment “A” (H-95) “expands the income tax credit for child and dependent care expenses to include expenses paid for adult day care, respite care and hospice care.” The House accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report by a 142-5 vote. The Senate and House ultimately passed the bill as further amended without roll call votes. The bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature on 7/12/15. [Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, Summaries of Bills, LD 787, [August 2015](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 787, Roll Call #49, [4/30/15](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 787, [7/12/15](#)]

Logging Companies Hiring Maine Residents

Paul LePage Vetoed “An Income Tax Credit For Logging Companies That Hire Maine Residents.” Paul LePage vetoed “LD 338, sponsored by Sen. Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, which sought to create an income tax credit for logging companies that hire Maine residents.” (Bangor Daily News, 01/10/12)

- **The Bill Would Have Given “Logging Companies a Maximum Tax Credit of \$1,000 for Fuel to Encourage Them to Hire” Mainers.** This was a bill to “give logging companies a maximum tax credit of \$1,000 for fuel to encourage them to hire” Mainers. (Kennebec Journal, 01/06/12)
- **LePage: “This Bill Will Likely Do Little To Achieve Its Proposed Objective – Encouraging Timber Companies To Hire Maine Residents. Quite Frankly, There Are Better Ways To Give Our Loggers Tax Relief And Allow Them To Create Jobs In Our Working Forests.”** “Writing about his veto of LD 338, the governor said: ‘This bill will likely do little to achieve its proposed objective – encouraging timber companies to hire Maine residents. Quite frankly, there are better ways to give our loggers tax relief and allow them to create jobs in our working forests.’” (Bangor Daily News, 01/10/12) He said “that he plans to come forward with a tax relief package...that will give commercial timber harvesters ‘the same sales tax treatment on equipment as their counterparts in the agriculture industry receive.’” (Kennebec Journal, 01/06/12)

Disability Home Modifications

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill That Created an Income Tax Credit for Expenses Incurred to Make a House More Accessible for Individuals with Disabilities. In April 2016, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD365 by a 148-0 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote. LD365 “creates an income tax credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017 for expenses incurred for certain modifications to make a homestead accessible to an individual with a disability or physical hardship who resides or will reside in the homestead if the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income does not exceed \$55,000. The total cost of the all credits granted is capped at \$1,000,000 annually.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD365, 2016](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD365, 2016](#)]

- **LePage Said He Vetoed the Bill in Part Because it Would be Paid for Out of the General Fund Surplus, and He Didn’t Support Additional Appropriations Out of That Fund.** According to LePage’s veto letter for LD365, “If I were to support a proposal to achieve this bill’s policy objectives, I would not support capping the tax credit at an income of \$55,000. If a tax credit is valuable to one Maine taxpayer with disabilities, then it is valuable for all Mainers with disabilities. We should not discriminate against people with disabilities based on their income level. This bill has a fiscal note of \$50,000 for 2016-2017, which would be paid for out of the unappropriated surplus in the General Fund. I do not support additional appropriations from the General Fund; therefore, I must return this bill to you unsigned and vetoed.” [[Gov. LePage Veto Letter for LD365, 4/26/16](#)]

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

BONDING

Paul LePage, In 2012, Opposed Funding “For Wastewater And Water Investments, Economic Development...And Roads And Bridges.” Paul LePage, in 2012, “vetoed a \$20 million research and development bond and let four other bonds go to voters without his signature. LePage said he personally opposes the four bond measures, which would total more than \$75 million and pay for wastewater and water investments, economic development, higher education and roads and bridges. Even if those bonds are supported by voters, LePage said he would delay spending the money until the state lowers its debt load. ‘While these bond proposals were authorized by Legislators, it does not mean that we need to spend the money. I cannot personally support any of these bonds and will not vote for them at the polls in November,’ LePage said in the written statement. ‘Even with the voters’ authorization to borrow this money, my administration will not spend it until we’ve lowered our debt significantly. That could be several years.’” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 05/26/12)

Paul LePage Vetoed A “Research And Development Bond [That] Would Have Allowed The State To Borrow \$20 Million To Be Awarded To Maine Businesses, Nonprofit Organizations, University Research Labs And Others As Competitive Grants,” With The Grants Targeted Towards Entities “Working In The Renewable Energy, Biotechnology, Marine Technology, Forestry, Agriculture And Precision Manufacturing Sectors.” Paul LePage, in 2012, “vetoed a \$20 million bond for research and development.” (The Associated Press State & Local Wire, 05/25/12) “The research and development bond would have allowed

the state to borrow \$20 million to be awarded to Maine businesses, nonprofit organizations, university research labs and others as competitive grants from the Maine Technology Institute. The bond would have specifically targeted organizations working in the renewable energy, biotechnology, marine technology, forestry, agriculture and precision manufacturing sectors.” (Bangor Daily News, 05/31/12)

- **CEO of Associated General Contractors of Maine: “Maine Businesses Are Already Among The Least Well Capitalized In The Nation. The R&D Bond, While Modest When Compared To Our \$46 Billion Dollar GDP (Gross Domestic Product), Would Have Provided Much Needed Investment Capital To The Companies That Are The Future To The State’s Economy.”** “In vetoing the \$20 million research and development bond, LePage said that the expense was better suited for the operating budget. ‘If the Legislature truly believes we should spend \$20 million on research and development, then we should reduce spending elsewhere in the budget and pay for it out of the General Fund,’ LePage wrote. ‘Second, the majority of the funds from these bonds in the past have gone to government programs and not-for-profits. Taxpayer dollars should go towards R&D only when we can demonstrate a specific return on that investment. That return must be measured in taxes and jobs. Both of those rightly come in the private sector,’ LePage said.” “The Maine Center for Economic Policy...called the R&D veto unfortunate.” “‘Maine businesses are already among the least well capitalized in the nation. The R&D bond, while modest when compared to our \$46 billion dollar GDP (gross domestic product), would have provided much needed investment capital to the companies that are the future to the state’s economy,’ said John O’Dea, chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of Maine. ‘A lack of investment in Maine businesses is one reason why Maine’s rate of growth is expected to be about a third lower than the rest of the nation as a whole over the next few years.’” (Kennebec Journal, 05/26/12)

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Bonding Legislation to Upgrade and Improve Maine’s Infrastructure

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Provided for a \$105 Million Bond to be Used for Highways, Bridges, Ports, Harbors, Marine Transportation, Freight and Passenger Rail, Aviation, Transit, and Bicycle Trails. In August 2017, LePage allowed LD1552 to become law without his signature after it passed the House by a 127-5 vote and the Senate without a roll call vote. LD1552 “provides for a bond issue in the amount of \$105,000,000 to be used for the construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities or equipment related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, matching an estimated \$137,000,000 per year in federal and other funds, and for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1552, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1552, 2017](#)]

In 2018, LePage Held Up \$117 in Infrastructure Bonding

Headline: “New LePage Threat to Stall Bonds Imperils Road Repairs, Thousands of Jobs.” [Bangor Daily News, 6/22/18]

Under LePage's Tenure, Maine Lost Out on \$196 Million in Federal Funds for Transportation and Other Bonds

Under LePage, the Maine Center for Economic Policy Estimated Maine Lost \$196 Million in Transportation and Other Bonds:

Why These Lost Dollars Matter	Dollars Lost to Maine	The Facts
Transportation and Other Bonds: Keeps drivers safe and commerce moving	\$196 million	✓ More deaths on Maine roads per year on average from poor road construction than from alcohol (49 vs 37) ^{59, 60} ✓ \$1.5 billion in needed road and bridge repairs ⁶¹

[[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

Maine Center for Economic Policy: “Over the Past Seven Years, the State Has Not Asked Voters for Matching Funds Needed to Secure Adequate Federal Funding to Build and Maintain Infrastructure, Even With Record Low Interest Rates.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Yet over the past seven years, the state has not asked voters for matching funds needed to secure adequate federal funding to build and maintain infrastructure, even with record low interest rates. Since 2011, by reducing bonding levels, the state has surrendered an average of \$28 million a year totaling \$196 million in federal funds for roads and bridges, airports and cargo ports, drinking water and wastewater treatment systems, and other infrastructure when compared to previous bonding levels (see Figure 2). The state has also foregone state gasoline taxes that could be used to match federal transportation dollars.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

Maine Center for Economic Policy: “Since 2011, by Reducing Bonding Levels, the State Has Surrendered an Average Of \$28 Million a Year Totaling \$196 Million in Federal Funds for Roads and Bridges, Airports and Cargo Ports, Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems, and Other Infrastructure When Compared to Previous Bonding Levels.” According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, “Yet over the past seven years, the state has not asked voters for matching funds needed to secure adequate federal funding to build and maintain infrastructure, even with record low interest rates. Since 2011, by reducing bonding levels, the state has surrendered an average of \$28 million a year totaling \$196 million in federal funds for roads and bridges, airports and cargo ports, drinking water and wastewater treatment systems, and other infrastructure when compared to previous bonding levels (see Figure 2). The state has also foregone state gasoline taxes that could be used to match federal transportation dollars.” [[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17](#)]

Graph Comparing Leveraged Federal Funds Since LePage Took Office:

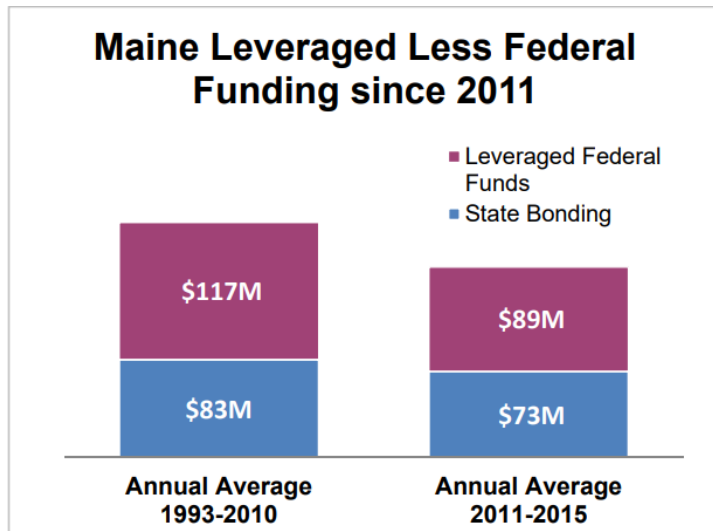


Figure 2: MECEP analysis of election bond referenda results, Secretary of State
[\[Maine Center for Economic Policy, 3/21/17\]](#)

BROADBAND

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill That Promoted Community Broadband Planning and Required the Development of a Triennial Strategic Plan for Broadband. In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1063 by a 146-0 vote and the Senate by a 34-0 vote. LD1063 “Promotes community broadband planning, which directs the ConnectME Authority to fund broadband planning grants to municipalities, groups of municipalities or nonprofit local or regional community organizations to develop plans to expand the availability of broadband in unserved and underserved areas; and 8. Requires the ConnectME Authority to develop a triennial strategic plan by February 15, 2016 for broadband that includes quantifiable measures of performance and that allows for public input.” [\[Summaries of Bills, LD1063, 2015; Maine State Legislature, LD1063, 2015\]](#)

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Creating the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund to Increase Access to Ultra High-Speed Broadband Infrastructure. In July 2015, LD1185 became law without LePage’s signature after both chamber overrode his veto, by a 133-13 and 26-5 vote, respectively. LD1185 “establishes the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund within the ConnectME Authority to increase access across the State to ultra high-speed broadband infrastructure that will enhance the State’s competitiveness in national and international economies. The law provides that to extent funds are available they must be used to provide planning and implementation grants to communities and municipalities in order to support public-private partnerships that will establish a municipal gigabit fiber-optic broadband network in their regions.” [\[Summaries of Bills, LD1185, 2015; Maine State Legislature, LD1185, 2015\]](#) ***NOTE: unclear why this bill wasn’t identified as a veto override, but rather a “became law without governor’s signature” on the Maine Legislature website*

CELL PHONE SERVICE

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage's Veto Of Legislation To Improve Cell Reception In St. John Valley By Allowing For The Construction Of A New Cell Phone Tower. "The Maine Legislature on April 11th overrode Gov. Paul LePage's veto of a bill to improve cellphone reception in Aroostook County by allowing the construction of a new cellphone tower. Cell phone and broadband coverage will help grow Maine's economy by attracting people to Maine to do business as well as keeping educated workers in the state." The House overrode LePage's veto by a 144-2 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote, and the bill became law. [Maine State Legislature, LD 1659, Roll Call #580, [4/11/16](#); Maine Insights, [4/11/16](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Maine Legislature Overrides Veto Of Bill That Would Allow For New Cellphone Tower In St. John Valley."** [Maine Insights, [4/11/16](#)]
- **Maine Insights: "Cell Phone And Broadband Coverage Will Help Grow Maine's Economy By Attracting People To Maine To Do Business As Well As Keeping Educated Workers In The State."** "The Maine Legislature on April 11th overrode Gov. Paul LePage's veto of a bill to improve cellphone reception in Aroostook County by allowing the construction of a new cellphone tower. Cell phone and broadband coverage will help grow Maine's economy by attracting people to Maine to do business as well as keeping educated workers in the state." [Maine Insights, [4/11/16](#)]

COMMUNITIES FOR MAINE'S FUTURE BONDING PROGRAM

Morning Sentinel: LePage Halted Payments To Anti-Recession Program That Was Enacted By "Two-Thirds Of The Legislature In 2009." "In 2012, I covered a story that hadn't received much attention: LePage's mystifying decision to halt payments to the Communities for Maine's Future program, a state bond fund enacted by two-thirds of the Legislature in 2009 and ratified by the voters in 2010 — the moment when LePage was elected governor. This anti-recession program injected much-needed capital into small downtowns; some towns had gotten grants and many were about to. LePage's own economic development commissioner, who'd approved disbursements, sounded almost as peeved as the town officials scrambling to figure out why money the state guaranteed was suddenly gone." [Morning Sentinel, 10/24/19]

Maine Voters, In 2010, Approved "Borrowing \$23.75 Million To Invest In Community And Economic Development," Including \$3.5 Million For The Department Of Economic And Community Development's Communities For Maine's Future Program. On June 8, 2010, voters approved "borrowing \$23.75 million to invest in community and economic development," making "the state eligible for more than \$39 million in matching federal and private funds." Of these funds, \$3.5 million were "for the Department of Economic and Community Development's Communities for Maine's Future Program, which provides competitive grants that must be fully matched, typically by private money, for projects ranging from sidewalks to refurbishing a town hall." (Portland Press Herald, 05/06/10)

Paul LePage Refused To Issue Bonds For These Economic Development Initiatives, Causing Problems For The Municipalities That Were Promised These Economic Development Funds. However, Paul LePage, in mid-2012, froze the “community development bond funding approved by voters in 2010” and announced “that he would not initiate the borrowing until at least January 2014.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 07/08/12, and Waterville Morning Sentinel, 08/02/12) This created a major problem for some municipalities, because “the Communities for Maine’s Future, part of...[the] bond initiative passed by voters in June 2010, awarded grants to 11 municipalities, many for rehabilitating historic downtown buildings and encouraging reuse, before LePage announced the delay in issuing bond money.” (Bangor Daily News, 11/25/12)

11 Grant Recipients Were Bath, Belfast, Dover-Foxcroft, Eastport, Livermore Falls, Monmouth, Norway, Rockland, Skowhegan, Unity and Winthrop. “The 11 grant recipients are Bath, Belfast, Dover- Foxcroft, Eastport, Livermore Falls, Monmouth, Norway, Rockland, Skowhegan, Unity and Winthrop.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 08/02/12)

The Grants “Were Expected To Help Economically Revitalize Their Downtowns And Put Scores Of People To Work.” The grants “were expected to help economically revitalize their downtowns and put scores of people to work.” “The competitive grant awards provided funding for projects that restore and revitalize key buildings in communities and projects that are considered catalysts for local jobs.” (Lewiston Sun Journal, 06/28/12)

Thanks to LePage Stopping the Funding, Skowhegan Had To Halt An Already-Underway Project to Revamp the Somerset Grist Mill. “Several towns that have entered development contracts...have had to halt projects already underway. That’s the case in Skowhegan where the town has a signed contract with an engineering firm and has already spent \$23,000 on a \$400,000 project to revamp the Somerset Grist Mill.” (Waterville Morning Sentinel, 08/02/12)

REGIONAL TRANSIT

Paul LePage Said He Opposes Expanding Passenger Rail Service Beyond Portland.”

In 2010, seven Republican gubernatorial candidates were asked at a forum if they “would...support funding – federal or state – to expand passenger rail service beyond Portland.” Paul “LePage said ‘no.’” (Portland Press Herald, 03/21/10)

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill Requiring a Quinquennial Regional Transit Plan (Changed from Biennial). In June 2015, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD844 by a 145-0 vote and the Senate by a 34-1 vote. LD844 “replaces the requirement in current law for biennial plans for regional transit with a requirement for quinquennial plans, which is consistent with federal requirements. The law eliminates the Interagency Transportation Coordinating Committee and replaces it with a new Public Transit Advisory Council. The council is required to assist state agencies and the Legislature on issues related to public transit services. The council is required to report to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters and health and human services matters by March 1st of each odd-numbered year.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD844, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD844, 2015](#)]

ROADS & BRIDGES

Paul LePage, In 2011, Supported Slashing Funding For Capital Improvements For Roads And Bridges. ““This biennium could very well go down in history as having the worst capital investment forecast in the history of the Highway Fund, [Maine Better Transportation Association Executive Director Maria] Fuentes said in a... [2011] news release, citing a \$230 million decrease for capital improvements to roads and bridges in the two-year state budget approved in June [2011] by the Legislature and Gov. Paul LePage.” (Portland Press Herald, 09/21/11)

TOLLS

Paul LePage, In 2012, Said “He Supports The Need To Raise Tolls On The Maine Turnpike.” Paul LePage, in 2012, said “he supports the need to raise tolls on the Maine Turnpike, and that poor management decisions in the past are requiring increases that could have been avoided or reduced. ‘What’s happening is that we have to pay the bonds and there is not the money,’ he said in an interview.” (Kennebec Journal, 06/23/12)

VETERANS

BENEFITS

In Reference To A Proposed Program Cut By Paul LePage, The Portland Press Herald Asked, “Refusing To Give A Disabled Veteran A General Assistance Check When He’s Going Through A Short-Term Financial Crisis Might Look Like A Way To Save Money – But Will Taxpayers Benefit If He Ends Up Evicted And Homeless?” According to a Portland Press Herald editorial, Paul LePage, in 2011, proposed cutting “\$35 million by ending MaineCare health coverage to childless adults and some parents. Other cuts would make people who receive any federal benefits ineligible for general assistance.” It asked, “refusing to give a disabled veteran a general assistance check when he’s going through a short-term financial crisis might look like a way to save money – but will taxpayers benefit if he ends up evicted and homeless?” (Portland Press Herald, 05/13/11)

LePage Vetoed \$1.4 Million for a Pilot Program to Help Maximize and Expedite SSI Benefits to Veterans. Paul LePage, in 2012, used the line-item veto to eliminate the section in LD 1903 that created a pilot program to “maximize and expedite the award of federal Supplemental Security income program benefits” and to “assist veterans...to access” benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The revenue for the program totaled \$1,445,978. [Paul LePage’s Veto Message on LD 1903, [4/14/12](#)]

In 2015, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto of a Bill That Would Ensure Veterans With No Next of Kin Received All Death Benefits, Including a Grave Marker. In June 2015, the House voted to override LePage’s veto of LD378 by a 149-0 vote and the Senate by a 35-0 vote. LD378 “makes the Adjutant General, or the Adjutant

General's designee, the next of kin to a deceased veteran who has no known living spouse or adult relatives and directs the Adjutant General to ensure the veteran receives all death benefits, including a grave marker from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD378, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD378, 2015](#)]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Creating A Commission To Identify Gaps In Services And Benefits Provided To Maine’s Veterans And Recommend To The Legislature How To Address The Gaps. In 2015, LePage let LD721 become law without his signature. LD 721 “establishes the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans, which must report by January 15, 2016 with its findings and recommendations and suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. The commission is charged with identifying gaps and insufficiencies in services and benefits provided to Maine veterans at the state and federal level. It is also tasked with identifying partnerships, initiatives and communication strategies to address the identified gaps and inefficiencies. The resolve authorizes the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.” The House passed the bill 143-0, the two chambers ultimately amended the bill one more time, and the bill became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, [Summaries of Bills, LD 721, August 2015](#); [State of Maine Legislature, LD 721, Roll Call #167, 6/8/15](#); [State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 721, 7/12/15](#)]

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Prohibiting Sex Offenders, Murderers, a Crime Punishable by Life Imprisonment or Death, or Some Other Military, Tribal, or Federal Offense From Being Buried in the Maine Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery System. In June 2015, LePage allowed LD697 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD697 “adds a provision to the laws governing who is ineligible for interment in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System. It specifies that a person is not eligible for interment if the person has been convicted of the crime of murder; a crime in another jurisdiction punishable by a sentence of life imprisonment or death; a crime under any other jurisdiction's sex offender laws requiring the person to register for life; a military, tribal or federal offense requiring registration pursuant to the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Public Law 109-248, 42 United States Code, Chapter 151; or a sexual offense requiring a person to register under Maine's sex offender registration acts for life.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD697, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD697, 2015](#)]

April 2016: LePage Vetoed Bill To Establish Commission To Modernize Maine’s Bureau Of Veteran’s Services, Provide State Community College And University Tuition. “Gov. Paul LePage on Thursday signed into law legislation meant to strengthen and modernize Maine's Bureau of Veterans' Services and provide state community college and university tuition to members of the Maine National Guard. The legislation, largely based on the recommendations of a special commission that was set up by the Legislature in 2015 to study ways to improve and strengthen the bureau, was amended to provide the tuition waivers for Guard members who are in good standing with their units. Rep. Jared Golden, D-Lewiston, the sponsor of the 2015 law that set up the special commission, along with Rep. Brad Farrin, R- Norridgewock, who sponsored the tuition waiver legislation, worked together to garner broad bipartisan support for

the bill signed by LePage. LePage vetoed the legislation that set up the commission, but the Legislature overrode the veto in 2015.” [Sun Journal, 4/14/16]

- **LePage’s Veto Of Bill Establishing Tuition Grants For Maine National Guard Was Overridden By State Legislature.** “LePage vetoed the legislation that set up the commission, but the Legislature overrode the veto in 2015. ‘Today is a great day for the Mainers who serve our country,” Golden said after the signing. “So many people came together to make sure we ease the transition from military to civilian life. We now have a law that helps us do that better and truly honors the contributions of Maine servicemen and servicewomen.” [Sun Journal, 4/14/16]

April 2017: LePage Vetoed Bill To Pay For Passport Cards For Maine Veterans That Lost Access To VA Hospital In New Hampshire Due To Maine’s Non-Compliant ID’s. “The Maine House fell short of the necessary votes Tuesday to override Gov. Paul LePage's veto of a bill that would have paid for passport cards for veterans who lost access to a New Hampshire health clinic earlier this year. The 89-54 vote was short of the two-thirds majority needed to override LePage's veto of a bill that supporters described as a temporary but quick fix to problems created by Maine's noncompliance with federal Real ID rules. Instead, LePage is pushing the Legislature to pass a broader bill that would direct the Secretary of State to issue new driver's licenses that meet the tougher federal security standards required under Real ID.” [Press Herald, 4/5/17]

GOLD STAR FAMILIES

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Allowed for Gold Star Family Registration Plates for Gold Star Family Members Who Died While Honorably Serving in the U.S. Armed Force Who Do Not Fit the Gold Star Lapel Button Guidelines. In April 2015, LePage allowed LD172 to become law without his signature after the bill passed the House without a roll call vote and the Senate unanimously. LD173 “provides for issuance of gold star family registration plates for family members, including grandparents, of a person who died while honorably serving as an active member of the United States Armed Forces who do not fit the gold star lapel button guidelines established in 10 United States Code, Section 1126 (2010). The law provides that the issuance of gold star family registration plates for those newly eligible is contingent upon the Department of the Secretary of State receiving donations from any public or private source to cover the cost of the registration plates. The law also provides for the issuance of gold star family vanity registration plates.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD173, 2015; Maine State Legislature, LD173, 2015](#)]

HOMELESSNESS

In 2014, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Directing The State Government To Sell a Piece Of Property To A Nonprofit Organization That Provides Services To Homeless Veterans For Use As A Homeless Shelter. In 2014, LePage allowed LD1606 to go into law without his signature. LD 1606 “gives the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services authority to sell the property located at 6 and 10 Arsenal Heights Drive and 7 and 11 Independence Drive on the campus of the land comprising the site of what is now or was

formerly known as the Augusta Mental Health Institute to a nonprofit organization that provides services and shelter to homeless veterans for use as a homeless shelter exclusively for veterans.” The bill as amended passed the House on 3/19/14 and the Senate on 3/20/14 and became law without Governor LePage’s signature. [Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, Summaries of Bills, LD 1606, [May 2014](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 1606, [4/2/14](#)]

- **The Legislation Was Amended To Specify That The Land Would Be Used As Transitional Housing For Veterans, Not A Homeless Veterans’ Shelter.** “Committee Amendment ‘A’ (H-678). This amendment specifies that the property to be sold is for transitional housing for veterans, and not a homeless veterans’ shelter. It also specifies that the properties at 6 and 10 Arsenal Heights Drive may be sold only if the Commissioner of Health and Human Services has certified to the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services that the Department of Health and Human Services has no need for the properties for forensic psychiatric patients. The amendment corrects the address of one of the buildings from 7 to 17 Independence Drive. It also increases the time before the resolve is repealed from three to five years.” [Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, Summaries of Bills, LD 1606, [May 2014](#)]

HUNTING/FISHING LICENSES

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Allowed Nonresident Veterans With At Least A 50 Percent Disability To Obtain Free Hunting, Trapping, And Fishing Licenses In Maine If The Veteran’s Home State Had A Reciprocal Agreement. In 2017, LePage allowed LD275 to pass into law without his signature. LD 275 “allows a nonresident veteran with a disability evaluated at 50% or more to obtain at no cost all hunting, trapping and fishing licenses and other provisions in Maine, if the nonresident's state has a reciprocal agreement with Maine.” The House accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report by a 126-17 vote. The Senate accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report on 5/9/17 and the bill became law without the governor’s signature on 5/30/17. [Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Summaries of Bills, LD 275, [August 2017](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 275, Roll Call #71, [5/4/17](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 275, [5/30/17](#)]

MAINE STATE MUSEUM

In 2018, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Gave Free Admission To Veterans To The Maine State Museum. In April 2018, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1656 by a 111-34 vote and the Senate by a 33-0 vote. LD 1656 “establishes a free admission pass for eligible veterans to the Maine State Museum. Eligibility is determined by the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management in accordance with a memorandum of agreement with the Maine State Museum. A veteran is eligible if the person is a resident of this State and received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions.” [State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1656, [4/9/18](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1656, Roll Call #571, [4/5/18](#); Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, Summaries of Bills, LD 1656, [October 2018](#)]

MENTAL HEALTH

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Creating A Study On How Many Veterans Went To Hospitals' Emergency Departments For Mental Or Behavioral Health Care In Order To Quantify Unmet Need For Mental Health Services..

In 2017, LePage allowed LD1231 to become law without his signature. The bill as amended passed the House on 6/27/17 and the Senate on 7/20/17 and became law without Governor LePage's signature. LD1231 "establishes a program for the collection of data by hospitals regarding the number of veterans presenting to the hospitals' emergency departments for mental or behavioral health care. The data must be analyzed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, to quantify the unmet need for mental health care services, particularly inpatient treatment, among veterans in the State and to identify gaps in mental health care services administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. This law also establishes a two-year pilot program to provide contracted case management services to veterans and those serving in the Maine Army National Guard, the Maine Air National Guard and Reserves of the United States Armed Forces in need of mental health care services. Chapter 24 establishes the Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund and provides funding to mitigate the costs to hospitals for collecting and reporting data and to pay for the contracted case management services program." [State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 1231, [8/2/17](#); Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, Summaries of Bills, LD 1231, [August 2017](#)]

- **The Bill Created A Two-Year Pilot Program To Provide "Contracted Case Management Services" To Veterans And Active Duty Maine National Guard And Reserves Members.** LD 1231 "establishes a program for the collection of data by hospitals regarding the number of veterans presenting to the hospitals' emergency departments for mental or behavioral health care. The data must be analyzed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, to quantify the unmet need for mental health care services, particularly inpatient treatment, among veterans in the State and to identify gaps in mental health care services administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. This law also establishes a two-year pilot program to provide contracted case management services to veterans and those serving in the Maine Army National Guard, the Maine Air National Guard and Reserves of the United States Armed Forces in need of mental health care services. Chapter 24 establishes the Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund and provides funding to mitigate the costs to hospitals for collecting and reporting data and to pay for the contracted case management services program." [Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, Summaries of Bills, LD 1231, [August 2017](#)]

PROPERTY TAXES

In 2015, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Removing the 180-Day Service Requirement for Eligibility for a Property Tax Exemption for Vietnam Veterans. In July 2015, LePage allowed LD170 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD170 “became law without the Governor's signature and removes the 180 day service requirement for eligibility for a property tax exemption for veterans who served during the Vietnam War.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD170, 2015](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD170, 2015](#)]

TRANSPORTATION

In 2016, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage’s Veto Of Legislation That Created A Commission To Determine The Need For Transportation Services To Take Veterans To And From Employment, Appointments, Mental Health Services, And Social Services And Then Develop A Pilot Project. In April 2016, the House overrode LePage’s veto of LD1602 by a 149-0 vote, the Senate by a 33-2 vote. LD 1602 “requires the Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor, to conduct a study to determine the need for locally available transportation services that convey veterans to and from employment or employment-related services, medical appointments, mental health services, social services and community activities. The purpose of the study is to inform the development of a pilot project to provide transportation for veterans in order to improve access to essential programs and services for veterans and to inform potential future development of a long-term transportation policy designed to enable the delivery of cost-effective, sustainable and veteran-focused transportation services to meet the current and future needs of veterans in the State. It also provides \$40,000 in one-time funding for the study.” [Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, Summaries of Bills, LD 1602, [May 2016](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1602, Roll Call #626, [4/13/16](#); State of Maine Legislature, Summary of LD 1602, [4/14/16](#)]

- **LePage Said He Vetoed the Bill Because it Was Redundant and He “Refuse[d] to Sign Bills Into Law Just for the Sake of Passing New Laws, as Well-Intended as They May be.”** According to LePage’s veto letter for LD1602, “I am supportive of the goals this legislation is trying to accomplish. Veteran’s services have remained a top-priority for me throughout my Administration. While the idea behind this legislation is well-intended, I refuse to sign bills into law just for the sake of passing new laws, as well-intended as they may be. The fact of the matter is the Department was already planning to conduct a similar study to what is outlined in this bill and implement a similar pilot project to meet the transportation needs of Maine’s veterans. Simply put, this bill is redundant and is not needed to accomplish the goals set forth in the language of the bill.” [[Gov. LePage Veto Letter for LD1602, 4/13/16](#)]

VETERANS HOMES

In 2016, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Increased The Maine Veterans’ Homes Borrowing Authority From \$15 Million To \$50 Million. On March 10, 2016, the House passed LD1524 without a roll call vote and the Senate passed it on 3/15/16

without a roll call vote. It became law without Governor LePage's signature. "This bill updates the laws governing the Maine Veterans' Homes and repeals outdated provisions. It removes references to specific veterans' home locations. It increases the borrowing authority of the Maine Veterans' Homes from \$15,000,000 to \$50,000,000. It repeals a requirement that the Maine Veterans' Homes develop and implement a geriatric training program. It changes the title of the position of the person who administers the homes from administrator to chief executive officer. It repeals a requirement relating to payment of costs by veterans admitted to the homes. It repeals a requirement that excess funds be transferred to the General Fund. It repeals a provision relating to the use of stipend funds. It makes changes to an annual reporting requirement. It also makes technical changes to provide consistent reference to the Maine Veterans' Homes." [Maine State Legislature, LD1524 Bill Text, [2016](#); Maine State Legislature, LD1524 Summary, [2016](#)]

Maine Veterans' Homes Receive No Direct State Funding, Relying On Medicaid, Medicare, Private Payments And Charitable Donations. "Maine Veterans' Homes houses retired veterans and their spouses. The organization was created by the Maine Legislature, but it receives no direct state funding, relying on Medicaid, Medicare, private payments and charitable donations. It has additional locations in Augusta, Bangor, Caribou, Machias and South Paris." [Bangor Daily News, [4/3/20](#)]

VSOS

Paul LePage, In 2012, Vetoed A Bill To Allow "Fraternal And Veterans' Organizations To Operate Slot Machines" To Raise Revenue For Their Organizations. Paul LePage, in 2012, vetoed a bill to allow "fraternal and veterans' organizations to operate slot machines." This bill, "L.D. 1469, would have allowed fraternal and veterans' organizations to operate up to five slot machines each as a way to raise money." (Kennebec Journal, 06/01/12) "The bill...would require the groups to have a cash reserve of \$2,000 for each machine, to put down a \$5,000 refundable deposit with the Gambling Control Board and to pay an initial application fee of \$1,000." The bill would have capped "the total number of slot machines at these facilities at 250 statewide," and only members and their guests would have been able to use these gambling machines. (Kennebec Journal, 04/12/12, and Bangor Daily News, 04/12/12)

WORKFORCE

In 2017, Bipartisan Majorities of the House and Senate Overrode LePage's Veto of a Bill Creating a Commission to Study and Address Veterans' Transition from Military Service into the Civilian Workforce, Including Recommendations to Streamline Licensing and Certification Processes. In August 2017, the House overrode LePage's veto of LD214 by a 135-2 vote and the Senate by a 32-0 vote. LD214 "creates the Commission To Streamline Veterans' Licensing and Certification to study and address military service members' and veterans' transition from military service to the civilian workforce. The commission is also charged with making recommendations to streamline licensing and certification processes for service members and veterans." [[Summaries of Bills, LD214, 2017](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD214, 2017](#)]

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation That Allowed Veteran Nurses To Work As Nurses In Maine Without Completing An Additional Nursing Education

Program As Long As They Passed The Licensing Exam. In 2018, LePage allowed LD1917 to become law without his signature. LD 1917 “implements a recommendation of the Commission To Streamline Veterans' Licensing and Certification regarding licensure of military medics and corpsmen as licensed practical nurses. The bill allows a person who served on active duty in the medical corps of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, was completed the basic course of instruction in nursing required by the branch of the Armed Forces of the United States in which the applicant served and was honorably discharged is eligible to take the examination for licensure as a licensed practical nurse.” The House passed LD 1917 by a 138-5 vote. The Senate accepted the “ought to pass as amended” report for LD 1917, and the House receded from its original version and concurred with LD 1917 as amended (no roll-call vote taken) and the bill became law without the governor’s signature on 9/12/18. [Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, Summaries of Bills, LD 1917, [October 2018](#); State of Maine Legislature, LD 1917, Roll Call #737, [7/9/18](#); State of Maine Legislature, Actions for LD 1917, [9/12/18](#)]

In 2018, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Creating a “Military-to-Civilian Crosswalk” to Help Servicemembers with Military Health Care Specialties Obtain Academic Credit for That Experience. In March 2018, LePage allowed LD1327 to become law without his signature after it passed both chambers without a roll call vote. LD1327 “establishes the Health Care Employment for Military Veterans Program within the Department of Labor and charges the program with creating a "military-to-civilian crosswalk" that compares the military training and experience obtained by individuals who have served in specific military health care occupational specialties and the education and experience required to obtain national certification or state licensure or certification in equivalent or similar civilian health care occupations. The program is also charged with providing direct assistance to eligible veterans who seek to enroll in postsecondary education institutions and obtain academic credit for their military training and experience as well as eligible veterans who seek to secure an apprenticeship or employment in a health care occupation in the State. The department is required to operate the program using existing resources or available grant funding and, to the extent resources are limited, the program is required to give priority to eligible veterans who were discharged or released from military service no longer than two years prior to seeking assistance.” [[Summaries of Bills, LD1327, 2018](#); [Maine State Legislature, LD1327, 2018](#)]

WOMEN

ANTI-ABORTION

In 2011, LePage Joined Anti-Abortion Rally. The Kennebec Journal reported that anti-abortion “activists rallied Saturday at Augusta's St. Michael School and later marched to the State House to trumpet the anti-abortion cause. Gov. Paul LePage, an abortion opponent, joined them for part of the rally, which was organized by the Maine Right to Life Committee.” [Kennebec Journal, 1/16/11]

LePage Was “Staunchly Anti-Abortion,” But Would Not Speak to Bills Before the Legislature Related to Parental Consent and Providing Abortion Patients With More Information About the Procedure. The Kennebec Journal reported, “Republican Gov. Paul

LePage is staunchly anti-abortion, but his spokeswoman said he would not take a position on” bill dealing with parental consent and providing abortion patients with information about the procedure. [Kennebec Journal, 5/17/13]

2014: LePage “Said Efforts to Eliminate Abortion are Critical to the State Sustaining its Population.” According to the *Kennebec Journal*, “LePage, who sometimes tells stories of his rough upbringing in Lewiston, largely spoke about the importance of children having a supportive family. After abortion is eliminated, the next big challenge is putting the family back together, he said. ‘Children need two parents. They need a father, and they need a mother,’ he said. LePage didn’t suggest ways the state could help strengthen families, but he said poverty in the state would continue to win ‘until we commit ourselves to truly putting our families together and educating.’ He said efforts to eliminate abortion are critical to the state sustaining its population, a population that has an older median age than any other state.” [[Kennebec Journal, 1/18/14](#)]

2014: LePage Spoke of Eliminating Abortion in Maine. According to the *Kennebec Journal*, “LePage, who sometimes tells stories of his rough upbringing in Lewiston, largely spoke about the importance of children having a supportive family. After abortion is eliminated, the next big challenge is putting the family back together, he said. ‘Children need two parents. They need a father, and they need a mother,’ he said. LePage didn’t suggest ways the state could help strengthen families, but he said poverty in the state would continue to win ‘until we commit ourselves to truly putting our families together and educating.’ He said efforts to eliminate abortion are critical to the state sustaining its population, a population that has an older median age than any other state.” [[Kennebec Journal, 1/18/14](#)]

LePage: “What I’m Against is Killing Babies as a Form of Contraception.” According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “When asked whether that meant he opposed the use of contraception, which Planned Parenthood provides to its patients, LePage replied: ‘What I’m against is killing babies as a form of contraception. That’s what I’m against.’” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/26/14](#)]

2021: “LePage Did Not Answer Questions About Whether He Would Favor a Law Similar to Mississippi’s 15-Week Abortion Ban if it is Upheld by the Court or Support Other Changes to Abortion Laws.” According to the *Piscataquis Observer*, “LePage did not answer questions about whether he would favor a law similar to Mississippi’s 15-week abortion ban if it is upheld by the court or support other changes to abortion laws, saying in a statement that his mother ‘gave [him] life’ despite a difficult childhood and that he would do whatever he could as governor to ‘further promote adoption.’” [[Piscataquis Observer, 12/5/21](#)]

LePage: “We Should Not Have Abortion.” According to the *Kennebec Journal*, “Gov. Paul LePage said he has made it a point to attend the Maine Right to Life’s Hands Around the Capitol rally every year because of children. ‘They are the future and we have to have more children and a better future for our society,’ LePage said. ‘Right now, more people are dying than being born, so it’s time to have an opportunity to keep them alive. We should not have abortion.’” [[Kennebec Journal, 1/16/16](#)]

BREASTFEEDING

2013: LePage Vetoed a Bill That Would Have “Offer[ed] Further Protection to Working Mothers Who Breast-Feed.” According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Gov. Paul LePage vetoed 10 bills late Friday, including a measure to tighten reporting requirements for donors who contribute to a newly elected governor’s transition and another to offer further protection to working mothers who breast-feed. The Legislature is scheduled to reconvene Wednesday and will override or sustain the vetoes then. [...] A measure to allow women who feel they are being discriminated against for expressing breast milk at work to turn to the state Human Rights Commission would require employers and employees to hire lawyers to appear before that panel, LePage said. He said existing laws protect breast-feeding mothers’ rights at the workplace, and mothers can pursue any claims of discrimination in court.” [[Portland Press Herald, 6/21/13](#)]

CONTRACEPTION

LePage Vetoed LD1247, Which Would Have Expanded Women’s Health Services to 13,000 Low-Income Women. According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “She also said she was not surprised that LePage claimed he did not recall vetoing LD 1247, the bill to expand women’s health services to roughly 13,000 low-income women.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/26/14](#)]

In 2017, LePage Refused to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Requiring Health Insurance Plans To Cover Contraceptives Dispensed For A 12-Month Period. In June 2017, LD 1237 became law without Governor LePage’s signature, after passing the House without a roll call vote and the Senate. “This amendment is the majority report of the committee and replaces the bill. It amends the requirements in current law relating to coverage of contraceptives to include coverage for contraceptive supplies without cost sharing for at least one drug, device or other product for each contraceptive method. If a health care provider recommends a particular contraceptive supply on the basis of medical necessity, coverage must be provided for that particular supply without cost sharing. The amendment also clarifies that coverage must be provided for contraceptives dispensed for a 12-month period at the discretion of the health care provider.” [Maine State Legislature, LD1237 Bill Text as Amended, [2017](#)]

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Headline: “Maine Defunds Planned Parenthood.” [[Lifesite News, 5/18/12](#)]

2012: LePage Signed a Budget Into Law That Cut Funding for the Family Planning Association of Maine by \$400,000. According to *Lifesite News*, “The state of Maine has defunded family planning services, depriving an organization affiliated with Planned Parenthood of \$400,000. Governor Paul LePage, a Republican, signed a budget Wednesday morning designed to erase the state’s \$83 million shortfall. One of the structural changes deprived Family Planning Association of Maine of \$400,000 in taxpayer revenues.” [[Lifesite News, 5/18/12](#)]

ROE V. WADE

Headline: “LePage: Roe v. Wade ‘Should Not be an Issue’ for Supreme Court Nominees.” [*Bangor Daily News*, 7/8/18]

LePage on Roe v. Wade and Potential Supreme Court Nominees' Positions on the Ruling: "It's the Law of the Land. If They Can Make a Case for Getting Rid of it, Let's do it."

According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "Gov. Paul LePage said Thursday that he doesn't believe a nominee's position on Roe v. Wade should be a factor for senators voting for Supreme Court nominees, contradicting a statement from Republican U.S. Sen. Susan Collins indicating that's what she intends to do. The Republican governor said during a radio interview that the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that decriminalized abortion 'should not be an issue' that decides whether a nominee to the bench is successful. 'It's the law of the land,' LePage said. 'If they can make a case for getting rid of it, let's do it.'" [*Bangor Daily News*, 7/8/18]

TITLE X FUNDING

Since FY2010 When LePage Was Elected and Took Office and FY2017, Title X Funding in Maine Has Decreased by \$184,810, an 8% Decrease:

FUNDING AND PATIENT LEVELS

	FY2010	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY2017	Net Change
NATIONAL						
Funding	\$317.5 M	\$286.4 M	\$286.5 M	\$286.5 M	\$286.5 M	-\$31 M
Patients	5,224,862	4,129,283	4,018,015	4,007,552	4,004,246	-1,220,616
MAINE						
Funding	\$2,149,810	\$2,381,400	\$1,926,000	\$1,965,000	\$1,965,000	-\$184,810
Patients	27,707	22,537	21,211	21,911	23,247	-4,280

[[National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, 2017](#)]

National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association: "Fewer Low-Income and Uninsured People in Maine are Able to Access Family Planning and Sexual Health Services Funded by Title X." According to the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, "Despite this important mission, federal funding for Title X has shrunk in recent years, and now fewer low-income and uninsured people in Maine are able to access family planning and sexual health services funded by Title X." [[National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, 2017](#)]

Title X Funding in Maine Supports 18 Maine Family Planning Clinics, Planned Parenthoods, and Other Community-Based Health Centers. According to Maine Family Planning, "Maine Family Planning was established in 1971 to serve as the statewide grantee for Title X funds. MFP has been the sole Title X grantee for the state of Maine ever since. In FY 2018, Maine Family Planning administered \$2,035,670 in federal family planning funds. That money helped support: 18 Maine Family Planning clinics: Augusta, Bangor, Belfast, Calais, Damariscotta, Dexter, Ellsworth, Farmington, Fort Kent, Houlton, Lewiston, Machias, Norway, Presque Isle, Rockland, Rumford, Skowhegan, Waterville; Title X sub-recipients: Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (Biddeford, Portland, Sanford, Topsham), Calais High School, DFD Russell Medical Center (Leeds, Monmouth, Turner), Greater Portland Health (Portland, South Portland, Casco Bay, Deering H.S.), HealthReach (Albio, Rangeley, Belgrade,

Bethel, Bingham, Coopers Mills, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Richmond, Madison, Strong), Islands Community Medical Services, Inc. (Vinalhaven), [and] Maranacook Community School (Readfield).” [[Maine Family Planning, Accessed 4/28/21](#)]

7/1/18-6/30/19: Title X Recipient Health Centers Served 22,727 Mainers, 20,070 of Which Were Female Contraceptive Clients. According to Maine Family Planning, “From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, our 47 health centers provided care for 22,727 Mainers; 20,070 of those patients were female contraceptive clients. Fully 82 percent of total patients qualified for free or reduced fee services. During that period, we provided: 22,200 tests for sexually transmitted infections; 2,602 cervical cancer screenings; 3,182 HIV tests.” [[Maine Family Planning, Accessed 4/28/21](#)]

MAINE METRICS

OVERVIEW

ECONOMIC STATISTICS

- **Wages and Income:** During the first two years of Gov. Mills’ first term, average annual wages increased at a faster average rate (4.61%) than wages did throughout Gov. LePage’s eight years in office, at an average rate of 2.16%. [SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics]
 - During Gov. Mills’ first two years in office, Maine’s average hourly and average annual wages increased year-over-year at a faster rate than any year-over-year period during Gov. LePage’s eight years. [SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics]
 - In 2019, Maine’s annual wage and salaries growth rate was 4.6%, higher than and equal to New England’s rate and the national rate, respectively. [SOURCE: Maine Office of the State Economist]
 - In 2019, Maine’s median household income increased by 13.44% over 2018, a higher year-over-year percent increase than any year under LePage. [SOURCE: FRED]
 - In 2019, Maine’s total personal income growth rate (4.6%) was higher than New England’s total personal income growth rate (4.1%) and the national personal income growth rate (4.4%). [SOURCE: Maine Office of the State Economist]
 - In 2019, Maine’s per capita income growth rate was 4.2%, higher than the New England and national per capita income growth rates of 3.9%. [SOURCE: Maine Office of the State Economist]
 - In 2019, Maine saw its highest increase in real per capita personal income since before LePage took office. [SOURCE: Maine Office of the State Economist]

- Employment: In 2019, Maine saw its lowest unemployment rate (2.7%) in at least a decade. [SOURCE: FRED]
 - Maine's labor force participation rate hit its highest rate in 2013 at 64.9% - in 2020, it was 60.5% and in 2019, it was 62.6%. [SOURCE: FRED]
- Cost of Living: Maine's regional price parity (a measure of prices compared to the national average) hit its highest point since before LePage took office in 2018 during Gov. LePage's final year in office at 100.6. In 2019, the regional price parity declined to 99.3. [SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis]
- GDP: In every year that LePage was governor except one, Maine's GDP increased at a slower rate than the national GDP rate increase. [SOURCE: FRED]
 - In Gov. Mills' first two years in office, Maine's GDP has increased at a faster rate than the national GDP, including in 2020 during the first year of the pandemic. [SOURCE: FRED]
 - In 2019, Maine's annual growth rate lagged behind New England's and the national rate. [SOURCE: Maine Office of the State Economist]

EDUCATION STATISTICS

- Educational Attainment: Under LePage, the raw number of Mainers who reported being a high school graduate decreased by 4%, from about 326,000 in 2010 to 308,000 in 2018. [SOURCE: Maine Office of the State Economist]
- College Enrollment: Under LePage and into the first year of Gov. Mills' administration, annual high school graduates' college enrollment rate dropped from 74.8% in 2010 to 62.1% in 2019. [SOURCE: Maine Department of Education]
- Teachers: Since Gov. Mills took office, average teacher classroom salaries have increased by \$3,600 and the total number of teachers has increased by about 800. [SOURCE: Maine Department of Education]
 - Since Gov. Mills took office, average special education teacher salaries have fallen by about \$2,000 but the number of such teachers has stayed mostly stable. [SOURCE: Maine Department of Education]
- Per Pupil Costs: Under LePage, per-pupil operating costs increased from \$9,629 the year he took office to \$12,442.95 the year he left office. [SOURCE: Maine Department of Education]
- State Share of K-12 Education Funding: Under LePage, the state share of public education funding fell from 53% in 2010 before he took office to 52.02% when he left office in 2018. [SOURCE: Maine Office of Fiscal and Program Review]

- Since Gov. Mills has taken office, the state share of public education funding has exceeded the state-mandated minimum of 55% at 56.03% as of 2021. [SOURCE: Maine Office of Fiscal and Program Review]
- State Funding for Higher Education: Under LePage, total state funding for higher education increased by 14.5%, from \$262 million in 2010 to \$300 million in 2018. [SOURCE: Maine Office of Fiscal and Program Review]
 - Since Gov. Mills took office, total state funding for higher education has increased by 8.45%, from \$300 million to \$326 million. [SOURCE: Maine Office of Fiscal and Program Review]
 - Under Gov. LePage, state funding for the Maine Maritime Academy increased by 16.5%, and under Gov. Mills, state funding for the Academy has decreased by 3.6%. [SOURCE: Maine Office of Fiscal and Program Review]
 - Under Gov. LePage, state funding for the Maine Community College System increased by 25%, from \$52 million to \$65 million; Under Gov. Mills, state funding for the Maine Community College System has increased by 14% to \$75.5 million in 2021. [SOURCE: Maine Office of Fiscal and Program Review]
 - Under Gov. LePage, state funding for the University of Maine System increased by 11%, from \$189 million to \$210 million; Under Gov. Mills, state funding for the System has increased by 6.8% to \$224 million in 2021. [SOURCE: Maine Office of Fiscal and Program Review]
 - As a percentage of the total General Fund, the annual appropriation for higher education has consistently fallen since 2010, including by almost one-percentage point since Gov. Mills took office, even as the raw total in spending has increased. [SOURCE: Maine Office of Fiscal and Program Review]

GOVERNMENT & BUDGET STATISTICS

- Maine Budget Stabilization Fund: In fiscal year 2012, Maine's Budget Stabilization Fund was \$44.8 million; in fiscal year 2021, it ended at \$491.4 million, a 997% increase since the beginning of LePage's term in office. [SOURCES: News reporting]
- Revenue Sharing: Revenue sharing at one point under Gov. LePage was just 2%, but under Gov. Mills, it has been increased to 3.75% in 2021. [SOURCE: *Portland Press Herald*]
- Government Spending: Based on a U.S. Census Bureau Survey of State Government Finances, during Gov. Mills' first year in office, government spending on education increased by 3.65%. [SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Survey of State Government Finances]

- Based on a U.S. Census Bureau Survey of State Government Finances, during Gov. Mills' first year in office, government spending on public welfare has increased by 5.26%. [SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Survey of State Government Finances]
- Based on a U.S. Census Bureau Survey of State Government Finances, during Gov. Mills' first year in office, government spending on hospitals has increased by 17.69%. [SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Survey of State Government Finances]
- Based on a U.S. Census Bureau Survey of State Government Finances, during Gov. Mills' first year in office, government spending on "health" increased by 14.68%. [SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Survey of State Government Finances]
- Based on a U.S. Census Bureau Survey of State Government Finances, during Gov. Mills' first year in office, government spending on highways decreased by 4.16%. [SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Survey of State Government Finances]
- Based on a U.S. Census Bureau Survey of State Government Finances, during Gov. Mills' first year in office, government spending on "police protection" has increased by 3.39%. [SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Survey of State Government Finances]
- Based on a U.S. Census Bureau Survey of State Government Finances, during Gov. Mills' first year in office, government spending on corrections has increased by 4.48%. [SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Survey of State Government Finances]
- Based on a U.S. Census Bureau Survey of State Government Finances, during Gov. Mills' first year in office, government spending on natural resources has increased by 7.70%. [SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Survey of State Government Finances]
- Based on a U.S. Census Bureau Survey of State Government Finances, during Gov. Mills' first year in office, government spending on parks and recreation has increased by 0.70%. [SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Survey of State Government Finances]
- Based on a U.S. Census Bureau Survey of State Government Finances, during Gov. Mills' first year in office, government spending on governmental administration has increased by 4.41%. [SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Survey of State Government Finances]

HEALTH CARE

- **Opioid Epidemic:** 2020 set a record number of drug deaths in Maine, with 87 more deaths than the previous record, set in 2017 at 417 deaths. [SOURCE: Maine Office of the Attorney General]
 - Since peaking at the 8th-worst state for its drug overdose mortality rate in 2017, Maine's ranking has come down to 12th in 2018 and 13th in 2019. [SOURCE: CDC]

- Individual Health Insurance Exchange: During Gov. Mills' first term, average rates on the individual insurance market have decreased each year – during the last two years of LePage being in office, average rates increased by double digits both years. [SOURCE: healthinsurance.org]
- Uninsured Rates: In 2019, Maine's uninsured rate for individuals under the age of 65 has remained steady at 10.2%, even while the national uninsured rate has increased. [SOURCE: Census.gov]
 - In 2019, Maine's uninsured rate for children under the age of 18 increased from 5.1% in 2018 to 6.0% in 2019. [SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation]

CONSUMER & CONSUMPTION DATA

- Personal Consumption: From 2013-2019, Maine's personal consumption expenditures increased year-over-year at a faster rate than the national rate, but in 2020, Maine's rate dropped at a higher rate than the national rate. [SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis]
- Car Prices: In 2021, the average used car price in Maine was \$24,576, ranking it 24th in the country for average used car costs and 0.5% less than the national average cost. [SOURCE: isecars.com]
- Housing: In 2020, Maine set a 10-year record for new, one-unit private housing permits issued in the state at 4,513 such permits. It was the first year in a decade where Maine's growth rate for new one-unit permits exceeded the national growth rate of new, privately-owned single-family housing units started. [SOURCE: FRED]
 - In 2020, Maine's home values increased at a higher rate over 2019 than the national rate, and the number of homes sold increased at a faster rate over 2019 than the national rate. [SOURCE: Maine Realtors Association; FRED]
 - In 2020, all 16 of Maine's counties saw an increase in median home sales prices and an increase in the number of home sales. [SOURCE: Maine Realtors Association]
 - In 2020, Maine saw the highest number of home sales and the highest median sales prices since record-keeping began in 1998. [SOURCE: Maine Realtors Association]
 - During the first two years of Gov. Mills' administration, Maine's house price index (a Federal Housing Finance Agency measurement of changes in single-family home values) increased at a faster rate over the prior year's index than the national house price index, and set a 10-year record increase in 2020 over 2019. [SOURCE: FRED]
- Energy Prices: Home heating oil prices hit a high during the first few years of LePage's administration, specifically in Feb. 2014 at \$3.88, but have been on the rise since early 2021. [Maine Governor's Energy Office]

- Weddings: Maine's marriage rate has been higher than the national marriage rate throughout the past decade, but during Gov. Mills' first year in office, fell to its lowest rate in a decade. [SOURCE: CDC]

INFRASTRUCTURE

- In 2019, CNBC rated Maine's infrastructure the 4th-worst in the country, finding that 13% of Maine's bridges were in poor condition and 13% of Maine's roads were in unacceptable condition. [SOURCE: CNBC]
- In February 2021, a national transportation research group found that Maine's deteriorated and congested roads cost Maine drivers a total of \$1.3 billion each year. [SOURCE: TRIP]
 - The group found that 44% of Maine's roads were in poor or mediocre condition and 13% of Maine's bridges were in poor/structurally deficient condition. [SOURCE: TRIP]
 - In 2020, the group found that 21% of Maine's rural pavements were in poor condition, 8% higher than the national average, ranking Maine 10th in the country for its poor roads. [SOURCE: TRIP]

POVERTY

- Under LePage, the number of Maine families living in poverty hardly changed, but peaked at 200,000 more families living in poverty for two years in 2016 and 2017 than when he took office. [SOURCE: Maine Office of the State Economist]

TAXES

- State Business Tax Climate Index Ranking: Since Gov. Mills took office, Maine's state business tax climate index ranking has improved by 5 points, from 34th in 2018 to 29th in 2021. [SOURCE: Tax Foundation]
 - Since Gov. Mills took office, Maine's corporate tax ranking has improved by 4 points (41st to 37th), Maine's individual income tax ranking has improved by 4 points (26th to 22nd), Maine's sales tax ranking has stayed the same at 8th, Maine's property tax ranking has fallen by 1 point (39th to 40th), and Maine's unemployment insurance tax ranking has improved by 9 points (44th to 33rd). [SOURCE: Tax Foundation]

ECONOMIC STATISTICS

WAGES & INCOME

Bureau of Labor Statistics – Mean Hourly & Annual Wages

In Maine, Average Annual Wages Increased Faster During the First Two Years of Gov. Mills' First Term (2019-2020), at an Average of 4.61%, Than Wages Did Throughout Gov. LePage's Entire 8 Years in Office, at an Average of 2.16%. **SEE TABLE BELOW

During Gov. Mills' First Two Years in Office, Maine's Average Hourly and Annual Wages Increased Year-Over-Year at a Faster Rate Than Any Year-Over-Year Period During LePage's Administration:

YEAR	ME MEAN HOURLY WAGE	ME HOURLY WAGE INCREASE RATE	ME MEAN ANNUAL WAGE	ME ANNUAL WAGE INCREASE RATE	NATIONAL INFLATION RATE
2010	\$18.98	--	\$39,470	--	1.6%
2011	\$19.32	1.79%	\$40,190	1.82%	3.2%
2012	\$19.64	1.66%	\$40,860	1.67%	2.1%
2013	\$19.92	1.43%	\$41,440	1.42%	1.5%
2014	\$20.26	1.71%	\$42,140	1.69%	1.6%
2015	\$20.80	2.67%	\$43,260	2.66%	0.1%
2016	\$21.24	2.12%	\$44,180	2.13%	1.3%
2017	\$21.78	2.54%	\$45,300	2.53%	2.1%
2018	\$22.50	3.31%	\$46,810	3.33%	2.4%
2019	\$23.30	3.56%	\$48,470	3.55%	1.8%
2020	\$24.62	5.67%	\$51,220	5.67%	1.2%

****NOTE:** 2021 data is not released yet; these averages are based on "All Occupations" in Maine

*****Highlighted cells** indicate years in which mean annual wages increased faster than inflation over the previous year

[[Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2011 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, May 2011](#); [Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2012 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, May 2012](#); [Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2013 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, May 2013](#); [Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, May 2014](#); [Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2015 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, May 2015](#); [Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2016 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, May 2016](#); [Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2017 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, May 2017](#); [Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2018 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, May 2018](#); [Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2019 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, May 2019](#); [Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2020 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, Accessed 11/11/21](#); [Minneapolis Federal Reserve, 1913-2021 Inflation, Accessed 11/11/21](#)]

Maine Office of the State Economist – Annual Wage & Salaries Growth Rate (2019)

2019: Maine's Annual Wage & Salaries Growth Rate (4.6%) Was Higher or Equal to New England's Rate (4.2%) and the National Rate (4.6%):

Annualized Percent Change from the previous quarter and Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)

Wages & Salaries	2019:Q1	2019:Q2	2019:Q3	2019:Q4	2019
Maine	13.5	0.9	3.6	3.2	4.6
New England	14.9	-0.5	-1.3	3.4	4.2
United States	10.2	2.7	1.6	3.7	4.6

[[Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of the State Economist, “Maine Economic Indicators,” May 2020](#)]

FRED – Median Household Income

2019: During Gov. Mills’ First Year in Office, Maine’s Median Household Income Increased by 13.44%, a Higher Percent Increase Year-Over-Year Than Gov. LePage Ever Achieved:

YEAR	MAINE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	% INCREASE	NATIONAL MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	% INCREASE
2010	\$47,931	--	\$58,627	--
2011	\$49,693	3.67%	\$57,732	-1.53%
2012	\$49,158	-1.08%	\$57,632	-0.17%
2013	\$54,957	11.80%	\$59,640	3.48%
2014	\$51,710	-5.91%	\$58,725	-1.53%
2015	\$50,756	-1.84%	\$61,748	5.15%
2016	\$50,856	0.20%	\$63,683	3.13%
2017	\$53,316	4.84%	\$64,557	1.37%
2018	\$58,663	10.03%	\$65,127	0.88%
2019	\$66,546	13.44%	\$69,560	6.81%
2020	\$63,440	-4.67%	\$67,521	-2.93%

****NOTE:** Highlighted cells indicate a year in which Maine’s median household income increased by more than the national median household income did

[[FRED, Real Median Household Income in the United States, Median Household Income in Maine, Accessed 11/18/21](#)]

Maine Office of the State Economist - Total Personal Income

2019: Maine’s Total Personal Income Growth Rate (4.6%) Was Higher Than New England’s Total Personal Income Growth Rate (4.1%) and the National Total Personal Income Growth Rate (4.4%):

Annualized Percent Change from the previous quarter and Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)

Total Personal Income	2019:Q1	2019:Q2	2019:Q3	2019:Q4	2019
Maine	8.8	3.9	3.1	3.1	4.6
New England	8.6	2.6	0.0	2.8	4.1
United States	6.2	4.4	2.8	3.0	4.4

[[Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of the State Economist, “Maine Economic Indicators,” May 2020](#)]

Maine Office of the State Economist - Per Capita Personal Income

2019: Maine’s Per Capital Personal Income Annual Growth Rate (4.2%) Was Higher Than New England’s (3.9%) and the National Rate (3.9%):

Annualized Percent Change from the previous quarter and Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)

Per Capita Personal Income	2019:Q1	2019:Q2	2019:Q3	2019:Q4	2019
Maine	8.5	3.5	2.7	2.7	4.2
New England	8.6	2.5	-.02	2.5	3.9
United States	5.8	4.0	2.2	2.5	3.9

[[Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of the State Economist, “Maine Economic Indicators,” May 2020](#)]

Maine Office of the State Economist - Real Personal Income

2019: During Gov. Mills’ First Year in Office, Maine Saw its Highest Increase in Real Per Capita Personal Income Since Before LePage Took Office:

YEAR	MAINE REAL PERSONAL INCOME (in millions)	MAINE REAL PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME	% CHANGE	U.S. REAL PERSONAL INCOME (in millions)	U.S. REAL PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME	% CHANGE
2010	\$54,435.5	\$41,002	--	\$13,104,885.1	\$42,367	--
2011	\$55,000.7	\$41,407	0.99%	\$13,569,148.7	\$43,553	2.80%
2012	\$54,454.8	\$41,013	-0.95%	\$13,998,383.0	\$44,605	2.42%
2013	\$53,543.7	\$40,319	-1.69%	\$13,987,180.6	\$44,264	-0.76%
2014	\$55,287.2	\$41,553	3.06%	\$14,570,420.8	\$45,776	3.42%
2015	\$56,865.3	\$42,812	3.03%	\$15,252,933.6	\$47,571	3.92%
2016	\$57,866.7	\$43,466	1.53%	\$15,512,675.2	\$48,036	0.98%
2017	\$59,105.7	\$44,287	1.89%	\$15,981,285.2	\$49,175	2.37%
2018	\$60,236.6	\$44,984	1.57%	\$16,481,365.4	\$50,450	2.59%
2019	\$62,689.0	\$46,636	3.67%	\$16,879,392.9	\$51,424	1.93%

****NOTE:** The highlighted cells indicate years in which Maine’s growth rate for per capita personal income exceeded the national growth rate

[[Bureau of Economic Analysis, SARPI Real Personal Income by State, Accessed 11/18/21](#)]

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

FRED – Annual Unemployment Rate

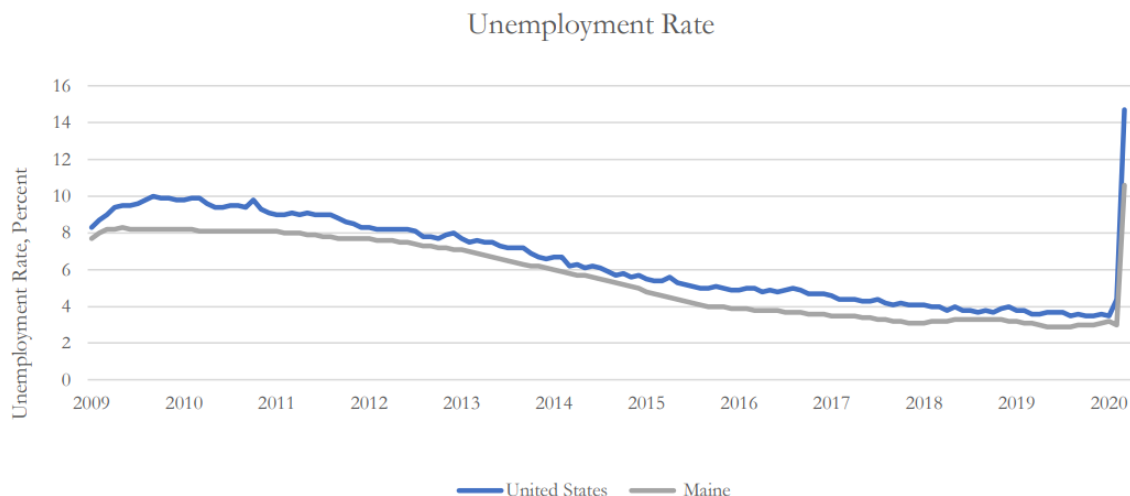
YEAR	MAINE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	% CHANGE	NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	% CHANGE
2010	8.4%	--	9.6%	--
2011	7.7%	-8.33%	8.9%	-7.29%
2012	7.2%	-6.49%	8.1%	-8.99%
2013	6.7%	-6.94%	7.4%	-8.64%
2014	5.6%	-16.42%	6.2%	-16.22%
2015	4.4%	-21.43%	5.3%	-14.52%
2016	3.8%	-13.64%	4.9%	-7.55%
2017	3.4%	-10.53%	4.4%	-10.20%
2018	3.1%	-8.82%	3.9%	-11.36%
2019	2.7%	-12.90%	3.7%	-5.13%
2020	5.5%	+103.70%	8.1%	+118.92%

****NOTE:** The highlighted cells indicate years in which Maine's unemployment rate decreased by a higher rate, or increased at a slower rate, than the national unemployment rate over the previous year

[[FRED, National and Maine Unemployment Rate, Accessed 11/18/21](#)]

Maine Office of the State Economist – Annual Unemployment Rate

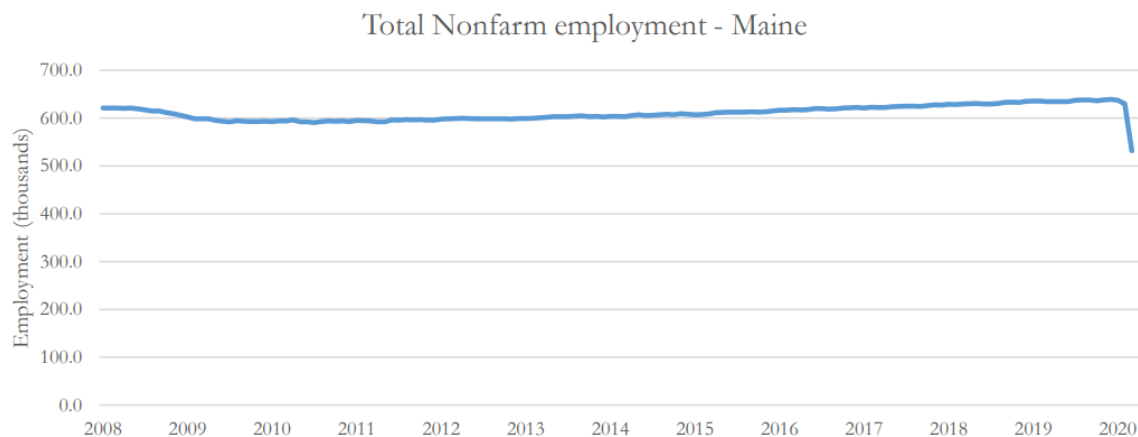
2009-2020: Maine's Unemployment Rate (Grey Line) v. the National Unemployment Rate (Blue Line):



[[Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of the State Economist, "Maine Economic Indicators," May 2020](#)]

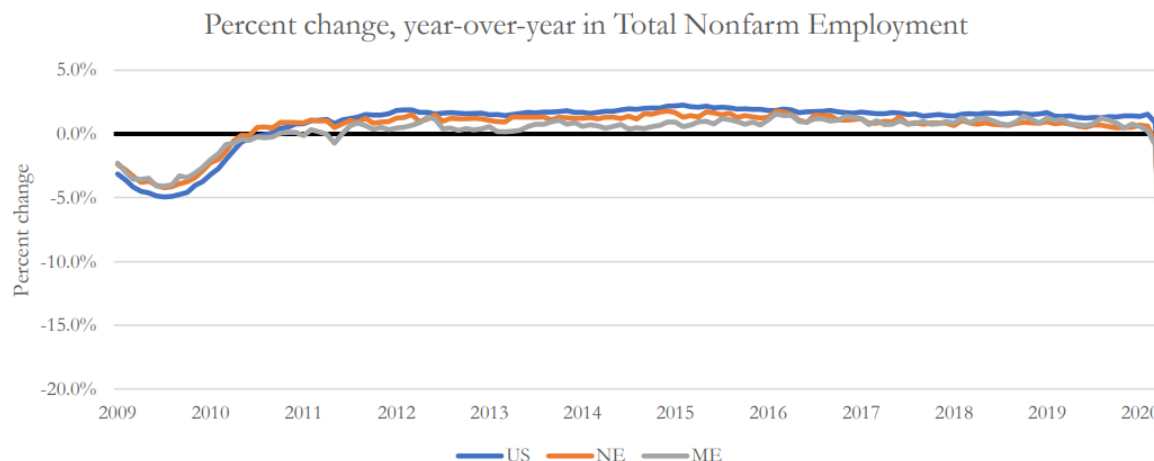
Maine Office of the State Economist - Total Employment

2008-2020: Maine's Total Nonfarm Employment:



[[Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of the State Economist, "Maine Economic Indicators," May 2020](#)]

2009-2020: Year-Over-Year Percent Change in Total Nonfarm Employment – U.S. v. New England States v. Maine:



[[Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of the State Economist, "Maine Economic Indicators," May 2020](#)]

FRED - Labor Force Participation Rate

2019-2020: During Gov. Mills' First Two Years in Office, Maine's Labor Force Participation Rate Decreased by More Than the National Rate:

YEAR	ME LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	% CHANGE FROM	NATIONAL LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR
2019	61.5	-0.2	61.5	-0.2
2020	60.5	-1.6	60.5	-1.6

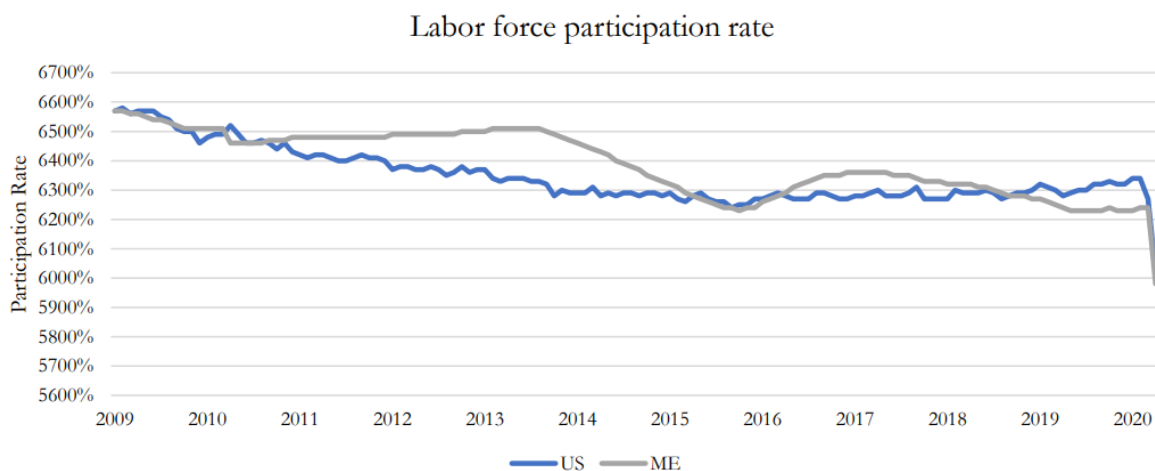
		PRIOR YEAR		
2020	60.5%	-3.35%	61.7%	-2.22%
2019	62.6%	-0.95%	63.1%	0.32%
2018	63.2%	-0.63%	62.9%	0.16%
2017	63.6%	0.32%	62.8%	0%
2016	63.4%	0.63%	62.8%	0.16%
2015	63.0%	-1.72%	62.7%	-0.32%
2014	64.1%	-1.23%	62.9%	-0.63%
2013	64.9%	0.31%	63.3%	-0.63%
2012	64.7%	-0.15%	63.7%	-0.62%
2011	64.8%	-0.31%	64.1%	-0.93%
2010	65.0%	--	64.7%	--

****NOTE:** Highlighted cells indicate years in which Maine's labor participation rate either increased by a higher percentage than the national labor participation rate or declined by a smaller percentage than the national labor participation rate

[[FRED, National Labor Force Participation Rate, Labor Force Participation Rate for Maine, Accessed 11/17/21](#)]

Maine Office of the State Economist – Labor Force Participation Rate

2009-2020: Maine's Labor Force Participation Rate (Grey Line) v. the National Labor Force Participation Rate (Blue Line):



[[Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of the State Economist, "Maine Economic Indicators," May 2020](#)]

COST OF LIVING

Regional Price Parities

A State-Level Regional Price Parity Measures the Difference Between State and National Price Levels for a Good or Service. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, “Regional price parities (RPPs) measure the differences in price levels across states and metropolitan areas for a given year and are expressed as a percentage of the overall national price level. The all items RPP covers all consumption goods and services, including housing rents. Areas with high/low RPPs typically correspond to areas with high/low price levels for rents.” [[Bureau of Economic Analysis, 12/15/20](#)]

2019: During Gov. Mills’ First Year in Office, Maine Experienced its Highest Price Parity Compared to National Prices Since Before LePage Took Office, at 100.6:

YEAR	MAINE PRICE PARITY
2010	96.8
2011	97.4
2012	98.4
2013	98.5
2014	98.0
2015	99.1
2016	99.4
2017	99.6
2018	100.6
2019	99.3

[[Bureau of Economic Analysis, SARPP Regional Price Parities by State, Accessed 11/18/21](#)]

GDP

FRED Statistics

In Every Year LePage Was Governor Except One, Maine’s GDP Increased at a Slower Rate Than the National GDP Rate Increase. *SEE TABLE BELOW*****

In Gov. Mills’ First Two Years in Office, Maine’s GDP Has Increased at a Faster Rate Than the National GDP, Including in 2020 During the First Year of the Pandemic:

YEAR	MAINE GDP	% INCREASE	NATIONAL GDP	% INCREASE
2010	\$52,256,200,000	--	\$15,048,970,000,000	--
2011	\$52,575,500,000	0.61%	\$15,599,732,000,000	3.66%
2012	\$53,679,700,000	2.10%	\$16,253,970,000,000	4.19%
2013	\$54,470,100,000	1.47%	\$16,843,196,000,000	3.63%
2014	\$56,410,800,000	3.56%	\$17,550,688,000,000	4.20%
2015	\$58,131,300,000	3.05%	\$18,206,024,000,000	3.73%
2016	\$60,254,400,000	3.65%	\$18,695,106,000,000	2.69%
2017	\$62,412,900,000	3.58%	\$19,479,623,000,000	4.20%
2018	\$65,491,900,000	4.93%	\$20,527,159,000,000	5.38%
2019	\$68,452,900,000	4.52%	\$21,372,582,000,000	4.12%
2020	\$69,271,800,000	1.20%	\$20,893,746,000,000	-2.24%

****NOTE:** These GDP totals are based on “all industries”

*****NOTE:** Highlighted cells indicate years in which Maine's GDP increased at a higher rate than the national GDP

[FRED, All Total Industry in Maine Gross Domestic Product, National Gross Domestic Product, Accessed 11/18/21]

Maine Office of the State Economist

2019: Maine's Annual Growth Rate (1.9%) Lagged Behind New England's (2.3%) and the National Rate (2.3%):

Annualized Percent Change from the previous quarter and Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)

Real GDP	2019:Q1	2019:Q2	2019:Q3	2019:Q4	2019 Annual
Maine	4.8	0.6	2.1	1.9	1.9
New England	4.8	1.3	2.1	1.8	2.3
United States	3.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.3

[Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of the State Economist, "Maine Economic Indicators," May 2020]

EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

2011-2018: Under LePage, the Number of Mainers Who Reported Being a High School Graduate Decreased by 4%, from 321,867 When He Took Office in 2011 to 308,013 When He Left Office in 2013:

YEAR	MAINE # OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES	% OF MAINERS WITH HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE OR HIGHER
2010	326,777	89.80%
2011	321,867	90.20%
2012	312,100	90.60%
2013	319,732	91.10%
2014	318,017	91.30%
2015	316,556	91.60%
2016	317,373	91.90%
2017	310,724	92.10%
2018	308,013	92.30%
2019		

[Maine Office of the State Economist, Economics & Demographics Dataset, Accessed 11/19/21]

GRADUATION RATES

Maine High School v. National Graduation Rates:

SCHOOL YEAR	MAINE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE
2020-2021	--	--
2019-2020	87.40%	86%
2018-2019	87.49%	85.8%
2017-2018	86.74%	85.3%

****NOTE:** The graduation rates are four-year graduation rates

[[National Center for Education Statistics, 2016-2017](#); [National Center for Education Statistics, 2017-2018](#); [National Center for Education Statistics, 2018-2019](#); [Maine Department of Education, Student Outcome Data, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 Graduation Data, Accessed 11/19/21](#); [Business Insider, 6/5/21](#)]

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

Under LePage and Into the First Year of Gov. Mills' Administration, College Enrollment by High School Graduates Has Dropped More Than 12%:

YEAR	# COLLEGE ENROLLERS	% COLLEGE ENROLLERS
2010	10,563	74.8%
2011	10,044	73.6%
2012	10,001	74.1%
2013	9,645	73.2%
2014	9,125	71.7%
2015	8,927	70.5%
2016	8,831	69.3%
2017	8,430	67.0%
2018	8,354	66.0%
2019	8,024	62.1%

[[Maine Department of Education, College Enrollment Data 2010-2019, Accessed 11/19/21](#)]

STUDENT LOANS

2021: Mainers Had an Average of \$33,352 in Student Loan Debt. [[Education Data Initiative, Accessed 11/30/21](#)]

2021: 182,900 Student Borrowers Lived in Maine, 56.6% of Whom Were Under the Age of 35. "People in Maine are more likely to have student loan debt, but indebted borrowers have a lower average balance remaining. \$6.1 billion in student loan debt belongs to state residents. \$33,352 is the average student loan debt. 182,900 student borrowers live in Maine. 56.6% of them are under the age of 35. 13.4% of state residents have student loan debt. Among the state's indebted student borrowers, 15.2% owe less than \$5,000. 23.6% owe \$20,000 to \$40,000. 1.8% owe more than \$200,000." [[Education Data Initiative, Accessed 11/30/21](#)]

2021: 13.4% of Maine Residents Have Student Loan Debt. “People in Maine are more likely to have student loan debt, but indebted borrowers have a lower average balance remaining. \$6.1 billion in student loan debt belongs to state residents. \$33,352 is the average student loan debt. 182,900 student borrowers live in Maine. 56.6% of them are under the age of 35. 13.4% of state residents have student loan debt. Among the state’s indebted student borrowers, 15.2% owe less than \$5,000. 23.6% owe \$20,000 to \$40,000. 1.8% owe more than \$200,000.” [[Education Data Initiative, Accessed 11/30/21](#)]

TEACHERS

Classroom Teachers

Since Gov. Mills Took Office, Average Classroom Teacher Salaries Have Increased by \$3,600 and the Number of Teachers Has Increased by About 800:

MAINE CLASSROOM TEACHERS		
YEAR	AVERAGE SALARY	COUNT
2012	\$52,611.87	12,204
2013	\$52,890.73	12,246
2014	\$54,057.21	12,368
2015	\$54,717.48	12,066
2016	\$53,280.65	11,315
2017	\$56,620.22	12,320
2018	\$53,192.37	11,212
2019	\$54,104.77	11,892
2020	\$55,399.13	11,901
2021	\$56,846.64	11,994

[[Maine Department of Education, Staff Data – State Teacher Counts & Average Salaries, Accessed 11/19/21](#)]

Special Education Teachers

Since Gov. Mills Took Office, the Average Salary for a Maine Special Education Teachers Has Fallen by About \$2,000 But the Number of Teachers Has Stayed Essentially Stable:

MAINE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS		
YEAR	AVERAGE SALARY	COUNT
2012	\$48,449.14	1,966
2013	\$49,031.12	1,981
2014	\$49,875.38	2,043
2015	\$50,403.32	2,005
2016	\$51,396.90	1,772
2017	\$55,006.36	2,052
2018	\$57,403.54	2,027
2019	\$52,719.93	1,990
2020	\$53,776.81	2,006
2021	\$55,447.24	2,020

[[Maine Department of Education, Staff Data – State Teacher Counts & Average Salaries, Accessed 11/19/21](#)]

PER PUPIL COSTS

Under LePage, Per-Pupil Operating Costs Increased from \$9,629.62 the Year He Took Office to \$12,442.95 the Year He Left Office:

SCHOOL YEAR	MAINE STATE AVERAGE PER PUPIL OPERATING COST
2018-19	\$12,442.95
2017-18	\$12,197.95
2016-17	\$11,859.95
2015-16	\$11,348.78
2014-15	\$10,990.51
2013-14	\$10,545.58
2012-13	\$10,021.47
2011-12	\$9,726.80
2010-11	\$9,629.62

[[Maine Department of Education, Resident Student Per Pupil Operating Costs, Accessed 11/19/21](#)]

STATE SHARE OF K-12 EDUCATION FUNDING

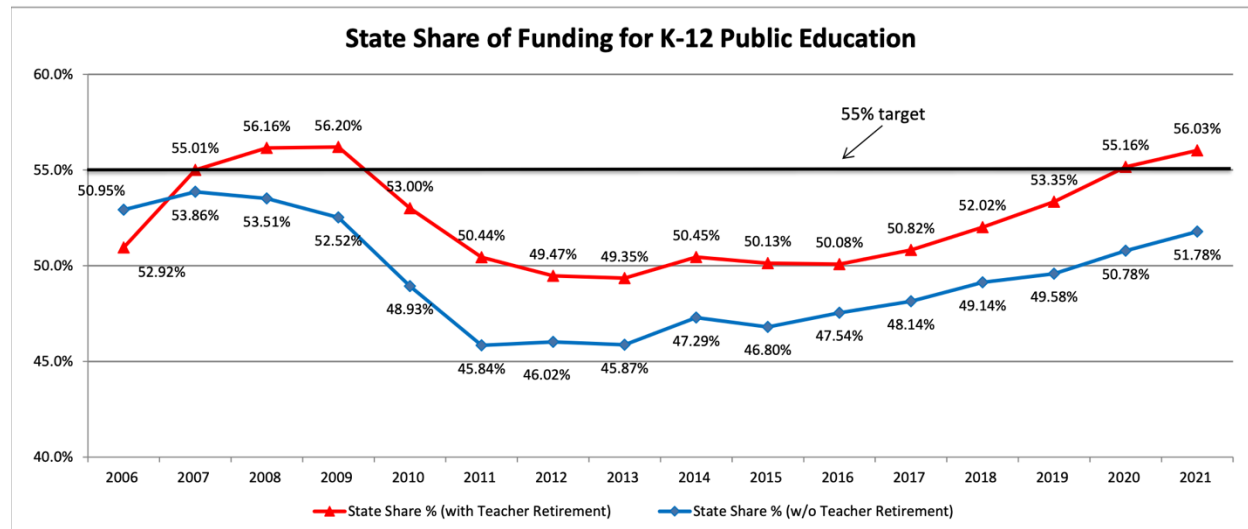
Under LePage, the State Share of Education Funding Fell from 53% in 2010 Right Before He Took Office to 52.02% in 2018. *SEE TABLE BELOW*****

Under Gov. Mills, the State Share of Education Funding Has Exceeded the State-Mandated Minimum of 55%, at 56.03%:

FISCAL YEAR	STATE SHARE OF EDUCATION FUNDING, %	TOTAL STATE CONTRIBUTION
2010	53.00%	\$1,129,866,526
2011	50.44%	\$1,091,686,222
2012	49.47%	\$1,061,345,227
2013	49.35%	\$1,070,003,899
2014	50.45%	\$1,112,038,522
2015	50.13%	\$1,120,789,831
2016	50.08%	\$1,131,485,349
2017	50.82%	\$1,159,447,004
2018	52.02%	\$1,212,439,272
2019	53.35%	\$1,296,905,916
2020	55.16%	\$1,387,766,379
2021	56.03%	\$1,455,783,430

****NOTE:** The state shares above (percentage and dollar-amount), include teacher retirement contributions

[[Maine State Legislature, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, Accessed 11/30/21](#)]



[[Maine State Legislature, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, Accessed 11/30/21](#)]

STATE FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Total Higher Education Funding

Under Gov. LePage, Total Higher Education Funding Increased by 14.5%, from \$262 Million in 2010 to \$300 Million in 2018. **SEE TABLE BELOW**

Since Gov. Mills Took Office, Total State Funding for Higher Education Has Increased by 8.45%, from \$300 Million to \$326 Million:

YEAR	TOTAL HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING, \$	% CHANGE
2010	\$262,743,046	-0.9%
2011	\$269,296,390	2.5%
2012	\$270,771,835	0.5%
2013	\$265,447,603	-2.0%
2014	\$270,151,957	1.8%
2015	\$271,667,546	0.6%
2016	\$283,629,241	4.4%
2017	\$290,172,193 2	2.3%
2018	\$300,950,815	3.7%
2019	\$308,982,532	2.7%
2020	\$322,354,814	4.3%
2021	\$326,368,491	1.2%

[[Maine State Legislature, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, Accessed 12/1/21](#)]

Maine Maritime Academy

Under Gov. LePage, Total State Funding for the Maine Maritime Academy Increased by 16.5%, from \$8.2 Million in 2010 to \$9.5 Million in 2018. *SEE TABLE BELOW*****

Since Gov. Mills Took Office, Total State Funding for the Maine Maritime Has Decreased by 3.6%, from \$9.5 Million in 2018 to \$9.2 Million in 2021:

YEAR	MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY, \$	% CHANGE
2010	\$8,204,025	-2.1%
2011	\$8,467,428	3.2%
2012	\$8,611,706	1.7%
2013	\$8,370,608	-2.8%
2014	\$8,483,304	1.3%
2015	\$8,483,304	0.0%
2016	\$8,890,304	4.8%
2017	\$8,883,304	-0.1%
2018	\$9,557,469	7.6%
2019	\$10,751,160	12.5%
2020	\$9,204,194	-14.4%
2021	\$9,214,135	0.1%

[[Maine State Legislature, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, Accessed 12/1/21](#)]

Maine community College System

Under Gov. LePage, Total State Funding for Maine's Community College System Increased by 25%, from \$52 Million in 2010 to \$65 Million in 2018. *SEE TABLE BELOW*****

Under Gov. Mills, Total State Funding for Maine's Community College System Has Increased by 14%, from \$65 Million in 2018 to \$75.5 Million in 2021:

YEAR	MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, \$	% CHANGE
2010	\$52,228,351	1.4%
2011	\$53,905,224	3.2%
2012	\$54,440,828	1.0%
2013	\$53,809,085	-1.2%
2014	\$55,958,536	4.0%
2015	\$56,952,102	1.8%
2016	\$58,369,518	2.5%
2017	\$61,958,536	6.1%
2018	\$65,251,868	5.3%
2019	\$70,072,844	7.4%
2020	\$72,013,254	2.8%

2021	\$74,584,958	3.6%

[[Maine State Legislature, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, Accessed 12/1/21](#)]

University of Maine System

Under Gov. LePage, Total State Funding for the University of Maine System Increased by 11%, from \$189 Million in 2010 to \$210 Million in 2018. *SEE TABLE BELOW*****

Under Gov. Mills, Total State Funding for the University of Maine System Has Increased by 6.8%, from \$210 Million in 2010 to \$224 Million in 2021:

YEAR	UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, \$	% CHANGE
2010	\$189,325,665	-2.1%
2011	\$194,575,730	2.8%
2012	\$196,645,848	1.1%
2013	\$192,492,495	-2.1%
2014	\$195,039,723	1.3%
2015	\$195,539,723	0.3%
2016	\$200,677,025	2.6%
2017	\$201,637,959	0.5%
2018	\$210,471,084	4.4%
2019	\$212,488,134	1.0%
2020	\$224,466,972	5.6%
2021	\$224,899,004	0.2%

[[Maine State Legislature, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, Accessed 12/1/21](#)]

FAME Student Financial Assistance

Under Gov. LePage, State Funding for FAME's Student Financial Assistance Programs Increased by 21%, from \$12.9 Million in 2010 to \$15.6 Million in 2018, Despite Initially Cutting Funding by More Than 10% Between 2011 and 2012. *SEE TABLE BELOW*****

Under Gov. Mills, State Funding for FAME's Student Financial Assistance Programs Have Increased by 12.8%, from \$15.6 Million in 2018 to \$17.6 Million in 2021:

YEAR	FAME STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, \$	% CHANGE
2010	\$12,985,005	7.5%
2011	\$12,348,008	-4.9%
2012	\$11,073,453	-10.3%
2013	\$10,775,415	-2.7%
2014	\$10,670,394	-1.0%
2015	\$10,692,394	0.2%
2016	\$15,692,394	46.8%
2017	\$17,692,394	12.7%

2018	\$15,670,394	-11.4%
2019	\$15,670,394	0.0%
2020	\$16,670,394	6.4%
2021	\$17,670,394	6.0%

[[Maine State Legislature, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, Accessed 12/1/21](#)]

Total General Fund Appropriation

Under Gov. LePage, Total General Fund Appropriations for Higher Education as a Percentage of the General Fund Decreased by 0.66% from 9.22% in 2010 to 8.56%. **SEE TABLE BELOW**

Under Gov. Mills, Total General Fund Appropriations for Higher Education as a Percentage of the General Fund Have Decreased by 0.70%, from 8.56% in 2018 to 7.86% in 2021:

YEAR	TOTAL GENERAL FUND APPROP., \$	TOTAL GENERAL FUND APPROP. AS % OF GENERAL FUND
2010	\$2,849,227,923	9.22%
2011	\$2,872,754,172	9.37%
2012	\$3,130,209,894	8.65%
2013	\$3,081,951,199	8.61%
2014	\$3,199,811,630	8.44%
2015	\$3,216,129,636	8.45%
2016	\$3,331,298,722	8.51%
2017	\$3,403,471,296	8.53%
2018	\$3,514,673,944	8.56%
2019	\$3,708,113,987	8.33%
2020	\$3,933,881,622	8.19%
2021	\$4,152,371,423	7.86%

[[Maine State Legislature, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, Accessed 12/1/21](#)]

GOVERNMENT & BUDGET STATISTICS

MAINE BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND (RAINY DAY FUND)

Between FY2012 and the End of FY2021, Maine's Budget Stabilization Fund Had Increased by 997%, from \$44.8 Million to \$491.4 Million. **SEE TABLE AND BULLET BELOW**

FISCAL YEAR	BALANCE, END OF FISCAL YEAR
FY2021	\$491.4 million
FY2020	\$258 million
FY2019	\$239 million

FY2018	\$272.9 million
FY2017	\$196.3 million
FY2016	\$112.4 million
FY2015	\$111.1 million
FY2014	\$68.3 million

[[Maine Public, 7/27/19](#); [News Center Maine, 7/21/21](#); *Portland Press Herald*, 7/31/18; *Portland Press Herald*, 7/30/20; *Sun Journal*, 7/26/17; *Kennebec Journal*, 7/28/16; *Morning Sentinel*, 8/5/15; *Sun Journal*, 7/31/14]

Fiscal Year 2012: Maine’s Budget Stabilization Fund Was \$44.8 Million. [[National Conference of State Legislators, Accessed 11/30/21](#)]

REVENUE SHARING

Revenue Sharing Was Lowered to Just 2% Under LePage, But Mills Has Restored it to 3.75%. [[Portland Press Herald, 3/18/21](#)]

CENSUS - GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Education

Since Gov. Mills Has Taken Office, Government Spending on Education Has Increased by 2.24%:

YEAR	TOTAL SPENT	% CHANGE
2019	\$2,256,454,000	3.65%
2018	\$2,176,966,000	2.24%
2017	\$2,129,244,000	0.41%
2016	\$2,120,618,000	4.18%
2015	\$2,035,487,000	-1.76%
2014	\$2,071,893,000	--

[[U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 2011-2019, Accessed 11/15/21](#)]

Public Welfare

Since Gov. Mills Has Taken Office, Government Spending on Public Welfare Has Increased by 5.26%:

YEAR	TOTAL SPENT	% CHANGE
2019	\$3,496,160,000	5.26%
2018	\$3,321,490,000	5.05%
2017	\$3,161,703,000	0.73%
2016	\$3,138,846,000	4.21%
2015	\$3,011,951,000	-13.45%
2014	\$3,480,070,000	--

[[U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 2011-2019, Accessed 11/15/21](#)]

Hospitals

Since Gov. Mills Has Taken Office, Government Spending on Hospitals Has Increased by 17.69%:

YEAR	TOTAL SPENT	% CHANGE
2019	\$123,145,000	17.69%
2018	\$104,635,000	4.98%
2017	\$99,672,000	-0.67%
2016	\$100,345,000	6.71%
2015	\$94,039,000	17.69%
2014	\$146,125,000	--

[[U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 2011-2019, Accessed 11/15/21](#)]

Health

Since Gov. Mills Has Taken Office, Government Spending on Health Has Increased by 14.68%:

YEAR	TOTAL SPENT	% CHANGE
2019	\$224,208,000	14.68%
2018	\$195,512,000	-3.13%
2017	\$201,826,000	16.68%
2016	\$172,978,000	0.05%
2015	\$172,886,000	-1.30%
2014	\$175,159,000	--

[[U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 2011-2019, Accessed 11/15/21](#)]

Highways

Since Gov. Mills Has Taken Office, Government Spending on Highways Has Decreased by 4.16%:

YEAR	TOTAL SPENT	% CHANGE
2019	\$734,387,000	-4.16%
2018	\$766,297,000	-1.50%
2017	\$777,991,000	-0.08%
2016	\$778,642,000	16.19%
2015	\$670,152,000	1.54%
2014	\$659,999,000	--

[[U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 2011-2019, Accessed 11/15/21](#)]

Police Protection

Since Gov. Mills Has Taken Office, Government Spending on Police Protection Has Increased by 3.39%:

YEAR	TOTAL SPENT	% CHANGE
2019	\$94,938,000	3.39%
2018	\$91,828,000	1.62%
2017	\$90,368,000	6.18%
2016	\$85,106,000	11.54%
2015	\$76,304,000	2.72%
2014	\$74,280,000	--

[[U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 2011-2019, Accessed 11/15/21](#)]

Corrections

Since Gov. Mills Has Taken Office, Government Spending on Corrections Has Increased by 4.48%:

YEAR	TOTAL SPENT	% CHANGE
2019	\$166,815,000	4.48%
2018	\$159,661,000	-1.79%
2017	\$162,568,000	1.43%
2016	\$160,279,000	4.78%
2015	\$152,969,000	9.26%
2014	\$140,007,000	--

[[U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 2011-2019, Accessed 11/15/21](#)]

Natural Resources

Since Gov. Mills Has Taken Office, Government Spending on Natural Resources Has Increased by 7.70%:

YEAR	TOTAL SPENT	% CHANGE
2019	\$148,888,000	7.70%
2018	\$138,242,000	0.02%
2017	\$138,213,000	1.46%
2016	\$136,221,000	10.72%
2015	\$123,030,000	2.15%
2014	\$120,437,000	--

[[U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 2011-2019, Accessed 11/15/21](#)]

Parks and Recreation

Since Gov. Mills Has Taken Office, Government Spending on Parks and Recreation Has Increased by 0.70%:

YEAR	TOTAL SPENT	% CHANGE
2019	\$8,227,000	0.70%
2018	\$8,170,000	15.48%
2017	\$7,075,000	1.77%
2016	\$6,952,000	5.69%
2015	\$6,578,000	1.25%
2014	\$6,497,000	--

[U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 2011-2019, Accessed 11/15/21]

Governmental Administration

Since Gov. Mills Has Taken Office, Government Spending on Governmental Administration Has Increased by 4.41%:

YEAR	TOTAL SPENT	% CHANGE
2019	\$502,255,000	4.41%
2018	\$481,043,000	6.84%
2017	\$450,258,000	22.19%
2016	\$368,475,000	3.15%
2015	\$357,219,000	2.35%
2014	\$349,007,000	--

[U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 2011-2019, Accessed 11/15/21]

HEALTH CARE

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Drug Deaths – General

2020 Set a Record for Number of Drug Deaths in Maine, With 87 More Deaths Than the Previous Record-Holder Year, 2017 at 417 Deaths:

YEAR	NUMBER OF DRUG DEATHS	% CHANGE
2020	504	+33%
2019	380	+7%
2018	354	-15%
2017	417	--

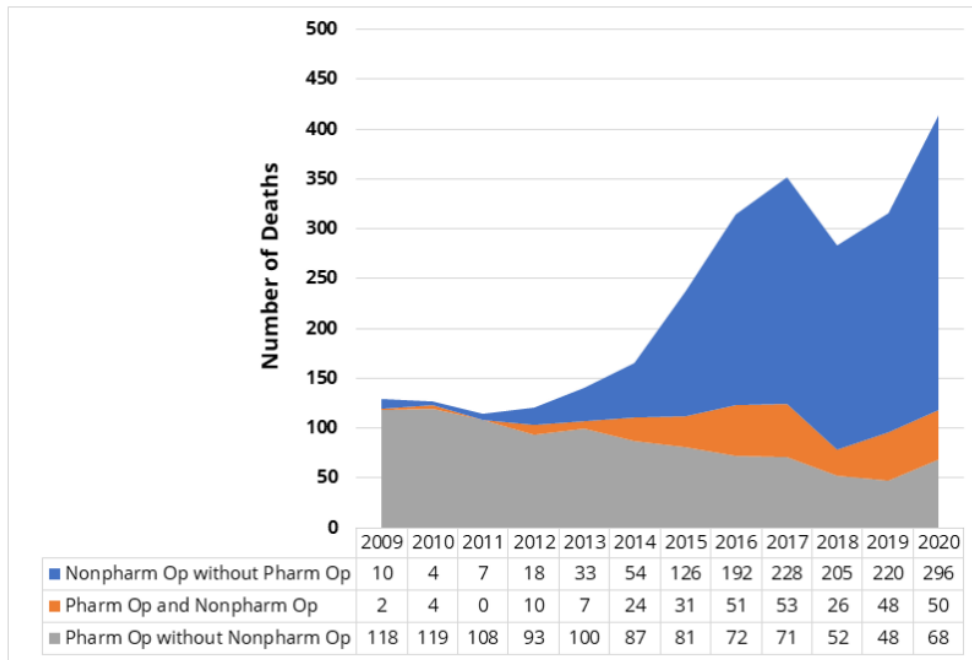
***NOTE: These figures include deaths via non-opioid, illicit stimulants like cocaine*

[Maine Office of the Attorney General, Maine Drug Death Report for 2020, 6/23/21; Maine Office of the Attorney General, Maine Drug Death Report for 2018, 4/18/19]

Opioid Overdose Deaths

2020: Overdose Deaths from Nonpharmaceutical Opioids Alone Peaked at 296 Deaths:

Figure 1. Comparison of pharmaceutical opioid (Pharm Op) and nonpharmaceutical opioid (Nonpharm Op) trends, alone and in combination.

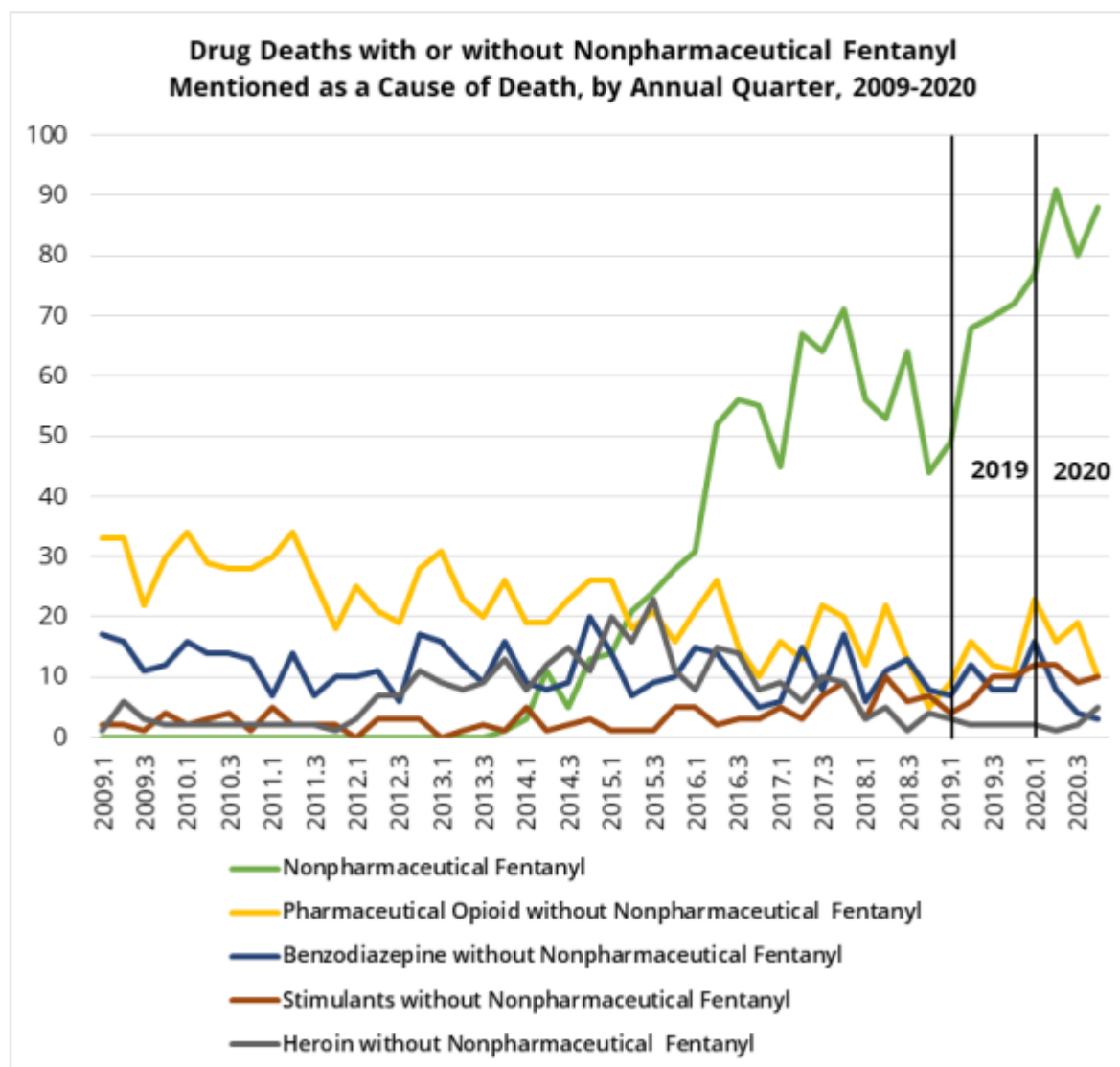


[[Maine Office of the Attorney General, Maine Drug Death Report for 2020, 6/23/21](#)]

Fentanyl Mentioned as a Cause of Death

2019 & 2020: Drug Deaths With Nonpharmaceutical Fentanyl Mentioned as a Cause of Death Peaked Both Years:

Figure 2. Comparison of drug deaths with and without nonpharmaceutical fentanyl mentioned as a cause of death, by annual quarter. The current increase in drug-induced deaths began in 2019 and was predominantly among deaths involving nonpharmaceutical fentanyl, and not cases caused by other drug categories without co-intoxicant fentanyl present.



[[Maine Office of the Attorney General, Maine Drug Death Report for 2020, 6/23/21](#)]

National Rankings

CDC's Annual Drug Overdose Mortality by State:

YEAR	DEATH RATE (per 100,000 individuals)	NATIONAL RANKING BY DEATH RATE	# OF DEATHS

2019	29.9	13 th	371
2018	27.9	12 th	345
2017	34.4	8 th	424
2016	28.7	10 th	353
2015	21.2	13 th	269
2014	16.8	22 nd	216

[[CDC, Drug Overdose Mortality by State, Accessed 11/23/21](#)]

AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE INCREASES IN THE INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE

During Gov. Mills' First Term, Average Rates on the Individual Insurance Market Have Decreased Each Year:

YEAR	AVERAGE RATE CHANGE
2015	No change
2016	+0.7%
2017	+23.5%
2018	+25%
2019	+1%
2020	-1.6%
2021	-13%
2022	-2%

[[HealthInsurance.org, 11/23/21](#)]

INDIVIDUAL EXCHANGE HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT

Enrollment in Maine's Individual Health Insurance Exchange Has Been Declining Since 2017 for a Variety of Factors:

YEAR	EXCHANGE ENROLLMENT	% CHANGE
2014	44,258	--
2015	74,805	69.02%
2016	84,059	12.37%
2017	79,407*	-5.53%
2018	75,809**	-4.53%
2019	70,987	-6.36%
2020	62,031***	-12.62%
2021	59,738	-3.70%

**NOTE: Enrollment declined due to a variety of factors, including higher premiums for those not receiving premium subsidies and the Trump Admin's decision to cut advertising funding*

***NOTE: Enrollment declined nationwide due to uncertainty about individual mandate penalty, the ACA itself, and premiums grew for individuals who didn't receive premium subsidies*

****NOTE: Drop-off in enrollment was expected given Medicaid expansion in 2019*

[[HealthInsurance.org, 11/23/21](#)]

UNINSURED RATE (UNDER 65)

Since Mills Has Taken Office, Maine's Uninsured Rate for Individuals Under the Age of 65 Has Remained Steady, Even While the National Rate Has Increased:

YEAR	ME # OF UNINSURED	ME UNINSURED RATE (under 65)	% CHANGE	NATIONAL UNINSURED RATE	% CHANGE
2019	104,963	10.2%	0%	10.8%	4%
2018	106,052	10.2%	0%	10.4%	2%
2017	106,863	10.2%	1%	10.2%	2%
2016	105,736	10.1%	-2%	10%	-8%
2015	108,771	10.3%	-17%	10.9%	-19%
2014	131,550	12.4%	-8%	13.4%	-20%
2013	143,651	13.5%	9%	16.8%	-1%
2012	133,087	12.4%	-3%	17%	-2%
2011	139,781	12.9%	--	17.3%	--

****NOTE:** Highlighted cells indicate years in which Maine's uninsured rate decreased at a faster rate than the national rate, or increased at a slower rate

[[Census.gov](#), Accessed 11/23/21]

UNINSURED RATE (CHILDREN)

2011-2019: Maine Annual Uninsured Rates for Children Under 18:

YEAR	ME UNINSURED (under 18)	% CHANGE	NAT'L UNINSURED (under 18)	% CHANGE
2019	6.0%	17.65%	5.6%	9.80%
2018	5.1%	18.60%	5.1%	2.00%
2017	4.3%	-14.00%	5.0%	6.38%
2016	5.0%	-21.88%	4.7%	-7.84%
2015	6.4%	0.00%	5.1%	-19.05%
2014	6.4%	28.00%	6.3%	-16.00%
2013	5.0 %	6.38%	7.5%	0.00%
2012	4.7%	-21.67%	7.5%	-5.06%
2011	6.0%	--	7.9%	--

****NOTE:** Highlighted cells are years in which the Maine child uninsured rate was lower than the national child uninsured rate

[[Kaiser Family Foundation](#), Accessed 11/15/21]

CONSUMER & CONSUMPTION DATA

PERSONAL CONSUMPTION

2010-2020: Maine v. National Personal Consumption Expenditures:

YEAR	ME PERSONAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURES (in millions)	% CHANGE	NATIONAL PERSONAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURES (in millions)	% CHANGE
2010	\$47,321.9	--	\$10,260,256.2	--
2011	\$48,867.6	6.53%	\$10,698,857.0	4.27%
2012	\$49,379.4	2.09%	\$11,047,363.2	3.26%
2013	\$50,315.4	3.79%	\$11,363,527.8	2.86%
2014	\$51,947.7	6.49%	\$11,847,725.1	4.26%
2015	\$53,337.5	5.35%	\$12,263,476.3	3.51%
2016	\$54,847.8	5.66%	\$12,693,265.6	3.50%
2017	\$57,591.1	10.00%	\$13,239,110.8	4.30%
2018	\$60,085.5	8.66%	\$13,913,530.7	5.09%
2019	\$62,130.4	6.81%	\$14,428,675.7	3.70%
2020	\$61,123.8	-3.24%	\$14,047,565.2	-2.64%

****NOTE:** The highlighted cells indicate a year in which the change in personal consumption expenditures in Maine exceeded that of the national rate

[[Bureau of Economic Analysis, Maine and National Personal Consumption Expenditures by Major Type of Product, Accessed 11/18/21](#)]

CAR PRICES

Used Car Prices

2021: The Average Used Car Price in Maine Was \$24,576, Ranking it 24th in the Country for Average Used Car Cost and 0.5% Less Than the National Average. Ranking based on analyzing 8 million used car sales from Feb-July 2021. [[Iseecars.com, Accessed 11/17/21](#)]

YEAR-OVER-YEAR CHANGE IN USE CAR PRICES			
YEAR-OVER-YEAR	MAINE'S RANKING	YEAR-OVER-YEAR % PRICE CHANGE	YEAR-OVER-YEAR \$ PRICE CHANGE
2020-2021	26 th	16.8%	\$3,977

[[Iseecars.com, Accessed 11/17/21](#)]

HOUSING

New Housing Permits – 1-Unit/Single-Family Structures

2020: Maine Set a 10-Year Record for New, One-Unit Private Housing Permits Issued and Was the First Year in a Decade Where Maine's Growth Rate of New One-Unit Private Housing Permits Issued Exceeded the National Rate of New Privately Owned Single-Family Housing Units Started:

YEAR	MAINE NEW 1-UNIT PRIVATE HOUSING PERMITS (SUM)	% CHANGE	NATIONAL NEW PRIVATELY- OWNED HOUSING UNITS STARTED: SINGLE- FAMILY UNITS (SUM)	% CHANGE
2010	2,868	--	5,657,000	--
2011	1,941	-32.32%	5,212,000	-7.87%
2012	2,320	19.53%	6,444,000	23.64%
2013	2,663	14.78%	7,430,000	15.30%
2014	2,700	1.39%	7,755,000	4.37%
2015	2,736	1.33%	8,547,000	10.21%
2016	3,763	37.54%	9,420,000	10.21%
2017	3,872	2.90%	10,190,000	8.17%
2018	3,621	-6.48%	10,457,000	2.62%
2019	3,449	-4.75%	10,672,000	2.06%
2020	4,513	30.85%	12,045,000	12.87%

****NOTE:** The highlighted cells represent years when the Maine 1-unit private housing permits rate of change over the year before it grew faster than the national rate of new single-family housing units started

[[FRED, New Private Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits: 1-Unit Structures for Maine, Accessed 11/18/21](#); [FRED, New Privately-Owned Housing Units Started: Single-Family Units, Accessed 11/18/21](#)]

Home Sales Values & Number of Sales

2020: Maine's Home Values Increased at a Higher Rate Over 2019 Than the National Rate, and the Number of Home Sold Increased at a Faster Rate Over 2019 Than the National Rate:

YEAR	ME HOME VALUES % CHANGE OVER PRIOR YEAR	# OF ME HOME SALES % CHANGE OVER PRIOR YEAR	MAINE MEDIAN SALES PRICE	NAT'L VALUES % CHANGE OVER PRIOR YEAR	# OF NAT'L HOME SALES % CHANGE OVER PRIOR YEAR	NAT'L MEDIAN SALES PRICE
2020	13.78%	9.82%	\$256,000	5.21%	6.32%	\$336,950
2019	4.65%	1.55%	\$225,000	-1.54%	0.49%	\$320,250
2018	7.5%	1.31%	\$215,000	0.88%		\$325,275
2017	5.60%	0.72%	\$200,000	5.67%		\$322,425
2016	4.93%	11.71%	\$189,400	3.73%		\$305,125
2015	3.14%	10.97%	\$180,500	2.93%		\$294,150
2014	0%	7.91%	\$175,000	7.34%		\$285,775

2013	2.94%	13.60%	\$175,000	8.93%		\$266,225
2012	3.03%	17.12%	\$170,000	8.67%		\$244,400
2011	-2.22%	-3.86%	\$165,000	0.99%		\$224,900
2010	2.90%	-2.60%	\$168,750	3.27%		\$222,700

*NOTE: The Maine and national data is for single-family existing homes

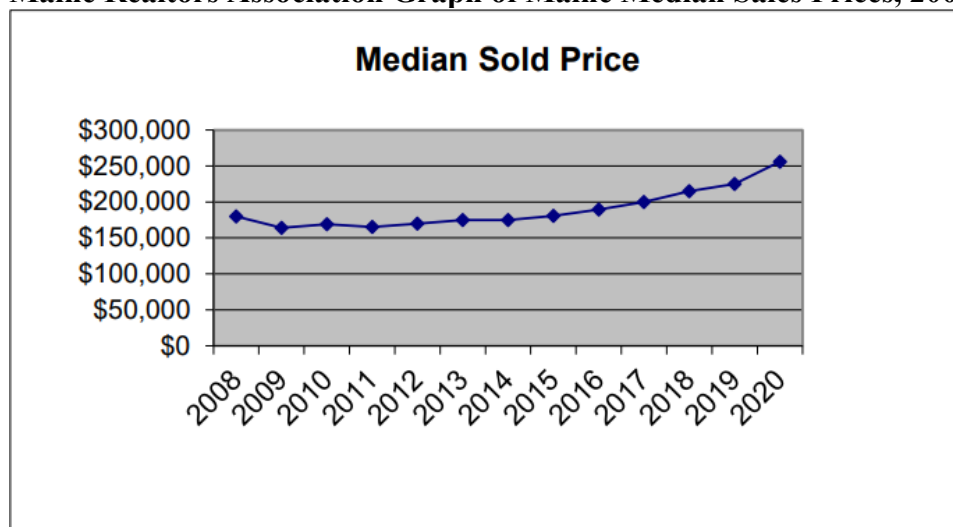
**NOTE: These press releases also contain county-by-county data if ever useful in the future
[\[Maine Realtors Association, Press Release, January 2021\]](#); [Maine Realtors Association, Press Release, December 2019](#); [Maine Realtors Association, Press Release, 1/22/19](#); [Maine Realtors Association, State of Maine Single Family Home Sales, February 2021](#); [FRED, Median Sales Price of Houses Sold for the United States, Accessed 11/19/21](#); [National Association of Realtors, National Existing Home Sales, 10/21/21\]](#)

2020: All Sixteen of Maine’s Counties Saw an Increase in Median Home Sales Price and an Increase in the Number of Home Sales. According to the Maine Realtors Association, “All sixteen counties had an increase in median sold price. All sixteen counties had an increase in the number of home sales.” [\[Maine Realtors Association, State of Maine Single Family Home Sales, February 2021\]](#)

Maine Realtors Association: “2020 Recorded the Highest Number of Home Sales and the Highest Median Sales Price Since Record Keeping Began in 1998.” According to the Maine Realtors Association, “2020 recorded the highest number of home sales and highest median sales price since record keeping began in 1998.” [\[Maine Realtors Association, State of Maine Single Family Home Sales, February 2021\]](#)

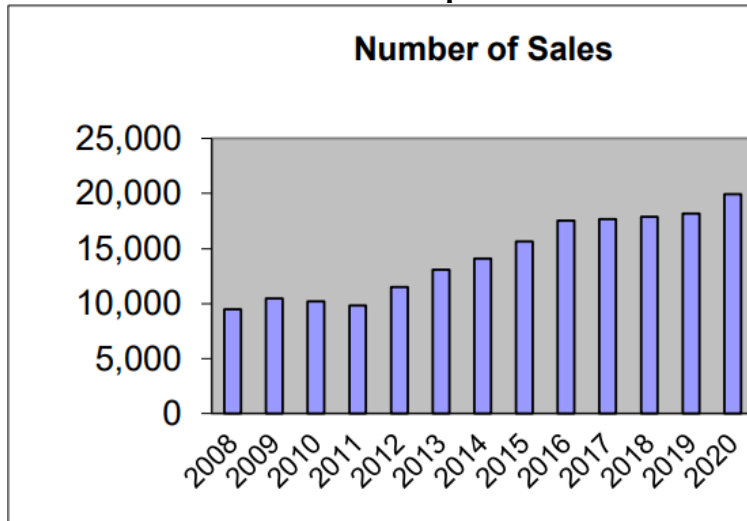
Maine Realtors Association: “In 2020, All Median Sold Prices Were Greater Than \$100,000 for the First Time.” According to the Maine Realtors Association, “In 2020, all median sold prices were greater than \$100,000 for the first time.” [\[Maine Realtors Association, State of Maine Single Family Home Sales, February 2021\]](#)

Maine Realtors Association Graph of Maine Median Sales Prices, 2008-2020:



[\[Maine Realtors Association, State of Maine Single Family Home Sales, February 2021\]](#)

Maine Realtors Association Graph of Number of Home Sales in Maine, 2008-2020:



[[Maine Realtors Association, State of Maine Single Family Home Sales, February 2021](#)]

House Price Index

The Federal Housing Finance Agency’s House Price Index Measures Changes in Single-Family Home Values. According to the Federal Housing Finance Agency, “The FHFA House Price Index (FHFA HPI®) is the nation’s only collection of public, freely available house price indexes that measure changes in single-family home values based on data from all 50 states and over 400 American cities that extend back to the mid-1970s. The FHFA HPI incorporates tens of millions of home sales and offers insights about house price fluctuations at the national, census division, state, metro area, county, ZIP code, and census tract levels. FHFA uses a fully transparent methodology based upon a weighted, repeat-sales statistical technique to analyze house price transaction data.” [[Federal Housing Finance Agency, Accessed 11/15/21](#)]

Under LePage, Maine’s House Price Index Only Beat the National House Price Index’s Change Over the Prior Year Once, in 2011, When Both Rates Fell Compared to the Prior Year. *SEE BELOW TABLE***

Under the First Two Years of Gov. Mills, Maine’s House Price Index Increased at Faster Rates Over the Previous Year’s Index Than the National House Price Index and Set a 10-Year Record Increase in 2020 Over 2019:

YEAR	ME HOUSE PRICE INDEX	% CHANGE OVER PRIOR YEAR	NATIONAL HOUSE PRICE INDEX	% CHANGE OVER PRIOR YEAR
2010	457.16	--	325.13	--
2011	448.49	-1.90%	312.61	-3.85%
2012	442.94	-1.24%	311.79	-0.26%
2013	445.33	0.54%	323.62	3.79%
2014	451.32	1.34%	339.96	5.05%
2015	465.05	3.04%	357.50	5.16%
2016	482.86	3.83%	376.33	5.27%

2017	505.71	4.73%	397.12	5.52%
2018	532.98	5.39%	419.32	5.59%
2019	560.37	5.14%	438.68	4.61%
2020	597.49	6.62%	461.20	5.13%

***Highlighted cells indicate years in which the Maine house price index rose at a higher rate, or dropped at a lower rate, than the national house price index rate over the prior year*

[[FRED, All-Transactions House Price Index for Maine, All-Transactions House Price Index National, Accessed 11/11/21](#)]

PERSONAL SAVINGS

NOTE: I could not find data on Maine-specific personal savings rates

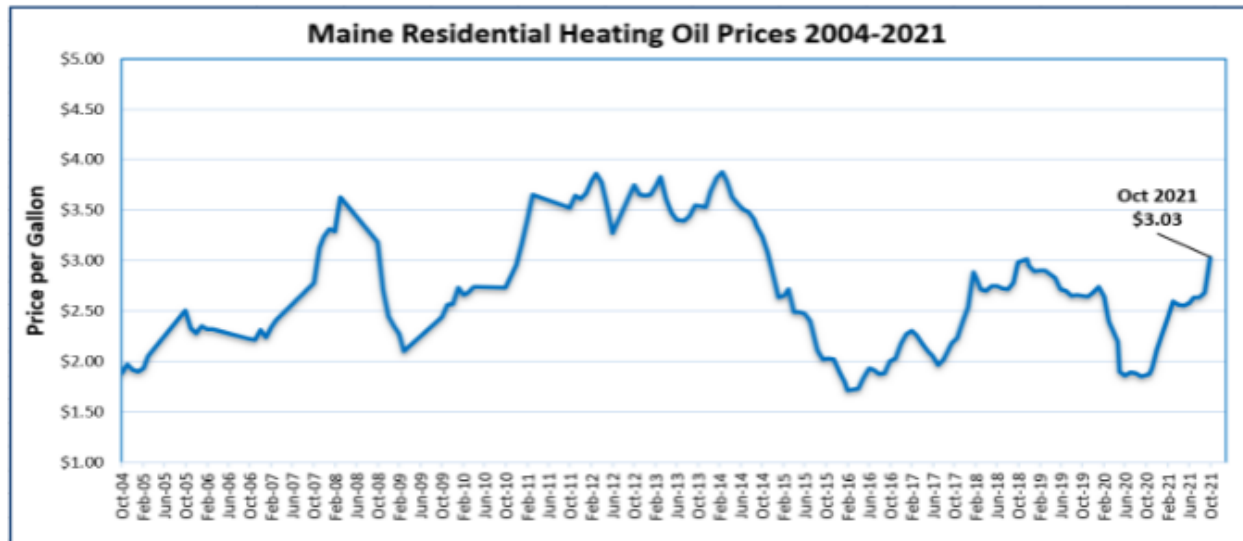
YEAR	NATIONAL PERSONAL SAVINGS RATE
2010	6.2%
2011	6.8%
2012	8.6%
2013	6.1%
2014	7.1%
2015	7.5%
2016	7.0%
2017	7.3%
2018	7.6%
2019	7.6%
2020	16.3%

[[FRED, Accessed 11/15/21](#)]

ENERGY PRICES

Heating Oil

Home Heating Oil Hit a High During the First Few Years of LePage's Administration, and Initially Dropped Once Gov. Mills Took Office, But Are Now on the Rise Again:



[[Maine Governor's Energy Office, Heating Fuel Prices, Accessed 11/23/21](#)]

Feb. 2014: Maine Monthly Average Heating Oil Prices Hit a High at \$3.88:

Monthly Average Heating Oil Prices

Updated Through October 2021

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
JAN	\$2.73	\$3.17	\$3.67	\$3.65	\$3.82	\$2.63	\$1.79	\$2.27	\$2.88	\$2.89	\$2.74	\$2.27
FEB	\$2.66	\$3.40	\$3.79	\$3.74	\$3.88	\$2.65	\$1.71	\$2.30	\$2.83	\$2.90	\$2.64	\$2.42
MAR	\$2.68	\$3.65	\$3.86	\$3.83	\$3.79	\$2.71	\$1.72	\$2.26	\$2.71	\$2.90	\$2.40	\$2.59
APR	\$2.74	N/A	\$3.77	\$3.61	\$3.63	\$2.49	\$1.73	\$2.18	\$2.70	\$2.86	\$2.20	\$2.56
MAY	N/A	N/A	\$3.54	\$3.47	\$3.56	\$2.49	\$1.84	\$2.11	\$2.75	\$2.83	\$1.90	\$2.55
JUN	N/A	N/A	\$3.27	\$3.40	\$3.51	\$2.47	\$1.93	\$2.05	\$2.75	\$2.71	\$1.86	\$2.58
JUL	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$3.39	\$3.48	\$2.40	\$1.91	\$1.96	\$2.72	\$2.70	\$1.89	\$2.63
AUG	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$3.44	\$3.41	\$2.11	\$1.87	\$2.02	\$2.71	\$2.65	\$1.88	\$2.63
SEP	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$3.55	\$3.34	\$2.02	\$1.88	\$2.18	\$2.78	\$2.66	\$1.85	\$2.68
OCT	\$2.73	\$3.52	\$3.75	\$3.54	\$3.24	\$2.03	\$2.00	\$2.23	\$2.98	\$2.65	\$1.87	\$3.03
NOV	\$2.84	\$3.64	\$3.65	\$3.53	\$3.08	\$2.02	\$2.03	\$2.39	\$3.01	\$2.64	\$1.93	
DEC	\$2.96	\$3.61	\$3.64	\$3.68	\$2.86	\$1.90	\$2.17	\$2.54	\$2.95	\$2.68	\$2.11	

[[Maine Governor's Energy Office, Monthly Average Heating Oil Prices, October 2021](#)]

WEDDINGS

Maine's Marriage Rate Has Been Higher Than the National Marriage Rate Throughout the Past Decade, But During Gov. Mills' First Year in Office (2019), Fell to its Lowest Rate in a Decade:

YEAR	MAINE MARRIAGE RATE	NATIONAL MARRIAGE RATE
2011	7.2	6.8
2012	7.3	6.8

2013	8.3	6.8
2014	7.7	6.9
2015	7.6	6.9
2016	7.6	7.0
2017	7.6	6.9
2018	7.4	6.5
2019	7.1	6.1

****Marriage rates are per 1,000 total population**

[[CDC, “National Marriage and Divorce Rate Trends for 2000-2019,” Accessed 11/15/21](#); [CDC, “Marriage Rates by State: 1990, 1995, and 1999-2019,” Accessed 11/15/21](#)]

INFRASTRUCTURE

WORST INFRASTRUCTURE IN AMERICA

2019: Maine’s Infrastructure Were Rated 4th Worst in the Country. [[CNBC, 7/10/19](#)]

2019: CNBC Found That 13% of Maine’s Bridges Were in Poor Condition and 13% of Maine’s Roads Were in Unacceptable Condition:

2019 Infrastructure score: 125 out of 350 points (Top States grade: F)

US population within 500 miles: 49,364,126

Average commute to work: 23.8 minutes

Bridges in poor condition: 13.1%

Roads in unacceptable condition: 13%

20-year water-system needs: \$1.35 billion

[[CNBC, 7/10/19](#)]

COST OF DEFICIENT ROADS

Maine’s Deteriorated, Congested, and Safety Feature-Lacking Roads Cost Maine Drivers a Total of \$1.3 Billion Each Year:

Location	VOC	Congestion	Safety	TOTAL
Bangor	\$522	\$541	\$498	\$1,561
Lewiston-Auburn	\$374	\$451	\$448	\$1,273
Portland	\$531	\$568	\$293	\$1,392
Maine Statewide	\$563 Million	\$250 Million	\$497 Million	\$1.3 Billion

****NOTE:** “VOC” is “Vehicle Operating Costs”

[[TRIP, “Maine Transportation by the Numbers,” February 2021](#)]

ROADS IN POOR CONDITION

2021: TRIP, a National Transportation Research Group, Found That 44% of Maine Roads Were in Poor or Mediocre Condition:

Location	Poor	Mediocre	Fair	Good
Bangor	24%	17%	12%	47%
Lewiston-Auburn	14%	17%	13%	56%
Portland	22%	24%	15%	40%
Maine Statewide	23%	21%	14%	42%

[[TRIP, “Maine Transportation by the Numbers,” February 2021](#)]

BRIDGE CONDITIONS

2021: TRIP, a National Transportation Research Group, Found That 13% of Maine’s Bridges Were in Poor/Structurally Deficient Condition:

	Number Poor/ Structurally Deficient	Share Poor/ Structurally Deficient	Number Fair	Share Fair	Number Good	Share Good	Total Bridges
Bangor	38	13%	175	60%	81	28%	294
Lewiston-Auburn	10	8%	62	47%	60	45%	132
Portland	27	8%	185	55%	124	37%	336
Maine Statewide	325	13%	1,362	55%	786	32%	2,473

[[TRIP, “Maine Transportation by the Numbers,” February 2021](#)]

RURAL ROADS & BRIDGES

2020: 21% of Maine’s Rural Pavements Were in Poor Condition, 8% Higher Than the National Average, While 13% of Maine’s Rural Bridges Were Structurally Deficient, 5% Higher Than the National Average:

Rural Pavements in Poor Condition	Ranking	U.S. Average	Rural Bridges Poor/Structurally Deficient	Ranking	U.S. Average
21%	10 th	13%	13%	7 th	8%

[[TRIP, Press Release, 5/12/20](#)]

POVERTY

NUMBER OF FAMILIES LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

Under LePage’s Tenure, the Number of Maine Families Living in Poverty Hardly Changed, But Peaked at 200,000 More Families Living in Poverty for Two Years in 2016 and 2017 Than When He Took Office in His First Term:

YEAR	ALL FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL	PERCENT OF ALL FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL
2012	349,857	9%
2013	350,205	9.10%
2014	347,972	9.40%
2015	347,579	9.30%
2016	551,109	8.90%
2017	554,061	8.40%
2018	347,959	7.90%

[[Maine Office of the State Economist, Accessed 11/19/21](#)]

TAXES

STATE BUSINESS TAX CLIMATE INDEX RANKING – TAX FOUNDATION

Since Gov. Mills Took Office, Maine’s State Business Tax Climate Index Ranking Has Improved by 5 Points, from 34th in 2018 to 29th in 2021:

YEAR	MAINE OVERALL BUSINESS TAX CLIMATE INDEX RANK
2021	29
2020	30
2019	28
2018	34
2017	34
2016	37
2015	33
2014	28

[[Tax Foundation, 2021 State Business Tax Climate Index, 2021](#)]

Since Gov. Mills Took Office, Maine’s Corporate Tax Ranking Has Improved by 4 Points, from 41st in 2018 to 37th in 2021:

YEAR	CORPORATE TAX RANK
2021	37
2020	38
2019	33
2018	41
2017	41
2016	42
2015	43
2014	42

[[Tax Foundation, 2021 State Business Tax Climate Index, 2021](#)]

Since Gov. Mills Took Office, Maine's Individual Income Tax Ranking Has Improved by 4 Points, from 26th in 2018 to 22nd in 2021:

YEAR	INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RANK
2021	22
2020	22
2019	25
2018	26
2017	24
2016	28
2015	21
2014	20

[[Tax Foundation, 2021 State Business Tax Climate Index, 2021](#)]

Since Gov. Mills Took Office, Maine's Sales Tax Ranking Has Stayed the Same, at 8th:

YEAR	SALES TAX RANK
2021	8
2020	8
2019	8
2018	8
2017	8
2016	8
2015	8
2014	7

[[Tax Foundation, 2021 State Business Tax Climate Index, 2021](#)]

Since Gov. Mills Took Office, Maine's Property Tax Ranking Has Decreased by 1 Point, from 39th in 2018 to 40th in 2021:

YEAR	PROPERTY TAX RANK
2021	40
2020	40
2019	40
2018	39
2017	40
2016	43
2015	43
2014	43

[[Tax Foundation, 2021 State Business Tax Climate Index, 2021](#)]

Since Gov. Mills Took Office, Maine's Unemployment Insurance Tax Ranking Has Improved by 9 Points, from 44th in 2018 to 33rd in 2021:

YEAR	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAX RANK
2021	33
2020	32
2019	24
2018	44
2017	44
2016	41
2015	42
2014	37

[[Tax Foundation, 2021 State Business Tax Climate Index, 2021](#)]

2014-2021: Overall Business Tax Climate Ranking and Individual Components Rankings for Maine:

Year	Overall Business Tax Climate Rank	Corporate Tax Rank	Individual Income Tax Rank	Sales Tax Rank	Property Tax Rank	Unemployment Insurance Tax Rank
2021	29	37	22	8	40	33
2020	30	38	22	8	40	32
2019	28	33	25	8	40	24
2018	34	41	26	8	39	44
2017	34	41	24	8	40	44
2016	37	42	28	8	43	41
2015	33	43	21	8	43	42
2014	28	42	20	7	43	37

[[Tax Foundation, 2021 State Business Tax Climate Index, 2021](#)]

State & Local Tax Burden Ranking

During Gov. Mills' First Year in Office, Maine's State-Local Effective Tax Rate Ranking Fell One Point, from 11th in 2018 to 12th in 2019, Even as the Effective State-Local Tax Rate Remained Steady:

YEAR	NATIONAL AVERAGE STATE- LOCAL TAX RATE	MAINE'S STATE- LOCAL EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	MAINE'S STATE- LOCAL EFFECTIVE TAX RATE RANK	MAINE'S STATE- LOCAL TAX BURDEN PER CAPITA	MAINE'S TAX PAID TO STATE PER CAPITA	MAINE'S TAXES PAID TO OTHER STATES PER CAPITA
2019	10.3%	11.0%	12 th	\$5,492	\$4,477	\$1,016
2018	10.3%	11.0%	11 th	--	--	--
2017	10.4%	11.1%	11 th	--	--	--

[[Tax Foundation, State and Local Tax Burdens Calendar Year 2019, 3/18/21](#)]

HERITAGE INDUSTRIES

OVERVIEW

LOBSTERING

- In 2019, the annual number of pounds of lobster harvested in Maine dropped by 16% over 2018, and again in 2020 by 5% over 2019. Under LePage, the annual number of pounds of lobster harvested in Maine increased by 26% from 2010 to 2018.
- In 2019, the annual value of Maine’s lobster fishery was \$491 million, a slight decrease from 2018’s annual value of \$492 million. In 2020, the value decreased by 17% to \$405 million. Under LePage, the annual value of Maine’s lobster fishery increased by nearly 55%, or by \$174 million from 2010 to 2018.
- In 2019, the average annual price per pound for lobster increased by 19% over 2018, from \$4.05 to \$4.82. It has since dropped to \$4.20 in 2020. Under LePage, the average annual price per pound for lobster increased by 22.4% between 2010 and 2018.
- Since Gov. Mills took office, the number of annual lobster license holders has decreased from 5,925 in 2018 to 5,774 in 2020. Under LePage, the number of lobster license holders decreased by 0.2%, from 5,913 in 2011 to 5,925 in 2018.
- Since Gov. Mills took office, the number of lobster traps in Maine has decreased by 2.2% from 2018 to 2020. Under LePage, the number of lobster traps in Maine decreased by 6%.
- While LePage signed many bills to aid the lobstering industry into law, one he refused to sign (but the legislature passed anyway) was a bill to fund the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative, which was tasked with marketing Maine’s lobster products across the country.

PAPER INDUSTRY

- Based on annual data reported to the Maine Forest Service, under LePage, Maine lost nearly 10% of its processing mills (sawmills and paper/pulp mills), as 12 mills closed; Between 2018 and 2019 (the only year for which data is available under Gov. Mills), 6 mills closed.
- Under Gov. Mills, the total number of people employed in the “Sawmills & Wood Preservation” industry (as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) has decreased, but their wages have increased by nearly 15%.

- Under LePage, the total number of people employed in the industry increased by at least 14% and wages similarly increased by at least 14%.
- Under Gov. Mills, the total number of people employed in the “Paper Manufacturing” industry (as defined by BLS) increased in both 2019 and 2020 for the first time since before 2012.
 - Under LePage, the total number of people employed in the industry decreased every year since before 2012.
- Under Gov. Mills, the total number of people employed in the “Pulp, Paper & Paperboard Mills” industry (as defined by BLS) increased in both 2019 and 2020 for the first time since before 2012.
 - Under LePage, the total number of people employed in the industry decreased every year since before 2012.
- In 2019, Maine’s pulp and paper producers processed 8.7 million tons of pulpwood, up 28% over 2018, during which the producers processed 6.8 million tons.
- In 2019, Maine’s sawlog processing was down 6% from 2018, from 0.93 billion board feet in 2018 to 0.87 billion board feet in 2019.

LOBSTERING

Annual Pounds of Lobster Harvested

Under Gov. Mills, the Annual Number of Pounds of Lobster Harvested Has Dropped Both Years, by a Total of -20.5% from 2018 to 2020. *SEE TABLE BELOW*****

Under Gov. LePage, the Annual Number of Pounds of Lobster Harvested Increased by 26.3% from 2010 to 2018:

YEAR	# OF POUNDS OF LOBSTER HARVESTED	% CHANGE
2020*	96,610,693	-5.14%
2019	101,841,528	-16.18%
2018	121,500,764	8.38%
2017	112,102,224	-15.46%
2016	132,604,691	8.10%
2015	122,663,393	-1.33%
2014	124,325,923	-2.72%
2013	127,808,436	0.38%
2012	127,321,422	21.34%

2011	104,924,729	9.06%
2010	96,208,772	--

*Data are preliminary

[[Maine Department of Marine Resources, Press Release, 2019](#); [Maine Department of Marine Resources, Historical Maine Lobster Landings, 3/15/21](#)]

Annual Value of Maine Lobster Fishery

Under Gov. Mills, the Value of Maine's Lobster Fishery Has Decreased by -17.5% from 2018 to 2020, an \$86 Million Decrease. **SEE TABLE BELOW**

Under Gov. LePage, the Value of Maine's Lobster Fishery Increased by 54.8% from 2010 to 2018, a \$174 Million Increase:

YEAR	VALUE OF LOBSTER FISHERY	% CHANGE
2020*	\$405,983,832	-17.34%
2019	\$491,167,617	-0.23%
2018	\$492,307,298	12.15%
2017	\$438,981,561	-18.81%
2016	\$540,671,929	7.61%
2015	\$502,450,309	9.35%
2014	\$459,508,386	24.06%
2013	\$370,383,982	8.27%
2012	\$342,079,520	2.25%
2011	\$334,539,734	5.18%
2010	\$318,052,441	--

*Data are preliminary

[[Maine Department of Marine Resources, Press Release, 2019](#); [Maine Department of Marine Resources, Historical Maine Lobster Landings, 3/15/21](#)]

Average Annual Price Per Pound for Lobster

Under Gov. Mills, the Average Annual Price Per Pound for Lobster Has Increased by 3.7%, from \$4.05 in 2018 to \$4.20 in 2020. **SEE TABLE BELOW**

Under Gov. LePage, the Average Annual Price Per Pound for Lobster Increased by 22.4%, from \$3.31 in 2010 to \$4.05 in 2018:

YEAR	AVERAGE ANNUAL PRICE PER POUND	% CHANGE
2020*	\$4.20	-12.86%
2019	\$4.82	19.01%
2018	\$4.05	3.32%
2017	\$3.92	-3.92%
2016	\$4.08	-0.49%

2015	\$4.10	10.81%
2014	\$3.70	27.59%
2013	\$2.90	7.81%
2012	\$2.69	-15.67%
2011	\$3.19	-3.62%
2010	\$3.31	--

*Data are preliminary

[[Maine Department of Marine Resources, Press Release, 2019](#); [Maine Department of Marine Resources, Historical Maine Lobster Landings, 3/15/21](#)]

Annual Number of Lobster License Holders

Under Gov. Mills, the Number of Lobster License Holders in Maine Has Decreased by 2.5%, from 5,925 in 2018 to 5,774 in 2020. **SEE TABLE BELOW**

Under Gov. LePage, the Number of Lobster License Holders in Maine Decreased by .2%, from 5,913 in 2011 to 5,925 in 2018:

YEAR	# OF LICENSE HOLDERS	% CHANGE
2020*	5,773	-1.05%
2019	5,834	-1.54%
2018	5,925	-1.20%
2017	5,997	-0.20%
2016	6,009	-0.08%
2015	6,014	4.17%
2014	5,773	-0.35%
2013	5,793	-2.38%
2012	5,934	0.05%
2011	5,931	0.30%
2010	5,913	--

*Data are preliminary

[[Maine Department of Marine Resources, Historical Maine Lobster Landings, 3/15/21](#)]

Annual Number of Lobster Traps in Maine

Under Gov. Mills, the Number of Lobster Traps in Maine Has Decreased by 2.2%. **SEE TABLE BELOW**

Under Gov. LePage, the Number of Lobster Traps in Maine Decreased by 6%:

YEAR	# OF TRAPS – MILLIONS	% CHANGE
2020*	2.787	-0.96%
2019	2.814	-1.26%
2018	2.850	-1.14%
2017	2.883	0.31%

2016	2.874	2.46%
2015	2.805	-4.10%
2014	2.925	-0.71%
2013	2.946	-1.34%
2012	2.986	-0.30%
2011	2.995	-1.19%
2010	3.031	

*Data are preliminary

[[Maine Department of Marine Resources, Historical Maine Lobster Landings, 3/15/21](#)]

PAPER INDUSTRY

Employment Totals

Under Gov. Mills, the Total Number of People Employed in the Sawmill & Wood Preservation Industry Has Decreased from 2,030 in 2018 to 1,910 in 2020, While Their Wages Have Increased by 13%. **SEE TABLE BELOW**

Under LePage, the Total Number of People Employed in the Sawmill & Wood Preservation Industry Increased by 14%, and Wages Increased by 14%:

SAWMILLS & WOOD PRESERVATION*				
YEAR	# OF EMPLOYEES	% CHANGE	AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE	% CHANGE
2020	1,910	-7.28%	\$44,570	8.15%
2019	2,060	1.48%	\$41,210	4.59%
2018	2,030	1.00%	\$39,400	11.27%
2017	2,010	0.5%	\$35,410	0.48%
2016	2,000	2.56%	\$35,240	3.04%
2015	1,950	4.28%	\$34,200	-2.15%
2014	1,870	2.75%	\$34,950	2.19%
2013	1,820	2.25%	\$34,200	-0.49%
2012	1,780	--	\$34,370	--

*NAICS Code 321100, All Occupations

NOTE: Data prior to 2012 was not available

[[Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics for Maine, 2020-2012](#)]

Under Gov. Mills, the Number of People Employed in the Paper Manufacturing Industry Increased for the First Time Since at Least 2012. **SEE TABLE BELOW**

Under LePage, the Number of People Employed in the Paper Manufacturing Industry Decreased Every Year Since at Least 2012:

PAPER MANUFACTURING*

YEAR	PAPER MANUFACTURING	% CHANGE	AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE	% CHANGE
2020	4,500	1.58%	\$61,060	3.67%
2019	4,430	2.78%	\$58,900	-1.49%
2018	4,310	-4.01%	\$59,790	3.14%
2017	4,490	-10.74%	\$57,970	5.00%
2016	5,030	-10.50%	\$55,210	1.12%
2015	5,620	-13.00%	\$54,600	0.53%
2014	6,460	-8.76%	\$54,310	3.11%
2013	7,080	-0.56%	\$52,670	2.81%
2012	7,120	--	\$51,230	--

*NAICS Code 322000, All Occupations

NOTE: Data prior to 2012 was not available

[\[Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics for Maine, 2020-2012\]](#)

Under Gov. Mills, the Number of Employees Employed in the Pulp, Paper, & Paperboard Mills Increased for the First Time Since at Least 2012. **SEE TABLE BELOW**

Under LePage, the Number of Employees Employed in the Pulp, Paper & Paperboard Mills Decreased Every Year Since at Least 2012:

PULP, PAPER, & PAPERBOARD MILLS*				
YEAR	# OF EMPLOYEES	% CHANGE	AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE	% CHANGE
2020	3,190	-0.62%	\$64,050	5.21%
2019	3,210	6.64%	\$60,880	-4.01%
2018	3,010	-4.75%	\$63,420	4.24%
2017	3,160	-14.82%	\$60,840	6.55%
2016	3,710	-13.11%	\$57,100	1.28%
2015	4,270	-16.44%	\$56,380	0.86%
2014	5,110	-7.26%	\$55,900	2.12%
2013	5,510	-0.72%	\$54,740	3.40%
2012	5,550		\$52,940	

*NAICS Code 322100, All Occupations

NOTE: Data prior to 2012 was not available

[\[Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics for Maine, 2020-2012\]](#)

of Sawmills

Under LePage, Maine Lost Nearly 10% of its Mills as 12 Mills Closed; Thus Far Under Mills, 6 Mills Closed Between 2018 and 2019:

YEAR	# OF PRIMARY PROCESSING MILLS*

2019	112
2018	118
2017	126
2016	126
2015	112
2014	114
2013	114
2012	126
2011	130
2010	130

**Primary processing mills including sawmills, pulp and paper mills that submitted annual reports to the Maine Forest Service*

***NOTE: This is not technically a count of the number of total primary processing mills, it's a count of how many mills reported their annual totals to the Maine Forest Service in any given year*

[\[Maine Forest Service, Annual Wood Processor Reports, 2010-2019\]](#)

2014: Maine Had 10 Pulp and Paper Mills. According to the *Associated Press*, “Today, the state is home to 10 pulp and paper mills — less than half the number that existed in the state in 1980, according to John Williams, president of the Maine Pulp & Paper Association. Many of the mills occupy the wooded inland parts of Maine that summer tourists rarely see, where major employers are scarce and spread far apart.” [\[Associated Press, 11/27/14\]](#)

Annual Silvicultural and Wood Processing Reports

2019: 322,239 Acres Were Harvested, a Decrease of 6% from 343,272 Acres in 2018. [\[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2019 Silvicultural Activities Report, 6/24/21\]](#)

2019: 297,952 Acres Were Partially Harvested, a 6% Decrease from 317,452 Acres in 2018. [\[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2019 Silvicultural Activities Report, 6/24/21\]](#)

2019: Maine’s Pulp and Paper Producers Processed 8.7 Million Green Tons of Pulpwood, Up 28% from 2018, When Maine’s Pulp and Paper Producers Processed 6.8 Million Green Tons. [\[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2019 Wood Processor Report, 6/16/21\]](#)

- **2018: Maine’s Pulp and Paper Producers Processed 6.8 Million Green Tons of Pulpwood, Up 6% from 2017, When They Processed 6.4 Million Green Tons.** [\[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2018 Wood Processor Report, 3/29/21\]](#)

2019: Maine’s Forest Products Industry Imported 3.5 Million Green Tons, Up 21% from 2018, When it Imported 2.9 Million Green Tons. [\[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2019 Wood Processor Report, 6/16/21\]](#)

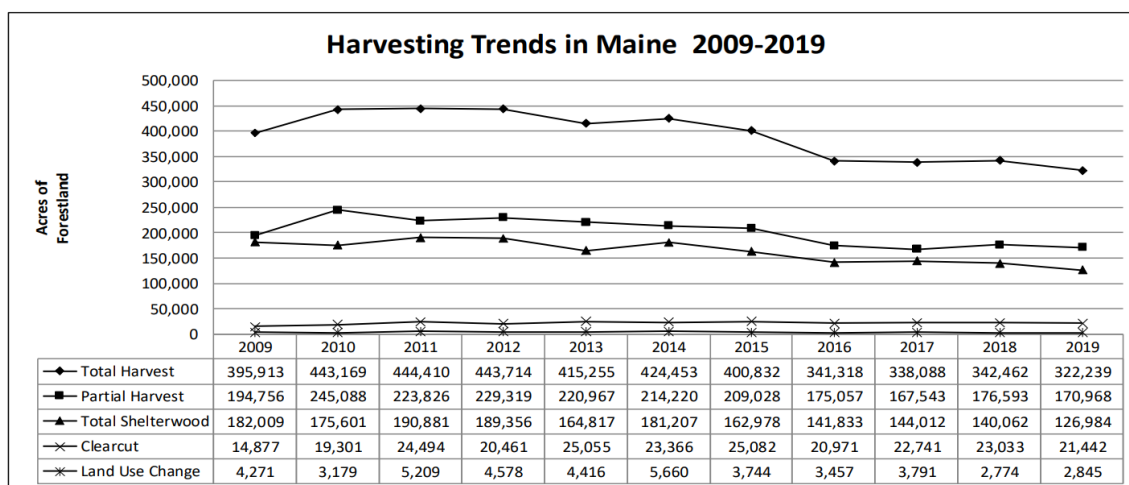
- **2018: Maine's Forest Products Industry Imported 2.9 Million Green Tons, Up 3.5% from 2017, When it Imported 2.8 Million Green Tons.** [[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2018 Wood Processor Report, 3/29/21](#)]

2019: Maine's Forest Products Industry Exported 2.3 Million Green Tons, Up 9.5% from 2018, When it Exported 2.1 Million Green Tons. [[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2019 Wood Processor Report, 6/16/21](#)]

- **2018: Maine's Forest Products Industry Exported 2.1 Million Green Tons, Down from 2017 When it Exported 2.3 Million Green Tons.** [[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2018 Wood Processor Report, 3/29/21](#)]

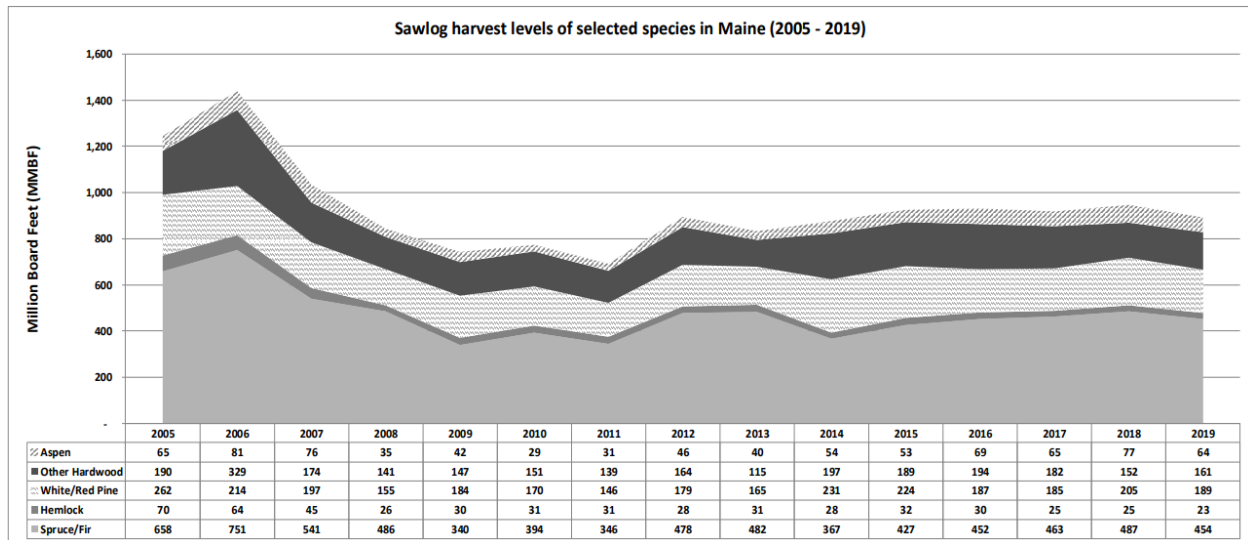
2019: Maine's Sawlog Processing was 0.87 Billion Board Feet, Down 6% from 2018, When Maine's Sawlog Processing Was 0.93 Billion Board Feet. [[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2019 Wood Processor Report, 6/16/21](#)]

2009-2019: Harvesting Trends in Maine:



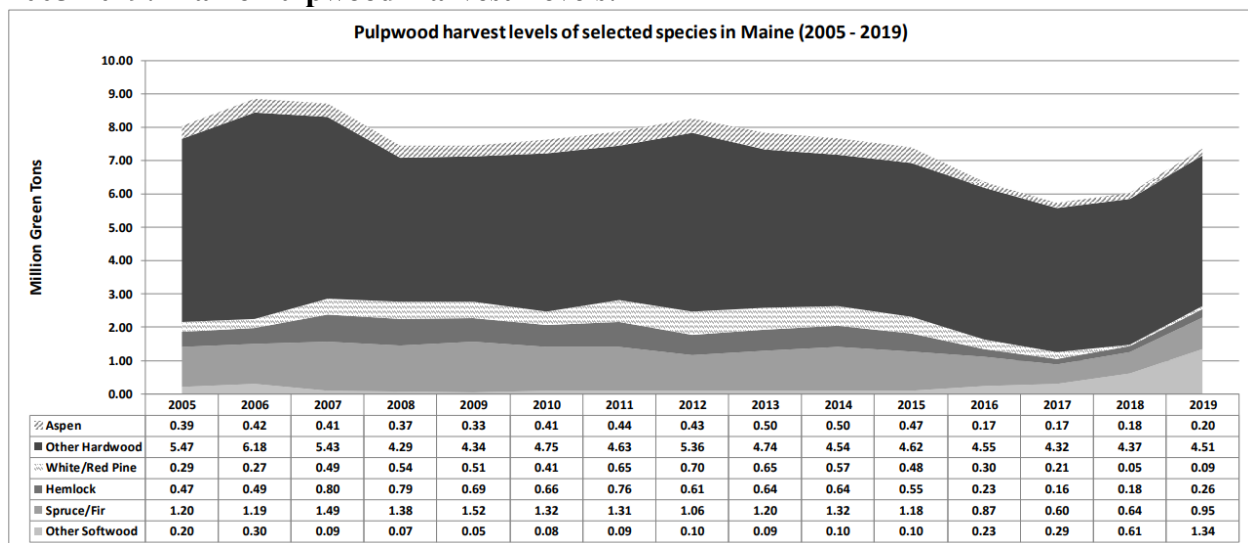
[[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2019 Silvicultural Activities Report, 6/24/21](#)]

2005-2019: Maine Sawlog Harvest Levels:



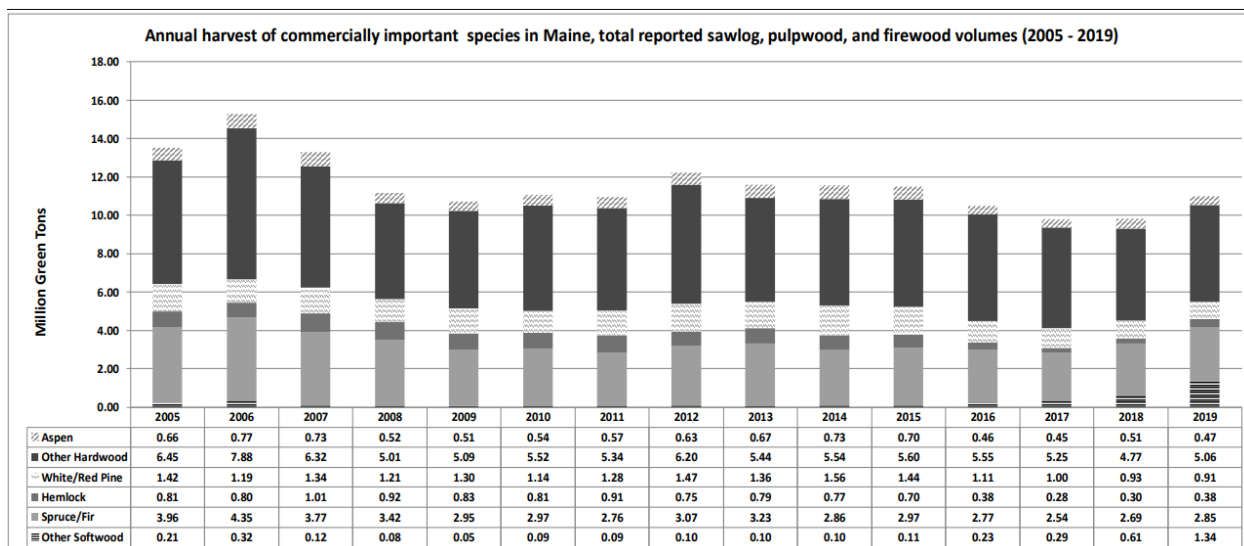
[[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2019 Wood Processor Report, 6/16/21](#)]

2005-2019: Maine Pulpwood Harvest Levels:



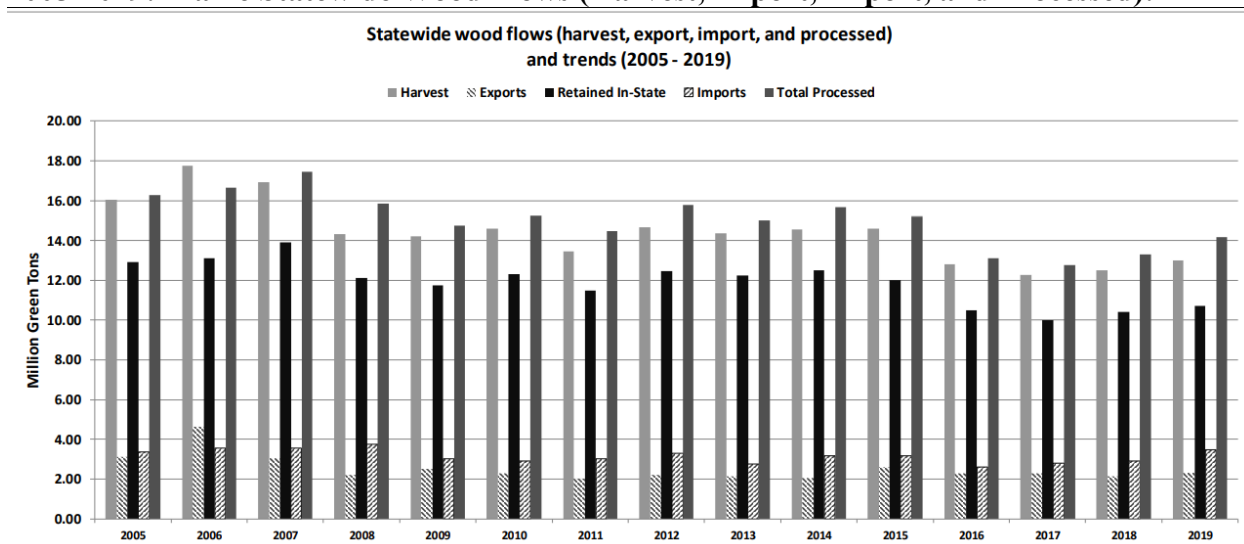
[[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2019 Wood Processor Report, 6/16/21](#)]

2005-2019: Annual Harvest of Commercially Important Species in Maine:



[[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2019 Wood Processor Report, 6/16/21](#)]

2005-2019: Maine Statewide Wood Flows (Harvest, Export, Import, and Processed):



[[Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, 2019 Wood Processor Report, 6/16/21](#)]