

# Legislative Report

## 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature for the First Regular Session

*The Maine Women's Lobby tracked 100 bills, and among those, prioritized nearly 40 for action.  
Below is a summary of our top-priority legislation.*

### Creating Economic Security and Opportunity

**L.D. 12: An Act To Establish a Residency Requirement for MaineCare Recipients:** Requires an individual to prove that she has lived in Maine for at least 30 days to be eligible for MaineCare. Contrary to some assertions, data from the Department of Health and Human Services clearly shows that people are not moving to Maine to get benefits such as MaineCare. A residency requirement would harm those individuals and families who need help the most, such as women fleeing from domestic violence or those returning to Maine to be with their families during difficult times. In addition, the federal Medicaid regulation states that a residency requirement is not legal. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.**

**L.D. 28: An Act To Establish a Statewide Residency Requirement for General Assistance:** Requires applicants for General Assistance to prove they have been living in the state for at least 30 days before qualifying for benefits and poses the same risks to women as L.D. 12 (above). **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.**

**L.D. 957: An Act To Enact a Five-point Welfare Reform Plan:** This bill imposes a residency requirement for General Assistance, puts a 60-month lifetime maximum on TANF benefits, and increases the weekly work requirement to receive benefits to 40 hours a week. The lifetime maximum would deny further benefits to many participants who have no other resources, and the 40-hour work requirement would erect an impossible barrier for participants with health issues or for parents who must care for their children. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.**

**S.P. 717: Joint Study Order Establishing the Commission To Develop Strategies To Increase Postsecondary Access, Retention and Completion for Low-Wage, Low-Skilled Adults:** The Commission is directed to study strategies for increasing postsecondary education opportunities for low-wage workers. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted.**

**L.D. 1261: An Act To Clarify Intermittent Leave under the Family Medical Leave Laws:** Amends Maine's Family Medical Leave Law to clarify that leave can be taken for intermittent uses (such as for acute asthma attacks or chemotherapy treatment) as opposed to only in one continuous period. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted. Public Law 07 – Ch. 233.**

**L.D. 1445: An Act To Calculate the Livable Wage and Measure the Bureaucratic Costs To Subsidize Workers Paid Less Than a Livable Wage:** This bill defines "livable wage" and directs the Department of Labor to calculate the livable wage for families based on household size using well-established methodology to calculate a basic needs budget. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted. Public Law 07 - Ch. 363.**

**L.D. 1454: An Act To Care for Working Families:** Guarantees a minimum number of paid sick days for workers to care for themselves or immediate family members. Businesses with 25 or more employees would offer one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to nine days each year. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Carried Over.**

**L.D. 1543: An Act To Clarify the Use of Tips in Payment of Service Employees:** Clarifies that tips given to service employees become their property, including credit card tips, and employees cannot be required to pool or split their tips with other employees. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted. Public Law 07 - Ch. 367.**

**L.D. 1697: An Act To Ensure Fair Wages:** Increases the minimum wage to \$7.70 in 2008 and \$8.40 in 2009, with readjustment in following years to be based on the Consumer Price Index for the purpose of retaining purchasing power. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Carried Over.**

**L.D. 1884: An Act To Create the Competitiveness Training Fund and Improve Maine Employment Security Programs:** This bill provides funding that allows CareerCenter customers earning below 200% of the poverty level to obtain a degree or certificate in training programs for jobs in a high-growth, high-wage industry clusters. It also reduces unemployment taxes for businesses, removes the Social Security offset for people receiving unemployment insurance, and maintains

unemployment benefits for workers only able to work on a part-time basis. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted. Public Law 07 – Ch. 352.**

**L.D. 1925: An Act To Cut Taxes on Maine Residents by over \$140,000,000:** This comprehensive tax reform bill reduces income taxes and increases the homestead property tax deduction and the circuit breaker program, funded by increasing the sales tax on certain products and services. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Defeated.**

### Protecting Against Violence

**L.D. 988: An Act To Improve the Protection from Abuse Laws:** This bill expands abuse protection by allowing current and former dating partners and victims of sexual assault or stalking to seek relief under protection from abuse laws. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted. Public Law 07 - Ch. 340.**

**L.D. 1039: An Act Regarding the Determination of the Predominant Aggressor in Domestic Violence Situations:** Requires law enforcement to develop a policy for determining the predominant aggressor in domestic violence situations. This is needed to avoid arresting the victim in instances where the perpetrator and victim may not be immediately distinguishable. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted. Resolve, Ch. 98.**

**L.D. 1627: An Act To Protect Families and Enhance Public Safety by Making Domestic Violence a Crime:** This bill allows law enforcement to charge an abuser with the crime of domestic violence, which differentiates crimes against family members from simple assault, stalking, or threatening. This charge carries an elevated sentence in cases where the abuser has committed previous similar acts of violence. Making domestic violence a crime enables prosecutors to establish a pattern of abuse to be considered during sentencing, instead of treating each incident of violence as a separate matter. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted. Public Law 07 – Ch. 436.**

**L.D. 1873: An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Stalking:** Improves stalking laws by expanding the definition of stalking to include causing a victim to suffer emotional distress, fear property damage, or fear harm to a pet. The bill takes into account technological advances by including electronic methods of harassment, observation, or tracking and provides for an elevation in charge due to aggravating factors. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Carried Over.**

### Ending Discrimination

**L.D. 375: An Act To Amend the Family Medical Leave Laws:** Expands Maine's Family Medical Leave Law to include domestic partners and the child of a domestic partner in the list of family members that an employee can take medical leave to care for. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted.**

### Ensuring Access to Health Care

**L.D. 61: An Act To Add Abortion Providers to the List of Mandated Reporters to the Department of Health and Human Services:** Requires abortion providers to report abuse or suspected abuse of a child. MWL opposed this bill because as health care workers, abortion providers are already mandated to report child abuse, making further legislation unnecessary. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.**

**L.D. 973: An Act To Require the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention To Publish Abortion Statistics:** Singles out abortion relative to other vital statistics by requiring the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to republish and place on their web site abortion statistics for the State going back to 1999, along with identifying statistics which could put providers at risk. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.**

**L.D. 1309: An Act To Provide Equity in Funding for Women's Health Services:** Ensures equal access to abortion care by providing financial assistance to low-income women seeking abortion services who do not have private insurance. **MWL Position: Support. Status: Defeated.**

### **Maine Women's Lobby**

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**123rd HOUSE ROLL CALL VOTES FOR MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

	FMLA and Domestic Partnerships	Intermittent Leave with FMLA	Competitiveness Training Fund	Livable Wage Study	Making Domestic Violence a Crime	Determining Predominant Aggressor
RC = Roll Call	#83				#148	
LD = Legislative Document	#375	#1261	#1884	#1445	#1627	#1039
Yes = Agreed with MWL position	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL	Yes=MWL
MWL position	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Herbert Adams (D)	Yes	Unanimous Support	Unanimous Support	Unanimous Support	Yes	Unanimous Support
James Annis (R)	No				Yes	
Susan Austin (R)	No				Yes	
Bernard Ayotte (R)	No				Yes	
Christopher Babbidge (D)	Absent				Yes	
Christopher Barstow (D)	Yes				Yes	
Stephen Beaudette (D)	No				Yes	
Paulette Beaudoin (D)	Yes				Absent	
Michael Beaulieu (R)	Yes				Yes	
Seth Berry (D)	Yes				Yes	
Robert Berube (R)	Absent				Yes	
Richard Blanchard (D)	Yes				Yes	
Patricia Blanchette (D)	Yes				Yes	
Lawrence Bliss (D)	Yes				Yes	
Andrea Boland (D)	Yes				Yes	
John Brautigam (D)	Yes				Yes	
William Browne (R)	Yes				Yes	
Mark Bryant (D)	Yes				Yes	
Richard Burns (D)	Yes				Yes	
Emily Ann Cain (D)	Yes				Yes	
James Campbell (R)	Yes				Yes	
Marilyn Canavan (D)	Yes				Yes	
Timothy Carter (D)	Yes				Yes	
Alan Casavant (D)	Yes				Yes	
Richard Cebra (R)	No				Yes	
Kathleen Chase (R)	No				Yes	
Herbert Clark (D)	No				Yes	
Richard Cleary (D)	No				Yes	
Gary Connor (D)	Yes				Yes	
Jill Conover (D)	Yes				Yes	
H. David Cotta (R)	No				Yes	
Margaret Craven (D)	Yes				Yes	
Dean Cray (R)	No				Yes	
Philip Cressey (R)	Absent				Absent	
Patsy Crockett (D)	Yes				Yes	
Robert Crosthwaite (R)	No				Yes	
Glenn Cummings (D)	Yes				Yes	
Philip Curtis (R)	No				Yes	
Cynthia Dill (D)	Yes				Yes	
Timothy Driscoll (D)	Yes				Yes	
Robert Duchesne (D)	Yes				Yes	
Michael Dunn (D)	Yes				Yes	
Brian Duprey (R)	Yes				Absent	
Robert Eaton (D)	Yes				Yes	
Jane Eberle (D)	Yes				Yes	
Peter Edgecomb (R)	No	Yes				
Harold Emery (R)	Absent	Absent				
Sean Faircloth (D)	Yes	Yes				

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MWL position	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support		
David Farrington (D)	Yes	Unanimous Support	Unanimous Support	Unanimous Support	Yes	Unanimous Support		
Edward Finch (D)	Yes				Yes			
Donna Finley (R)	Yes				Yes			
Jeremy Fischer (D)	Yes				Yes			
Charles Fisher (D)	Yes				Yes			
Stacey Fitts (R)	No				Absent			
Kenneth Fletcher (R)	No				Yes			
Patrick Flood (R)	Yes				Yes			
Stan Gerzofsky (D)	Yes				Yes			
Jeffery Gifford (R)	Absent				Yes			
Jayne Crosby Giles (R)	No				Yes			
Bonnie Gould (R)	Yes				Yes			
Christian Greeley (R)	Yes				Yes			
Carol Grose (D)	Yes				Yes			
James Hamper (R)	No				Yes			
Stephen Hanley (D)	Yes				Yes			
Charles Harlow (D)	Yes				Yes			
Anne Haskell (D)	Yes				Yes			
Teresea Hayes (D)	Absent				Yes			
Dawn Hill (D)	Yes				Yes			
Jon Hinck (D)	Yes				Yes			
George Hogan (D)	Yes				Yes			
Abigail Holman (R)*								
Randy Hotham (R)	No				Yes			
Troy Jackson (D)	Yes				Absent			
Lawrence Jacobsen (R)	No				Yes			
Deane Jones (D)*					Yes			
Henry Joy (R)	No				Yes			
Bryan Kaenrath (D)	Yes				Yes			
L. Gary Knight (R)	No				Yes			
Theodore Koffman (D)	Absent				Yes			
Scott Lansley (R)	No				Absent			
Sarah Lewin (R)	No				Yes			
Jacqueline Lundeen (D)	No				Yes			
W. Bruce MacDonald (D)	Yes				Yes			
Elaine Makas (D)	Yes				Yes			
Donald Marean (R)	No				Yes			
Boyd Marley (D)	Yes				Yes			
Edward Mazurek (D)	Yes				Yes			
John McDonough (R)	No				Yes			
Howard McFadden (R)	No	Absent						
Jonathan McKane (R)	No	Yes						
Everett McLeod (R)	No	Yes						
Elizabeth Miller (D)	Yes	Yes						
H. Sawin Millett (R)	Absent	Absent						
Janet Mills (D)	Yes	Yes						
David Miramant (D)	Yes	Absent						
Gary Moore (R)	Yes	Yes						
Roberta Muse (R)	Yes	Absent						
Joan Nass (R)	Yes	Yes						
Jacqueline Norton (D)	Absent	Yes						

\*Rep. Abigail Holman passed away on April 7, 2007. Deane Jones was elected to her seat on June 12, 2007.



**123rd SENATE ROLL CALL VOTES FOR MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

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LD = Legislative Document	#375	#1261	#1884	#1445	#1627	#1039
Yes = Agreed with MWL position	Yes=MWL	Yes=MWL	Yes=MWL	Yes=MWL	Yes= MWL	Yes=MWL
MWL position	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Philip Bartlett (D)	No Roll Call	Unanimous Support	Unanimous Support	Unanimous Support	No Roll Call	Unanimous Support
Paula Benoit (R)						
Peter Bowman (D)						
Joseph Brannigan (D)						
Lynn Bromley (D)						
Bruce Bryant (D)						
Jonathan Courtney (R)						
Dennis Damon (D)						
Bill Diamond (D)						
Dana Dow (R)						
Beth Edmonds (D)						
Walter Gooley (R)						
David Hastings (R)						
Barry Hobbins (D)						
Lisa Marrache (D)						
John Martin (D)						
Earle McCormick (R)						
Peter Mills (R)						
Elizabeth Mitchell (D)						
Richard Nass (R)						
John Nutting (D)						
Joseph Perry (D)						
Debra Plowman (R)						
Kevin Raye (R)						
Richard Rosen (R)						
Margaret Rotundo (D)						
Christine Savage (R)						
Elizabeth Schneider (D)						
Roger Sherman (R)						
Douglas Smith (R)						
Lois Snowe-Mello (R)						
Ethan Strimling (D)						
Nancy Sullivan (D)						
Karl Turner (R)						
Carol Weston (R)						
<b>Yes</b>						
<b>No</b>						
<b>Absent</b>						
<b>Excused</b>						
<b>Total</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>		<b>35</b>



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