# Legislative Report <br> $125^{\text {th }}$ Legislature, Second Regular Session 

> At the close of the $125^{\text {th }}$ Legislature, the Maine Women's Lobby had tracked over 550 bills, and prioritized nearly 80 for action over a two year period.
> Below is a summary of our top legislative priorities from 2012 .

## Protection from Violence and Discrimination

## L.D. 1237 - An Act to Prohibit Bullying in Schools

This bill defines bullying, including cyberbullying, and creates a ban on such behavior in Maine law. After nearly being defeated in 2011 by a last ditch effort to couch the bill as an infringement on free speech, it received unanimous support in the Education Committee as well as both chambers this year.
MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted.

## L.D. 1711 - An Act to Mandate the Use of Standardized Risk Assessment in the Management of Domestic Violence Crimes

With the passage of this bill, Maine's most dangerous domestic violence offenders will be more easily identified and their treatment by the courts, law enforcement and advocacy services providers more appropriate. Maine families are safer with a statewide, research-based risk assessment tool mandated for use at key points in the law enforcement and bail process.
MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted.

## L.D. 1760 - An Act to Ensure Notification to Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking When Defendants Are Released on Bail

This straightforward bill ensures that victims are made aware of when a perpetrator of abuse is released on bail. Often the most dangerous time for the victim is when she is in the process of leaving the abuser so notification of release is critical to developing an adequate safety plan.
MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted.

## L.D. 1867 - An Act to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence

This bill upgrades Maine's out-dated bail system to more adequately address the most serious offenders by sending them for judicial review. It also addresses strangulation, an all too common form of domestic violence and sexual assault. It clearly defines strangulation in statute allowing it to be better managed as the high risk behavior it is.
MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted.

## Voting Rights and Elections

## L.D. 199 - Act to Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photograph Identification for the Purpose of Voting

Originally this bill required that voters show a photo ID before they are allowed to cast a ballot. After lacking adequate support in the Senate in 2011, the bill was sent back to committee where it was dramatically amended to a resolve to study voter registration and participation.
MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Finally Passed.

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## Economic Security

L.D. 309 - An Act to Make Voluntary Membership in a Public Employee Labor Organization in the State This bill would have jeopardized the future of public-sector collective bargaining by preventing public-sector unions from collecting fees from non-union members who benefit from the union's wage negotiations.
MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.

## L.D. 849 - An Act to Provide Tax Relief for Maine's Citizens by Reducing Income Taxes

After countless amendments, this bill uses $20 \%$ of any surplus revenue to create a tax relief fund to reduce individual income tax rates to $4 \%$ after required transfers to the Maine "Circuit Breaker" program (which provides property tax payers and renters with a tax refund) and to state reserve accounts. Furthermore its policies threaten the State's credit rating by using temporary surpluses to permanently reduce revenue.
MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Enacted.

## L.D. 1207 - An Act to Amend the Labor Laws Relating to Certain Agricultural Employees

This bill would have originally repealed rights to overtime pay and collective bargaining for agricultural workers employed at large egg farms, namely those affiliated with Jack DeCoster. It was amended in committee to repeal agricultural workers' right to organize.
MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Enacted.
L.D. 1725 - An Act to Strengthen the Unemployment Insurance Laws and Reduce Unemployment Fraud Originally this Department of Labor bill would have stripped protections and smart policies for workers (especially rural workers or those with families) as well as enacted extreme punishments for those who are disqualified due to misconduct or who commit fraud. Under intense pressure, the committee amended some of the most severe components of the bill. Further amendments passed on the floor to make this dangerous and out-of-touch bill less harmful for job-seekers and their families.
MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Enacted.
L.D. 1746 - Supplemental to State Budget, FY 2012 -2013

Whereas last session we were able to claim some slice of victory with harms mitigated and compromises made on the Governor's proposed budget, this year proved to be even more challenging. Some harms lessened were the dangerous policy changes proposed to the general assistance program in L.D. 1903; we supported this compromise. Another was the protection of MaineCare coverage for childless adults who are currently in the program, in L.D. 1816; we also supported this compromise. However in L.D. 1746, funds for family planning, the "Drugs for the Elderly" program, the medicare savings program, Head Start, child care subsidies, the home visiting program, and dental care for the very needy were all slashed. Deep cuts were made to MaineCare; an additional 14,500 low-income parents and 7,000 low-income young adults will lose health insurance beginning this summer.
MWL Position: Opposed. Status: Enacted.
L.D. 1786 - An Act to Repeal the Requirement That the Department of Labor Calculate the Livable Wage Another proposal from the Department of Labor, this bill sought to entirely repeal Maine's definition of a livable wage along with the requirement to produce a biennial report on livable wages by county and urban centers. What ultimately passed was a narrowed definition and a requirement to report contingent on money being appropriated by the Legislature for this specific purpose.
MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Enacted.
L.D. 1812 - Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend Its Rules Governing Electronic Benefits Transfer Cards To Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification When Using a Card Instead of improving a vital and life-saving program for Maine's most vulnerable families, this bill seeks to erect a formidable barrier to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as food stamps) by requiring photo identification when accessing the benefit.
MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Finally Passed.
L.D. 1894 - An Act to Restore Departmental Management over Costs of State-paid Child Care This bill repealed family childcare providers' right to collectively bargain with the State of Maine.
MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Enacted. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES Roll Call Votes - 125 th Senate and Session


MAINE WOMEN＇S LOBBY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
Roll Call Votes－ 125 th House of Representatives 2nd Session
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[^1]Passed unanimously－no recorded vote


MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES Roll Call Votes - 125 th House of Representatives 2nd Session



[^0]:    L.D. 1774 - An Act Regarding the Matching Funds Provisions of the Maine Clean Elections Act

    After the Supreme Court ruled the "matching funds" portion of Maine's Clean Election Act unconstitutional in 2011, it became necessary to make changes to keep the program viable for candidates in all types of races. Instead of candidates receiving "matching funds" when an outside interest contributed to an opponent, we supported the recommendation from the Maine Ethics Commission to add a "requalifying option" to our law - so that candidates could demonstrate additional in-district support and qualify for additional funding to remain competitive. This bill was amended in committee and again on the Senate floor, ultimately weakening the law by not enacting a mechanism to replace "matching funds". However key pieces of Maine's Clean Elections law remain on the books.
    MWL Position: Support. Status: Enacted.

[^1]:    Passed unanimously－no recorded vote

