

**The Maine Women's Lobby — Your Voice in the State House**  
**Legislative Report**  
**126<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session**

While a number of the bills we lobbied this legislative session had unanimous votes, several were the subject of lengthy debate and multiple votes. The roll calls here reflect just some of the many issues that we worked on.

**Economic Security**

**LD 1815, *An Act to Require a Work Search for Job-ready Applicants for Benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program***

**Sponsor: Representative Kenneth Fredette (Governor's Bill)**

Part of a series of "welfare reform" bills from the Governor, this bill would have made it harder for women with children and very low incomes to pursue applications to the Temporary Aid for Needy Families Program until they could prove that they have applied for a specific number of jobs. While gainful employment is clearly part of the path to economic security, forcing women in dire circumstances to demonstrate a job search before receiving assistance will only delay and prevent families from getting the help they need and does not result in long-term gainful employment.

***MWL position:*** Oppose; ***Final Status:*** Defeated

House roll call #637, *Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass Report*

Senate roll call #557, *Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass Report*

**LD 1822, *An Act To Increase Integrity in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program through Restriction of Expenditures***

**Sponsor: Representative Sharri MacDonald (Governor's Bill)**

This bill would create a penalty for participants in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program who use their cash benefits for alcohol, tobacco, lottery tickets and bail. There is very little data indicating this is a regular problem, and no way to enforce this penalty without likely implicating innocent participants who truly need assistance.

***MWL position:*** Oppose; ***Final Status:*** Defeated

House roll call #773, *Insist*

Senate roll call #554, *Adopt Senate Amendment* (This amendment, although reducing penalties proposed in the original bill, would still serve the effect of stigmatizing low-income women and children despite no evidence of a genuine problem. The potential harms suggested by this bill, as well as the Senate amendment, would be worse than any problems solved by its implementation.)

**LD 1842, *An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program***

**Sponsor: Representative James Gillway (Governor's Bill)**

This bill would have eliminated the good cause exemption to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, which makes it possible for participants to focus on stabilizing their family if there are legitimate reasons for them to be unemployed. These reasons often include lack of transportation, lack of child care, disability, and domestic violence, among others. It also would have eliminated the successful Parents as Scholars Program, which helps low-income Mainers pursue educational goals.

***MWL position:*** Oppose; ***Final Status:*** Defeated

House roll call #634, *Accept Majority Ought to Not Pass Report*

Senate roll call #556, *Accept Majority Ought to Not Pass Report*

## Health Care

### **LD 1230, *An Act to Improve Access to Oral Health Care* Sponsor: Speaker Mark Eves**

This bill would create and license a new level of oral health care providers to provide basic preventative health services throughout the state. Maine struggles with access to dental health care and most of Maine goes underserved by dental providers.

*MWL position: Support; Final Status: Enacted*

House roll call #467, *Accept Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report*

Senate roll call #389, *Accept Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report*

### **LD 1247, *An Act to Expand Coverage of Family Planning Services***

**Sponsor: Representative Jane Pringle**

This bill would give women with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level access to critical family planning services, including contraception, routine cancer screenings and STI testing. Since Maine currently covers the costs associated with pregnancy for women with incomes up to 200%, but not contraception for these same women, this bill would save the state money by reducing unintended pregnancies.

*MWL position: Support; Final Status: Vetoed, Defeated*

### **LD 1428, *An Act to Protect Religious Freedom***

**Sponsor: Senator David Burns**

This bill would elevate individuals' personal religious beliefs over state law, giving people the right to refuse to follow any law if he or she believes it interferes with his or her religious convictions. This privilege would mean that the State would be unable to enforce Maine's anti-discrimination protections and reproductive health laws, among others, because an individual claimed it conflicted with their private religious beliefs.

*MWL position: Oppose; Final Status: Defeated*

### **LD 1487, *An Act To Provide Fiscal Predictability to the MaineCare Program and Health Security to Maine People***

**Sponsor: Senator Roger Katz**

Although there were several bills this session that would have provided 70,000 Mainers with access to health care under the Affordable Care Act, this bill was the result of bipartisan compromise and negotiation. The bill included provisions that would contract the implementation of services provisions to a private entity, and while the Lobby did not specifically support the "managed care" aspect of the bill, we believe this attempt to create compromise to reach a critical goal of providing health care for low-income Mainers was noteworthy.

*MWL position: Support; Final Status: Vetoed, Defeated*

House roll call #537, *Accept Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report*

Senate roll call #572, *Veto Override*





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MWL Position:	LD 1230	LD 1247	LD 1428	LD 1487	LD 1815	LD 1822	LD 1842
	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose
Stacey K. Guerin (R-Glenburn)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Scott M. Hamann (D-South Portland)	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊗	✓	⊗
Denise Patricia Harlow (D-Portland)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Lance Evans Harvell (R-Farmington)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Teresa M. Hayes (D-Buckfield)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Erin D. Herbig (D-Belfast)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Craig V. Hickman (D-Winthrop)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barry J. Hobbins (D-Saco)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brian L. Hubbell (D-Bar Harbor)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Roger A. Jackson (R-Oxford)	✓	✗	✗	⊗	⊗	✗	⊗
David D. Johnson (R-Eddington)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
Peter B. Johnson (R-Greenville)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Brian L. Jones (D-Freedom)	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊗	✗	✓
Erik C. Jorgensen (D-Portland)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bryan T. Kaenrath (D-South Portland)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Peter S. Kent (D-Woolwich)	⊗	✓	⊗	✓	⊗	⊗	⊗
Dennis L. Keschl (R-Belgrade)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Jonathan L. Kinney (R-Limington)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
L. Gary Knight (R-Livermore Falls)	✓	✗	⊗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Victoria P. Kornfield (D-Bangor)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chuck Kruger (D-Thomaston)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Walter A. Kumiega III (D-Deer Isle)	✓	✓	⊗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Karen Kusiak (D-Fairfield)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michel A. Lajoie (D-Lewiston)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Aaron F. Libby (R-Waterboro)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Nathan L. Libby (D-Lewiston)	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊗	⊗	✓
Lawrence E. Lockman (R-Amherst)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Ricky D. Long (R-Sherman)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Thomas R. W. Longstaff (D-Waterville)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Louis J. Luchini (D-Ellsworth)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sharri K. MacDonald (R-Old Orchard Beach)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
W. Bruce MacDonald (D-Boothbay)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joyce A. Maker (R-Calais)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Richard S. Malaby (R-Hancock)	✓	⊗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Donald G. Marean (R-Hollis)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Timothy I. Marks (D-Pittston)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Andrew T. Mason (D-Topsham)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anne-Marie Mastraccio (D-Sanford)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jeff M. McCabe (D-Skowhegan)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael D. McClellan (R-Raymond)	✗	✗	✗	✗	⊗	✗	⊗
Carol A. McElwee (R-Caribou)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Paul D. McGowan (D-York)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Andrew J. McLean (D-Gorham)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kimberly Monaghan-Derrig (D-Cape Elizabeth)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matthew Moonen (D-Portland)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stephen W. Moriarty (D-Cumberland)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Terry K. Morrison (D-South Portland)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Allen Michael Nadeau (R-Fort Kent)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Catherine M. Nadeau (D-Winslow)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mary Pennell Nelson (D-Falmouth)	✗	✓	⊗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Melvin Newendyke (R-Litchfield)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
William F. Noon (D-Sanford)	✓	⊗	✓	✓	⊗	⊗	⊗
Robert W. Nutting (R-Oakland)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Wayne R. Parry (R-Arundel)	✗	✗	✗	⊗	✗	✗	✗

