Legislative Report
125th Legislature, First Regular Session

The Maine Women's Lobby tracked a record 450 bills, and prioritized more than 50 for action. Below is a summary of our top legislative priorities.

Reproductive Privacy

L.D. 31 – An Act to Protect the Safety of Maine Children by Requiring the Express Consent of a Legal Guardian to Dispense Prescription Medication to a Minor
Maine law currently allows minors to confidentially access substance abuse counseling and treatment, mental health care, and family planning services. This bill would have prohibited healthcare professionals from dispensing prescription drugs to a minor without the express consent of the minor’s parent or legal guardian, effectively eliminating minor’s confidential access to birth control. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.**

L.D. 116 – An Act to Require a 24-hour Waiting Period prior to an Abortion
This bill would have required two in-person visits to an abortion provider: one to provide informed consent and another, 24-hours later, to have the procedure. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.**

L.D. 924 – An Act to Educate Women on the Medical Risks Associated with Abortion
This bill's requirements would have resulted in physicians reading a biased script to a patient at least 24-hours before she could obtain an abortion. The physician would have also had to provide the patient with an accompanying brochure from the Department of Health and Human Services. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.**

L.D. 1457 – An Act to Strengthen the Consent Laws for Abortions Performed on Minors and Incapacitated persons
This bill would have repealed Maine's successful Adult Involvement Law and required a parent or legal guardian to give his or her notarized, written consent before a minor could access abortion services. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.**

L.D. 1463 – An Act Regarding Offenses Against an Unborn Child
This bill would have created a new class of crime for harm to a fetus and conveyed legal status to the fetus that is separate and distinct from the woman. Though the bill included language that pregnant women could not be prosecuted, similar laws in other states have been used to prosecute women who had accidents that endangered their pregnancy or who sought treatment for drug addiction. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.**

Voting Rights

L.D. 199 – Act to Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photograph Identification for the Purpose of Voting
This bill requires that voters show a photo ID before they are allowed to cast a ballot. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Sent back to committee and carried over.**

L.D. 1376 - An Act To Preserve the Integrity of the Voter Registration and Election Process
This bill eliminates same-day voter registration and registration within two business days of the election. It also restricts early voting by prohibiting registrars from issuing absentee ballots three business days before an election. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Enacted; People's Veto effort in progress.**

Civil Rights

L.D. 1046 – An Act to Amend the Application of the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Public Accommodations
This bill would have allowed public or private entities to discriminate against transgender individuals by restricting access to rest room or shower facilities. **MWL Position: Oppose. Status: Defeated.**

Maine Women's Lobby is a non-partisan, 501(c)(4), nonprofit, membership organization advocating for women and girls since 1978.
Economic Security

L.D. 207 – An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Tips Used in Payment of Service Employees
Originally, this bill would have repealed an entire section of Maine law stating that tips are the sole property of the tipped employee and not the employer or the “house.” After intensive negotiations, the bill was rewritten to clarify and strengthen existing law for tipped employees.  **MWL Position: Support.**  *Status: Enacted.*

L.D. 309 – An Act to Make Voluntary Membership in a Public Employee Labor Organization in the State
This bill jeopardizes 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: Sent back to committee and carried over.

L.D. 447 – An Act to Raise the Minimum Wage
This bill would have increased the minimum wage from $7.50 to $7.75 per hour starting October 1, 2011 and $8.00 per hour starting October 1, 2012.  **MWL Position: Support.**  Status: Defeated.

This bill would have eliminated restrictions on teen work hours, including repealing limits on how late teens can work. After amendments, the final bill increased the number of hours teens can work from 20 to 24 hours per school week and from 4 to 6 hours on a school day. Teens can also now work until 10:15 p.m. on a school night (up from 10 p.m.).  **MWL Position: Oppose.**  Status: Enacted.

L.D. 695 - An Act To Reduce Taxes and Promote Employment
This bill would have increased the state earned income tax credit (EITC) from 5% to 10% of the federal credit and would have made it refundable.  **MWL Position: Support.**

L.D. 1043 – State Budget, FY 2012 -2013
Governor LePage’s budget proposal would have eliminated or reduced access to healthcare and prescription drugs for 70,000 Mainers, severely cut General Assistance, reduced access to all state-funded benefits for legal immigrants, eliminated TANF benefits for children if parents failed to comply with program rules, and imposed a strict 5-year time limit on benefits. After much negotiation the final bill protected healthcare for nearly 70,000 people, mitigated the worst TANF restrictions, and protected programs that help Maine families struggling during this difficult economy. However, many legal immigrants will lose access to healthcare and struggling single moms will have a harder time meeting requirements of the TANF program, while the wealthiest Mainers get millions of dollars in tax cuts.  **MWL Position: Supported.**  *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 the infamous Jack DeCoster. It was amended in committee to repeal agricultural workers' right to organize.  **MWL Position: Oppose.**  Status: Sent back to committee and carried over.

Environmental Health

L.D. 412 – Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 882: Designation of Bisphenol A as a Priority Chemical and Regulation of Bisphenol A in Children’s Products, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection
This bill set limits on the use of Bisphenol A (BPA) in children’s products.

L.D. 1129 – An Act to Provide the Department of Environmental Protection with Regulatory Flexibility Regarding the Listing of Priority Chemicals
This bill was initially introduced with far-reaching rollbacks to the Kids-Safe Products law (protections which were established to shield children from harmful chemicals). After successful negotiation, the final bill retained current protections, provided increased clarity for regulators, and strengthened the existing law.  **MWL Position: Support.**  *Status: Enacted.*

* Indicates that final position differs from position on original bill.
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Legend:
- ☑ = Approved with majority
- ✗ = Against with majority
- ☐ = Abstained

Main Women's Lobby
Legislative Priorities

[Table continued with various committees and projects]

**Outcome**
- ✔ = Approved
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- ☐ = Abstained
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*Note: The table represents legislative outcomes and voting records for specific measures. Each row indicates the outcome of a legislative measure, with columns listing the vote counts and symbols indicating different voting results.*