

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**  
**Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair** **Drew Gattine, House Chair**

**Justin Purvis, Committee Clerk: 287-1635 afa@legislature.maine.gov**

LD 209 "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds 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, 2025"

**SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE**

The proposed budget initiatives and language may be viewed on the Revisor of Statute's website:

<https://legislature.maine.gov/12509>

**IMPORTANT: ZOOM TESTIMONY SIGN UP AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL WILL BE BROKEN UP BY SCHEDULED START TIME SO PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP OR SUBMIT YOUR TESTIMONY FOR THE DAY AND TIME THAT INCLUDES THE PROGRAM OR LANGUAGE RELATED TO YOUR TESTIMONY**

**ALSO IMPORTANT: The following initiative and language part categories are NOT scheduled for this hearing: Part B initiatives and Part A initiatives related to position reclassifications or reorganizations; initiatives that adjust allocations to align with the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast. Written testimony regarding any of these initiatives may be submitted under the "AFA Only" hearing block (1:00 pm on Wednesday, January 22nd).**

**Testifying Over Zoom:** Submit any written testimony and/or sign up to testify via Zoom through the portal on the Legislative website using the link shown below. (If you are starting from the Legislative home page, click on the "Testimony Submission" box at the bottom of the page). You must register to testify at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing block to ensure that you will be called on by the Committee Chair. Once you have registered, you will receive additional information on acquiring a Zoom meeting link. If you do not receive those instructions or a link and have tried via multiple browsers, contact the webmaster at the email address shown below. During the hearing when it is approaching your turn to speak, the Chair will call your name and the Committee Clerk will move you from attendee to panelist. Please have your video on and make sure your name is correct so that the Chair knows you have been moved over and are ready to be called on. When you are done speaking, please exit the zoom meeting and watch the remainder of the hearing through the streaming portal (see below - just before the top of the schedule for how to access the stream).

**Testifying in Person:** Separate sign-up sheets for each hearing block shown in the detailed schedule below will be available either in the committee room (Statehouse Room 228) OR at a table just outside the committee room 1/2 hour before the hearing block. You may sign up only yourself or someone who requires accommodation (please, no "block sign-ups"). Bring 40 copies of any written testimony you want distributed to the two committees. Note: If the committee room is full, you will be asked to wait and listen to the hearing in a designated "overflow room" until you are about to be called to testify or when staff lets you know that seating became available.

[Zoom sign-up and Testimony Submittal https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/webmaster\\_lio@legislature.maine.gov](https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/webmaster_lio@legislature.maine.gov)

**Persons with special needs wishing to participate in a Legislative hearing who require accommodations should notify the Legislative Information Office as soon as possible: 207-287-1692, FAX 207-287-1580, [lio@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:lio@legislature.maine.gov).**

**You may access the livestream (or archive) by going to the date of the committee meeting on the Legislature’s Calendar and clicking on the microphone**

<https://legislature.maine.gov/Calendar/>

**ACTUAL START TIMES MAY BE DELAYED DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES OR PRIOR HEARING BLOCKS TAKING LONGER THAN PLANNED**

<b>1:00 PM Tuesday, January 21, 2025 (ACF)</b>
<b>To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:</b>
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Department of
Animal Welfare Fund
Division of Forest Protection
Forest Resource Management
<i>Language (Part "G" authorizes certain General Fund balances Bureau of Agriculture program to be carried to fiscal year 2025-26 to be used to replace the feed, seed, and fertilizer database)</i>
<i>Language (Part "H" authorizes certain General Fund balances in the Capital Expenditures line category in the Bureau of Agriculture program to be carried over into fiscal year 2025-26 to be used to replace the licensing and inspection database)</i>
<i>Language (Part "I" authorizes certain General Fund balances in the Capital Expenditures line category in the Bureau of Agriculture program to be carried over into fiscal year 2025-26 to be used to replace the upgrade the Cony Road facility in Augusta)</i>
<i>Language (Part "T" transfers \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Animal Welfare Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for extraordinary costs related to animal seizures.</i>
<i>Language (Part "U" transfers \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to the Forest Resource Management, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time funding to address the management and early intervention of Spruce Budworm)</i>

**2:00 PM Tuesday, January 21, 2025 (CJPS)****To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:**

Corrections, Department of

Corrections Fuel

Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Department of  
Administration – Maine Emergency Management Agency*Language (Part "F" requires a \$3,000,000 transfer to the Disaster Recovery Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account at the close of each fiscal year as part of the year-end distribution of unbudgeted surpluses - otherwise known as the "cascade")**Language (Part "J" transfers \$5,000,000 from the General Fund to the Disaster Recovery Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account in fiscal year 2024-25 to fund the State's share of estimated disaster recovery costs.***3:00 PM Tuesday, January 21, 2025 (SLG)****To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:**

Administrative and Financial Services, Department of (DAFS)

Lead By Example

Risk Management – Claims

*Language (Part "D" authorizes the purchase and sale of renewable energy credits and establishes the Lead by Example program within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services)*Secretary of State, Department of the  
Administration - Archives**4:00 PM Tuesday, January 21, 2025 (JUD)****To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:**

Attorney General, Department of

Administration – Attorney General

Chief Medical Examiner – Office of

Human Services Division

Public Defense Services, Maine Commission on

*Language (Part "O" renames the Reserve for Indigent Legal Services program to the Reserve for Public Defense Services)**Language (Part "P" authorizes the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to carry Personal Services balances from fiscal year 2024-25 to the following fiscal year to fund contractual services that may be needed if vacancies occur)*

Judicial Department
Courts – Supreme, Superior and District
<b>10:00 AM Wednesday, January 22, 2025 (EDU)</b>
<b>To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:</b>
Community College System, Maine
Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees
MCCS Free Community College - 2 Enrollment Years
<i>Language (Part "Q" provides a one-time from the General Fund to the Maine Community College System Free Community College – 2 Enrollment Years program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to continue support of the 2 years of free community college for all eligible students)</i>
Maritime Academy, Maine
Maritime Academy – Operations
University of Maine, Board of Trustees of the
<i>Language (Part "E" authorizes a one-time transfer of unobligated balance in the Statewide-Family and Medical Leave, General Fund and Highway Fund accounts within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the University of Maine System, General Fund account for the purpose of supporting Maine’s Paid Family and Medical Leave premiums for eligible University of Maine System employees) This Part will also be heard during the 11:30 am hearing block in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Labor.</i>
Education, Department of
Education in Unorganized Territory
Maine Climate Corps Prog - Maine Commission for Community Svc
<b>11:30 AM Wednesday, January 22, 2025 (LAB)</b>
<b>To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committees on Labor:</b>
Administrative and Financial Services, Department of
<i>Language (Part "E" authorizes a one-time transfer of unobligated balance in the Statewide-Family and Medical Leave, General Fund and Highway Fund accounts to the University of Maine System, General Fund account for the purpose of supporting Maine’s Paid Family and Medical Leave premiums for eligible University of Maine System employees) This Part will also be heard during the 10:00 am hearing block in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs</i>
Labor, Department of
Employment Services Activity

<b>1:00 PM Wednesday, January 22, 2025 (AFA)</b>
<b>To be heard by the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs:</b>
Administrative and Financial Services, Department of
<i>Language (Part "R" suspends the appropriation limit for the remainder of fiscal year 2024-25)</i>
<i>Language (Part "V" authorizes an extension of the expiration date to August 1, 2025 for limited-period positions that are set to expire in June 2025 but are funded through fiscal year 2024-25 and are proposed to continue into the next biennium)</i>
<b>2:30 PM Wednesday, January 22, 2025 (TAX)</b>
<b>To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:</b>
Administrative and Financial Services, Department of
Homestead Property Tax Exemption Reimbursement
Property Tax Stabilization
Property Tax Stabilization Mandate
<i>Language (Part "C" Updates references to the United State Internal Revenue Code of 1986 contained in the Maine Revised Statutes) Note: This Language Part is also contained in LD 48 which has been referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation.</i>
<b>3:30 PM Wednesday, January 22, 2025 (MAR)</b>
<b>To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources:</b>
Marine Resources, Department of
Bureau of Marine Science
Bureau of Policy and Management
Marine Patrol - Bureau of
<b>10:00 AM Thursday, January 23, 2025 (HCIFS)</b>
<b>To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committees on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial S</b>
Administrative and Financial Services, Department of
State Mandate Defrayal
<b>10:30 AM Thursday, January 23, 2025 (IFW)</b>
<b>To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:</b>
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of
Enforcement Operations – IF&W

**11:30 AM Thursday, January 23, 2025 (VLA)**

**To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:**

Secretary of State, Department of

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions

**1:00 PM Thursday, January 23, 2025 (HHS)**

**To be held in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:**

Health and Human Services, Department of

Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Medical Care – Payments to Providers

Mental Health Services – Children

Mental Health Services – Community

Multicultural Services

Office of Behavioral Health

Office of Violence Prevention

*Language (Part "K" repeals the language approved in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 to support federally qualified health centers in developing and expanding pharmacy services and access to affordably priced prescription drugs for the patients of such health centers)*

*Language (Part "L" defines Acute Care Hospital, Critical Access Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital, and Rehabilitation Hospital and removes reference to publicly owned specialty hospitals. It also corrects a drafting error in PL 2023 c. 643 and specifies that beginning January 1, 2025 the tax for acute care hospitals and rehabilitation hospitals is equal to 3.25%. The tax for Psychiatric Hospitals remains at 2.23%.)*

*Language (Part "M" gives DHHS the authority to adopt emergency rules to implement certain provisions of this bill)*

*Language (Part "N" amends the Maine Child Care Affordability Program to ensure state General Funds can be used to support any eligible family, regardless of income level)*

*Language (Part "S" sets certain limits on housing assistance under the General Assistance Program)*