

2024 Maine Legislative Session Highlights



Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers

- [Legislative Document 284](#) enshrines in law the recommendations of the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute to support STEM-based training and career paths.
- [Legislative Document 1233](#) expands the use of credits from career and technical programs to qualify toward obtaining an electrician license.



Storm response

- The [Climate Change Council](#) reconvened to specifically look at storm preparedness and resiliency. The Council continues to meet and hear from stakeholders and impacted coastal communities as it develops a revised Climate Action Plan.
- The Governor announced nearly [\\$6.5 million in grant awards](#) for electrical grid upgrades with the goal of boosting grid reliability and resilience in Maine.
- Legislators passed a [supplemental budget](#) that includes \$60 million to go towards repairing waterfront assets, culverts, water systems and other infrastructure damaged by recent storms.
- [Sears Island](#) was selected as the state's preferred site for a port facility to support the floating offshore wind industry and meet renewable energy goals.



The following initiatives were supported by the legislature and enacted in the House of Representatives. Before final enactment in the Senate, they were placed on the Appropriations Table, pending funding. Unfortunately, due primarily to time constraints, it is not expected that the legislature will reconvene and fund these measures.

- **[Legislative Document 2118](#)** would increase ongoing funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM) to support operations and to provide financial support to in-state students who demonstrate a financial need related to paying room and board expenses.
- **[Legislative Document 2092](#)** would boost the the percentage of the Maine Maritime Academy's (MMA) total state appropriation as a share of its total operating costs by 5% until the percentage of the Maine Maritime Academy's total state appropriation becomes more on par with the University of Maine System's and the Maine Community College System's total state appropriation as a share of each respective system's total operating costs.
- **[Legislative Document 871](#)** would provide an ongoing appropriation of \$150,000 per year to the Maine Discovery Museum to support the Maine Science Festival, the Maine Invention Convention and the museum's statewide science, technology, engineering and mathematics outreach program.