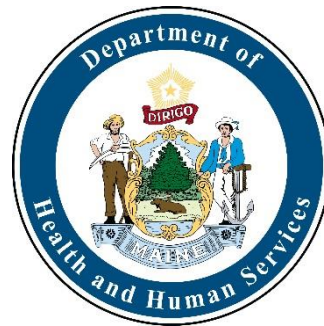


Maine CDC Legislative Tracking

An Overview

March 2024



Path of Maine Legislation

‘Law and policy are critical components of some of the most important and most impactful public health achievements, including immunizations, tobacco regulation, food and drinking water safety, and infectious disease control.’

Path of Maine Legislation



An idea for a bill is developed. Ideas come from various sources, e.g. Legislators, the Governor, state agencies.



The bill is presented by the sponsor, and it is analyzed and discussed in a committee which will recommend whether the bill should pass. Public hearings and work sessions inform the committee. Proposed amendments to bills may be introduced.



The bill goes to the Governor who can sign it or veto it. If signed, it becomes law. If vetoed, it goes back to the House and Senate (the veto can be overridden by a 2/3 vote in both chambers). A bill becomes law 90 days after the end of the legislative session in which it was passed unless it is passed as an emergency law or it stipulates an effective date.



The bill is drafted. The bill is numbered (LD). The Legislature determines the committee of reference for bills coming out of the Revisor's office (LD's)

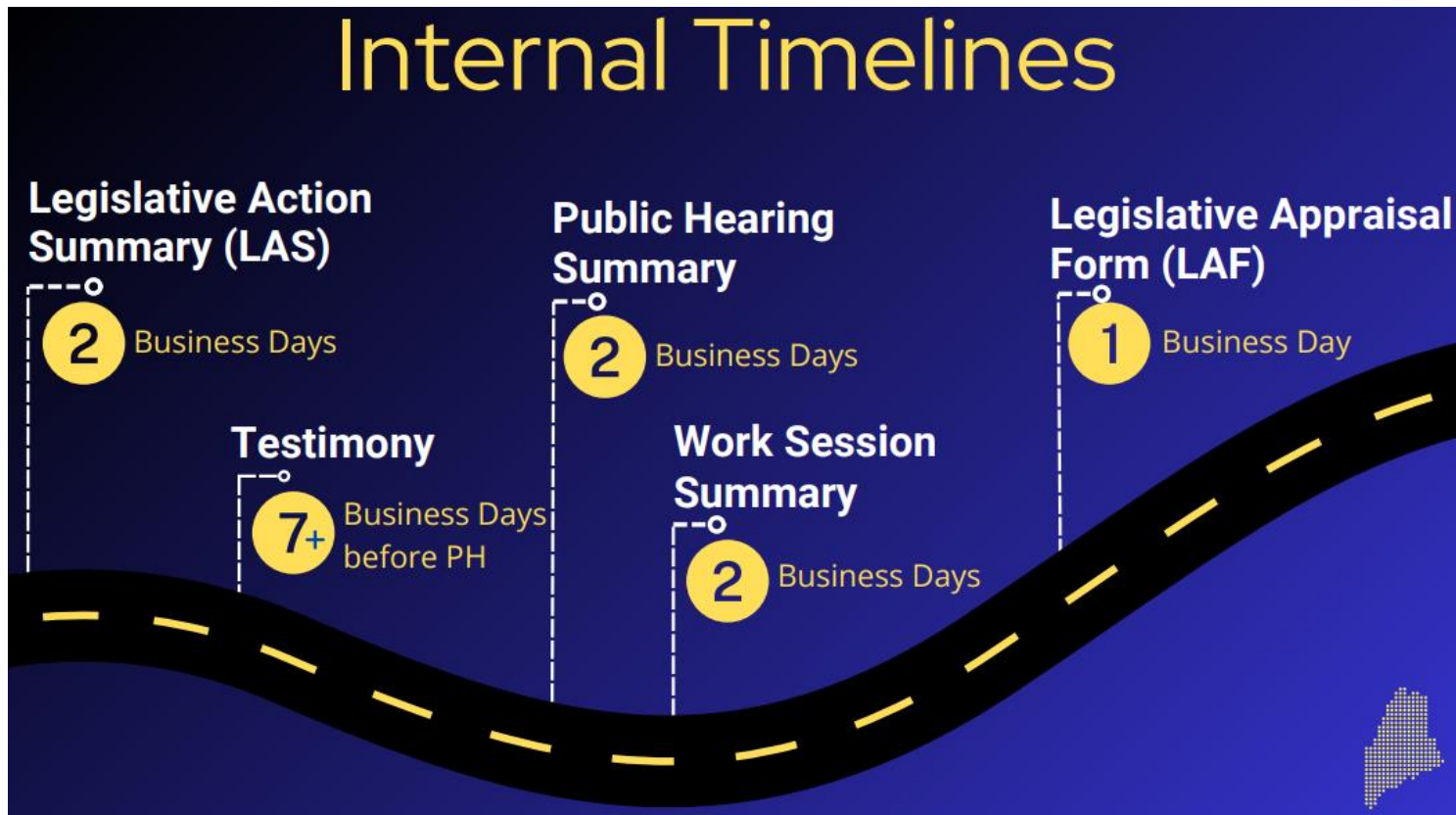


The bill is debated in the chamber where it originated. If it is passed to be engrossed (i.e. printed with all passed amendments), it is sent to the other chamber where both chambers must pass the same final version of the bill for it to be enacted.

Path of Maine Legislation

- Once a bill is printed, the Commissioner's Office does an initial review of bills printed and distributes to offices/agencies based on subject matter (Legislative Action Request (LAR))
- Once the agency is notified, the bill is assigned to a lead division
 - The agency may request a bill assignment in order to share information with leadership, the committee, and the public about the potential impact on the department or constituents

Path of Maine Legislation



Maine Legislation On Track

[MECDC Legislative Tracking Teams Channel](#) serves as the front-face of SharePoint site used to track progress of legislative work for the agency.

Objective:

- Streamline the internal legislative tracking process.
- Version control.
- Coordinated, centralized location for tracking information related to legislative proposals and mandates.
- Aligns with Commissioner's Office tracking process that is also Teams/SharePoint.

The Legislative Liaison will:

- Track bill progress and assign tasks to SME, upload completed forms for CO review with GO; and
- Coordinate all communication between the agency and CO, other offices or stakeholders (requires approval)

Maine Legislation On Track

LAS: A summary of the bill is required for each bill assigned to the agency (LAS) and is used to inform the Governor's decision on proposed laws, the FEF is initiated along with the LAS

- The assigned division is responsible for assessing the impact of the bill (programmatic and fiscal, for the department and the public);
- The division will suggest a position to take on the matter (support, oppose, neither for nor against), and will suggest an action in response to the bill (monitor or provide oral or written testimony);
- Commissioner's Office reviews LAS's each week with the governor.
 - The agency may need to pivot on short notice of the final position and action, taking direction from leadership that is navigating numerous factors along the way.
 - Resist sharing how the agency may manage a bill, until there is approval- agency role is to inform leadership and take direction

Maine Legislation On Track

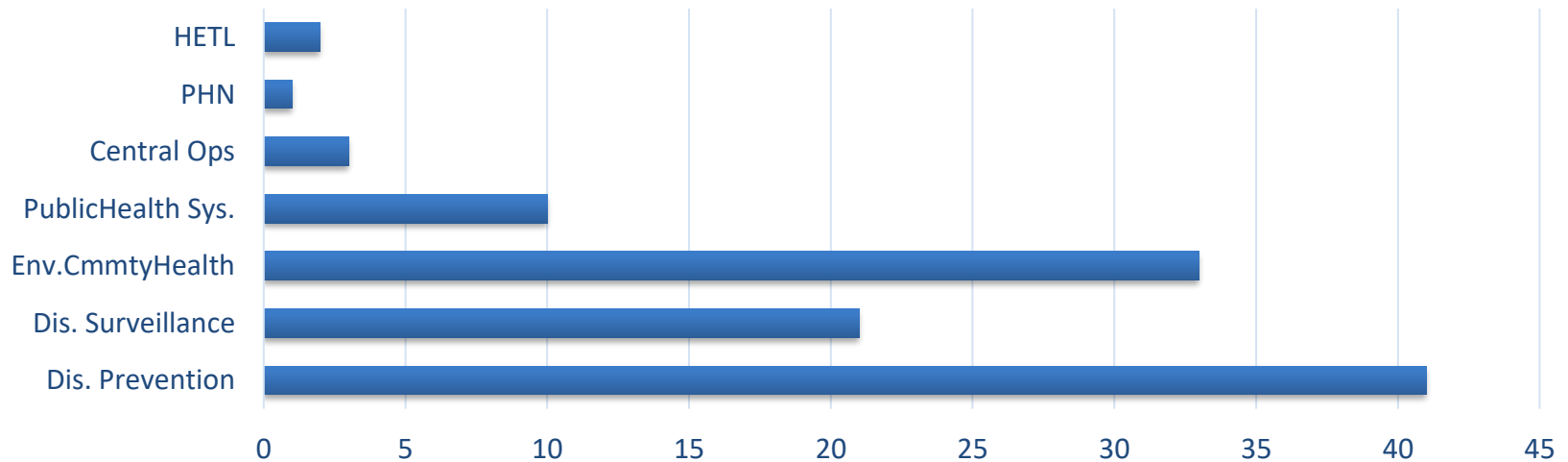
- **Testimony** –either written or oral is an opportunity to educate the committee about our policy and program and articulate our position on a specific proposal, to explain our position and be sure the committee is aware of all ramifications of a policy change. This also helps the committee understand we are available to assist as they deliberate.
- **Public Hearing-** the Sponsor introduces and explains the bill to the committee and public. Testimony is heard, questions may be asked, and information may be requested. This is an opportunity to identify knowledge gaps.
- **Work Session** - Committee members discuss bills thoroughly and vote on the committee's recommendation, or report, to the Legislature. The committee works with the legislative analyst to draft amendments or review amendments proposed by others. Some bills require several work sessions. Work sessions are the last step before House and Senate floor
- **Representing the agency with testimony or in front of the committee requires approval**

Maine Legislation On Track

- **Amendments** are suggested changes to the bill, which may clarify, restrict, expand or correct it. At times, revisions are so extensive that the entire substance of the bill is changed by the amendment.
 - Over a third of the assigned bills have evolved with amendments
- **LAF** is the last step to weigh in, to inform the governor of any changes and summarize the impact, next stop is the floor
 - The Governor reviews each LAF when determining final disposition

Maine Legislation On Track

LARs by Division Assignment (n:111)



*Some bills cross divisions and some are co-lead with another office within the department; NAN not included

Since December 2022, during the 131st Legislature, close to 60 agency staff are members of our Legislative Tracking Teams Channel, and have played a critical role in providing necessary data and monitoring hearings to inform leadership and decision-makers about proposed legislation.

Maine Legislation On Track

- During the 131st, Maine CDC programs tracked close to 135 bills -111 assigned bills are being monitored. Some bills cross divisions and some are co-lead, NAN not included.
- Bill topics by division:
 - PH Sys: VR data access; marriage, death and birth certificates –gender and Sub.Use; dispositions of deceased
 - ECH/HETL: DWP and PFAS; Lead abatement; HIP- rules and port-a-potties
 - DS: vaccine mandates and exemptions; tick diseases
 - DP: tobacco, cannabis and alcohol; injury and violence prevention programs (MH and firearm), MCH
- Prepared testimony for 74 bills (25 NFNA; 33 in opposition; 16 in support)
 - Not every testimony gets approved for submission to the committee
- As of 3-18, assigned bill status: 37 Dead; 12 engrossed; 35 passed into law; 27 being worked

Maine Legislation On Track

- The general effective date for nonemergency laws passed in the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature: Thursday, June 29, 2023.
- The general effective date for nonemergency laws passed in the First Special Session of the 131st Legislature: Wednesday, October 25, 2023.
- The Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature began January 3, 2024. Statutory adjournment is *April 17, 2024*.

**Resources to help stay on track are available at
<https://legislature.maine.gov/>**

- Stay up to date with updates from committees- sign up to receive emails from the committee and listen to sessions
- Follow or check status of legislation - Find the status of bills and review testimony

Questions?

Reach out with questions about our internal tracking process and for information related to bills impacting the agency.

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