

2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

The 2021 legislative session saw many successes for United Way of Southern Maine (UWSM) and Thrive2027. Below is a brief report card on each of the bills and issues in which UWSM engaged.

Bill	Purpose	Final Status
GOAL 1: GIVE KIDS A STRONG START		
LD 138: Resolve, Regarding Reading Proficiency Data Analysis	This bill directs the Department of Education to conduct an analysis of reading assessment measures, locally established benchmarks for reading proficiency, reading achievement data available between spring 2021 and fall 2022, and reading instructional programs and resources being used by school administrative units.	● The Governor signed this bill into law.
LD 1712: An Act To Support Children's Health Development and School Success	This bill will expand access to quality, affordable child care in Maine. Under the law, Maine could create up to five additional programs across the state with a unique model that brings together community partners, including center-based childcare, family childcare, Head Start, home visitors, and school districts, to deliver a two-generation/whole family model. <i>*Also supports Thrive2027 Goal 3.</i>	● The Governor signed this bill into law.
GOAL 2: EMPOWER NEIGHBORS TO THRIVE - NOT JUST SURVIVE		
LD 1651: An Act To Support Working Families through Outreach and Education about Tax Credits for Persons of Low Income	This bill strengthens the work of CA\$H (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Maine, a free service that provides volunteer tax assistance including the filing of state tax returns; outreach to low-income individuals and families about federal and state tax credits; financial education, connections to financial services and other resources; education for providers and volunteers; and statewide data collection.	● This bill was sent to the Special Appropriations Table, which approved providing \$36,000 (less than the full ask amount of \$150,000).
LD 175: An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issues To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters	This bill provides \$50 million to create and enhance regional homeless shelters.	● This bill has been carried over to the next legislative session.
LD 292: An Act To Increase the Minimum Grant Amount under the Maine State Grant Program	This bill increases the minimum grant amount for undergraduate students to \$2,500 under the Maine State Grant Program, which is administered by FAME (Finance Authority of Maine). The passage of this bill is important to Maine people who are the first to go to college in their family, people from low-income families, and people of color.	● This bill has been carried over to the next legislative session.
LD 296: An Act To Provide a Tax Credit for Family Caregivers	This bill requires a tax credit for family caregivers.	● This bill has been carried over to the next legislative session.

Bill	Purpose	Final Status
LD 1094: An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Reduce Homeowner and Municipal Energy Bills through Increased Efficiency and Weatherization Projects	This bill provides funding through the Efficiency Maine Trust to support increased weatherization efforts with specific support for investments in weatherization programs that benefit seniors and low-income residents.	● This bill has been carried over to the next legislative session.
LD 1235: An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Connect Maine with a World-class Internet Infrastructure	This bill provides \$100 million for grants and loans to provide a world-class affordable high-speed Internet infrastructure to those in Maine with poor or no current connectivity.	● This bill has been carried over to the next legislative session.
LD 1652: An Act To Build a Child Care System by Recruiting and Retaining Maine's Early Childhood Educators Workforce	This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of Education, and the Commissioner of Labor jointly to develop and implement an early childhood educators workforce support program to recruit and retain early childhood educators working with children up to 5 years of age. <i>*Also supports Thrive Goal 1.</i>	● This bill has been carried over to the next legislative session.
GOAL 3: HELP US ALL LIVE LONGER, BETTER LIVES		
LD 8: An Act To Support Collection and Proper Disposal of Unwanted Drugs	This bill requires certain drug manufacturers to operate a drug take-back stewardship program to collect and dispose of certain drugs. Manufacturers of a covered drug must submit a proposed drug take-back stewardship plan to the Department of Environmental Protection on or before July 1, 2022.	● The Governor signed this bill into law.
LD 372: An Act To Provide Maine Children Access Affordable Health Care	This bill makes changes to the Cub Care program, nationally known as CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program), which is a program that provides health coverage for children from birth to age 19. Specifically, this bill would increase eligibility and expand coverage.	● This bill has been carried over to the next legislative session.
RACIAL EQUITY		
LD 2: An Act To Require the Inclusion of Racial Impact Statement Statements in the Legislature Process	This bill requires the Legislative Council or its delegate to perform a study to determine the best method to establish and implement a system of using racial impact statements for legislation. For purposes of this section, "racial impact statement" means an assessment of the potential historically disadvantaged racial populations. <i>*Also supports Thrive2027 Goals 1, 2, and 3.</i>	● The Governor signed this bill into law.
LD 1034: An Act To Provide Funding To Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations	This bill provides funding to hire permanent staff to support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations. The Permanent Commission is designed to examine racial disparities across all systems and specifically work at improving the status and outcomes for the historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous, and tribal populations in Maine. <i>*Also supports Thrive2027 Goals 1, 2, and 3.</i>	● The Governor signed this bill into law.

● Maintained or passed into law

● Pending additional actions

● Not passed