

2026 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD



Affected Issues	Legislation	Summary	UWSM Action	Final Status
Homelessness / Housing / ALICE	LD 641: An Act to Support Diversion Efforts to Prevent Homelessness in Maine	This bill seeks to expand Maine’s Housing Problem Solving (HPS) program by doubling its funding to \$1.5 million. The HPS program is designed to prevent homelessness before it starts by providing targeted financial assistance and support to individuals and families facing a housing crisis. Currently, HPS operates with a budget of \$750,000 and successfully helped 519 Mainers stay housed in 2024 alone.	UWSM introduced bill with Rep. Marc Malon. UWSM submitted testimony in support.	● This bill remained on the Special Appropriations Table and was not funded in the final budget
Housing & Zoning	LD 128: An Act to Support Permitting of Certain Multifamily Housing Developments Under the Site Location of Development Laws	This bill amends the definition of “subdivision” for purposes of the site location of development laws to allow lots that include detached residential housing designed to accommodate up to 4 families, including accessory dwelling units, instead of just single-family housing. This bill also specifies that rules made by the Board of Environmental Protection to permit, by rule, any class of activities that would otherwise require individual issuance of a permit or approval by the board are routine technical rules.	UWSM supported the bill.	● The bill was signed into law by Governor Mills and became law as 3/9/2026
Child Care	LD 437: An Act Directing the Department of Education to Develop Pilot Programs to Place Child Care Facilities in Selected School Administrative Units	This bill directs the Department of Education, in consultation with relevant state agencies, to study the feasibility of placing child care facilities in public school buildings. The study examines available space, health and safety requirements, operational considerations, and barriers to implementation, and requires a report with findings and recommendations to inform future policy decisions. The bill does not mandate child care in schools or provide funding for implementation.	UWSM supported the bill.	● This bill remained on the Special Appropriations Table and was not funded in the final budget
Housing & Child Care	LD 483: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Secure Prosperity for Maine Families and Businesses	The bill proposes a \$300 million bond to support four core areas: affordable housing construction and tax credits, rural rental and first-time homebuyer programs, public-private partnerships to expand child care access, and critical water and sewer infrastructure needed to enable development.	UWSM supported the bill.	● Carried over and did not advance.
Housing	LD 690: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide Funding for Affordable and Low-income Housing Programs	The bill allocates \$100 million in bond funding to the Maine State Housing Authority for use in multiple programs: rural rental housing, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), affordable homeownership, and home repair assistance.	UWSM supported the bill.	● Carried over and did not advance.

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Legal Services	LD 1022: An Act to Protect and Increase Access to Justice in Civil Legal Matters for Persons with Low Incomes	LD 1022 addresses the growing gap in access to civil legal aid by establishing a sustained funding mechanism: \$6.4 million in FY26 and \$9.5 million in FY27, administered through the Civil Legal Services Fund Commission. The funding replaces expiring one-time allocations and establishes a permanent base for legal aid to serve Mainers under 200% of the federal poverty level. The bill also mandates biennial legislative review to adjust future funding based on need and provider capacity. UWSM has previously supported adequate funding for Civil Legal Services in previous Legislatures.	UWSM supported the bill.	● Carried over and did not advance.
Public Safety/ Public Health	LD 1738: An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State	The bill establishes the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program within the Department of Health and Human Services. This program would disseminate grant funds to community organizations seeking to develop or enhance community hypodermic apparatus (syringe) mitigation and disposal efforts. Community-based organizations, syringe service providers (SSPs), municipalities, and municipal public health departments can apply for funding. Grants could be used for a range of syringe disposal infrastructure needs, including but not limited to installing indoor and outdoor syringe disposal drop boxes, hiring and training staff to properly collect syringes from disposal sites, or implementing other locally determined solutions. The program is intentionally designed to be flexible, allowing applicants to propose approaches that fit the specific needs of their communities. Drop boxes and staff hiring/training are among the concrete examples identified by the bill sponsor.	UWSM supported the bill.	● The bill was signed into law by Governor Mills and became law as of 1/11/2026.
Child Care	LD 1859: An Act to Improve Access to Child Care and Early Childhood Education by Establishing Regional Resource Hubs	This bill improves access to child care and early childhood education by refining the structure of regional early childhood resource hubs. It clarifies roles and consultation requirements, adjusts implementation timelines, and updates appropriations to improve coordination, consistency, and effectiveness of services across regions. The bill strengthens an existing system rather than creating a new one.	UWSM supported the bill.	● This bill remained on the Special Appropriations Table and was not funded in the final budget
Child Care	LD 1955: An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability and Early Childhood Educator Stability	The bill establishes a Salary Sustainability Program with tiered wage supplements, scholarships, and apprenticeships for early educators. It makes the Child Care Employment Award permanent and supports long-term funding and workforce development strategies.	UWSM supported the bill.	● Partially funded in the budget; \$10M for CCAP included, other provisions not funded.