



[View as Webpage](#)

This week, several committees met to finish their assignments and prepare their requests for bills to be carried over into the next session. The Appropriations Committee continues to work on the Part II budget and then will review bond requests.

[LD 1964, “An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program”](#) was voted out of the Labor Committee on a party line vote.

Amendments were added to the bill in part to address concerns raised by the Governor. Whether these changes meet the expectations of the Governor will be the determining factor in passage of the bill. In general, the business community is still concerned with many remaining provisions.

The Labor Committee also elected to carry over **[LD 1190, “An Act to Enhance the Predictability of Mandated Overtime for Pulp or Paper Manufacturing Facility Employees”](#)** despite conflicting testimony from union representatives. This bill will continue to be debated next session.

[LD 1610, “An Act to Prohibit Campaign Spending by Foreign Governments and Promote an Anticorruption Amendment to the United States Constitution”](#) remains in a holding pattern in the VLA Committee until word from the courts determines if the legislature has the authority to work on any of the 4 ballot initiatives presented to the legislature during the First Regular Session. This bill, along with the auto repair ballot initiative, is of interest to the legislature for possible action now in this Special Session.

At the work session, an amendment to **[LD 2004, “An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations”](#)** was presented by Speaker Talbot Ross, addressing concerns raised during the hearing. Preliminary reviews by the AG’s and Governor’s office identified ongoing

concerns with the original bill and amendment. There were continued discussions about the 151 federal laws enacted since the settlement acts were established and whether these laws were accessible to the tribes. Jerry Reid conducted a quick sampling of the list and found very few laws that potentially would require determinations about their conflict with jurisdictional authority of the state. The Council believes that an analysis of these laws by the Attorney General would help to center the discussion on whether revisions to the implementation acts are required. One remaining work session is anticipated for next week.

The Energy and Utilities Committee reached consensus on the need to scale back on the current net energy billing law. Deliberations on [LD 1986, “An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems”](#) resulted in two reports that both suggested changes to the program.

As reported by [Maine Public Broadcasting](#) and the MSC - the Maine Senate voted 24-9 on Thursday to give preliminary approval to a bill authorizing construction of a 1,200-megawatt transmission line. The \$2 billion project would carry electricity from a massive wind farm proposed for commercial timberlands near Oakfield. The bill faces additional votes in the House and Senate. And both the northern Maine transmission line and the so-called King Pine wind farm project require additional regulatory approvals.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Other than a few bills listed above, committee work is about to end. The House and Senate are scheduled for all day sessions throughout the week, and we will be watching for floor amendments that might make significant changes to the pending legislation. We will keep watch and let you know if your voices need to be heard on any objectionable proposals.

If you would like to sign up to testify, or submit testimony, [the link to do so is here.](#)

The full schedule is provided below. If you have any questions, or need help submitting testimony, please don't hesitate to reach out to [me](#) for assistance.

Best,
Pat



Bills scheduled for a public hearing

Public hearings are [livestreamed and archived here](#) on the Legislature's Website. Testimony will be accepted in-person, via Zoom or in writing. Committee meeting guidance for public/interested parties can be found [here](#).

To sign up to testify via Zoom or submit written testimony, [click here](#).

NONE

Bills scheduled for a work session

Work Sessions are [livestreamed and archived here](#) on the Legislature's Website.

NONE

About MFPC



Since 1961, the Maine Forest Products Council has been the voice of Maine's forest economy. MFPC's members are landowners, loggers, truckers, paper mills, tree farmers, foresters, lumber processors and the owners of more than 8 million acres of commercial forestland, but they are also bankers, lawyers and insurance executives. The Council represents members at the Maine Legislature throughout the state, in Washington D.C. and the U.S.

[Patrick Strauch](#), Executive Director

[Krysta West](#), Deputy Director

[Pat Sirois](#), SFI Coordinator

[Stacy Bettencourt](#), Office Manager

207-622-9288

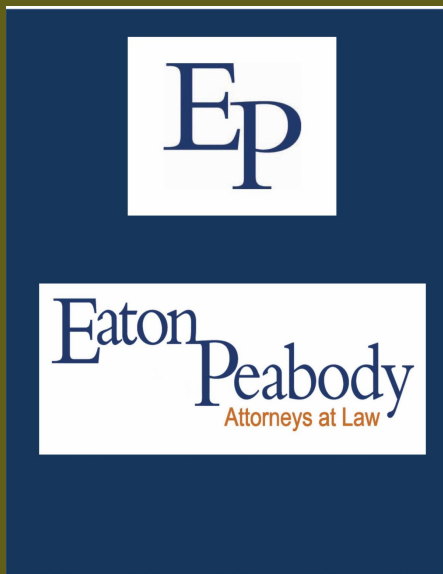
www.maineforest.org

535 Civic Center Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330

Thanks to MFPC's sponsors!

Click on the images below to visit their websites





Visit our website

Follow MFPC on Facebook

Maine Forest Products Council | 535 Civic Center Drive, Augusta, ME 04330

[Unsubscribe adminassist@maineforest.org](mailto:unsubscribe_adminassist@maineforest.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by admin@maineforest.org in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!