

This is a sample of the bills from the 2018 program, you will see a bill from each of the 9 standing committees. These bills have all of the elements that are required for a bill to be submitted.

You will see that topics range from those that are;

- National issues
- Maine issues
- Regional issues
- Local issues

You will also see that topics range from very serious to some that are bit less so.

Bill 713 was our best bill winner last year.



State YMCA of Maine
YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT



BILL # 2018-- 108

Bill Sponsor: Tsz Chun Lau

Bill Co-sponsor:

School / Club / YMCA: Maine School of Science and Mathematics

Endorsed By: Daniel Melega

Referred to the committee on: *Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

An Act Relating To:

Preventing Student Loan Debt

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2018 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **Section 1:** College graduates under the age of 30 who have received a college degree that are residing in the
2. State of Maine are hereby allowed to file for bankruptcy assuming that their debt accounts for, at a minimum
3. \$35,000. Their household earnings also have to be under \$50,000 a year.
4. **Section 2:** Definition of "College Graduates": A person that has successfully completed college and holds an
5. academic degree.
6. **Section 3:** Definition of "bankruptcy": Allows a business or consumer to get rid of their debts through a
7. procedure by the federal court.
8. **Section 4:** Definition of "household": A group of people that live under a roof and considered a family, often
9. sharing a last name or family lineage.
10. **Section 5:** Definition of "earnings": The total amount of money obtained by members of the household who
11. are part of the workforce.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

According to Forbes, student debt is the second highest consumer debt at \$1.5 trillion total. The average debt was \$37,172 per student in 2016. A survey by American Student Assistance found that thirty-five percent of respondents said that they had difficulties buying essential living supplies after college. Sixty-one percent said that student loans prevented them from starting a business. Fifty-six percent reported that they were unable to afford a house because of student loans. Since 2005, the number of people who have student debt has quadrupled.

JUSTIFICATION:

Many other loans, such as credit card debt; medical bills; and gambling debts can be discharged in bankruptcy. The prohibition of discharging student loans is unfair to new adults going into the workforce, especially since gambling debt can be discharged through bankruptcy. Additionally, students may not realize the risk of taking a large loan when they are just entering college, and may struggle pay off the debt. The risk of student debt may also prohibit students from attending their college of their choice, which results in them choosing to attend community colleges or to not attend a university. The opportunity for a fresh start through the declaration of bankruptcy would benefit the young adults in the state of Maine.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

This bill will likely affect the taxpayers of the State of Maine. Ultimately, there is no way to calculate the exact amount of money that this bill requires.

REFERENCES:

<https://www.procon.org/headline.php?headlineID=005378>

<https://www.thebalance.com/bankruptcy-abuse-prevention-and-consumer-protection-act-3305555>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/zackfriedman/2018/06/13/student-loan-debt-statistics-2018/#4d1c95797310>

BILL SUMMARY

This legislation will allow the discharge of student loan debt with a declaration of bankruptcy to those Maine residents under the age of 30.

BILL # 2018--202

Bill Sponsor: *Rebecca Collins*

Co-Sponsor(s): *Madison Boucher*

School/Club/YMCA: *Presque Isle High School*

Endorsed by: *Michael Waugh*

Committee: *Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

An Act Relating To:

Amending Title 17-A §104: Use of Force in Defense of Premises

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2018 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** Title 17-A §104: Use of force in defense of premises shall read as follows: If a
2. person kills or wounds another under any of the circumstances enumerated below, he or she
3. shall be guiltless:
4. **SECTION 2:** In the just and necessary defense of his or her own life or the life another; or
5. **SECTION 3:** In the suppression of a person attempting to commit murder, sexual assault,
6. aggravated sexual assault, burglary or robbery with force or violence, arson; or
7. **SECTION 4:** In the case of a military officer when lawfully called out to suppress riot or
8. rebellion, or to prevent or suppress invasion, or to assist in serving legal process, in
9. suppressing opposition against him or her in the just and necessary discharge of his or her
10. duty.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Currently, Maine's stand-your-ground law is classified as a "castle doctrine," meaning it allows citizens to use lethal force on those trespassing on their land. While the "castle doctrine" is present in the majority of states, it is not the way to keep our state the safest.

JUSTIFICATION

Gun violence has become more and more prevalent in the United States of America. It is important that the state of Maine take the necessary steps in reducing said violence, starting with the refusal to allow citizens to use deadly force without consequence unless it is deemed absolutely necessary.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION

The implementation of this bill will have no fiscal impact on the state of Maine.

REFERENCES

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stand-your-ground_law

<http://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/17-A/title17-Asec104.html>

<http://aliengearholsters.com/blog/duty-to-retreat-or-castle-doctrine/>

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/13/053/02305>

BILL SUMMARY

This legislation will make Maine a duty-to-retreat state.

BILL # 2018--307

Bill Sponsor: Quinn White

Bill Co-sponsor: Rhetta Vega, Jamie Brown

School / Club / YMCA: Houlton High School

Endorsed By: Evan Clark

Referred to the committee on Education, Health and Human Services

An Act Relating To:

Gender Equality in Dress Codes in the Public Schooling System

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2018 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** Public schools in Maine will not be allowed to use gendered language in concern of
2. dress code.
3. **SECTION 2:** Public schools in Maine will not be allowed to restrict the way someone is dressed due
4. to being "inappropriate" or a "distraction" to other students.
5. **Definition of inappropriate:** unsuitable or improper
6. **Definition of distraction:** A mental or emotional disturbance
7. **SECTION 3:** Public schools in Maine will be allowed to enact dress codes relating to clothing
8. printed with pictures or words seeming to depict lewd, sexually explicit, or indecent drug use.
9. **SECTION 4:** Public schools in Maine will be allowed to enact dress codes relating to clothing that is
10. seemingly harmful to the student wearing the clothing, or students around them (ex. long chains,
11. pointed/ sharp jewelry etc.)
12. **SECTION 5:** Public schools in Maine will be allowed to enact dress codes relating to the restriction
13. of showing undergarments (ex. underwear showing out a hole in pants etc.)
14. **SECTION 6: Definition of a public school:** "an elementary or secondary school in the United States
15. supported by public funds and providing free education for children of a community or district"
16. **Definition of dress code:** "formally or socially imposed standards of dress"
17. **Definition of public:** "open or accessible to all"

STATEMENT OF FACT:

"Sexualization, Sex Discrimination, and Public-School Dress Codes," written by Meredith J. Harbach and published by the University of Richmond's Law Faculty Publications, provides ample evidence that dress codes, and how they are carried out, make students feel embarrassed, ashamed, and uncomfortable at school. Harbach notes that Title IX, which is a part of the Education Amendments of 1972, "prohibits both disparate treatment discrimination and disparate impact discrimination." Dress codes specifying genders come into direct violation of Title IX.

JUSTIFICATION:

The current laws concerning dress codes in public schools allow schools to decide what is "appropriate" for a student to wear, and what is "not appropriate" for a student to wear, (ex. a 2-inch tank top strap is appropriate, but a ½ inch tank top strap is not).

To enforce dress codes, most schools make students change, or give them detention. Not only does this take time out of the student's day at school, but it is also a distraction to the rest of the class, and it oftentimes leaves the student feeling discouraged and embarrassed. We want our students to feel comfortable and happy at school, not patronized and ashamed.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

This will not cost any money.

REFERENCES:

- <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2275&context=law-faculty-publications>
- <https://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/leaders-link/dress-code-fairness/>

BILL SUMMARY

This bill will help create a safe learning environment for students by letting them dress how they feel comfortable and confident, while still keeping other students safe.

BILL # 2018--403

Bill Sponsor: *Randall Starbird*

Bill Co-sponsor: *Sherman John O'Brien, Sean Staton*

School / Club / YMCA: *Maine Central Institute*

Endorsed By: *Ethan Brownell*

Referred to the committee on: *Energy Utilities and Technology*

An Act Relating To:

The Coastal Wind Farm

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2018 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1 :** If this bill is passed a new coastal wind farm will be built off the coast of Beal Island.
2. **SECTION 2 :** The department of energy will oversee the construction of this coastal wind farm,
3. which will be 1.75 miles long with energy turbines being built every 2000 ft, which allows for wind
4. turbines in the entire length of the farm. The farm will produce 120 megawatts of power every hour.
5. The wind turbines will be facing west to catch the jet stream.
6. **SECTION 3 :** A funding of \$250 million will be appointed from the Dept. of Energy to construct the
7. wind farm.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

Maine is a rural state, as such, in certain parts of the state power can be extremely hard to get. In the state of Maine wind storms and snow storms can happen a lot which can cause a lot of power outages for Maine's families. This is extremely dangerous especially during the winter or in rural areas where it can be hard to get power. The use of wind turbines has been proven to be fairly successful especially the Block Island wind farm.

JUSTIFICATION:

Seeing that this wind farm will produce 120 megawatts of power this will be enough power to a lot of rural areas around this area on the coast of Maine. It will also cut rates for a lot of these Maine family's

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

It will cost a total of 250 million dollars from the Department of Energy. Customers will save a family good amount of money on rates, the government will not specifically profit from this bill.

REFERENCES:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Block_Island_Wind_Farm

<http://dwwind.com/project/block-island-wind-farm/>

<https://www.cmpco.com/SuppliersAndPartners/MainesElectricityMarket/BusinessInMaine/TDSerivceTerritories.html>

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/what-are-jet-streams-and-how-do-they-influence-the-weather-we-experience/70003416>

BILL SUMMARY

If this bill is passed 250 Million dollars will be appropriated by the Dept. of Energy to build a coastal wind farm off the coast of Beal Island, Maine. This will be 1.5 nautical miles long with 4 wind turbines in the entire stretch. The farm will produce 120 megawatts of power for rural coastal Maine family's..

BILL # 2018--502

Bill Sponsor: *Mia Kovacs*

Co-Sponsor(s): *Kady Murphy*

School / Club / YMCA: *Bonny Eagle High School*

Endorsed By: *Dawna Cyr*

Referred to Committee on: *Health and Human Services*

An Act Relating To:

Banning of Conversion Therapy for Minors

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2018 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1: DEFINITION of CONVERSION THERAPY:** the pseudoscientific practice
2. used to attempt to change an individual's sexual identity or orientation either through aversion
3. methods or through talk therapy.
- 4 **SECTION 2: DEFINITION of the LGBT+ COMMUNITY:** The community of people who
5. identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other sexual orientations and identities.
6. **SECTION 3:** Effective January 1st, 2019, organizations will no longer be permitted to
7. practice conversion therapy on minors
8. **SECTION 4:** Conversion therapy for minors does not include any conversion therapy for
9. adults and therapy intended to help minors accept their sexual orientation or identity.

SATEMENT OF FACT:

Conversion therapy is a dangerous practice that causes significant mental problems in minors and many other issues. According to an American Psychological Association task force report from 2007, conversion therapy is not only ineffective but also incredibly dangerous to minors and causes minors to become depressed, have anxiety, have self-destructive behavioral tendencies, and reinforce already existing feelings of self-hatred. The American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry has also condemned conversion therapy for causing harm and mental distress for minors, rather than actually helping them. Many other organizations have condemned conversion therapy for the reasons above, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Pan American Health Organization.

JUSTIFICATION:

Conversion therapy is an outdated and dangerous practice especially for minors forced into it against their will. Minors who aren't accepted by their parents or guardians are eight times more likely to commit suicide, six times more likely to be highly depressed, three times more likely to abuse drugs, and three times more likely to be at a higher risk of HIV and other STDs and individuals who have gone through conversion therapy report having feelings of depression, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, shame, social withdrawal, suicidality, substance abuse, stress, disappointment, self-blame, decreased self-esteem and authenticity to others, increased self-hatred, hostility and blame toward parents, feelings of anger and betrayal, loss of friends and potential romantic partners, problems in sexual and emotional intimacy, sexual dysfunction, high-risk sexual behaviors, a feeling of being dehumanized and untrue to self, a loss of faith, and a sense of having wasted time and resources. In addition to this conversion therapy not only causes harm and is ineffective, but it also enforces the notion that there is something wrong with being a member of the LGBT+ community.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

There are no foreseen financial considerations for this bill.

REFERENCES:

<https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/therapeutic-response.pdf>

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Conversion-Therapy-LGBT-Youth-Jan-2018.pdf>

www.aacap.org/AACAP/Policy_Statements/2018/Conversion_Therapy.aspx

www.nclrights.org/bornperfect-the-facts-about-conversion-therapy/#q1

[http://libraries.maine.edu/mainedatabases/authmaine.asp?url=http://search.proquest.com.ursus-proxy-](http://libraries.maine.edu/mainedatabases/authmaine.asp?url=http://search.proquest.com.ursus-proxy-10.ursus.maine.edu/docview/1724053307?accountid=17222)

[10.ursus.maine.edu/docview/1724053307?accountid=17222.](http://libraries.maine.edu/mainedatabases/authmaine.asp?url=http://search.proquest.com.ursus-proxy-10.ursus.maine.edu/docview/1724053307?accountid=17222)

[www.hrc.org/resources/the-lies-and-dangers-of-reparative-therapy.](http://www.hrc.org/resources/the-lies-and-dangers-of-reparative-therapy)

Bill Summary

This bill will ban conversion therapy for minors in Maine.

BILL # 2018--611

Bill Sponsor: Tyler Demarest

Bill Co-sponsor: Leif Mckenna

School / Club / YMCA: Machias Memorial High School

Endorsed By: S. Albee

Referred to the committee on: *Inland, Fish, Wildlife and Agriculture*

An Act Relating To:

Night Hunting Coyotes

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2018 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1 :** This bill would allow permitted hunters to hunt coyotes from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour before sunset as well as the times already established year-round.
2. **SECTION 2:** Coyote permits will now be sold as one permit allowing the hunter to hunt both during the day and at night year-round.
3. **SECTION 3:** This bill would add a bagging limit on coyotes to twelve per person during the season.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

Maine law states Coyotes may be hunted from ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise during the designated hunting season of December 16 to August 31. Day coyote hunting season is year round in Maine. In Maine there is no bagging limit on coyotes. The coyote population in maine is roughly 15,000.

JUSTIFICATION:

Coyotes are not native to maine and are quickly becoming one of the dominant predators in maine. Allowing year-round night hunting of Coyotes would raise the deer and rabbit populations as well as cutting down on the rapidly building coyote population.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

Maine generated 32.5 million dollars in 2013 from small game permits. If Maine were to allow year-round night hunting of coyotes the amount of permits sold would increase.

REFERENCES:

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting-trapping/hunting-laws/other-species.html#coyote>
<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/wildlife-human-issues/living-with-wildlife/coyotes.html>
https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/huntinginmaineaine_2013.pdf

BILL SUMMARY

This bill will allow night hunting year-round of coyotes in Maine. Maine coyote night and day permits would be combined, and the cost would be 10 dollars for minors and 35 for hunters over 16. A bagging limit of 12 coyotes per year would be created for Maine.

BILL # 2018--713

Bill Sponsor: *Annette Mubang*

School / Club / YMCA: *Maine School of Science and Mathematics*

Endorsed By: *Mr. Dan Melega*

Referred to the committee on: *Labor, Commerce, and Economic Development*

An Act Relating To:

Creating a tax credit to incentivize private entities to renovate local abandoned property

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2018 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1 : Definition of vacant, abandoned building:** Any building or other structure that is unoccupied
2. by a person or occupied by an unauthorized person for 60 days, excluding permitted garages or accessory
3. buildings.¹ This excludes vacation rentals which should be registered with the town.
4. **Definition of renovation:** Any private entity, renovating a building means that they are meeting the standards
5. set by the local municipal office or by their local building codes.
6. **Definition of private entity:** Any person or business from Maine.
7. **SECTION 2 :** For any private entity that buys abandoned property with the intention to renovate abandoned
8. property to sell, own, or rent will receive a \$5,000 in tax credit until the construction of the building is
9. complete and the owner has decided to keep the building or is making a profit from it through short-term
10. rentals or selling it.
11. **SECTION 3 :** A municipal officer or property manager must go to these properties to inspect them to the
12. standards of local building codes.
13. **SECTION 4 :** These private entities must reapply for this tax credit every year with their local municipal
14. office.
15. **SECTION 5 :** Depending on the popularity of the program, this program is subject to having a cap on the
16. number of participants.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

“Instead of cities focusing so much on growing, they should really focus on making themselves attractive and having the market respond to that,” says Justin Hollander, associate professor of urban and environmental policy and planning at Tufts University. “If a place becomes more desirable, it likely will lead to further growth in the future.” In order to advance into the future, Maine needs to start looking the part and some towns and cities are taking the initiative to make this happen. For instance, in Lewiston, Maine the Bates Mill Complex was the largest textile manufacturer in New England in the 1850s.⁵ However, in 1992, the city acquired the complex after late real estate tax payments. The city moved quickly by creating the Lewiston Mill Redevelopment Corp. made up of city staff, elected officials, and private citizens to take on this rehabilitation project. For over two decades, the city alongside an architecture and engineering firm has worked tirelessly on the redevelopment of this town staple. To date, Bates Mill LLC is flourishing with businesses such as TD Bank, Baxter Brewing Co., Grand Rounds, Cross Insurance and more, including 48 residential apartments. Bates Mill as an investment increased the taxable real and personal property to more than \$37 million and generated 921,000 in annual taxes. The cost of renovating Bates Mill was 50% less expensive than building new facilities at about \$120 per square foot.⁴

JUSTIFICATION:

Abandoned buildings cause an abundance of issues for Maine communities. Besides being eyesores, abandoned buildings instill crime and violence, public health concerns, and lower property values. Burglary and squatting are rampant in communities with abandoned property which instills fear into Maine residents. Public wellness also comes into question when abandoned buildings are in an area because they are sites for illegal dumping,

lead particles, asbestos, and overgrown vegetation. Illegal dumping and overgrown vegetation can send airborne molds into the air and attract vermin and insects that are hosts to spread parasites and diseases like West Nile virus and rabies. In addition to the public health issues, environmental concerns come about with illegal dumping of hazardous discharge. Hazardous waste discharge creates “brownfields” which are abandoned areas contaminated with dangerous waste products that later become expensive cleanup projects for the Environmental Protection Agency. Lastly abandoned buildings lower the property values of surrounding homes and buildings. A study done by the Federal Reserve bank of Cleveland found that “foreclosures cost the community \$130,000 in lost property value, more than half, or about \$70,000 of that loss comes from its status as being abandoned. Thus, each abandoned property costs its neighbors \$70,000 in loss as it sits vacant, independent of its status as a foreclosure.”⁶ Abandoned properties create an issue in all aspects of Mainers’ lives. With this incentive to renovate these properties, Mainers will see an increase in business, employment, and annual tax revenue for the state.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

\$5,000 per building registered in tax credit program for the duration of their construction and maintenance of the redevelopment project

REFERENCES:

[http://www.augustamaine.gov/document_center/City%20Council%20Agendas%20&%20Minutes/2015/9.September/15-141_Amendment_-_Vacant_Property_Ordinance_attachment\(1\).pdf](http://www.augustamaine.gov/document_center/City%20Council%20Agendas%20&%20Minutes/2015/9.September/15-141_Amendment_-_Vacant_Property_Ordinance_attachment(1).pdf)
http://www.popcenter.org/problems/abandoned_buildings_and_lots/
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/em/winter14/highlight1.html#title>
<http://www.sunjournal.com/bates-mill-no-5-what-comes-next/>
<https://www.batesmillstore.com/pages/our-story>
https://cityofjeannette.com/uploads/6/9/5/4/69549785/understanding_the_true_costs_of_abandoned_properties.pdf
<https://www.phila.gov/services/payments-assistance-taxes/tax-credits/community-development-corporation-cdc-tax-credit/>

BILL SUMMARY

This bill creates an tax credit incentive for private entities to buy and renovate abandoned buildings in local Maine communities. This bill is expected to create jobs, increase the property values of surrounding land, and promote Maine communities for homeowners from in and outside of Maine.

BILL # 2018-- 807

Bill Sponsor: *Isaac Vega*

Bill Co-sponsor: *Nolan Jacobs and Nathaniel DeLucca*

School / Club / YMCA: *Houlton High School*

Endorsed By: *Evan Clark*

Referred to the committee on: *State and Local Government*

An Act Relating To:

The initiation of gladiator fights for consenting Maine prisoners on life sentences.

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2018 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1: Definition of gladiator fighter:** a person, often a slave or captive, who was armed
2. with a sword or other weapon and compelled to fight to the death in a public arena against another
3. person or a wild animal, for the entertainment of the spectators.
4. **Definition of gladiator fight:** the public arena fighting of gladiator fighters, as well as animals.
5. **Definition of gladiator arena:** arena in which gladiators fight.
6. **SECTION 2:** Upon enactment, the state will allocate funds (out of taxes) to the creation of a
7. gladiator arena on the grounds, or grounds surrounding, Maine State Prison.
8. A private contractor will be hired to design said gladiator arena.
9. Up to \$25 million will be allocated to the building of an arena.
10. **SECTION 3:** Tickets and live viewing for the public will be available, along with live
11. broadcasting/pay per view.
12. **SECTION 4:** There will hopefully be 12 fights per year.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

In our state there were 64 people serving life in prison sentences, and one life in sentence inmate can cost the state up to \$1 million. With gladiator fighting we will be able to lower our tax rates in the state of Maine, or we will be able to focus our tax dollars on something else after the number of prisoners decreases.

JUSTIFICATION:

Lots of money is spent on keeping those in prison for life alive. The number of these inmates will be cut down, directly benefiting the state by saving money. Not only will it save money, but after the completion of one state funded arena, our state will start to save money, making sure our taxes can go to different much needed areas. This could also help prevent riots in prisons as inmates will take out their violent nature in the arena, rather than in the prison. With this bill, an arena will need to be made which will cost around \$25 million. Taxpayers will save around \$1 million per inmate that does not survive (after the arena is paid off). After about 25 battles the state can then start to take taxes that were once used on the Maine State Prison and put them elsewhere, because those prisoners will be gone, and the arena will be paid off. This bill can also drastically increase tourist rates, boosting our economy. Tickets cost \$50.

This revenue will go directly back to the Maine State Prison. This will be another area where the tax money usually given to the Maine State Prison will now be used in other areas of the government such as education, infrastructure, etc.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

\$25 million expense for Insurance Center, \$150 expense for transportation of criminals, \$1 million saved for each inmate killed. Correctional Officers will get paid bonus for helping facilitate and protect at these events.

REFERENCES:

<https://www.distance-cities.com/distance-bangor-me-to-thomaston-me>
<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/reports/meaning-life-long-prison-sentences-context>

BILL SUMMARY

This bill could raise our tourist rates, boost our economy, use our taxes in different, much needed areas, and give us a good show.

BILL # 2018--904

Bill Sponsor: *Mason Aiello*

Bill Co-sponsor:

School / Club / YMCA: *Kennebunk High School*

Endorsed By: *Frederick Follansbee*

Referred to the committee on: *Transportation*

An Act Relating To:

Ban all electronic device usage while operating a motor vehicle

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2018 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1 :** 1.This bill will make it unlawful to use a cellular or non-cellular device while
2. operating a motor vehicle of any kind
3. **SECTION 2 :** 1.Any violations will be punishable by a fine of \$300 for a first-time offense, a fine
4. of \$800 for a second-time offense, and \$1000 for continued violations
5. **SECTION 3 :** 1.If three offenses if reached, the license of the offender can be revoked for a
6. minimum of six months or greater as decided by a court of law. Permanent revocation can be
7. instated after an excessive number of violations
8. **SECTION 4 :** 1.Exactly one year after the passing of this bill, it will go into complete effect, in order
9. to give time to the citizens of Maine to learn about the existence of this bill.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

At any given time, there are as many as 660,000 drivers trying to use electronic devices while behind the wheel, and the statistics show that this is extremely dangerous. A statistic published by The National Safety Council reports that 1.6 million crashes each year take place due to electronic device usage, as well as 390,000 injuries. Compare these numbers to something even as detrimental as driving drunk, and it's astounding. Driving while texting is six times as likely to lead to a crash than drunk driving. 74% of drivers already support a ban on hand-held electronic device usage, so the numbers would be on our side.

JUSTIFICATION:

This bill would greatly increase the overall safety and well-being of all citizens in the state, and hopefully surrounding states within the following years. It will save the lives of so many individuals, that other factors are minimalistic in the grand scheme.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

This bill should cost nothing to implement, and generate a generous amount of money for the state. Even though something may be unlawful, people still break laws all the time, and one pertaining to something as integral to society as cell phones, this would likely be one that yield heavy revenue to the state.

REFERENCES:

"Texting and Driving Accident Statistics - Distracted Driving." Edgarsnyder.com, www.edgarsnyder.com/car-accident/cause-of-accident/cell-phone/cell-phone-statistics.html.

"Texting & Driving." DMV.ORG, www.dmv.org/distracted-driving/texting-and-driving.php.

BILL SUMMARY

This is an act to ban all cellular or non-cellular device while operating a motor vehicle of any kind. It will end up saving the lives of many residents of the state of Maine, as well as produce a new steady stream of revenue for the government.

