# YAG and ME-dia

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## Consent Calendar



Sky Melvin

**Here are the bills that have been discussed in committee and voted upon unanimously as ought to pass.**

**LD2026-111: Conservation of Maine's Blueberry Barrens**

Sponsor: David Brewer

**LD2026-205: Altering the Maine School Extracurricular Budgeting Formula to Needs-Based Accommodation.**

Sponsor: Grady Kinney

**LD2026-210: Lowering ATV and Boat Registration Costs**

Sponsor: David Shaw

**LD2026-313: Prohibition of automated telephone calling devices, "robocalls" to Maine Residents with a landline.**

Sponsor: Morgan Quirk

**LD2026-602:Mandatory Consequences for Sellers of Tobacco to Minors**

Sponsor: Anne Dostie

**LD2026-603: Simplifying Basic Consumer Technology Functions**

Sponsor: Preya Hammar

**LD2026-701: Maine Coastal Bioextraction & Nitrogen Credit Act**

Sponsor: Isaac Audette



**LD2026-703: Prevention of the construction of artificial intelligence data centers on Maine's public lands to ensure the environmental preservation of Maine's ecosystems**

Sponsor: Jack Hildebrand

**LD2026-805: Plain Language Summaries of State Government Documents**

Sponsor: Preya Hammar

**LD2026-806: Increasing Public Transparency of State-Funded Infrastructure Projects**

Sponsor: Preya Hammar

**LD2026-810: The Establishment of a Book Banning Criteria Act (EBBCA).**

Sponsor: John Mugisha

# Best Bill Award Nominees

## Bill #LD2026-111



Emily Gilbert

*An Act Relating to Conservation of Maine's Blueberry Barrens*, sponsored by David Brewer. This bill will cost approximately $250,000. The bill will allocate funds from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry to land trusts and agricultural societies to make sure blueberry barrens remain dedicated to agriculture; as opposed to being used for commercial reasons. If violated, penalties of up to $10,000 could be sought. This bill made the consent calendar, and very quickly passed through the House of Representatives.

## Bill #LD2026-212

Emily Gilbert

*An Act Relating to Language Access for Families in Maine Public Schools (Enacting a new section in Title 20-A MRSA, Education),* sponsored by Saida Abdisamed. This bill was voted best bill by the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. The purpose of this bill is to help make sure that all guardians can understand what is happening and will happen, as well as how to participate in their child's education. This bill will cost $1,740,000 for the first year's funding, and $1,690,000 each subsequent year.

## Bill #LD2026-310

Wyatt Clegg

*An Act Relating to Arts in Correctional Facilities sponsored* by Rita Hynes. This bill will have an upfront cost of $100,000 for each correctional institution to help start the program with an additional $20,000 per year with additional funding provided for an educator's salary. It will require all correctional facilities in Maine to maintain one arts program of either a visual, musical, or theater program. This aims to improve mental health for inmates and improve their behavior to allow for more successful reentry into society. This bill was voted best bill by the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

## Bill #LD2026-409

Wyatt Clegg

*An Act Relating to Protection of Children and Teens from hidden exposure to realistic, deceptive AI on social media* sponsored by Juniper Razi-McGlone. This bill cost would be reabsorbed into

the existing budget with an additional cost of $120,00 - $150,000 if another assistant attorney general is appointed in response to an influx of cases. This act requires a clear label on AI-generated or materially altered images, videos, and audio that depicts real people or events in a deceptive way on certain social media platforms excluding satire, parody, and ordinary edits. This bill was nominated best bill by the Education and Cultural Services Committee.

## Bill #LD2026-509

Emily Gilbert

*An Act Relating to Mental Health Care and Psychotic Prevention for New Parents* sponsored by Judson Smith. The bill will appoint a credible task force that will be staffed based on the need to protect children's physical wellbeing. It will cost $75,000 to $100,000 per task force staff member, and $1,000 daily to each mental hospital. This bill was nominated as the best bill by the Health and Human Services Committee.

## Bill #LD2026-603

Emily Gilbert

*An Act Relating to Plain Language Summaries of State Government Documents* sponsored by Preya Hammar. This bill, nominated for best bill by the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement & Business (IDEA) Committee, would help government documents to be easier understood by the public. This would cost about $79,650 in its first year. This bill also exists on the consent calendar, where it passed easily through the House with little to no debate.

## Bill #LD2026-703

Wyatt Clegg

*An Act Relating to the Prevention of Construction of AI Data Centers on Maine's Public Lands* sponsored by Jack Hildenbrand. This bill aims to protect public lands in Maine from any harmful effects from the construction of AI data centers, through establishing "protected locations" where construction of AI data centers are strictly prohibited. It was nominated for best bill by the Natural Resources Committee.



## Bill #LD2026-810

Emily Gilbert

*An Act Relating to The Establishment of a Book Banning Criteria Act (EBBCA)* sponsored by John Mugisha. This bill hopes to adopt consistent standards and transparent procedures for reviewing banned books. Nominated for best bill by the State and Local Government Committee, the bill aims to add a

criteria that controversial books need to meet in order to receive a potential ban. This act would have little to no direct cost.

### Bill #LD2026-908

Wyatt Clegg

*An Act Relating to Establishing a Federal Tax on Replacement of Human Employees by Artificial Intelligence* sponsored by Harper Steenstra. This bill aims to put a federal tax on businesses that replace employees with AI, with rates determined by the amount of employees replaced. This will help to increase human employment rates. Nominated as the best bill by the Transportation and Technology Committee.

# Happenings of the Chambers:

“Discriminatory to old people…which is illegal.”

”A chessboxing team would be the most exciting, most important team to ever play in the state of Maine.”

“I implore any representative in opposition to this bill to fight me one on one” (in reference to the chessboxing bill)

“Redbull gives you wiiiiiiingsssss…you lucky devil you!”

“That tan suit wasn’t a fashion statement, it was a statement *to* fashion.”

# General Housekeeping:

*There will be a <u>SECOND</u> edition of YaG’s newspaper tonight following dinner this evening! A QR code will be posted on YaG’s instagram* ***@me.youthandgovernment***

**Trivia Night!** Join us in the lobby of the Hampton Inn at 9:00pm tonight, November 7th, for a night of fun and exciting questions and get YOUR chance to win!

Voting for next year’s youth governor will occur tomorrow morning at 8:30am on the third (3rd) floor.

Hear from the President of the Senate candidates: Quinn Uhlenhake of MSSM, Haylee Rivera-White from Mountain Valley, John O'Keefe from Winthrop, and Theodore Caiazzo from Deering High School. Also hear from Speaker of the House candidates Allie Wood from Central Aroostook High School, and Basilio Mpaka from Deering High School at the banquet.

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