

Bill# LD 2008 - 601

Bill Sponsor: Heather Fish

Co-Bill Sponsor(s): Melissa Ramsden

School / Club / YMCA: Erskine Academy

Fiscal Impact: \$5,000.00

Endorsed By: Lori Dube

Referred to the Committee on: Justice

AN ACT RELATING TO:

Mandatory Emergency Number Calling

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2008 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** A person who is present at an accident, emergency, or a scene where someone is in
2. distress must dial 911 or a local emergency number.
3. **SECTION 2:** The caller must stay on the line with the emergency representative until he/she says caller
4. may get off the line.
5. **SECTION 3:** Exceptions: This law does not apply to someone who is not physically capable of making
6. the phone call. This law does not apply to someone who would have to put themselves in danger in
7. order to make phone call.
8. **SECTION 4:** A person who violates this law shall be charged with a Class E crime.
9. **SECTION 5:** Definitions:
10. Physically capable- Person is not injured and has access to a telephone
11. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Currently, seven countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan,
12. and Spain) have a similar law which requires a person to at least dial the local emergency number if a
13. person is in distress.
14. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** In 1964, Kitty Genovese was stabbed to death by a serial rapist and
15. murderer. The murder took place over a half an hour and dozens of witnesses failed to help the
16. woman.
17. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** The Bystander Effect is a psychological phenomenon that occurs when an
18. emergency situation is presented to a group of people. The larger the group of people that there is
19. the less likely that anyone will render aid.
20. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** In 1972, Dr. Wolfgang Friedmann, a Columbia University professor was
21. murdered in broad daylight and bled to death on the sidewalk.
22. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** In 2005, a man was stabbed on a double-decker bus in London,
23. England. The bus had at least forty people on board and no one offered help until 15 minutes after
24. the stabbing occurred, despite the pleads for help that he was making. The man later died in a
25. hospital.
26. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** In St. Paul, Missouri in 2007, a woman was raped and beaten in an
27. apartment building. Ten residents saw the rape and beatings occur. The police were called by one
28. resident, she reported drunken people in the hallway. The police used a rating of 1-5 as to the
29. emergency of a situation. This was reported as a '4' on the scale, so the police did not arrive for over
30. a half an hour. If a rape had been reported it would have been classified as a '2' and the police would
31. have arrived in minutes.
32. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** In July 2007, a 27-year-old woman fell onto the floor of a convenience
33. store. Five other shoppers stepped over the woman to continue shopping. One shopper stopped to
34. take a picture with a camera phone. Later the woman died in the hospital.
35. **FISCAL STATEMENT:** This act will cost \$5,000 for printing.
36. **REFERENCES:** "I Kept Saying, 'Help Me, Help Me.'" The Guardian. 4 Aug. 2005. 5 Feb. 2008
37. <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/crime/article/0,2763,1542032,00.html>>.
38. Gottfried, Mara H. "A Rape Witnessed, a Rape Ignored." Pioneer Press. 5 Feb. 2008
39. <<http://www.libertypost.org/cgi-bin/readart.cgi?ArtNum=198120&Disp=12&Trace=on>>.
40. Hegeman, Roxana. "Shoppers Stepped Over Victim." Associated Press. 4 July 2007.
41. <<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/07/03/national/a131213D81.DTL>
42. "Bystander Effect." BBC. 10 July 2001. 5 Feb. 2008 <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/A585362>>.

Bill# LD 2008 - 804

Bill Sponsor: Amy Sylvester

Co-Bill Sponsor(s): Nathan Sylvester, Melissa Ramsden, Chase Sheaff

School / Club / YMCA: Erskine Academy

Fiscal Impact: \$5,000.00

Endorsed By: Lori Dube

Referred to the Committee on: State Government

AN ACT RELATING TO:

Joint Resolution to Call for the Closure of the Detention Centers at Guantánamo Bay

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2008 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** A joint resolution of the Maine State Senate and House of Representatives of the YMCA
2. Camp of Maine Youth in Government to call for the closure of Detention Centers, located at the U.S.
3. Naval Base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.
4. **DEFINITION:** Detention Center defined - facility housing illegally detained prisoners against their will.
5. Illegally Detained Prisoner defined - One held without charge, trial, or judicial review of their
6. imprisonment.
7. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** In the more than six years since the first prisoners were transferred to
8. Guantánamo Bay, nearly 800 have been held and approximately 300 prisoners, ranging in age from 13
9. to 98 years old, continue to be detained. A quarter of those held have been determined as eligible for
10. release or transfer by U.S. authorities.
11. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Prisoners live in five compounds, known collectively as Camp Delta.
12. Approximately 178 detainees are confined for a minimum of 22 hours a day in individual steel cells
13. with no windows to the outside. Other prisoners are held in open-air cages.
14. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** 55% of all detainees have been determined not to have committed any
15. hostile acts against the United States or its allies. However, these detainees continue to be held.
16. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** To date, only one detainee (again, out of nearly 800) has been convicted of
17. a crime (by guilty plea).
18. **REFERENCES:**
19. "USA: Facts and Figures: Illegal US Detentions." Amnesty International.Org Dec. 2007. Amnesty
20. International. 25 Jan. 2008 <http://www.amnesty.org/en/report/info/AMR51/165/2007>.
21. "Fact Sheet." ACLU.Org. 11 Jan. 2008. American Civil Liberties Union. 25 Jan. 2008
22. <http://www.aclu.org/safefree/detention/closeguantanamo.html>.
23. "Guantanamo Facts." Boston.Com. 11 June 2006. Boston Globe. 25 Jan. 2008
24. http://www.boston.com/news/world/articles/2006/06/11/guantanamo_facts/.

Bill# LD 2008 - 905

Bill Sponsor: Chris Plaisted

Co-Bill Sponsor(s): Kameron Hanson, Robert Harvey, and Paul Jans

School / Club / YMCA: Washington Academy

Fiscal Impact: \$304,000,000.00

Endorsed By: Laurie Esposito-Hain

Referred to the Committee on: Transportation

AN ACT RELATING TO:

Establishment of a Law Prohibiting the Use of Any Mobile Communications Device While Operating a Motorized Vehicle

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2007 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** The State of Maine will create a law prohibiting the use of any mobile communications device while operating a motorized vehicle that is in motion.
3. **SECTION 2:** Mobile communications device defined - any device that can be used to communicate with another party that is not present within the motorized vehicle described in the above law.
5. **SECTION 3:** Motorized vehicle defined - any device that has a motor attached to it and is capable of transporting one or more people.
7. **SECTION 4:** The above law will be enforced by any law enforcement officers that witness a violation of this law. The law enforcement officer will only charge a person of a violation of the above law if he or she deems it appropriate to the circumstances.
10. **SECTION 5:** The penalties for violating the above law will be similar to the penalties for Operating Under the Influence of alcohol (OUI) as follows.
 12. a. SUB-SECTION 5A: Any violator of the above law will be fined no less than \$175 on their first offense within a 7-year period of any previous offenses.
 14. b. SUB-SECTION 5B: In the instance of a second offense within a 7-year period of the previous offense, the violator of the above law will be fined no less than \$300.
 16. c. SUB-SECTION 5C: In the instance of a third offense within a 7-year period of a previous offense, the violator of the above law will be fined no less than \$500 and will have a court-ordered suspension of their driver's license for a period of no less than 7 days (if violating the above law in an automobile).
 19. d. SUB-SECTION 5D: If any additional instances occur within a 7-year period of a previous offense, the violator will be fined no less than \$1,000 and will have a court ordered suspension of their driver's license for a period of at least 30 days (if violating the above law in an automobile).
22. **SECTION 6:** Law enforcement officers, rescue personal operators of air-borne motorized vehicles, and on duty military personnel will be the only parties exempt from the above law on the basis that mobile communications devices are necessary for them to do their jobs correctly.
25. **SECTION 7:** The above law will become effective on May 24, 2009.
26. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Motorized vehicle accidents cost the state of Maine an average of \$912 million each year with about a third (1/3) of these accidents being caused by distractions involving mobile communications devices while driving. Therefore, the above law could reduce this amount by a third (1/3) saving the state up to \$304 million each year.
30. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** The following facts were concluded by a study operated under Montana State University that tested 36 drivers aged 18 to 63 in a simulated vehicle. The tests consisted of the drivers being asked a series of questions through a mobile phone. A British study and another study operated by the popular TV show Mythbusters confirmed these facts. Drivers are 3.8 times more likely to get in a motorized vehicle accident when distracted by a mobile communications device. Driving while using a mobile communications device is equal to being at .08 blood-alcohol content limit, the legal limit for Maine. Anything equal to or above this limit is considered illegal. Drivers are as equally distracted with hands-free mobile communications devices as they are with hand-held mobile communications devices.
39. **FISCAL IMPACT:** Up to \$304 million would be supplemented to the state of Maine's annual budget as a result of this law. The \$304 million are already in the State's budget but is spent concerning motorized vehicle accidents that are caused by mobile communications devices. This money could be used to increase the education fund(s) or the road repair fund(s). It can also help the State to become more financially secure.
44. **REFERENCES:** Montana State University's website (<http://www.montana.edu/news/1119554284.html>), Weitz and Luxenburg's website (http://www.weitzlux.com/maine/maine/carcollision/2003_3046.html), Wikipedia's website (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_phone#Safety_Concerns), Find Law for the Public's website (<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/29-A/title29-Asec2411.html>), Virginia Best Practices in School-based Violence Protection Program's website (http://www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/VaBP/program_details.asp?id=445), and Annotated Mythbusters' website (http://kwc.org/mythbusters/2005/06/mythbusters_killer_brace_posit.html).

Bill# LD 2008 - 504

Bill Sponsor: Nathaniel Davidson

Co-Bill Sponsor(s): Derrick Smith , Dylan Smith

School / Club / YMCA: Lawrence High School

Fiscal Impact: \$10,000.00

Endorsed By: Jeffrey Jewett

Referred to the Committee on: Health & Human Services

AN ACT RELATING TO:
ASPIRE-TANF"Good Cause" Change

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2008 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** "Good Cause" one should be amended to say: Special needs being complete physical
2. disability with no way to get other care, or mental disability that makes the person unable to function by
3. their selves and no way to get other care, even temporary to even meet some time requirement.
4. **SECTION 2:** "Good Cause" two should be amended to say: Physical problem must be full body
5. immobilization to stop any possible work a person may do or admitted in a hospital for medical reasons,
6. mental health must be to the point where you may not function in a normal society.
7. **SECTION 3:** "Good Cause" three should be amended to say: Illness only able for a total of three weeks
8. time unless the time is spent in hospital or doctor information with reason to not allow work of any kind, 9. accident for immediate
- family only (parent, spouse, child, grandparent, step-parent, step-child, or step-10. grandparent) must hold proof of accident may get off
- work only until person is able to be sure of none 11. terminal and is able to function by oneself, death for only immediate family of up to
- one week after
12. funeral services.
13. **SECTION 4:** This "Good Cause" is unneeded and should be merged with reason three.
14. **SECTION 5:** "Good Cause" five should be amended to say: Court for a jury is completely excusable
15. but court for your own illegal acts, work must be made up to receive your check or only be paid for the
16. work you have done unless found innocent, being in jail is inexcusable and work must be made up
17. unless found innocent or released without trial.
18. **SECTION 6:** Should be removed from bill because both child care and transportation are offered for
19. these parents under this plan so this does not count as good reason.
20. **SECTION 7:** This "Good Cause" is fine as is and no change is proposed.
21. **SECTION 8:** "Good Cause" eight should be amended to say: Travel can be counted as work if it takes
22. more then two hours round trip.
23. **SECTION 9:** "Good Cause" nine should be amended to say: Domestic violence if used as "good
24. cause" must be reported to police and if nothing is found, no longer will it be a likely excuse unless
25. report is filed by the person to police or immediate action is taken to ensure safety.
26. **SECTION 10:** This "Good Cause" should not be its own reason and should be merged with reason
27. number nine or removed altogether.
28. **SECTION 11:** This "Good Cause" should not be its own reason and should be merged with reason
29. number nine or removed altogether.
30. **SECTION 12:** This "Good Cause" should not be its own reason and should be merged with reason
31. number nine or removed altogether.
32. **SECTION 13:** "Good Cause" thirteen should be amended to say: Should this be the case new job
33. must be found and appointed for immediately.
34. **SECTION 14:** Current law is fine no changes provided
35. **SECTION 15:** This "Good Cause" should not be its own reason and should be merged with reason
36. number fourteen or removed altogether.
37. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Here is the list of "good cause" reasons. This is the way the Bill is currently
38. worded. Provided by Maine Equal Justice and Pine Tree Legal Assistance
39. 1. The need to care for a family member with special needs.
40. 2. A physical or mental health problem.
41. 3. Illness, accident or death.
42. 4. A serious family problem.
43. 5. You had to appear in court or you were in jail.
44. 6. The lack of support services like child care or transportation that you need participate.
45. 7. Bad weather that also causes others not to partake.
46. 8. The activity required that you travel more than two hours round trip (1 hour each way).
47. 9. You are unable to participate because of domestic violence, including:
48. 10. Physical or emotional injuries caused by abuse,
49. 11. Legal proceedings, counseling or other activities related to the abuse,
50. 12. The abuser actively interferes with your participation,
51. 13. The location or other aspect of participati
- on puts you or your child at risk.
52. 14. Any other crisis or special circumstances that you have told ASPIRE about in advance that
53. causes you to be absent or unable to participate.
54. 15. Any other reason beyond your control that a reasonable person would think should be good
55. cause.
56. **SOURCES:** <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/22/title22sec3782-A.html>
57. <http://law.justia.com/maine/codes/title22ch0sec0/title22sec3782-a.html>
58. <http://www.mejp.org/aspire-tanf.htm>

Bill# LD 2008 - 706

Bill Sponsor: Duncan McFarland

School / Club / YMCA: Ashland Community High School

Fiscal Impact: \$2,000,000.00

Endorsed By: Sara Brooks

Referred to the Committee on: Natural Resources

AN ACT RELATING TO:

Mandating boat washes at public landings, and providing all funds needed to stop Invasive Plants to the VLMP, MDEP, and MDIF&W.

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2008 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** A public boat wash shall be installed in every public boat landing in Maine. Boaters shall
2. be required to wash off their boats before and after they use it.
3. **SECTION 2:** The state of Maine shall provide all of the funds needed to install the boat washes.
4. **SECTION 3:** The washes shall be located at a minimum of 250 feet from the shoreline, and will have
5. drains to prevent wash-off from entering the lake.
6. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Maine is eligible to apply for Federal Funds to prevent the introduction and
7. spread of invasive plant species.
8. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** The Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
9. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife have decided to direct their respective agencies' response plan to a single,
10. coordinated rapid response plan. Together with the VLMP, they stand a chance against the invading
11. species. Public Boat washes at public boat landings would help considerably.
12. **REFERENCES:** Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Volunteer Lake Monitor Program.

Bill# LD 2008 - 309

Bill Sponsor: Luke D. Jensen

Co-Bill Sponsor(s): Benjamin Goodman

School / Club / YMCA: Lewiston High School & Kennebunk High School

Fiscal Impact: \$25,000.00

Endorsed By: Michelle Crowley

Referred to the Committee on: Education

AN ACT RELATING TO:

Requiring that All Maine Public Boards and Committees of Education Have Voting Student Representatives

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2008 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** This bill shall affect all Maine Public Boards and Committees of Education elected by the
2. citizens of the State of Maine and receiving funds from the Maine state government.
3. **SECTION 2:** All of the boards and committees fitting the previously stated description shall require that
4. at least 1/3 (one-third) of its voting body be student representatives.
5. **SECTION 3:** Each student representative shall have a vote that is equal to each adult voting member.
6. **SECTION 4:** The student representatives must attend a school in the jurisdiction of the board or
7. committee.
8. **SECTION 5:** All student representatives must be elected by their peers.
9. **SECTION 6:** Each school board or committee shall decide which students shall be eligible as
10. representatives (i.e. how many from high school level, middle school, each grade, etc.).
11. **SECTION 7:** All school boards and committees that fail to follow this requirement shall be denied all
12. funding from the state towards education.
13. **SECTION 8:** This bill will take effect on September 29, 2008.
14. **STATEMENT OF OPINION:** Students are just as aware of the school environment as teachers and
15. staff, and deserve as much a say in how it is operated.
16. **STATEMENT OF OPINION:** As public schools are established for youth, so following the belief that
17. the government is for the people, by the people, youth need a vote in how the schools are operated.
18. **FISCAL IMPACT:** \$25,000.00 for printing and implementation.

Bill# LD 2008 - 210

Bill Sponsor: Elizabeth Caron

School / Club / YMCA: Leavitt Area High School

Fiscal Impact: \$1,800,000.00

Endorsed By: Margot Dudley

Referred to the Committee on: Business & Labor

AN ACT RELATING TO:

Emergency Housing for Homeless Youth

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2008 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** Any youth who is homeless and have no where to go will have temporary housing
2. provided for them.
3. **SECTION 2:** Transportation to get to these centers will be available by calling a toll-free number.
4. **SECTION 3:** Transportation will be provided by the local police, state police, sheriff, or a facilitator from
5. the center.
6. **SECTION 4:** Information will be provided by and can be obtained from schools, religious organizations,
7. medical facilities, youth organizations, and law enforcement agencies.
8. **SECTION 5:** Temporary housing will be provided until the youth can be moved on to a permanent and
9. appropriate housing location.
10. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Youth get kicked out of their homes, or runaway and need temporary
11. housing. The Department of Health and Human Services would oversee this program.
12. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** \$ 1,800,000 to pay for the 7 new buildings, staff, transportation, publicity,
13. and bill printing.
14. **REFERENCES:** Maine State Housing Authority

Bill# LD 2008 - 409

Bill Sponsor: Isaac Nault

Co-Bill Sponsor(s): Kyle Reilly

School / Club / YMCA: Kennebunk High School

Fiscal Impact: \$5,000.00

Endorsed By: Chris Babbidge

Referred to the Committee on: Financial Affairs

AN ACT RELATING TO:
Creating a System of Fair Tax in Maine

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2008 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:**

2. A. The Maine State Legislature will gradually eliminate the -state individual income tax- for all Maine
3. taxpayers regardless of economic status by 2012.
4. B. For the income tax years beginning in 2009, the maximum rate shall not exceed 6.0%
5. C. For the income tax years beginning in 2010, the maximum rate shall not exceed 4.0%
6. D. For the income tax years beginning in 2011, the maximum rate shall not exceed 2.0%
7. E. For the income tax years beginning in 2012, the maximum rate shall not exceed 0.0%
8. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** The current Maine income tax rates range from 2% to 8.5%, with 8.5% being
9. the most common rate for the majority of taxpayers.

10. **SECTION 2:**

11. A. To counter this loss of income, the state will gradually increase sales tax, eventually reaching an
12. increase of at least 13.5% by 2012.
13. B. All products or services purchased within or outside of the state shall be taxed equally, except
14. those purchased outside of the country.
15. C. All taxpayers will be required to submit a summary of all their purchases at the end of the tax year.
16. D. Each sales tax type will be increased equally by the following amounts from their current rates.
17. E. For the sales tax years beginning in 2009, the rate shall increase 4.5%
18. F. For the sales tax years beginning in 2010, the rate shall increase a further 3%
19. G. For the sales tax years beginning in 2011, the rate shall increase a further 3%
20. H. For the sales tax years beginning in 2012, the rate shall increase a further 3% reaching a total
21. increase of 13.5%
22. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** The current Maine sales tax rates are as follows: 5% for General, Service
23. Provider, and Use tax types; 7% for Lodging and Prepared Food tax types; and 10% for Short Term
24. Auto Rental tax type.
25. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** Income tax in the United States was not made permanent until 1913 with
26. the ratification of the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The costs of World War I were used
27. as the justification for instituting income tax. World War I ended, but not the income tax system. This
28. bill will simply return Maine to a fairer tax system like the one that existed before 1913.
29. **FINANCIAL IMPACT:** This bill would theoretically yield no noticeable change in state income. At
30. most, \$5000 should be set aside for advertising the new tax procedure to the public.
31. **REFERENCES:** Maine Revenue Services, Maine Legislature Bill Archive

Bill# LD 2008 - 111

Bill Sponsor: Erin Rounds

School / Club / YMCA: Kennebunk High School

Fiscal Impact: \$100,000.00

Endorsed By: Chris Babbidge

Referred to the Committee on: Agriculture

AN ACT RELATING TO:

Require that all dumping facilities accept and properly dispose of artifacts containing the chemical CFC

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2008 Youth in Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** The State of Maine shall establish a commission that requires all dumping facilities to
2. accept items containing the chemical CFC.
3. **SECTION 2:** The Commission shall require that all items containing CFC are properly disposed of, i.e.
4. Properly recycled.
5. **SECTION 3:** The Commission shall keep records of the amount of items accepted and recycled.
6. **SECTION 4:** The Commission shall make yearly inspections of facilities to ensure the CFC is being
7. accepted and recycled.
8. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** The effects the chemical CFC has on the environment when not handled
9. correctly, and/or its dangers: When not properly disposed of, the chemical CFC can be released into
10. the atmosphere, creating a gap in the ozone. Ozone depletion is a known factor in various forms of
11. skin cancer. CFC is a suspected neurotoxicant, that can be released when the chemical is not handled
12. carefully.
13. **STATEMENT OF FACT:** In a 1 out of 6 rating, the chemical CFC is regarded as being more
14. hazardous than most others. The continuous improper disposal of this chemical could lead in a larger
15. rift in the ozone, which is also a main reason for global warming. The regulation of CFC disposal
16. could have an impact on the amount of hazardous chemicals being released in the atmosphere, by
17. depleting it in the slightest.
18. **FISCAL IMPACT:** \$ 100,000 for establishment and expenses of Commission, and means of which to
19. provide facilities with proper ways to dispose of the chemical.
20. **REFERENCES:** The Pollution Information Site, The New York Times.

